

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

- Chapter 840: Pierce Through The Void | Light Novel World

Chapter 840: Pierce Through The Void

'Fighting Rankers is really not easy,' Lux thought as he backed away from the criminal that could transform his body into sharp blades.

This was Lux's first battle after becoming a Ranker. For him, learning how his abilities work in real combat was quite important, especially now that he was currently being hunted down by the Divine Army of Light.

Taking advantage of their current situation, he had intended to fully test his limits in this deadly battle using only his core abilities.

Although summoning his Undead Army would instantly give him a strong advantage, this was not something he wanted to do.

He didn't want to overly rely on them to fight all of his battles for him.

Lux knew that there would come a time when he had to fight by himself, and with this in mind, he didn't want to become rusty.

After Lux distanced himself from his opponent, the silhouette of a Dragon appeared behind his back.

From a distance, no one could tell what kind of Dragon it was. They could only see the outline of its body and its golden eyes that contained great power.

Gaap thought that his Disciple was using his ability, Peerless Dragon Strike. However, this attack was different, and it contained a power that Lux would unleash for the first time on the battlefield.

"Dragon God's Wrath!" Lux roared.

His booming voice reverberated across the arena, and a powerful spiritual attack descended upon all of his foes, making them feel as if a great pressure was stepping down upon their heads.

This was Lux's Anti-Army Ability that was meant for large-scale battles.

The Dragon King's Wrath was an attack that could target at least a single individual up to everyone within a thousand-meter range around him.

If the targets' Rank was equal to or lower than the Half-Elf's, they would suffer from Intimidation and Fear debuff, lowering their attack, defense, movement speed, and attack speed by 80%.

Lux made sure to limit the area of effect to the Rankers that had slipped past Seraphina's blockade.

The reason for this was that he wanted Eiko and the Battle Angel to get a taste of what it was like to fight stronger opponents that weren't suffering from debuffs.

The Ranker that could transform his body into blades was originally a rank higher than Lux, but due to the Dragon King's Wrath, his fighting ability was significantly reduced.

Right now, he was slightly weaker than Lux, making his movements a bit sluggish.

'The effect is better than I thought,' Lux mused as he observed the effectiveness of the skill that he was using for the first time. 'If this was used against an Army, anyone below a C-Ranker will lose their will to fight. I wonder if this spiritual attack can be dispelled by Clerics and Priests. I guess I'll have to test this before returning to the Surface World.'

After carefully observing his opponent, Lux raised his hand.

"Come, Calypso."

The Living Armor appeared before her Master before turning into the Divine Spear, Longinus.

Lux had wanted to test how powerful the Spear of Longinus was, so he decided to try it out in this battle.

When the Half-Elf was still in Leaf Village, he acquired the skill Transmutation [EX].

This skill allowed him to add abilities from one weapon to another. This was a skill that he had neglected for a very long time, not because he couldn't use it, but because there was no suitable equipment for it to be used.

However, times had changed.

He now had a Divine Weapon in his hand, and he would be a fool if he didn't make the already powerful weapon more powerful.

Currently, the Spear of Longinus was at its basic state. Meaning, it still hadn't received any transmutation abilities whatsoever.

The Half-Elf wanted to know its base power before making it truly overpowered, so he could make comparisons in the future.

"Pierce through the void!" Lux shouted as he pulled back his arm, aiming the tip of his spear at the Ranker that could transform his body into a blade.

"Spear of Longinus!"

The moment Lux threw the spear toward his target, a whistling sound spread in the Coliseum.

Knowing that this was a matter of life and death, the Ranker transformed his entire body into a golden sword.

This sword then flew towards the spear that was headed in its direction and met it head-on.

A crisp cracking sound reached Lux's ears as the Golden Sword and the Golden Spear collided with each other.

The Golden Sword held firm for a few seconds before its blade shattered into countless pieces.

A spray of blood mist then appeared in its place as the body of the Ranker fell from the sky.

Perhaps, waiting for that moment, a Black Coffin appeared out of nowhere and sucked the lifeless body inside it.

It then disappeared without a trace before appearing on the opposite side of the battlefield.

The corner of Lux's lips twitched when he saw Blackfire smack one of the Rankers that were laying on the ground on the head before swallowing him up.

It then reappeared not far from Eiko and swatted another Ranker like a baseball bat, sending them in the blue-haired girl's direction.

The Fairy Princess smirked before kicking the Ranker with an attack imbued by the Divine Abyssal Touch she copied from Lux, and sent the helpless Ranker flying back to Blackfire's direction.

To Lux's surprise, Blackfire swatted the Ranker back to Eiko, and the Fairy Princess kicked the Ranker back to it.

This repeated a dozen more times before Blackfire's lid opened and gobbled up the pitiful Ranker who was treated like a Soccer Ball.

Lux had a fair idea of what Blackfire was doing. It could only absorb dead or nearly-dead creatures inside of it.

Since the Ranker was still very much alive, it decided to beat it up until it was half-dead before swallowing it whole.

"... I didn't know Blackfire could do that," Lux muttered as he scratched his head. "Calypso, are all Divine Equipment like this?"

The Golden Spear then transformed back into a Living Armor and nodded her head.

"Yes, Master," Calypso replied. "All Divine Equipment is sentient and can act autonomously if they wish for it."

"I see." Lux nodded. "Thanks for the confirmation."

"You're welcome, Master," Calypso replied before turning back into a golden spear to float beside Lux.

The Half-Elf once again held the Divine Weapon in his hands and looked for his next target.

His experiment ended too soon, and he wasn't able to gauge Calypso's true power because his opponent was already weakened when he attacked.

After scanning the battlefield, Lux's gaze landed on Leonidas, whom he believed to be the strongest among the Gladiators in the Coliseum.

"We found our target," Lux said softly. "Let's see how strong you really are, Calypso."

The Golden Spear in the red-headed teenager's hand hummed as if asking her Master to use her to the fullest.

Lux no longer tarried and headed to where Leonidas was currently fighting. Although he felt sorry for 'stealing' one of Eiko's opponents, there was no one else he deemed worth fighting among the Gladiators, whose numbers were slowly dwindling with each passing minute.

Chapter 841.1: Tell the Agarthians, Strangers Passing By [Part 1]

'Eiko, don't attack that man with the gladiator helmet,' Lux telepathically communicated with Eiko as he flew toward Leonidas, who was busy helping his Manticore deal with the Six Manticores that the Baby Slime summoned.

The Fairy Princess, who was about to throw a meter-tall Blast Bomb at Leonidas, stiffened. However, a few seconds later, she recovered and scanned the surroundings, looking for new targets.

"Eyah!" Eiko shouted as she threw the Blast Bomb at a place where several Rankers were congregated, the sight of which made all of the battle-hardened Gladiators scream and run away like their lives depended on it.

After having a taste of Eiko's Blast Bombs, they had learned a very painful lesson.

The bigger the bomb, the more powerful it was.

Although none of those who received a direct hit died from it, they still suffered serious injuries

This forced them to distance themselves from the Baby Slime and resort to using long-range attacks to help their comrades.

Leonidas, who was the strongest among the Rankers, immediately sensed a pair of eyes locked onto his body.

The Mercenary Leader, who had commanded hundreds of men under him and fought in one of the bloodiest battles the Kingdom of Agartha, glanced in the direction where the gaze was coming from.

There, he saw the Half-Elf, who was holding a golden spear in his hand, headed in his direction.

In just a span of a few seconds, Leonidas understood that he was being singled out by one of the targets that they needed to eliminate.

Since he was stronger than Lux by a realm, he was truly sure that the red-headed teenager was only a D-Ranker.

However, Leonidas no longer had the leeway to underestimate his enemy, and he decided to face him head-on.

"Continue to support my Manticore!" Leonidas ordered. "I'll deal with this kid first. Don't worry, if I kill him, I'll give the rewards to one of you guys. You have my word."

Originally, the other Rankers wanted to target Lux as well, but after hearing Leonidas' words, they decided to continue supporting the Manticore to help it overcome the onslaught from Eiko's Manticores, who were attacking it from all directions.

Holding a spear in his hand, Leonidas roared as he charged toward Lux with the intention of going all out.

A metallic ring spread in the Coliseum when Lux's and Leonidas' weapons clashed with each other.

The two exchanged several blows, and with each blow, the Half-Elf skidded backward due to the difference in strength. Even so, the ferocity of his attacks didn't change as he continued to exchange blows with someone more powerful than him.

After their eighth clash, Leonidas backed away as he looked at the weapon in his hand.

The Blade of his Mythical-Ranked Spear was already cracked, which made him frown.

He was stronger than Lux, but the Half-Elf's weapon was better than his.

This difference allowed the Half-Elf to gain the upper hand, making Leonidas start thinking about how he would be able to deal with the Golden Spear in his opponent's hands.

At that moment, a spear embedded itself in the ground beside Leonidas.

"Take it," Michael, who was the organizer of the Battle Royale, commanded. "That is a Legendary Weapon and it has the Indestructible attribute. It's the only one of its kind here in Agartha. I will lend it to you until the match is over."

Leonidas didn't hesitate and threw the cracked spear in his hand away and grabbed the spear that belonged to a retired General of the Kingdom of Agartha.

Although Michael now only focused on organizing Gladiator Matches, he was one of the most famed Generals of the Kingdom before he decided to retire.

"Indestructible?" Lux smiled. "Perfect."

Calypso was a Divine Weapon, so only those with the power to withstand its might could face it in battle.

If the one holding it was a Supreme, then they would definitely be a force to be reckoned with.

However, in Lux's hands, it was only a very powerful weapon, whose true powers were yet to be seen.

After that brief interlude, Lux and Leonidas clashed once again, and this time, the Mercenary Leader truly showed his fighting ability.

In less than five minutes, Lux found himself being pushed back and unable to even counterattack.

'His mastery of the spear is the real deal,' Lux thought. 'His bloodlust and killing intent are also off the charts.'

The Half-Elf understood that he was clearly outmatched when it came to close combat, but he didn't back away.

Instead, he started to use his other abilities to help him stand toe to toe with Leonidas, making the C-Ranker narrow his eyes.

Bone Spikes jutted out of the ground, in an attempt to hinder Leonidas' movement.

However, as if already expecting these petty tricks, the Gladiator calmly stepped to the side and swatted them away as if they were just weeds that were blocking his path.

Suddenly, something unexpected happened.

Two Rankers suddenly appeared behind Lux with their weapons raised for the kill.

Leonidas saw this but didn't say anything, simply thrusting his spear forward in order to create a killing zone where the Half-Elf had nowhere to run.

Lux didn't even bother to look behind his back and simply thrust his spear forward in order to meet Leonidas' attack.

A distinctive metallic ring spread in the surroundings as the tip of both spears met, creating sparks that flew in every direction.

"Die Highlander!" one of the Rankers that had decided to sneak attack from behind roared.

"Your head is mine!" the last remaining Ranker shouted as he swung his sword downwards with the intention to split the Half-Elf's body in half.

At that exact moment, a cold voice filled with killing intent reached both of their ears.

"We can't have that now, can we?"

Draven, who had always been hiding inside Lux's shadow, sprang forth and clashed with one of the Rankers who had aimed to take his Master's life.

"Since you wish to die that badly, allow me to send you to the afterlife."

Diablo, who had also autonomously appeared on Lux's side, parried the other Ranker's sword, preventing it from reaching its target.

At the same time, Lux's ultimate defender, the Corpse God, materialized and lashed out at the two Rankers using the weapons in its hands.

Screams of pain and disbelief reached Leonidas' ears as his two comrades were sent flying by the five-meter-tall Corpse God, who wielded different weapons in each hand.

Diablo and Draven didn't let the two Rankers regain their footing and clashed with them as Lux continued to battle the Mercenary Leader, who had momentarily lost his momentum.

Leonidas didn't expect that his opponent was capable of summoning reinforcements out of thin air, making him wonder why Lux hadn't used them earlier to gain an upper hand against him.

Chapter 842.2: Tell the Agarthians, Strangers Passing By [Part 2]

"Who are you, really?" Leonidas asked as he pointed the tip of his spear toward his opponent's face.

"Lux Von Kaizer," Lux replied. "Just your friendly neighborhood Necromancer."

Leonidas narrowed his eyes after hearing his opponent's profession. Although Necromancers who fought in close combat weren't rare, he was still surprised. Lux looked so young, yet he was already this powerful.

He knew that Half-Elves had long lives and that looks could be deceiving, so in order to confirm his suspicions, he asked another question.

"How old are you, Lux?"

"Seventeen."

This time, it was the spectators' turn to be surprised.

Even the Princes and Princesses of Agarthia didn't think that Lux was really young. Since Half-Elves were like Elves when it came to age, they thought that he was older.

"Is that so?" Leonidas commented after regaining his composure. "It's too bad. You're going to die so young."

Although he had to admire Lux's strength for his age, he was confident that the Half-Elf had no way of defeating him in a one-on-one battle.

Based on what happened earlier, he understood that his opponent wished to fight him alone without using any of his Undead Minions.

Necromancers fought using numerical advantage, and since Lux didn't choose that option, Leonidas was very confident about his chances of winning.

Lux didn't say anything and only smiled.

Although he had to admit that Leonidas was stronger than him, the outcome of their battle was yet to be decided.

Suddenly, the air surrounding Leonidas crackled and distorted. A moment later, the shackles that bound his arms and legs suddenly shattered.

Michael, who initially thought that Leonidas didn't need to remove his limiter in order to defeat Lux, arched an eyebrow.

During Leonidas' career as a Gladiator, he had never once removed the limiter he had placed on himself even though he had to fight very strong opponents like B-Rankers in the past.

Through sheer will and determination, he had won against these opponents. But, now, things were different.

Even Michael didn't know how strong Leonidas was once his limiters were unsealed.

It made the event organizer look at the Mercenary Leader with great anticipation as the latter thumped the rear of the spear in his hands on the ground, causing a ripple to spread throughout the entirety of the Gladiators Colosseum.

For a brief moment, all the fighting inside of it stopped as the Rankers, as well as Lux's forces, all looked at the Mercenary Leader who had taken off his Gladiator's helmet to show his face to everyone.

Long black hair and blue eyes that seemed to have seen all the hardships of the world were revealed, and he gazed at Lux steadily.

Leonidas was nearly two meters tall, and his body was covered with many scars. However, right now, he seemed to be bigger than life as his presence captivated everyone, whose eyes were now locked on his person.

"I am no Hero," Leonidas stated. "Nor have I been a good father or a husband. I have killed many, and many wanted to kill me. I have slain murderers, criminals, bandits, as well as innocents. My hands are stained with blood, and when I die, I am sure that there is a place waiting for me in hell."

Leonidas' profound words resonated within the arena, making everyone wonder what he hoped to achieve with his speech.

"Criminals is what they call us, and here in the Gladiators Arena, everyone wishes to see us fight a Death Match with each other," Leonidas declared. "But today is no ordinary day. My spearpoint doesn't point towards the heart of a fellow Agarthian. Today, I fight not for myself, but for the glory of our entire kingdom."

The Mercenary Leader then pointed his spear toward Lux, who was listening to his speech with a solemn expression on his face.

"My win is Agarth's win," Leonidas stated. "My loss is Agarth's loss."

Leonidas paused for a bit before continuing the rest of his words.

"300 Gladiators versus two people and a mischievous fairy, and yet, the easy fight that everyone envisioned is nowhere to be seen."

A pin-drop silence descended upon the Gladiator's Arena for everyone was starting to realize what Leonidas was talking about.

"Brothers and sisters, will you entrust your lives to me?" Leonidas asked the Rankers, who were still present in the arena.

Out of the 300 Gladiators, around 250 remained.

Leonidas knew that if the battle were to extend longer, these numbers would continue to dwindle, so he decided to activate his unique ability in order to finally end the battle and save the rest of his comrades from dying.

"Yes!" one of the Rankers shouted. "We are with you, Leonidas!"

As if a spark had been lit, the other Rankers shouted to acknowledge his words.

"Then entrust your life to me," Leonidas stated. "Let us fight as one!"

When he finished talking, several beams of light shot out from Leonidas' body and landed on the Rankers who had decided to entrust their lives to him.

These Rankers then all turned into particles of light, gathering around Leonidas, drastically increasing his strength.

C-Ranker.

B-Ranker.

A-Ranker.

S-Ranker.

In one fell swoop, Leonidas' strength had increased by leaps and bounds, surprising the Half-Elf, as well as the spectators in the arena.

Leonidas' Unique Ability was called Power Assimilation.

This ability allowed him to temporarily absorb the powers of everyone that had agreed to fight alongside him, giving him a tenth of their total Stat Points.

Because of this, his Rank surged up to that of a High-Ranker.

Although very powerful, this skill had a limitation.

He couldn't absorb the strength of people past 300, for that was the maximum limit of his skill.

Also, this ability would only last for fifteen minutes, and after that, Leonidas, as well as those whom he had temporarily housed inside his body, would not even be able to lift a finger afterward, making them completely vulnerable.

Simply put, this was an all-out ability.

A skill that must only be used as a Last Resort.

Leonidas had deemed that, in order to defeat Lux, Gaap, as well as Eiko, he needed to gain the strength that would overcome sheer numbers and cut through their army like a hot knife through butter.

"If you have any other tricks up your sleeve, it's time to use them now, boy," Leonidas stated as he took a step forward, causing the ground under his feet to shatter from the overwhelming power radiating off of his body.

"Very well," Lux replied. "I didn't intend to use it here, but since you've already decided to go all out, then I will go all out as well."

The Half-Elf no longer held back and summoned the entirety of his Undead Legion, as well as the Members of his Covenant.

"You're not the only one with that kind of ability," Lux stated. "I also have that."

The Half-Elf then opened the Draconic Wings behind his back and flew upwards.

"Come," Lux ordered as a Gigantic silhouette appeared behind him.

"Deus Gigantia [Epic]!"

A faint chuckle echoed in the surroundings as a Gigantic Skeleton King that was nearly a hundred meters tall appeared inside the arena.

Lux then merged with the blue crystal on its chest, allowing him to take full control of the Unique Skill that he had personally created before becoming a Heaven's Necromancer.

One by one, his Undead Summons, numbered in the thousands, all rose from the ground and merged with the Skeleton King, boosting its strength further.

"Tell the Agarthians, strangers passing by," the Skeleton King spoke as he raised his hand summoning a giant Spear of Longinus, which he held firmly in his hand. "That here, obedient to their laws..."

You...

Will...

Die."

Chapter 843.1: The Power Of Faith [Part 1]

Lux's Deus Gigantia had two forms.

The first form was its regular form, where he would summon a Skeleton King that would always be a Rank Higher than him and would always be a World Boss Monster.

Currently, Lux was a D-Ranker, so when he summoned Deus Gigantia, a Skeleton King with the rank of a Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss, would appear.

But that was only its basic form.

Deus Gigantia's second form would allow all of Lux's Undead Legion, Named Creatures, as well as members of his Covenant to merge with the Skeleton King, absorbing 20% of all of their Maximum Stat Points. Compared to Leonidas' Unique Skill, Power Assimilation, this was no doubt the better skill.

However, this skill had its drawbacks.

Once Lux had used this skill, he wouldn't be able to summon his Undead Legion and Named Creatures, except for the members of his Covenant, to aid him in battle for an entire day.

He would also not be able to use Deus Gigantia for that same amount of time.

Simply put, this was an all-out attack, combining all of Lux's forces into one powerful creature that could even transcend the might of a Supreme once the Half-Elf became a Saint.

Leonidas looked up at the Gigantic Behemoth in front of him, which was wielding a giant spear in its hand.

When he told Lux to use any remaining tricks he had in order to fight him, he didn't expect the Half-Elf to be able to summon a Giant Skeleton King, whose current Rank was in the middle stages of the Empyrean Rank.

Not to mention, the monster was a World Boss, which meant that it was strong enough to take on a group of several High-Rankers before getting defeated.

Despite being faced with such an opponent, the Mercenary leader firmly held his ground.

He then raised the spear that was given to him by the event's organizer and pointed it at the Monster before him.

"Brothers and sisters, tonight, we dine in Hell!" Leonidas declared with a fearless smile on his face.

He had faced death many times already, and this would just be one of those moments where he once again bets with his life and the life of others, putting everything on the line for the sake of a miracle.

The spirits of the Rankers who were also with him roared in agreement, for they understood that their chances of defeating such a beast were very slim.

Even so, just like Leonidas, all of them held firm and faced the Skeleton King with determination.

The Mercenary Leader's body then glowed gold, as his hair fluttered from the powerful aura that he was releasing.

He gripped the Legendary spear in his hand and assumed a fighting stance, preparing to unleash one powerful attack that would smite the foe in front of him.

Lux, who was commanding Deus Gigantia, also took a fighting stance and pointed the gigantic tip of the Spear of Longinus at the Mercenary Leader.

The Half-Elf was very impressed by Leonidas' unwavering determination even in the face of his most powerful ability.

"Brace!" Leonidas shouted, and several round shields appeared around him, forming the Phalanx Formation.

250 shields stood firm behind Leonidas, and all of them glowed golden with immense power.

The maximum limit of his skill was absorbing 300 people. However, only 250 Rankers remained, which made his formation fall short of its maximum potential.

Even so, Leonidas wasn't bothered and simply pointed his spear towards the blue crystal on the Skeleton King's chest, where Lux was currently located.

The Mercenary Leader's show of courage had touched the hearts of Agarthians who were watching the battle, and before they knew it, all of them started to cheer for the Gladiator, who was an Agarthian, just like them!

""Fight!""

""Fight!""

""Fight!""

""Fight!""

Just like the beating of a war drum and the battle cries of countless warriors, the Agarthians all stood as one against a common foe.

It didn't matter if Leonidas was a criminal.

It didn't matter what he had done in the past.

For this moment in time, he was just like them, an Agarthian.

His Win was their Win.

His Loss was their Loss.

Lux, whose senses had been heightened after becoming a Heaven's Necromancer, noticed faint tendrils of white light flying towards Leonidas from the spectator's seats.

'The power of Faith,' Lux thought as his expression turned solemn.

The power of Faith was also the power that gave birth to the Gods.

Normal people wouldn't be able to see them, but those who did understand how powerful Faith could be.

It was the power that helped manifest miracles, and right now, Lux could tell with his eyes blessed by Heaven that Leonidas' power was steadily rising at a rapid rate.

Countless prayers and wishes of the Agarthians all merged into Leonidas' body, granting him unimaginable strength, which he hadn't felt before.

Leonidas, who suddenly noticed the changes in his body was surprised, but deep in his heart, he had an idea of what was happening.

For that was the nature of his power.

Power that grew stronger the more others placed their complete and unwavering trust in him.

As the Mercenary Leader's strength continued to soar, the 250 Golden Shields behind him also glowed brighter.

'Do not be afraid, young one.'

The Skeleton King spoke directly inside Lux's head.

'He's not the only one who has the power of Faith,' the Skeleton King said through telepathy. 'You also have it in you. The Undead may not have hearts, and you will not be able to hear their heartbeats, but they are very much alive. Feel them with your heart, hear them with your soul, and tap into the power that became exclusively yours after your Rebirth.'

After hearing the Skeleton King's words, Lux felt like he was enlightened.

A moment later, he sensed it.

Diablo's, Ishtar's, Pazuzu's, Orions, Asmodeus', Lazarus' wishes...

All of the members of his Covenant's determination...

And his Undead Legion's unwavering loyalty...

They were the creatures who would always be on his side, even if the entire world became his enemy.

His steadfast allies through thick and thin.

Warriors who would fight on the front lines for his sake, and sing his songs of glory.

Calypso, who had taken the form of the Spear of Longinus hummed, and the sound of an angelic hymn spread across the Gladiator Coliseum.

The Agarthians were countless, and the power of their Faith was strong.

Lux's Undead Legion was nothing compared to them, but that didn't matter.

Even if he were against the entire world, he would never be alone!

"Together!" Lux declared as his green eyes turned gold, gathering the power of Faith from his companions who were fighting alongside him.

Leonidas, who had also gathered the power he needed, also roared as he prepared to unleash his strongest attack.

"Devastate!" Leonidas roared. "Son of Hercules!"

"Pierce the Void!" Lux shouted. "Spear of Longinus!"

The Giant Skeleton King thrust the Divine Spear towards the Mercenary Leader, and Leonidas, in turn, thrust upwards, meeting the attack head-on.

A clash of Will.

A clash of Faith.

And with it, a battle that would be remembered in the Kingdom of Agartha for centuries to come rocked the entirety of the Gladiator Coliseum to its very core.

Chapter 844.2: The Power Of Faith [Part 2]

"Devastate!" Leonidas bellowed. "Son of Hercules!"

"Pierce the Void!" Lux shouted. "Spear of Longinus!"

Two powerful attacks clashed with each other, creating an ear-piercing screeching noise that nearly made everyone in the coliseum cover their ears.

The ground under Leonidas' feet shattered, and blood flowed from the corner of his lips. But he held firm and gazed steadily at the giant spear point that threatened to erase his very existence.

The only thing that prevented that from happening was the indestructible spear in his hand, which held firm despite the fact that the weapon it was fighting against was countless times bigger than it.

Suddenly, the loud sound of something breaking reached Leonidas' ears.

Behind his back, he heard one of the Golden Shields shatter, and it was soon followed by another.

A few seconds later, three more shields exploded into a shower of lights. These light particles flew towards Leonidas as if passing their wishes to him.

Ten seconds later, twenty more shields exploded.

At that exact moment, a blood mist erupted on Leonidas' right side.

Blood had come out from the pores of his body as if it was being squeezed from the inside of his body.

It was painful, but Leonidas paid it no heed and stood his ground, despite dealing with a force so strong that the ground under his feet was breaking, creating an ever-expanding crater as the Mercenary Leader held on with everything he had.

The Golden Shields behind his back had now turned blood red, and three to five of them exploded with each passing second.

Even so, with every shield that exploded, the lights on the remaining shields became brighter, until they had become nearly blinding.

The aura around Leonidas' body had now also turned crimson, reflecting the blood that was oozing out from nearly every pore of his body.

250 Shields.

238 Shields.

194 Shields.

135 Shields.

99 Shields.

77 Shields.

69 Shields.

41 Shields.

28 Shields.

13 Shields.

4 Shields.

1 Shield.

The last remaining shield behind Leonidas' back cracked ever-so-slowly as it reached its limit.

This was also the moment that Leonidas was waiting for.

The moment the last shield broke, he would also unleash his strongest attack.

When the shield behind his back finally broke, Leonidas' eyes that were glowing crimson shone even brighter.

"Defy the Heavens!" Leonidas roared. "Battle of Thermopylae!"

Suddenly, the spear in the Mercenary Leader's hand slowly pushed back the Spear of Longinus.

Leonidas took a step forward as if he was stepping on a stair, slowly but surely gaining momentum as he pushed back the Giant Spear that had turned him into a bloody mess.

The Agarthians watched with bated breath as they saw countless Ethereal Warriors pushing Leonidas back, prompting him forward.

With each step the Mercenary Leader took, Ethereal Warriors, holding shields, knelt and created a platform that he could walk upon, bearing the weight of the man who was now fighting while the embers of his life blazed until they were extinguished.

Suddenly, from within the crowd, a young man stood up and shouted with all of his might.

"Leonidas! Go!"

This shout spread far and wide within the Coliseum, pulling everyone out of their daze.

Soon, countless shouts permeated the entirety of the arena as countless Agarthians poured out their hearts, passionately calling out the name of the man that defied all expectations.

"Don't lose! Leonidas! Beat him!"

"You can do it! Go!"

"Fight! Don't lose hope!"

""Leonidas!""

""Leonidas!""

""Leonidas!""

""Leonidas!""

Cheers once again erupted, and with it, Leonidas took one painful step at a time, rising higher and higher, pushing the giant spear back as he continued to walk toward the blue jewel in the Skeleton King's Chest, where his foe currently stood.

The current Leonidas was soaked with his own blood from head to toe, and he could no longer see what was in front of him.

However, the hands that were pushing his back, and the shouts from the people who were cheering for him edged him forward.

Even King Septimius, who was seated in the highest seat of honor, had his fists clenched, while silently urging the Mercenary Leader in his heart to create a miracle.

After what felt like Eternity, Leonidas had breached the insurmountable gap and was only a few meters away from the blue crystal.

Lux, who was inside it, watched the amazing man, who had defied all odds in order to reach him.

When the Mercenary Leader had reached the waist of the Giant Skeleton King, Lux had ceased his attack, for he knew that Leonidas could no longer bear the strength of his Divine Weapon.

As someone who had defied the Heavens and had become the Progenitor of a Sacred Class, he wanted to see the power of Faith manifest itself in front of him.

For Leonidas to successfully push the Spear of Longinus back until he reached the waist area of the Giant Skeleton King, the Half-Elf was thoroughly impressed by his tenacity.

A few minutes later, a faint clinking sound reached everyone's ears.

The Coliseum was so silent that even the smallest of sounds could be heard.

"Did I... reach... you?" Leonidas asked hoarsely.

"Yes," Lux replied with a tone filled with admiration. "You reached me."

The tip of Leonidas' spear had finally touched the blue jewel on the Skeleton's Chest, but there was no longer any strength behind it.

The sound earlier was like the sound of two wine glasses clinking each other, which was shared between two old friends that hadn't seen each other for a long time.

A faint smile appeared on Leonidas' blood-soaked lips as all the strength in his body disappeared like it finally gave up on him.

He had done what he was supposed to do, and now... he could finally rest.

"I'll... reserve a place... for you... in Hell," Leonidas said softly. "Make sure... to bring... good wine... for me."

"Hell can wait for a bit," Lux replied. "I still have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep."

The Ethereal Warriors who had helped Leonidas reach his destination all disappeared, and with them, the Mercenary Leader fell from the sky.

However, his body didn't even touch the ground, for a certain Black Coffin caught him cautiously as if he was something very precious.

It would be a waste for such a courageous man to disappear from this world completely.

Even if the Gods allowed it...

Blackfire wouldn't allow it!

Lux smiled at the Black Coffin, who had started to greedily swallow the remaining 250 Rankers that had materialized in the arena after Leonidas fell from the sky.

Michael, who was the organizer of the event, tried to stop it because the Rankers were still alive and only half-dead. After such an amazing match, he decided that he would plead with the King of Agartha to spare them and let them continue to fight as Gladiators.

However, the Black Coffin wouldn't allow anyone to stop it, so it smacked Michael and sent him flying in the opposite direction of the arena.

It then released several black tendril-like tentacles from its body, which attached themselves to all the Rankers who were lying helplessly on the ground, unable to do anything.

Blackfire then pulled all of the Rankers inside of it before disappearing completely.

That was how the Death Match between the 300 Gladiators and Lux ended, making it the most memorable Gladiator Battle in Agartha, which would be remembered for years to come.

Chapter 845: Aftermath Of The Battle

When Blackfire disappeared from the arena, all the Agarthians looked at the Giant Skeleton King, who stood tall and proud above them.

"Are you not entertained?" the Skeleton King asked, spreading its arms wide as if challenging anyone who would say otherwise.

However, someone did reply to its inquiry, and it came from the highest seat of honor in the Gladiator's Coliseum. The one who ruled over Agartha, and held complete control of this ancient Kingdom, King Septimius.

"We are entertained."

King Septimius looked at the Giant Skeleton King, and the latter looked down on the King of Agartha due to its height.

"Good," the Skeleton King replied.

A moment later, it turned into particles of light, leaving Lux in the sky, floating with his Draconic Wings spread wide.

The Half-Elf then slowly descended to the ground with a calm expression on his face. However, this was only a facade.

He was drained of his energy, and if it were not for the fact that he had to keep appearances, he might have laid down on the ground to sleep.

The members of his Covenant, whom he had called to help him, had also materialized on the ground beside him.

Bedivere, Zagan, ALL-MITE, Garret, and King Leoric.

Since they were part of Lux's Covenant, they could still fight alongside the Half-Elf, who could no longer summon the rest of his Undead Army for an entire day.

Bedivere and Garret, who were stationed in Leaf Village and Lux's Guild Headquarters most of the time, were quite surprised when they were summoned.

However, after witnessing the extraordinary battle for themselves, they were quite excited to welcome Leonidas as their comrade.

Currently, the Mercenary Leader and the other Gladiators were inside Blackfire.

As to when they would make their appearance, only the Black Coffin knew.

"Have we earned our freedom to go on an adventure in your mighty Kingdom, Your Majesty?" Gaap asked with a smile. "Or will you go back on your word and silence us, like what you did to the other Highlanders that had come before us?"

King Septimius snorted after hearing Gaap's taunt.

"Although the outcome is truly unexpected, my word remains the same," King Septimius replied. "You and Lux have earned the right to travel our lands unhindered. You will also be escorted by the Saintess Cleo, who will bear my decree.

"A decree that no one who calls themselves Agarthian will come to trouble you, unless they are bandits and criminals who don't recognize the law. If you are to meet these people, feel free to handle them as you see fit. For they are not my people and not bound by the laws of my kingdom."

Gaap nodded. "Ah, before I forget, you said that we can also visit Misfortune's Beloved in the Pantheon of Exile. Is that promise still in effect?"

"I already said it earlier, Halfling," King Septimius stated. "Do not make me repeat myself."

"My apologies, Your Majesty." Gaap bowed respectfully.

The Halfling's plan was to let the citizens of Agartha know why they had come to their Kingdom.

If everyone were to find out that they were here to visit the Misfortune's Beloved, they would pay extra attention to their journey, which would serve as an added layer of protection should King Septimius choose to go back on his word.

Lux, who had remained silent a moment ago, raised his right fist high up in the air for everyone to see.

"Today, I have witnessed the sheer strength and willpower of Agarthians," Lux shouted. "If all of you here today have a tenth of Leonidas' courage and determination, I believe that the Kingdom of Agartha would prosper forevermore.

"Know that even above in the Surface World, very few people have the same courage that he has displayed here today. If there is anyone here who is just like Leonidas, feel free to join my Guild. I am recruiting strong people like you!"

The corner of Gaap's and King Septimius' lips twitched after hearing Lux's shameless .

Clearly, the Half-Elf wanted to take advantage of the situation and get able-bodied warriors, who would fight alongside him.

Before the Half-Elf could continue his shameless act, King Septimius cleared his throat, catching everyone's attention.

"Before you wander our Ancient Domain, I invite the two of you to participate in the Birthday Celebration of my youngest daughter, Princess Shayna, which will take place in two days' time," King Septimius stated. "Also, you don't have the right to refuse my invitation, for that will mean disrespect to me and my kingdom."

Lux and Gaap glanced at each other and nodded their heads. Although the Half-Elf wanted to go to the Pantheon of Exile in order to see Aurora as soon as possible, he deemed that forming a good relationship with the current King was also important.

After all, King Septimius was still Aurora's father.

King Septimius then stood up and raised his hand, addressing his citizens.

"Today, we have witnessed a great battle of the wills," King Septimius stated. "The event has now ended, and all of you are free to spread the news of what happened here today. Also, if you happen to meet our two guests during their journey, feel free to show them how we treat our guests."

The corner of King Septimius' lips rose because he believed that after this day, Lux's fame would spread across his kingdom.

Naturally, this would also cause problems for the Half-Elf, and he was very keen to see what kind of trouble he would find himself in as he journeyed through the Ancient Kingdom, which had stood tall since time immemorial.

As if taking their King's words as a sign, all the spectators applauded the victors of the Gladiator Match.

Although they felt bad about Leonidas' loss, it didn't change the fact that the battle made their blood boil due to how awesome it was.

Of course, there were a lot of spectators who were looking at the Half-Elf in a new light, and some of them were thinking about forming connections with him in order to take advantage of his newfound popularity in Agartha.

'Although the King looks amiable right now, don't trust him too much, okay?' Gaap cautioned Lux through their Guild Chat. 'We don't know anything about this hospitality thing that he mentioned just now, so make sure to keep your guard up during the Princess' Birthday Celebration.'

'Understood, Master,' Lux replied. 'I'll make sure to pay attention to my surroundings.'

Now that they had cleared their first obstacle in Agartha, the two decided to stay for a while and join the festivities.

They were unaware that in one of the VIP Rooms of the Coliseum, Princess Shayna was looking at them with a sweet smile on their face.

'He's a good person,' Princess Shayna thought as she looked at the Half-Elf who had come to Agartha to meet her Elder Sister, Aurora. 'I hope I can talk to him during the party.'

The Youngest Princess of Agartha left her room with a smile on her face. She came to the Coliseum to see Lux, and what she had seen would remain in her memory and heart forever.

Chapter 846: A Day In The City Of Shambala

A day after the death match in the Gladiator's Arena, Lux and Gaap toured the Capital City of Shambala, escorted by Saintess Cleo.

After Lux's win, the Saintess reluctantly honored the bet she had with Lux, which was to serve him for an entire year if he won.

Since the King of Agartha had already made a decree about it, and it was even announced in the Gladiator's Coliseum, the beautiful Saintess could only follow through the motions and accompany the Half-Elf and the Halfling on their journey.

Lux, on the other hand, didn't make fun of the Saintess, not even insisting that she call him Daddy. For this, Cleo was truly grateful because she wouldn't be able to raise her head again if she were to call Lux, Daddy, in public.

"How do you like one of Agartha's specialty dishes?" Cleo asked after Lux tasted a dish that almost everyone in Agartha cooked in their homes.

"This is the first time I've eaten fried Scorpions," Lux replied. "It's tastier than I thought."

"I know, right?" Cleo smiled. "The scorpions in Agartha are not poisonous. Their stings might be very painful, but you won't have to worry about dying."

Gaap, who wasn't very picky with food, also found the fried scorpions to his liking. He even wanted to eat them on a regular basis.

Fortunately, it was a very common dish in Agartha, and almost all taverns and eating establishments had them.

The City of Shambala was very big, making it impossible to be toured in a day or two. However, what surprised Lux during their tour was that there was an Adventurer's Guild present inside the city.

According to Cleo, the Adventurer's Guild originated in Agartha and spread out in the Surface World.

However, the Guild Grandmaster of the widespread organization in the world refused to allow the King of Agartha to use it for his political means.

Their stance was to be neutral from the get-go, and it had remained that way since the Adventurer's Guild was founded.

After their meal ended, the three of them rested, drinking some tea as they did.

Lux thought that this was the perfect time to chat with the Saintess, so he decided to take the initiative and ask the question that was on his mind.

"Miss Cleo, what can you tell me about the youngest princess of Agartha, Princess Shayna?" Lux asked.

He had stopped calling Cleo, Her Excellency, because the latter said that it sounded so formal, and she insisted that Lux just call her Cleo.

However, Lux felt that doing so would be disrespecting her, so he insisted on adding Miss whenever he referred to her.

"Princess Shayna?" Cleo smiled before putting her teacup on top of the table. "I don't know much about her because she rarely appears in public. All I know is that among the royal children, she is the closest to Aurora..."

Suddenly the body of the Saint stiffened as if she had come to a realization.

"I see. So that's why," Cleo muttered.

A minute of silence passed before the Saintess once again talked. "I think the reason why the Princess rarely made her appearance is because she had been affected by the curse of Misfortune's Beloved.

"I'm sure that the King has used his authority to keep her inside the Royal Palace instead of going to the Azmarin Monastery. She might be wearing protective charms right now to keep the bad luck away. But to ensure that she doesn't affect others with her bad luck, she might have been kept under house arrest."

Lux felt sorry for Aurora's sister, whom Cleo said had been very close to her.

"Don't worry," Gaap commented from the side. "The Royal Family of Agartha must have some kind of special protection from the Gods. Even if Princess Shayna is cursed with bad luck, its effect isn't as bad as you might be imagining. The King wouldn't have invited us to her birthday celebration otherwise."

Cleo nodded in agreement. Since the King of Agarthia had invited Lux and Gaap to Princess Shayna's birthday, there was no need to worry about getting affected by bad luck.

After a short break, the three of them continued touring the city.

Everywhere they went, people would stare at Lux and Gaap as if they were popular idols that were taking a stroll in their city.

Naturally, these Agarthians had already heard about what had transpired in the Gladiator's Coliseum through their peers, and their impressions of the Highlanders had changed since then.

"You're like celebrities now," Cleo commented as she looked at the two Highlanders, who were walking side by side.

"It's not our fault we were born handsome," Lux replied. "Isn't that right, Master?"

"Yes." Gaap nodded. "Being handsome is a sin."

Hearing that, the corner of the Saintess' lips twitched, and she weirdly looked at the shameless Master and Disciple pair, who were actually feeling quite smug about the attention they were getting.

When they neared the center of the city, Lux saw a Bazaar, and his interest was immediately piqued.

'I should get a souvenir for Grandma, Iris, and Cai,' Lux thought as he walked towards one of the stalls in order to check what they were selling.

Out of habit, he summoned his Soul Book and used its appraisal skill to check the things that were on sale.

To the Half-Elf's surprise, nearly half of the items that were being sold in the stall that he went to had Abilities in them. Although not all of these abilities were good, the fact that they were there made the Half-Elf think of something good.

"Sir, how much is this bracelet?" Lux asked.

He was holding a black bracelet that had the skill, Calm Mind, which allowed those who wear it to have a significant boost in their mental resistance.

"Ah, you have good eyes, young man," the merchant replied. "That bracelet is made from the skin of the Black Crocodiles that are hunted from the Kyle River. Since you are one of my first customers of the day, you can have it for a very low price of 500 gold coins."

"500 Gold Coins for this trinket?" Cleo asked with a frown. "At most, this will only cost 50 gold coins. You even have dozens of them, so they're not supposed to be that expensive."

"My Lady, even though I have dozens of them, I guarantee that they are made from the highest quality materials," the Merchant insisted. "Also, those Black Crocodiles are all Deimos Ranked Beasts. Not everyone is able to hunt them down."

Cleo was about to argue once again, but before she could do that, Lux stepped in and smiled at the merchant.

"How about this earring?" Lux asked.

This Earring was a bit special because it had the ability, Light as a Feather.

As the name suggested, it was as light as a feather, which would be a very interesting ability to imbue to something that usually weighed more than a ton.

"That one is priced at 300 Gold Coins, but I will give you a big discount and only sell it to you for 100 Gold Coins," the Merchant replied.

"Deal," Lux replied before picking up another accessory from the stall.

Now that he no longer worried about money, he could now finally use his skill Transmutation [EX], to its fullest potential.

'Hahaha! What a sucker!' the Merchant laughed in his heart. 'Are all Highlanders this stupid? He should have listened to that beautiful lady beside him. It looks like I'll make a lot of profit today!'

Cleo looked at Lux as if he was a country bumpkin that was shopping for the first time in the city.

The Half-Elf didn't even bother bargaining for the price of the things he bought and simply bought them at their market price.

The Merchants who saw this thought that Highlanders were suckers and had plenty of money, so they opened up their wares to Lux and even gave him "bulk discounts" for the items that he was purchasing.

What these merchants didn't know was that Lux was having the last laugh.

If coughing up a few hundred gold coins was enough to acquire rare abilities that he could transmute to his equipment, then he would gladly do so.

After all, Legendary-ranked equipment and above were considered "Priceless," and if a price tag were to be attached to any of them, it would easily reach millions of gold coins, which was a far cry to the thousands of gold coins that Lux had spent in shopping for the rarest abilities that were available in the Bazaar of Shambala.

Chapter 847: I Have Some Good News For You

"M-Master, I feel strange."

"It's fine, Calypso. Just accept it. You will feel better soon."

"Uh.... Nnng... It's so... hard... mmm! I-I can't... ngh!"

Calypso's body shuddered as Lux's hand held onto her. It had been only a few minutes since they started, but she was already at her limit.

"Just endure it for a while," Lux said. "Here is another serving, take it."

"Hah... Ngh! So hot!" Calypso's voice trembled as she did her best to endure the hot feeling that was washing over her body.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration that this was the first time that she had ever felt something like this in her life, especially after being reborn as a Living Armor and a Divine Weapon that served under Lux.

"Let's take a short break," Lux stated as he wiped away the beads of sweat that had formed on his forehead. "You've done well, Calypso."

The Half-Elf's hand lightly caressed the handle of the Divine Spear, making the latter tremble once again.

After his successful shopping trip in the Bazaar of Shambala, he started adding several new abilities to his Divine Weapon using his Transmutation [EX] skill, making Calypso more powerful.

The abilities that the Half-Elf had imparted to the Spear of Longinus were, Auto-Repair, Double Pierce, Acceleration, Precision, Weakness Point, Cross Poison, Deadly Strike, Lightning Strike, Spear Drill, and Gale Force.

These skills were meant to make the Spear of Longinus hit harder, faster, and inflict status ailments on those that were hit by it.

The Half-Elf still had many other trinkets with abilities, which he bought earlier, but he didn't intend to put all of them in the Spear of Longinus.

Abilities like "Light as a Feather" were redundant to use because the spear already had the perfect weight in Lux's hands. There were many skills that were useless for Calypso but would be very useful for other weapons.

For example, Lux intended to look for the heaviest weapon that he could find in Agartha.

A weapon that would weigh several tons. Once he found it, he'd transmute the skill Light as a Feather to it. He was planning to give this weapon to one of his subordinates, allowing them to wield a weapon that would take the enemy by surprise.

Truth be told, he wanted to give Eiko a weapon, but when he told this to the Baby Slime, the latter only shook her head.

For Eiko, the only weapon she needed was her Bombs, and that was more than enough to make her enemies go Boom!

"Are you done, Lux?" Gaap asked as he knocked on the door of Lux's room.

"Yes, Master," Lux replied before telling Calypso that they would continue their Transmutation Session later this evening.

This made the Spear of Longinus sigh in relief because she didn't know what would happen to her if her Master decided to start round two in her current state. Right now, her body was so sensitive, and receiving more stimulation might just break her mind.

Of course, Lux didn't know this. He unsummoned the Divine Weapon before opening the door to let his Master inside the room.

"Are you done with information gathering, Master?" Lux inquired as he offered Gaap a mug of water.

"Well, you can say that," Gaap replied as he accepted the mug that was given to him. "According to the information I gathered, the Pantheon of Exile is a week's travel from the capital if we are able to use the City's Teleportation Gate.

"If we don't use the Teleportation Gate, it will take us two weeks to reach our destination. Also, there are several waypoints that we need to pass through, and all of them are heavily guarded."

Lux arched an eyebrow after hearing his Master's report. He thought that the Pantheon of Exile was just a place for those who had been exiled from the Kingdom of Agartha, but this was only an assumption that he had made.

"Is the Pantheon of Exile some kind of Prison?" Lux asked.

"Not exactly, but it also serves that purpose," Gaap answered. "According to the information I gathered, several powerful beings and creatures that could potentially threaten Agartha were kept in there as well.

"The waypoints are actually strongholds that serve as lines of defense in order to prevent any of those creatures from passing through the borders of Agartha."

Lux pondered a bit after hearing his Master's explanation.

If those who were sent to the Pantheon of Exile were truly beings that could threaten the peace and stability of the ancient kingdom, wouldn't that mean that it was a very dangerous place to visit?

"I'm very curious about what kind of beings have been sent there. Do you have any idea, Master?"

"No. Actually, I am very curious as well. It is possible that there might be some High-Ranking Nobility from the Abyss there, like the one that was sealed inside the Sacred Dungeon."

"Noble Abyssals," Lux muttered. "Those guys are a pain."

The one that Gaap had caught in the Sacred Dungeon was a High-Ranking Abyssal Noble, and after interrogating its soul, he had confirmed that it was a Duke-Ranked Abyssal Noble whose power had regressed after being sealed for hundreds of years.

In fact, that Abyssal Creature was so strong that it had been sealed inside the Domain of the Fallen, yet it only regressed in power instead of being eradicated completely.

"On another note, I have a feeling that the King of Agartha is scheming something against us," Gaap said. "My gut instinct is telling me that he might use underhanded methods in order to prevent us from reaching the Pantheon of Exile."

"There's really nothing we can do but face his scheme head-on, Master," Lux replied. "I'm pretty sure that he won't underestimate us again after what happened in the Gladiator's Coliseum."

Gaap chuckled because this was very true.

The organizer of the event, Michael, had come to them to talk in private, demanding the release of Leonidas, as well as the other Gladiators that Blackfire had captured during the Deathmatch.

Of course, he also promised to give them bountiful compensation, but the Half-Elf flatly rejected his offer.

There was simply no way that Lux would return such promising individuals, even if he were to be offered millions of gold coins.

The Half-Elf no longer had any issue with money, and at the moment, what he lacked was manpower. The 300 Gladiators and the Mercenary Leader were much more than their weight in gold, and he had no plans to give them back no matter what.

Besides, he had a feeling that even if he ordered Blackfire to return them, the Black Coffin would refuse his order.

"By the way, I have some good news for you," Gaap said with a mischievous smile on his face. "After your in the Gladiator's Coliseum, there have been

people asking about how to join your Guild. Are you really sure that you want to invite Agarthians to Heaven's Gate? Do you not plan to keep it a secret anymore?"

Lux smiled because he understood his Master's worries.

"Master, rest assured, I have already thought about this carefully," Lux replied. "Agartha is located deep under the ground, and it would nearly be impossible for any news from it to reach the Surface World.

"I even dare say that Agartha is the perfect place to recruit Guild Members. Even if they spread the news of my Guild being a Mythical Guild, nothing bad will come out of it. In fact, it will be good publicity! We can also use the benefit of being able to visit the Surface World as bait to tempt powerful individuals who have already seen everything there is to see in Agartha."

Gaap pondered a bit after hearing Lux's reply, and he had to admit that this was indeed a good idea.

His only worry was how the King of Agartha would react after knowing that Lux was the Guildmaster of the Mythical Guild, whose name had even reached one of the most ancient kingdoms in the world.

Chapter 848: Perhaps This Is Also The Whims Of Fate

"Master, how do I look?" Lux asked as he showed Gaap the ceremonial dress, which was given to him by Saintess Cleo, to be worn for tonight's festivities.

"You look good," Gaap replied with a smile. "Maybe the King is worried that we might wear something unexpected to the Birthday Celebration of his daughter, so he chose our clothes for us in advance."

Just like Lux, the Halfling was wearing the ceremonial dress that was worn by the Agarthian High-Ranking Nobles for special occasions.

While the two were making small talk, a knock sounded from the door, and not long after, Cleo's voice reached their ears.

"Are the two of you ready?" Cleo asked. "The carriage has arrived."

Lux and Gaap glanced at each other and nodded their heads at the same time.

"We're ready to go," Lux replied as he and his Master went to leave the room together.

They had already made plans before going to the birthday celebration, and that was to get acquainted with a few of the important people of Agartha.

Keelan, the Guildmaster of the Adventurer's Guild in the Stronghold of Norria, stressed the importance of forming strong connections with people.

"There will be times when these connections can be used to your advantage, so meet as many people as you can and befriend them," Keelan had said back then. "The more important their position, the more you should strive to get acquainted with them!"

Lux was very familiar with the saying 'it's not what you know, but who you know that matters.'

Having friends in high places would definitely make things easier if they ever needed to ask for their help. Granted, these favors would not come free, but the ability to negotiate with these individuals was the important part.

After climbing into the carriage, they took a route that was not open to commoners.

When they arrived at their destination, the Half-Elf saw a long line of carriages, waiting for their owners to disembark.

Fortunately, their carriage bore the seal of the Royal Family, so they did not need to line up. They were immediately taken to a special gate where the special guests of the Royal Family entered.

Naturally, this caught the attention of the High-Ranking Nobles, who immediately recognized Lux and Gaap from a distance.

After their amazing battle in the Gladiator's Coliseum, the pair had earned a bit of fame and influence. However, not everyone was happy with the results.

Some of the High-Ranking Nobles didn't like the fact that Highlanders were allowed to roam free in their lands, but since their King had already given his decree, they had no choice but to endure Lux's and Gaap's presence.

"Seriously, what is His Majesty thinking?" An Earl of Agartha clicked his tongue in annoyance. "He should have just silently eliminated them after the tournament."

"Dear, be careful of what you say," his wife replied. "The King has eyes and ears everywhere. Even if our carriage has a soundproofing artifact inside it, you shouldn't say such things."

The Earl once again clicked his tongue in annoyance but didn't disagree with his wife's words.

There were other nobles in Agartha that shared the Earl's dislike for the Highlanders, and all of them wished that there was something they could do about it.

Meanwhile, in the Princess' bedroom, Princess Shayna was looking at the full-body mirror with a calm expression on her face.

She was wearing a very beautiful dress that highlighted her budding beauty.

Today, she would turn thirteen years old, which was considered an ominous number by some.

However, ever since she had been cursed by bad luck, the Princess no longer thought of the number thirteen as a bad number.

In fact, she welcomed it because it reminded her of her sister, Aurora, who was currently suffering in the Pantheon of Exile.

"Your Highness, the King calls for you in the Study Room," Princess Shayna's handmaiden said in a respectful tone.

"Understood," Princess Shayna replied and started walking toward the door at a steady pace.

Her personal maids and guards followed behind her, making sure that nothing would happen to the star of today's celebration.

When Princess Shayna arrived at her Father's Study Room, she was surprised to see that aside from the King, there was no one else inside the room.

Usually, the King would have one or two people with him, even when talking in private, so the young princess felt that something was amiss.

"You look beautiful today, Shayna," King Septimius said with a smile. "Time sure does fly. Back then, you were but a small baby, and now, you are at the cusp of becoming a beautiful lady."

Princess Shayna smiled as she made a curtsy to her father before walking towards him.

"Father, you wish to speak to me?" Princess Shayna asked. "Is this about the Highlanders?"

King Septimius nodded. "You are very sharp, my daughter. Since you already know why I called for you, let me ask you a question. What do you think of that young man, Lux?"

Princess Shayna didn't answer right away. Instead, she looked at her father with a steady gaze before making her opinion known.

"Father, do you wish to hear the answer you want to hear, or do you wish to hear the truth?" Princess Shayna asked.

"The truth," King Septimius replied.

"I think that Sir Lux is a good person," Princess Shayna replied in a firm tone. "Since he came here to see my sister, I'm sure that he will follow through with his goal. My only worry is that you will do something in the background, and prevent him from reaching his destination."

"Oh? And what makes you say that?" King Septimius asked in a curious tone.

"It is because you don't want my sister to take a single step outside the Pantheon of Exile," Princess Shayna replied. "Although you don't want to admit it, you blame her for 'that' incident, right?"

"Still young, but very clever." King Septimius nodded his head in satisfaction. "I am looking forward to seeing how much you will grow in a few years' time. Tonight is your night, so I don't want to ruin your mood."

"I will also allow you to speak with the Highlanders, but choose your words wisely. You wouldn't want anything bad to happen to them during the party, right?"

Princess Shayna gave a brief nod to answer the King's question.

Seeing that his daughter understood what he wanted to say, he made a gesture for her to come closer.

"Happy Birthday, Shayna," King Septimius said before giving his daughter a hug. "I will not ask you to forget Aurora, but do me a favor. Do not mention her name or talk about her at tonight's party. Did I make myself clear?"

"Yes, Father," Princess Shayna replied. "I will do as you say."

"Good. You may now go to the waiting room. I will call you soon."

"Understood."

Princess Shayna gave her father another respectful bow before leaving the room.

"Hah... it seems that she is in her rebellious phase," King Septimius muttered a minute after his daughter left the room.

The King of Agartha loved all of his children, including Aurora. However, the love he had for her diminished after the incident many years ago, which caused one of his wives to die due to Aurora's curse.

Since then, the King had treated Aurora coldly and even made sure that she was sent to the deepest place in the Pantheon of Exile to spend her days in solitude.

But now, there were two people who intended to take her out of that place.

Truth be told, King Septimius had mixed emotions about this matter. A part of him didn't want to see Aurora being freed from her prison.

And the other part of him wanted to allow the Half-Elf to take his daughter to the Surface World, where she would be allowed to spread her bad luck, causing countless suffering.

That way, those above ground would also understand the pain that he felt after losing someone very important to him due to Aurora's curse.

"Perhaps this is one of the whims of Fate," King Septimius said softly as he closed his eyes. "I just wonder if I should let it run its course."

The King of Agarthia sighed before leaving the Study Room in order to start the celebration.

Today was his daughter's birthday party, and at the very least, he didn't want it to be ruined due to the Misfortune's Beloved, whom he hadn't seen for several years.

Chapter 849: May I Have The Honor Of Having Your First Dance?

"Everyone, thank you for coming here today," King Septimius said, addressing the guests who had been invited to attend his youngest daughter's birthday.

"I believe that all of you have been well since our last meeting?" King Septimius' voice was calm and laced with a teasing tone, which made the atmosphere very casual and lively.

Everyone cheered as if to agree with their King's inquiry.

"Good!" King Septimius smiled. "Alright. I shall not make a long speech today. Thus, let me present to you my youngest daughter, Princess Shayna!"

The King of Agarthia gestured for everyone to look up to the top of the staircase.

There, a young lady, whose beauty was already starting to show at a young age, walked down with a sweet smile on her face.

She was dressed in a very beautiful pink gown that highlighted her outstanding features, making those who saw her feel like their hearts were melting.

A silver tiara sparkled on top of her head, making Eiko, who saw it, become very interested in it.

"Shayna, do you have anything to say to our guests who have traveled far and wide just to be here today?" King Septimius asked in a voice filled with affection.

"Yes, Your Majesty," Princess Shayna replied before scanning the crowd of people whose gazes were locked onto her small frame.

When her gaze landed on Lux and Gaap, her eyes lingered there for a few seconds before once again scanning the crowd, making sure that she had looked at them all.

"I thank all of you for coming here today to celebrate this very special day with me," Princess Shayna said. "I hope that my Father has prepared enough food and drinks to fill your stomachs, and enough performers to keep all of you entertained. If the preparation for this celebration is somewhat lacking, please feel free to voice your concerns to me so that I may complain to him later on."

The sound of laughter and cheers resounded within the ballroom after everyone heard Princess Shayna's amusing speech.

Even Lux and Gaap, who weren't expecting much, found the young girl to their liking.

The King of Agartha looked at his daughter fondly, and a faint chuckle escaped his lips.

Clearly, he liked how Princess Shayna made everyone feel at ease with her gentle and soothing words, making the atmosphere more amiable.

"You heard my daughter, everyone," King Septimius smirked. "Feel free to complain to her if you find this celebration lacking."

Everyone knew that even if they found the preparations lacking, none of them would dare to complain about it. Even so, they still nodded their heads and smiled at their King, who had ruled Agartha for many years.

"Now, without further delays, let the celebration officially begin!" King Septimius declared.

As if waiting for that cue, the musicians started to play their instruments, and the Princess and the King headed toward the dance floor.

The two gracefully danced together under everyone's watchful eyes. It was a custom among the Royal Family for the birthday celebrant to dance with one of their own first before allowing others to take their turn.

After their dance ended, they both headed to the table reserved for the Royal Family, while the rest of the guests made their way to the dance floor to dance with their partners.

"Ei!" Eiko, who had been holding herself back, nudged her Papa's cheek, making Lux chuckle.

"Okay, let's eat." Lux smiled before heading towards the buffet-style tables that were laden with food.

Just as he expected, he garnered a lot of attention as he piled up his plate with the foods that the Baby Slime had chosen.

Aside from Beast Cores, Eiko also ate regular food. She liked to try dishes that she had never tasted before, and the dishes in Agartha were all new to her.

"Ei!"

"Okay. I'll get that too."

After filling up two plates with food, Lux returned to their table. However, halfway to his destination, a young lady wearing a pink dress blocked his path.

"Sir Lux, may I have the honor of having your first dance?" Princess Shayna asked as she made a curtsy.

The Half-Elf stiffened, not knowing what to do as both of his hands were occupied with plates of food. Bowing to her while holding them would look embarrassing.

Even so, since the Princess of Agartha, who was also the birthday celebrant of today's event, asked for a dance, he had no choice but to accept it.

"It will be my honor, Your Highness," Lux replied as he did his best to return the Princess' curtsy with a bow of his own.

"Can I leave these plates on the table first?"

"Of course, Sir Lux. Sorry for the trouble."

Princess Shayna smiled as she gazed at the Half-Elf's retreating back.

Naturally, her invitation to dance caught the attention of nearly everyone in the Event Hall of the Royal Palace.

King Septimius, on the other hand, wasn't surprised by his daughter's action. He had already anticipated this, but he didn't plan on doing anything.

Princess Shayna had already promised him to not say things that she shouldn't say, and that was more than enough for him.

"Enjoy your food, Eiko," Lux said as he placed the plates filled with food on the table. "Don't wander around anywhere, okay?"

"Pa!" Eiko nodded before jumping on top of the table to begin her food-tasting session.

After he was sure that the Baby Slime was going to behave, Lux fixed his clothes a bit before approaching Princess Shayna, who was standing beside the dance floor.

Her maids and guards were also there to ensure that she wouldn't get mobbed by the guests, and the Nobles only greeted her one at a time.

When Lux finally arrived, a smile appeared on her face when the Half-Elf reached out his hand in askance to hold her own.

The two then walked towards the center of the dance floor under the watchful eyes of everyone.

Everyone wanted to be the Princess' second dance partner for the night, so many of them asked for a dance, but instead of accepting their offers, she only said that she already had a dance partner in mind.

Lux's goal in Agartha was already known to everyone, and some of them ridiculed him for being stupid.

Those who didn't like him were very eager for him to be affected by Aurora's curse so that he would also suffer bad luck for a very long time.

Even so, they set aside these thoughts for now and watched as the Half-Elf placed his right hand on Princess Shayna's waist and waited for the music to begin.

Chapter 850: Lux's Humble Gift

A slow and mellow tune reverberated inside the Event Hall, prompting the dancers to dance quite slowly

This kind of music was supposed to be only played when the celebration was nearing its end. But since Princess Shayna requested the musicians to play this song, they had no choice but to listen to her request.

Surprisingly, those who planned to dance alongside the Princess changed their minds and remained on the side, simply watching as the Highlander and the Princess of Agarthia danced around the hall, not minding the stares of countless people who were looking at them.

"You dance well, Sir Lux," Princess Shayna said. "Do Highlanders also get dance lessons above ground?"

"I was forced to practice dancing because I had to dance with my fiance during her birthday celebration," Lux replied.

"...You have a Fiance?" Princess Shayna inquired, the smile on her face stiffening a bit.

"I have two Fiances," Lux answered.

This time, the corner of Princess Shayna's lips twitched after hearing that Lux already had two fiances.

She thought that the Half-Elf had come because he had fallen in love with her sister and wished to set her free.

However, after learning that he already had two fiances, the young beauty was very tempted to step on Lux's foot while they were dancing.

She rationally kept herself from doing that.

Doing so would shame the Royal Family's honor, so she endured her dissatisfaction and continued to ask questions as they danced.

Since the majority were paying extra close attention to the two, they all heard the Princess' questions, as well as Lux's answer.

"Sir Lux, what do you think of my Sister?" Princess Shayna asked as Lux made her twirl around slowly around him.

"I think she's very pitiful," Lux replied. "That's the reason why I came here to Agartha."

"Will you still save her knowing that you will be cursed by bad luck?"

"To be honest, I'm also a bit worried about that. Even so, since I know about her situation, I can't just let her stay in that dark and desolate place that would make people go mad."

Princess Shayna had heard very little information about the Pantheon of Exile and had no idea that her sister was currently staying in its deepest and darkest place.

Seeing that the Princess had suddenly become quiet, Lux thought that it was a good opportunity to ask her questions of his own.

"Your Highness, do you like your sister, Aurora?" Lux asked.

"Yes," Princess Shayna replied in a heartbeat. "I miss her very much."

"Then would you like to see her again?"

"I would."

Lux smiled as he continued to dance with the Princess, who was said to be the only one in the Royal Family who cared for the Misfortune's Beloved.

"Are you curious about the Surface World?" Lux inquired. "Also, if given the chance, would you like to go there?"

Knowing that everyone's attention was focused on the two of them, Lux decided to raise his voice a bit, making sure that it would be heard by everyone.

"The Surface World?"

For a brief moment, a tinge of curiosity and wonder appeared in the Princess's eyes. However, it disappeared seconds later as if it had never been there from the start.

"I'd be lying if I said that I wasn't curious about the Surface World," Princess Shayna replied. "If there is an opportunity, I would like to see it."

"Then, how about you join my Guild?" Lux asked in a volume that only the Princess was able to hear. "If you join my guild, you will be able to go there instantly."

"Eh?" Princess Shayna was so surprised by Lux's unexpected offer that she accidentally stepped on the Half-Elf's foot.

The Half-Elf only smiled and pretended that nothing had happened as he supported and guided the young beauty to continue to dance with him.

The two no longer talked about anything until the dance ended. Only after they bowed to each other did the Princess regain her composure and thanked the red-headed teenager for the dance.

"Thank you for the dance, Sir Lux," Princess Shayna said. "It was a memorable experience."

"It was an honor dancing with you too, Your Highness," Lux replied with a bow. "Please, accept this humble gift from me."

Everyone waited for Lux to give his gift to the princess, but the Half-Elf simply stood there with a smile.

Princess Shayna, on the other hand, looked in front of her in a daze, as if she had seen something unexpected.

"Whether you accept it or not is up to you, Your Highness," Lux lowered his head and whispered in Princess Shayna's ears. "But I can guarantee you that if you accept it, you will see a brand new world that exists above ground."

Lux then walked away from the Dance Floor, leaving the Princess who was still standing there in a daze.

The guests who saw this knew that something had happened between the Princess and the Highlander, but they didn't see the Half-Elf do anything suspicious.

Princess Shayna, on the other hand, took a few deep breaths in order to regain her composure. Half a minute later, she returned to the Royal Table, where the members of her family were currently seated.

"Is everything alright, Shayna?" King Septimius asked. "Did that Half-Elf do anything inappropriate to you?"

"No, Father," Princess Shayna replied. "Sir Lux didn't do anything. I was just surprised when he asked me if I wanted to see the Surface World."

"I see." King Septimius nodded.

It was not uncommon for the members of the Royal Family to visit the Surface World. In fact, the Princes and the Princesses would be given the opportunity to go there as part of their training as Royal Members of the Kingdom of Agartha.

Princess Shayna's case was a bit special because she was suffering from Aurora's curse. Because of this, she was placed under house arrest and was not allowed to step out of the Royal Palace without permission from the King of Agartha.

After Princess Shayna's and Lux's dance ended, everyone returned to the dance floor once more to take their turns to dance.

Even the young beauty's brothers' and sisters' joined the festivities, leaving their youngest sibling staring at the space in front of her in a daze.

What they didn't know was that several rows of text were shining in front of Princess Shayna, and those words were.

< Would you like to join the Mythical Guild, Heaven's Gate? >

< Yes / No >

Chapter 851: Forewarned Is Forearmed

The party ended smoothly, and everyone had a good time, including Lux, Eiko, and Gaap.

King Septimius also said some parting words to end the merry event, after which everyone left the Royal Palace to rest for the night.

However, there was one person who was still feeling anxious even though her birthday celebration had ended two hours ago.

This person was none other than Princess Shayna. Seated on her bed, she stared at the shimmering rows of text that were in front of her.

Even though the Kingdom of Agartha was located deep under the ground, they were still able to hear the worldwide announcement when the first Mythical Guild in the world was founded.

However, Princess Shayna never thought that she would be invited to join that same Mythical Guild, and more especially not by the person who declared that he would go to the Pantheon of Exile in order to free her sister from her dark prison.

Princess Shayna didn't know why Lux decided to invite her to his Guild, but more than that, she was surprised that he did it so casually.

'Does he not know what will happen if this information spreads in Agartha?' Princess Shayna sighed in her heart. 'This might cause a revolution of sorts. Everyone, who has the ambition to achieve greater heights, would definitely fight for the opportunity to join the Mythical Guild that had been the talk of the Kingdom for several months.'

Princess Shayna pondered for a bit when a realization came to her.

'W-Wait! Could it be that he doesn't really care if his Guild's Name is spread in Agartha?!' Princess Shayna felt that she had grasped the reason Lux decided to invite her all of a sudden.

'His base of operations is on the Surface World, so he probably won't mind even if this news reaches the far corners of our Kingdom. Since coming to and

leaving Agartha requires a very strict process, this news would likely be contained in our Kingdom, and never reach the surface.

'Also, he understands that Agarthians dream about going above ground, so he is using this opportunity to bait them to join his Guild and expand his forces. Simply put, our Kingdom is the best recruitment place for his Guild, and once he has gained countless strong members, he could potentially use it to conquer territories in the Surface World!'

Princess Shayna's imagination ran wild, and the more she thought about it, the more she believed that her conjectures were close to the truth.

'I underestimated him.' Princess Shayna shuddered after realizing just how formidable the Half-Elf was. 'It seems that the one that has come to free my sister is truly an exception among exceptions.'

The Princess of Agartha then took a few deep breaths in order to regain her calm. Now that she somewhat understood Lux's reason for fearlessly inviting her to his guild, only two questions remained.

The first question was whether she should accept the invitation or not.

The second one was whether she should share this information with her Father and have him deal with the Half-Elf, who planned to use their Kingdom as a recruitment ground for his guild.

First and foremost, Princess Shayna was a Princess of Agartha. Her loyalty would always be to her Kingdom.

If someone dared to cause trouble inside it, then she would definitely not sit idly and let it happen under her watch.

However, after thinking things through, she also felt that she was overreacting a bit.

'Sir Lux seems like a kind and caring person,' Princess Shayna thought. 'He wouldn't use the Agarthians to wage war on those on the surface... right?'

Princess Shayna wanted to know the Half-Elf better before making a decision. Right now, Lux's goal was to free her sister from the Pantheon of Exile, and to this end, the Princess was on her side.

As for the Guild Recruitment, it was still in the gray area.

After taking a few deep breaths, a look of determination appeared in the Princess's eyes. She then moved her right hand toward the rows of text in front of her and chose Yes.

"Welcome to Heaven's Gate."

Princess Shayna heard a voice welcoming her to the Guild, but even with her enhanced senses, she was unable to tell if the voice came from a girl or a boy. Even so, as soon as she had accepted Lux's invitation, she heard a familiar voice inside her head.

"Welcome to my Guild, Your Highness," Lux said. "Since you were taking so long to make a decision, I thought that you were going to reject my invitation."

It took a while for Princess Shayna to regain her bearings after hearing Lux's voice inside her head.

While the Princess was still reeling from the shock, the Half-Elf began to explain that all members of Heaven's Gate had the ability to communicate with each other telepathically, on the condition that they were on the same plane of existence.

"Why?" Princess Shayna asked. "Why did you invite me to your Guild? What is your purpose?"

"Would you believe me if I told you that I invited you because I trust that you were someone who could keep secrets?" Lux answered.

"We've only just met. How did you come to assume that I was trustworthy?" Princess Shayna inquired.

"Half-Elf's intuition."

"Huh?"

Lux's chuckle reverberated inside the Princess Head, making her feel as if the Half-Elf was making fun of her. However, his next words made the Princess' annoyance disappear.

"Jokes aside, I invited you because I could tell that you really care for your sister, Aurora," Lux stated. "Since you care for her, that means that you are on

my side. Your father might be scheming something behind our backs, and I need someone in the Royal Family to warn me beforehand if he plans to do something to sabotage my attempt to rescue your sister."

Princess Shayna pondered for a bit, and after careful consideration, she decided that Lux did have a point.

"Forewarned is forearmed, is it?"

"Exactly, Your Highness. As long as our goals are aligned, the two of us can be powerful allies and partners."

"You have taken quite a gamble, Sir Lux," Princess Shayna stated. "Tell me, what is your reason for recruiting people from our Kingdom in your Guild? Do you plan to use them to conquer territories in the Surface World?"

"Expanding lands and territories is not even among my list of priorities, Your Highness," Lux replied. "My goal has remained the same ever since I was born in this world. However, telling you what it is would be too cringey, so I apologize in advance for not telling you about it."

"Just know that the role of Heaven's Gate in the world is not to rule any Kingdom or Empire. We exist for a greater cause, which is something that you will understand in the future."

A few minutes of silence passed before the Half-Elf once again heard Princess Shayna's voice.

"Very well, Sir Lux, I will help you," Princess Shayna stated. "However, if there comes a time when you wish to harm the interest of Agartha, that is the moment when I will become your enemy."

"Good," Lux replied. "If that day comes, please, do your best to stop me, Your Highness."

After talking for nearly an hour, Princess Shayna finally laid down on the bed to close her eyes.

While she was confident that she was a good judge of character, it remained to be seen whether the Half-Elf would truly stick to his original goal or diverge in order to conquer the world, which was something that the Princess felt was very possible.

'I hope I didn't make the wrong decision today,' Princess Shayna thought as she welcomed sleep's embrace.

Although she still felt that Lux was a good person, she understood that people could change over time.

Just like how her loving father changed after the incident that had caused rifts between the members of the Royal Family of Agartha.

Chapter 852.1: Bounty Hunter's Code [Part 1]

"That King is so stingy," Lux complained as he looked at the scenery outside Cleo's carriage. "He could have just made an exception and let us use the Royal Family's Teleportation Gate."

Cleo, who was sitting in the same carriage, could only smile bitterly after hearing Lux's complaint.

Just a day after the party ended, they had asked the King for permission to use the Teleportation Gate, which would have cut their travel time by half.

However, the no-good King of Agartha only smirked and told them that he had only given them permission to travel around his kingdom. As for the use of the Royal Family's Teleportation Gate, the King denied Lux's request to use it, using the reason that he didn't approve of him freeing Aurora from the Pantheon of Exile.

But since he had given his word, he would allow them to go there using the "regular" method, which annoyed the Half-Elf very much.

"Calm down, Lux," Gaap said with a smile. "Look at the bright side. Since we can visit more cities in our journey, why don't we just focus on Guild recruitment for the time being? That way, the King's hospitality won't be wasted."

Gaap's words were filled with sarcasm, but since there was nothing they could do about it, they decided to just focus on Guild recruitment in order to expand their Guild.

"That's a good idea, Master," Lux replied. "Let's do that."

Cleo, who had just been keeping her silence, finally spoke out.

"We will only be visiting one city on our journey in order to stockpile food, water, and other consumable items," Cleo stated. "After that, we will be visiting the seven Strongholds that are built near the borders of the Kingdom. So, if you plan to recruit Guild Members, you can only do it in those places.

"Of course, if you are not in a hurry, I can give you a tour around the kingdom, visiting several cities, towns, and villages along the way. Would you like that?"

Lux and Gaap glanced at each other before firmly shaking their heads.

Their only purpose in Agartha was to find Aurora, and they couldn't stay in the Ancient Kingdom for a very long time. There were many pressing matters that they had left behind, and the Half-Elf didn't want them to overstay their welcome.

Cleo only giggled after seeing Lux's and Gaap's reactions. Even so, as their guide and Lux's temporary Aide for a year, she decided to stay with them for the time being.

She had even gotten permission from King Septimius to follow them back to the Surface World.

This surprised the Saintess, and she thanked her King for giving her this opportunity.

However, contrary to what she expected, the King had other motives for letting her go with the Half-Elf.

He had given the Saintess a communication artifact and tasked her to report everything that was going on with Lux.

Cleo wasn't stupid, and she understood what her King wanted. Even so, she decided to not report everything, unless it was truly important.

Two days later, they arrived at the Border City of El Hazard.

"Well, this place is livelier than I thought," Lux muttered as he looked at the city that was in the farthest Western Region of the Kingdom of Agartha.

"This used to be a small village, but not until the Kingdom expanded its borders to go farther West," Cleo explained. "As many Rankers and

Adventurers came here to explore the Kingdom's borders, the village gradually upgraded to a town, and after a few years, it became a city."

A smile appeared on Lux's lips because this was the very same thing that he had envisioned for Leaf Village.

Currently, the Kingdom of Gweliven was starting to expand their borders and explore the Savage Lands, using Leaf Village as the base.

He had also tasked his two new minions, who were also the Head of Merchant Guilds and previous members of Twilight Rain, to fund the expansion of Leaf Village and turn it into Leaf Town.

Cedwyn, who was the current Village Head, was smiling ear to ear after receiving Lux's news that he had found a sponsor for their village, causing the old Dwarf to become more pumped up in making sure that his village would grow into a town.

"I have already made reservations at the most popular Inn in this city," Cleo stated. "Let's go there first before you start your exploration of El Hazard."

Lux and Gaap nodded their heads in understanding. The Half-Elf planned to visit the Adventurer's Guild and post a notice about his Guild Recruitment.

Also, he planned to visit Weapon Stores, Armor Stores, and Miscellaneous Stores in order to buy another batch of equipment that had special abilities in them.

His goal was to make his Guild Members and Summons overpowered by making them overgeared. This was his second top priority aside from saving Aurora in the Pantheon of Exile.

After arriving at the Inn, they managed to get the keys to their rooms without any problem.

However, as they were about to climb the stairs to check their accommodations, a man who was nearly two-meters-tall, blocked their path.

"Can you step aside?" Cleo asked with a frown. "Why are you blocking our way?"

Just like the other Saints who didn't want to garner attention from people, Cleo usually suppressed her power, making others see her as a mere High-Ranker.

Because of this, there were times when she was disrespected by those who didn't know her true Rank. She thought that the man blocking her path was just like any other man who didn't know her true powers.

But this assumption of hers disappeared after hearing the man's reply to her inquiry.

"I didn't come for you, Saintess," the man stated. "I have business with the two Highlanders."

"Business with us?" Lux eyed the man from head to toe.

Even though the Half-Elf was just a D-Ranker, he was able to tell that the man in front of him was at least a C-Ranker. However, aside from that, the man's clothes were normal and there was nothing special about him.

"Yes," the man replied. "My name is Darren, and I am one of the many people that watched the match in the Gladiator Coliseum. I am also one of the very few people who placed a bet on your victory, and I managed to earn a huge sum thanks to your one-sided victory."

Darren smiled, which made Lux and Gaap look at him in a better light. Anyone who placed their bet on them was a friend, and because of this, they no longer treated the person in front of them as an annoyance.

"You said you have business with us?" Lux asked. "What kind of business are we talking about?"

"You mentioned in the tournament that you are recruiting Guild Members for your Guild, right?" Darren inquired. "I happen to be a Bounty Hunter, and I am one of the people that played a role in Leonidas' capture. How is he, by the way? Is he still alive?"

"Leonidas is alive and well," Lux replied as he looked at the Bounty Hunter that had piqued his interest. "You want to join my Guild?"

Darren nodded. "But I am not alone. My friends, who are also Bounty Hunters, want to join your Guild as well."

Lux eyed the man who seemed to be only in his later thirties before asking another question.

"Your reason for joining my Guild is?"

"The Surface World."

Lux nodded. "Ah. So that's the reason."

He understood that going to the Surface World was very alluring to Agarthians. However, he didn't invite Darren to join his Guild right away as he did with Princess Shayna.

He had a feeling that the Bounty Hunter had other motives aside from going to the Surface World, and until he knew the truth, he intended to test whether the person in front of him was worthy of his trust or not.

Chapter 853.2: Bounty Hunter's Code [Part 2]

"So, what do you think of Darren?" Gaap asked.

"There's something fishy about him, Master," Lux replied. "I just can't tell what it is."

"Haha, it seems that your instincts are not half bad, Lux." Gaap smiled.

Lux didn't readily invite Darren in his Guild, despite the latter being a C-Ranker. Although having strong guild members was good, their character was important as well.

Currently, the Half-Elf and the Halfling were inside Lux's room, discussing the things that they planned to do before continuing their journey to the Pantheon of Exile.

According to Cleo, they would be spending two days in the City of El Hazard before continuing their journey.

Darren would accompany them until they reached the Pantheon of Exile, along with his "Merry Band" of Bounty Hunters, whom he claimed that they want to join Lux's Guild.

Lux agreed to this because he wanted to know just what schemes the Bounty Hunter was cooking up.

During the battle in the Gladiator's Coliseum, the ones who fought the battles were Eiko and Lux. Because of this, Gaap's true strength wasn't revealed, making others think that only the red-headed teenager was capable of fighting.

This was also why Lux agreed to let Darren and his band of Bounty Hunters accompany them. If they were to do anything funny, they would find themselves facing a Grade-A Apostle, whose strength surpassed Lux's.

"Master, I'll go shopping in town for now," Lux said. "How about you?"

"I'll just relax in my room for the time being," Gaap replied. "Although Cleo's carriage was comfortable enough, I missed sleeping in a bed."

Lux smiled because he understood what his Master was talking about. Sleeping inside a carriage and sleeping on a bed were two very different things, so he bid his Master goodbye and went to see the equipment that the City of El Hazard had to offer.

When the Half-Elf had left the inn, Gaap waved his hand and a shadowy figure appeared in front of him.

"You called for me, Master?" the Shadowy Figure asked.

"Keep an eye on my Disciple," Gaap ordered. "Although I am confident that he can protect himself well, we are currently in unknown territory. Prioritize escaping with him instead of fighting. Do you understand?"

"I obey, Master." The Shadowy Figure bowed respectfully before disappearing without a trace.

Gaap then glanced outside the window to look at the lively city that they were currently staying in.

'Agartha sure is an Ancient Kingdom,' Gaap thought. 'Even in this city, I can feel the presence of two Saints. I just hope they don't try anything funny during our stay.'

Somewhere in Agartha...

"So those are the two Highlanders that I've heard a lot about," an old man, whose hair and beard were both white, said with a smile.

"The kid looks promising. As for the Halfling... he's only a Grade-A Apostle?" a middle-aged man with blonde hair and blue eyes frowned. "I don't know if the Surface World is good or bad. But if someone that old is only a Grade-A Apostle, then we can think of the Half-Elf as a special case."

"Really?" The old man arched an eyebrow. "In my eyes, that Halfling is the more dangerous one out of the two."

"Bah! You've grown too old, Darius." the middle-aged man snorted. "Your eyes aren't as good as they used to be."

"And you still only judge people based on first glance," Darius commented. "That's not a good habit to keep, Sion. Look down on people too much, and you'll find yourself being stepped on by them. Do not think just because you are a Saint, you can trample on everyone you see. The Heavens have eyes, you know?"

Sion shrugged and treated Darius' words like a breeze passing through him.

He was one of the Saints of Agartha that believed that power was the ultimate measurement for how an individual should be treated.

If they were strong, they would be treasured.

If they were weak, they would be discarded.

That had been his belief ever since he became a Ranker, and it followed him until he stepped into the Rank of a Saint.

"I'll say this now, old man. Don't interfere with my game," Sion stated.

"I've grown too old for childish games," Darius replied. "I couldn't care less about your Bounty Hunters. I'm more interested in seeing how the Half-Elf is going to deal with your little scheme. Just remember, don't go overboard. His Majesty still hasn't made his stance known—whether he is supportive of their cause or not."

"Stop being a worrywart, old man." Sion scoffed. "I'm the one calling the shots here in El Hazard, so you can just watch from the side and enjoy the show."

"Don't say I didn't warn you, alright?" Darius shrugged. "You complain a lot when things don't go your way."

"Zip it, old man."

"Tsk. Youth these days have no respect for the elderly."

In the Backstreets of El Hazard...

"I've always wondered why you are very interested in these cheap goods, Lux," Cleo stated. "Why don't you go to those stores on Main Street? I'm sure you'll find better items there."

"I'll go there later as well," Lux said as he picked up a copper ring that had many defects in it. "How much is this, Sir?"

"5 gold Coins," the Merchant replied with a smile. In his eyes, Lux was just some country bumpkin who didn't really understand how the world worked.

"Okay, I'll take it."

"Thank you for your Patronage."

More than an hour had passed before Lux finished his shopping spree in the Backstreets of El Hazard. He then followed Cleo to the popular shops that sold weapons, armors, trinkets, and other miscellaneous items.

"Let me handle the bargaining," Cleo stated. "I'm an expert when it comes to haggling for prices."

The store owner who heard the beautiful lady's words immediately frowned. They really didn't want to deal with these people who liked to bargain and lower the price of their wares.

"Sorry miss, but our shop doesn't allow bargains or haggling," the Owner said as he immediately approached Cleo to tell her off. "If you insist on doing so, we will have no choice but to ask you to leave our store."

"Do you not know who I am?" Cleo asked. "I am the Saintess Cleo. You can't treat me like an ordinary customer."

"It doesn't matter if you are a Saintess or not," the owner replied without batting an eye. "Here in El Hazard, His Excellency Sion and His Excellency

Darius reign supreme. If you use your Rank to have your way, then we will have no choice but to report you to the authorities."

Lux chuckled after hearing the Owner's firm words. Usually when people were dealing with Saints in the Surface World, they would always be very cautious.

However, here in Agarthia, even if you are a Saint, you wouldn't get special treatment since their city were also protected by Saints.

"Tsk!" Cleo clicked her tongue and crossed her arms over her chest.

She knew who Sion was, and this was someone who she didn't want to mess with.

It was not because Sion was stronger than her.

The Saint of El Hazard was known for being a very stubborn person who would not hesitate to backstab people if they messed with him.

Chapter 854: A Little Bird Told Me

"Owner, don't worry, I don't plan to haggle," Lux said. "I'm here to buy the most excellent of items, so if you can show me your wares, I'd be very grateful for it. Also, money is not a problem. I have loads of it!"

The Owner immediately looked at Lux as if he was a VIP customer and flashed him an award-winning smile.

"Young Master, the moment you entered my shop, I knew that you are not a simple individual," the Owner said. "You must be Sir Lux, the famous Highlander who had recently won in the Gladiator's Coliseum. Although I wasn't there to watch the battle, I've become your fan ever since. Now, please come with me to the VIP Section where items costing tens of thousands of gold coins are being displayed."

"Lead the way, Owner," Lux replied. "I plan to spend a lot today."

The Owner smiled and escorted the Half-Elf to the VIP section, leaving Cleo behind.

The Saintess no longer felt like staying, so she decided to leave and check out the other stores. She'd just meet up with Lux at a later time.

"Young Master, are you looking for a specific weapon?" the owner asked. "If you can tell me your weapon of choice, I can give you some recommendations. You can rest assured that all of them are high quality because they have been crafted by Grandmaster Blacksmiths and Jewelsmiths who wielded Transcended Flames."

"Really?" Lux was pleasantly surprised after knowing that the items at the VIP section were all crafted by craftsmen who commanded Transcendent Flames. "Now, I'm really looking forward to seeing what you have on sale. I don't really have a specific weapon in mind, but I plan to buy anything that catches my interest."

The owner nodded his head in understanding because he had previously encountered customers like Lux who just wanted to browse their wares and choose what they like before making a purchase.

Since that was the case, he switched to his "business mode" before opening the door that led to the VIP section of their store.

Meanwhile, outside the store, Darren glanced at a man, who was standing not far from there.

The man then scratched his ears before glancing in Darren's direction.

'I see, so Sir Sion has already given the go signal to start,' Darren thought.

He then scanned his surroundings and saw several men and women, who were acting normally.

However, for someone who was in the same line of work, he understood instantly that all of them were Bounty Hunters.

Professionals who only moved to target people who had high bounties on their heads.

'Looks like I have competition,' Darren mused. 'Fortunately, I don't mind competition.'

As one of the best Bounty Hunters in El Hazard, Darren was confident in his skills.

His only advantage was that he was able to make the first move and approach Lux before the others beat him to it.

The Half-Elf didn't know that currently, there was a bounty of five million gold coins for his capture.

The client specified that no matter what happened, the Half-Elf must be captured alive.

If for some reason, Lux died in an accident, then the bounty would be void because this was not part of the client's wishes.

What they didn't know was that, outside of the establishment, a Shadowy Figure was all observing them from a distance.

His Master, Gaap, had given him an order to ensure Lux's safety, but that didn't mean that he wasn't allowed to take the initiative to weed out some thorns along the way, who had plans to harm his Master's interest.

Surprisingly, floating beside the Shadowy Figure was a black coffin.

Similar to Gaap's servant, Blackfire only moved to protect Lux's interest.

After becoming a Divine Artifact, it had gained sentience and could move autonomously, appearing beside anyone who was allied with its Master.

Blackfire only cared about two things.

They were the living and the dead.

If they were dead, it would gladly take them inside its body.

If they were still alive... Well, it could just ask Lux's allies to beat them until they were near death.

That way it could swallow them inside its body and turn them into loyal servants for its Master, who was now going to play a larger role in the world, after becoming the Necromancer of Heaven.

Inside the Store...

"Owner, this is quite an impressive collection," Lux said with a genuine look of surprise on his face as he gazed at all the Mythical and Legendary Items that were displayed in the VIP Section.

"But of course, Young Master," the owner replied. "I don't want to toot my own horn, but we are the best store in El Hazard when it comes to high-quality weapons, armors, and accessories. Everything here is the best among the best."

Lux smiled after hearing the Owner's words. However, his next words made the "businessman" stiffen.

"Are these the only things you have for sale?" Lux asked. "I'm also a collector of sorts, so cursed weapons are also good."

The Owner's body stiffened upon hearing that Lux was interested in cursed weapons as well.

"Young Master, how did you know that we have a cursed weapon in our store?" The Owner asked in a solemn tone.

"A little bird told me," Lux replied.

Truth be told, his Soul Book was currently floating beside him because he was using it to appraise the equipment that was on display.

However, after looking at its mini map, he found a black blinking dot not far from him, and after using his Elysium Compendium to check what it was, the label "Cursed Weapon", appeared on his map.

This was the first time that Lux had encountered a cursed weapon, and he was very curious to see what it was like.

According to the compendium, the cursed weapon was a spear.

As soon as he verified this information, the image of the blood-soaked Leonidas appeared on his head.

He didn't know why he had immediately thought of the Mercenary Leader after finding out about the weapon's existence.

But since he trusted his gut instinct, he believed that this weapon was meant to be wielded by the man who had faced his Deus Gigantia head-on, carrying the weight of the people who trusted him on his shoulders.

Chapter 855: Where Do You Think You're Going?

The owner of the store pulled down one of the Axes that were hung on the wall, which seemed to serve as a decoration. Since he couldn't just display a cursed weapon in his store, it was located in a safe place, far away from the browsing of his regular customers.

A moment later, a hidden passage opened.

"Follow me, Young Master," the owner said with a complicated look on his face.

"Okay." Lux nodded and followed the owner inside the hidden passage.

Originally, the owner didn't intend to sell the Cursed Weapon to anyone.

However, since Lux told him that a Cursed Weapon was still a weapon, and it was inside the store, it was meant to be sold as well.

The owner made sure to remind Lux that these kinds of weapons were very dangerous because they could potentially harm their wielders. He added that the weapon inside his store was sealed, and only a Saint could unseal it.

Lux then insisted that since he was able to sense that the weapon existed, it must be fated to become his. The owner was unable to counter this logic, and in the end, the Half-Elf was able to make him agree to sell the weapon to him.

"Here it is, Young Master," the owner said. "Inside that sealed box is a Cursed Weapon with the name, Hellfire Halberd. It's a type of Halberd that releases an intense flame, coating its entire body in it.

"Its wielder would also be set ablaze and will never be able to let go of it until they turn to ashes. This weapon was crafted by a Grandmaster Blacksmith who wished to avenge his wife that had been murdered by a Saint.

"He succeeded in his goal, but unfortunately, after wielding such a powerful weapon, his body was burned to ashes. Some say that the Blacksmith's Soul was trapped inside the weapon he wielded to curse those who wish to use it for their own goals."

Lux smiled after hearing the Merchant's story and looked at the sealed box that was covered by dozens of talismans.

"I'll buy this weapon," Lux stated. "How much is it?"

"Five... no, Ten Million Gold Coins," the owner replied. "And it must be paid in cash."

The owner was reluctant to sell the Cursed Weapon to anyone, so he decided to double the price and scare Lux from buying it.

Unfortunately for him, Lux was loaded with money. Some of his Draconium Ores were passed to Bentley and had been taken to the Auction Houses in the latter's Kingdom, allowing the Half-Elf to earn over a hundred million gold coins.

"Okay. Here you go." Lux casually handed a storage ring to the store owner, which contained the amount of money that he quoted.

"O-One moment please," the owner stuttered. "Let me verify if it has the right amount."

Less than five minutes later the owner verified that the storage ring indeed had ten million gold coins in it, which made him look at Lux in a new light.

He didn't expect the Highlander to be carrying such a large amount of money on his person. If it were to be known, it would be more than enough to make all the thieves in the Kingdom of Agartha target him.

"I have received the payment in full," the owner stated. "Please, take this receipt of the item. Also, as I said earlier, the Cursed Weapon is currently sealed. Only a Saint will be able to unseal it."

"Understood," Lux replied. "Thank you for selling it to me."

An hour later, the Half-Elf left the store with a smile on his face.

Not only did he purchase the Cursed Weapon, but he also got some other items that were imbued with great abilities, which were perfect for his Transmutation [EX] skill.

Lux didn't go back to the Inn where his Master was staying directly. Instead, he went to the backstreets of the City of El Hazard to do more shopping.

Seeing him take a detour, the people who had been waiting for him to exit the shop all moved at the same time.

Darren, who had introduced himself to Lux as someone who wished to join his guild, didn't back down and followed the rest of the Bounty Hunters, who were after the bounty on the Half-Elf's head.

After nearly half an hour of walking, Lux entered the slums of El Hazard, where the most notorious people of the city lived.

The Bounty Hunters who were following the Half-Elf were overjoyed by this development, thinking that this would make things easier for them.

There was not a single City Guard patrolling the Slums of El Hazard, so crime was quite rampant in this area. It was a dog-eat-dog place, where only the most vicious of them all survived.

"I'll take him out before the others do," one of the Bounty Hunters said as he peeked down the alley, looking at Lux's back in the distance. "You follow me right away, understood?"

A raspy, and almost disemboweled voice answered him from behind.

"Okay."

After hearing the confirmation of his 'partner', the Bounty Hunter stepped out of his hiding place and was about to launch a sneak attack on the Half-Elf's back, when something grabbed his shoulder in a firm grip.

"What's the problem man?" the Bounty Hunter asked in annoyance before turning around. "If we dilly dally, others will get him before we d—"

The man wasn't able to finish his words because a shadowy hand covered his lips, and a purple blade pierced his chest, killing him almost instantly.

The Bounty Hunter, whose vision was slowly fading away, looked at the Shadowy Figure in front of him, and the black coffin floating behind its back.

"Take him," the Shadowy Figure said before casually throwing the Bounty Hunter towards the Coffin, who happily opened its lid to store their latest victim.

A moment later, the two disappeared as they resumed their hunt.

Darren, who had been following Lux for quite some time, noticed something strange in the surroundings.

There had been dozens of Bounty Hunters that were trailing behind Lux earlier. Now, he could only see a few of them.

'Did they back out after knowing that I'm also competing for the Bounty on the Highlander's head?' Darren thought.

This idea only lasted for a few seconds before the Bounty Hunter shook his head. They were all professionals, and once they took a Man-Hunt-Order, they wouldn't back away so easily, even if they were competing with other Bounty Hunters.

The other Bounty Hunters who were following Lux also noticed this oddity.

But unlike Darren, they didn't think too much about it and simply focused their attention on the Half-Elf, whom they believed was currently encircled by dozens of Bounty Hunters with nowhere to run.

When Lux made a wrong turn and ended up in an alley with a dead end, the Bounty Hunters knew that the time was ripe and immediately launched an all-out attack on their target.

Four Bounty Hunters immediately ran towards the alley, the sight of which caused Darren to curse inwardly.

'That's Alcapone.' Darren clicked his tongue in annoyance. 'I didn't think that such a High-Ranking Bounty Hunter would join this manhunt operation.'

Alcapone was an A-Ranker and one of the Highest Ranking Bounty Hunters in El Hazard. Darren was only a C-Ranker at the moment, so it was impossible for him to overpower the famous Bounty Hunter by himself.

Alcapone's Bounty Hunter team was called Scarface. Just like other Bounty Hunters, they used all kinds of means in order to complete their mission.

Darren was feeling down because he thought that he had a chance to be the one to capture Lux and, in turn, claim the bounty of five million gold coins.

He had even laid the groundwork to 'join' Lux's guild in order to become closer to him before he went for the Coup De Grace.

Unfortunately, he wasn't the only one who dared to accept the mission, and the result ended in an all-out battle between his fellow Bounty Hunters.

While Darren was lamenting his bad luck, he saw Lux come out of the alley unscathed with a clueless look on his face as he continued to wander the Slums of El Hazard.

Darren and the five remaining Bounty Hunters glanced at each other before nodding at the same time.

When Lux had left the scene, they hurriedly went to the alley where Alcapone and his team had gone to capture the Half-Elf.

However, what greeted them was only an eerie silence.

There were no signs of a struggle, blood, or anything that would serve as evidence that Alcapone and his team had entered the alley.

This made the High-Rankers feel that something wasn't right, so they decided to back away from the scene.

As one of the Bounty Hunters was planning to leave, he bumped into someone behind his back which made him flinch.

"Where do you think you're going?" A raspy and disemboweled voice reached everyone's ears, making all of them unsheathe their weapons.

"M-Monster!" one of the Bounty Hunters exclaimed when they noticed that the apparition that was standing in front of them wasn't a person, but a Shadow Monster.

A moment later, a scuffle broke out and screams reverberated from that alley, spreading to the slums.

Some of the people who lived in the surrounding area heard this, but they paid no mind.

For them, this was an everyday occurrence, and they just thought that some poor souls had wandered into their territory, never to be seen ever again.

Chapter 856.1: Battle Of El Hazard [Part 1]

"N-No! Stay back!" Darren backed away at the very end of the alley with a frightened look on his face. "I-I'm not with them! I'm just a passerby!"

He had witnessed how the Shadowy Figure had easily neutralized the other Bounty Hunters, who were now laying on the ground unconscious.

'Why is an Emphyrean-Ranked World Boss inside the city of El Hazard?!' Darren screamed internally. 'How come no one noticed that a Monster had snuck in?!'

While the Bounty Hunter had these thoughts running in his mind, a Black Coffin materialized above the Shadowy Figure, making his face turn grim.

He had seen that Black Coffin during the battle in the Gladiator's Coliseum and understood what it was capable of doing.

Darren now understood why Alcapone and his team suddenly disappeared from the alley without a trace!

Seeing that he had nowhere left to go, Darren gritted his teeth and took out a crystal from his storage ring. He then threw this crystal upwards, making it explode after reaching a height of two hundred meters.

Suddenly, the Shadowy Figure felt a powerful presence flying in their direction. Knowing that the Bounty Hunter in front of it had called for backup, it no longer hesitated and went in for the kill.

All the color in Darren's face disappeared when he saw that the Shadowy Figure was moving in his direction, holding a purple blade in its hand.

He could only watch immobile as the Monster raised its sword and slashed down with the intention of ending his life.

A second later, a loud explosion rocked the alley of the Slums.

The Shadowy Figure that was about to deliver a killing blow to Darren was blown away, smashing into the wall on the other side of the alleyway.

"I didn't know that a Rat had managed to sneak inside my turf while I was taking a nap," Sion said coldly as he looked at the Monster that had propped itself back up and pointed its weapon at the Saint who had come to the Bounty Hunter's rescue.

The middle-aged man with blonde hair and blue eyes stared at the Shadow Monster with a determined look on his face.

"Where are the others?" Sion asked without looking at Darren, who was behind him.

"G-Gone," Darren replied. "It looks like that Monster got them."

"All of them?"

"All of them. Including Alcapone."

"Hoh~"

Sion narrowed his eyes before cracking his knuckles in preparation to fight. The Bounty Hunters of El Hazard all worked under him. He was also the one that had given the order to capture Lux for five million gold.

After finding out that all of his men had been dealt with by the Shadow Monster in front of him, the Saint, who had a very short temper, felt like running amok.

"It has been a while since I had a good fight," Sion stated. "After becoming a Saint, no one has dared to challenge me again. Tell me, Darren, is that Half-Elf behind this as well?"

"I-I'm not sure, but that Black Coffin over there is something that belongs to him," Darren pointed at Blackfire, who started to sneakily devour the fallen Bounty Hunters on the ground.

Without another word, Sion disappeared from where he stood and smashed his fist against the Black Coffin that was about to swallow the last Bounty Hunter on the ground.

As if expecting something like this, Blackfire immediately phased out of existence, completely avoiding the Saint's attack by a hairs' breadth.

"Hahaha! So, that Half-Elf is the one that brought this Monster inside my territory." Sion grinned. "Since that is the case, it is within my jurisdiction to punish him according to the law."

"Oh really? Are you able to do that?"

At that exact moment, a voice that was filled with contempt reached Sion's ears, which made the Saint look toward the East.

He had sensed that the voice came from that direction, but after tracing it back, he was unable to find the source of its origin.

Standing on the roof of the Inn, Gaap looked at the Western Side of the city with contempt.

"Come," Gaap stated.

Immediately, twelve creatures answered his call and materialized around the Halfling, waiting for his orders.

"A Saint dares to use force to bully my Disciple. I guess the Saints in Agarthia think they are big shots after stepping into that rank," Gaap said in disdain. "Baal, take care of that lowly dog for me. Make him understand that there are some people that he can't offend no matter what."

Baal, who was covered completely in black armor from head to foot, bowed respectfully to his Master.

"I hear and obey, Master," Baal replied. "However, we can't leave you here unprotected. Carol, please see to it that the Master is safe."

A young lady wearing a Gothic Lolita dress nodded her head in agreement.

"Leave Master to me," Carol replied. "I'll make sure that he is safe."

Gaap could only smile bitterly because his Thirteen Named Creatures treated him as if he was a helpless child, who didn't have Antero to protect him.

Even so, he didn't reject Baal's proposal and simply nodded his head to ensure that all of his Summons would fight to their fullest.

"Go," Gaap ordered. "Show him who calls the shots around here!"

""Yes! Master!""

Gaap's Named Creatures all replied in unison before flying towards the slums of El Hazard, where one of their comrades was currently facing off against a Saint of Agartha.

Half a minute after all of them left, an old man with white hair and white beard landed on the opposite rooftop where Gaap was standing and nodded at the Halfling in greeting.

The Halfling nodded back for he knew that the person in front of him was a Saint.

Carol, who had been tasked to protect her Master, summoned her two maids. They both immediately stood on Gaap's left and right side.

The Gothic Lolita, on the other hand, stepped forward and stood between the newcomer and her Master, making sure that the old man wouldn't slip past her defenses.

"I knew that you were a bigger threat than that Half-Elf," Darius, who had been paying close attention to Gaap said with a smile. "It seems that I was right."

Gaap didn't reply and simply smiled at the Old Saint, who wasn't showing any signs of hostility to him.

"Your name?" Gaap asked.

"Darius," Darius replied. "And I believe that your name is Gaap."

"That's right."

"Quite a unique name for a Halfling. But don't worry. I didn't come here to fight you. All I ask is that you tell your subordinates to not fight inside the city. I don't want any of the innocents to suffer because of Sion's schemes."

Gaap nodded and ordered his servants to lure Sion away from the city to prevent unnecessary deaths.

After being around Lux for so long, the Halfling had softened up a bit and no longer killed just for the sake of it.

Darius nodded his head in appreciation as he gazed in the direction of his comrade, who was now running out of the city in pursuit of the Monsters that had suddenly appeared uninvited.

Deep down, the Old Saint was secretly rejoicing because it had been a while since he saw Sion get beat up.

Although he and the hot-tempered Saint got along quite well, there were times when Darius wished that he could beat the crap out of his comrade without making the other hold a grudge against him.

Since there was someone who was willing to do that instead of him, he decided to just sit back and watch the show from the sidelines.

From the very start, he believed that Gaap was not an ordinary Grade-A Apostle, and this battle, which would happen on the outskirts of Agartha, would prove that his guess was correct.

Chapter 857.2: Battle Of El Hazard [Part 2]

"Before I kill you, tell me who you are," Sion demanded as soon as he landed three miles away from El Hazard.

He had followed the Shadowy Figure, who told him that if he wanted to fight, they should fight outside the city to prevent unnecessary deaths.

The Saint found this proposal quite amusing. However, since he was still one of the Protectors of El Hazard, he decided to agree to the Monster's request and followed him outside of the city.

"My name is Naberius," the Shadowy Figure then transformed into a Demi-human Raven, standing nearly two meters tall. "And you are?"

"Sion," Sion replied in a heartbeat. "They also call me the Juggernaut of Agartha."

After finishing his introduction, Sion's entire body turned silvery-black that glistened under the sun. He then pointed his finger at his opponent and smirked.

"Be honored, Naberius," Sion stated. "You will die under my hands."

To his surprise, Naberius nodded his head in agreement.

"Alone, it is true that I am not a match for you," Naberius replied. "But, I am not alone."

As if waiting for that cue, Sion felt eleven presences descending from the sky.

"So... you have reinforcements with you." Sion narrowed his eyes at the newcomers who all landed beside Naberius.

While the Juggernaut of Agartha was eyeing Naberius' reinforcements, Baal glanced at his comrades.

"Four of you can join Naberius in this battle," Baal stated. "Who wants to fight that Saint?"

Nearly all of Gaap's subordinates raised their hands after hearing Baal's question.

"Okay, let's just decide this the old-fashioned way," Baal said as he crossed his arms over his chest. "Rock, scissors, papers."

This scene made the corner of Sion's lips twitch. He could tell that all of the Monsters that were standing in front of him were Empyrean Ranked World Bosses.

Although he was powerful, he wasn't that confident about fighting twelve of them at once.

However, after realizing that they only planned to send five of them to fight him, he felt as if he was being belittled too much.

'Sending only five to fight me? These monsters really don't know who they are fighting against,' Sion mused. 'No matter. I'll just kill one or two of them quickly then pick them off one by one.'

Sion was a battle junkie.

He found the idea of fighting many opponents at once to his liking. Also, he was confident that even if five Empyrean Ranked World Bosses were to fight

him at the same time, he would be able to deal with them without too much effort.

Summoning his Great Axe, Sion prepared himself to fight to his heart's content.

Fortunately, he didn't have to wait for too long because his five opponents stepped forward in order to face him.

"This reminds me of that Gladiator Match against that Half-Elf," Sion stated as he casually swung his axe as if he was doing practice swings. "That boy fought against 300 C-Rankers as a mere D-Ranker. Similarly, I'm now facing five Emphyrean Ranked World Bosses. But this is not enough. Why don't you all join the fight as well?"

The Saint of Agartha looked at the black knight who had his arms crossed over his chest. He had deemed that Baal was the one who called the shots among his opponents, so he decided to offer a proposal to him.

"We are already giving you a great handicap by allowing five of us to fight you," Baal replied. "Challenging all of us will just end up in you receiving a one-sided beating. You're not James Von Ainsworth, so don't be delusional, okay? If you really want to fight all of us, beat these five first."

Sion snorted after hearing Baal's reply.

He had no idea who James was. But, from the name alone, he could tell that the Black Knight was referring to some kind of Old Bandit who liked to scam people and could probably destroy an entire continent if he farted in the wrong place.

(E/N: Fufufu. Shameless plug for any of you who haven't read Reincarnated with the Strongest System yet!)

"Fine," Sion replied. "I'll hang your corpse and display it in my Manor after I kill you,"

Baal only shrugged and told his comrades to take it easy on the Saint.

"We don't want a war with Agartha, so just beat him until he's half deaf," Baal ordered before looking at Blackfire who was hovering nearby. "Blackfire,

you're not allowed to eat him. You don't want to create trouble for your Master, right?"

Blackfire moved its body to the side as if averting its gaze. The Black Coffin was giving off the vibes of "I didn't hear anything" and "I didn't see anything," which gave Baal a very bad premonition.

"Pay attention to Blackfire," Baal communicated to his subordinates through telepathy. "If it moves to swallow that Saint, stop it at all costs."

All of his comrades nodded their heads at the same time.

Gaap had ordered them to beat up Sion, but he didn't give any orders to capture him.

Since Blackfire wasn't part of their group, it wasn't obligated to listen to their Master's order. However, Baal wished to believe that the Black Coffin wouldn't do anything that might potentially make its own master the enemy of Agartha.

"Let's go," Naberius said before opening his black wings.

The black raven then flew toward the sky and started to bombard the Saint with black feathers, who simply blocked it with his Legendary Weapon.

Naberius' four teammates then charged at Sion with their weapons drawn. They were unable to defeat the Saint in a one-on-one battle, but as a group, they were confident that they would be able to neutralize him.

Seeing that his opponents had decided to close the gap between them, Sion sneered before slamming his axe toward the ground.

The ground broke apart, sending rocks, and dirt surging upwards, blocking everyone's view.

"I got you!" Sion snarled as he swung his axe towards one of the monsters that had been tossed high up in the air by his disruptive attack that was very effective against those who fought in groups.

Just as his axe was about to hit its target, a whip sword wrapped itself around his arm, preventing his weapon from cleaving forward.

"Wrong," the monster, who looked like a Satyr replied in a teasing tone. "It is us who got you."

Twisting its body in mid-air, the Satyr, whom Sion was about to hack earlier, did a roundhouse kick and smashed his hoof on the Saint's head, sending Sion flying.

"First Blood," Baal commented.

His comrade by his side, who looked like a Djinn, blew his pipe and created circles.

"He called this a fight," the Djinn commented, "but for us, this is just practice. It seems that the Saints of Agartha haven't had a good fight in many years."

Baal and the others smiled at their comrades' comments.

After being hunted down by Saints and spending a lot of their time in Zangrila fighting Abyssal Creatures, the battle-hardened World Bosses under Gaap's commands were not even fazed by Sion's arrogance.

"Let's teach him how to be humble," Baal said. "That way, he will understand how to pick his opponents in the future."

All of his comrades nodded in agreement.

Blackfire nodded as well, but no one knew whether the Black Coffin was going to behave or do something mischievous.

If only Lux was there to witness the battle, he would probably do his best to stop his Black Coffin from running amok and devouring everyone that it found to its liking.

Chapter 858.3: Battle Of El Hazard [Part 3]

Sion regained his balance mid-air and skidded on the ground.

Although his body was coated in hard metal, the kick he received from the Satyr stung a bit.

"What a hard-headed baboon," the Satyr commented after landing on the ground. "If that was any other Saint, he'd probably have a big bump on his head right now."

"Are you sure you didn't hold back, Adonis?" a handsome Drow, who held a Sword Whip in his hand, asked with a smile.

"Of course not," Adonis replied. "You also knew it after stopping his blow earlier right? We got a real sandbag here, Tharin. You better sharpen that Whip Blade of yours."

The Drow, Tharin, smirked after hearing his comrade's reply. These kinds of exchanges during battles was a norm for them, especially since they already knew how to work as a team.

Although he admitted that Sion's protective metallic coating in his body was hard, it was nowhere compared to Antero when the Golem of Destruction fought for real.

"Focus on the battle, you two," a Foxkin commented. "You don't want to get nagged by Baal later after you somehow lose to this pathetic worm."

"Harsh as always, Hana," a beautiful Naga said to the Foxkin with a smile. "But then again, you are right. We can't have Baal reprimanding us later because these men made a fool of themselves."

"Oh, shut it, Mia." Adonis scoffed. "How can we lose against the likes of this... pathetic worm—as Hana called it."

Mia, the Naga, giggled before nocking an arrow to her bow.

"He's coming. Get a grip boys," Mia stated before releasing the arrow from her bow.

A whistling sound spread in the surroundings as her arrow flew straight and true toward the Juggernaut of El Hazard, who was now charging in their direction.

As if taking that as a cue, the party of five all moved to intercept their foe according to their respective roles.

Sion didn't stop his charge and used his axe to deflect Mia's arrow to the side.

Although the force behind the arrow was strong, his strength as a Saint wasn't just for show.

However, his mad charge, which had already gained momentum, slowed down for a brief moment, proving that Mia's attack was capable of delaying his advance.

"Cold Wind and Ice herald your arrival," Hana chanted as a magic circle appeared above her head. "Let your tempest cover the world in your white embrace!"

"Come forth, Shiva!"

A beautiful Ice Queen materialized in the sky and countless ice blades circled around her like floating fallen leaves on a stormy night.

"Chaos Tempest," Shiva said in a cold voice before the countless Ice Blades descended from the sky, freezing the ground and pelting the Juggernaut of Agartha with razor-sharp blades that could cut through flesh.

Sion cursed inwardly as he used his axe to block the countless ice blades that were falling on him like rain, but his charge never stopped.

His goal was to attack the Naga, who was firing arrow after arrow in the distance and using the Ice Blade Storm to her advantage.

Just as he thought that things couldn't possibly get any worse, a sword whip wrapped itself around his leg, preventing him from moving forward.

"Chain Lightning!" Tharin shouted as a bolt of lightning snaked through his Sword Whip and shocked Sion with its might.

"Layer upon layer of agony, crush my foe now!" Naberius shouted as a giant blade that was as dark as the night appeared above his head.

"Ultima Blade!"

The Black Raven swung the giant blade without any mercy at the immobile Sion, creating a powerful explosion that shook the land and sent tremors all the way to the City of El Hazard.

The guards, who were guarding the city wall, saw the powerful attack in the distance and looked at their Guard Captain for further orders.

"Sound the alarm!" the Guard Captain of El Hazard ordered. "Tell the citizens to seek shelter in their homes while we conduct an investigation!"

Immediately, the loud tolling of bells spread inside the city, causing everyone to stop whatever they were doing and stare at each other in surprise.

The bells of El Hazard would only be used if the city was under attack or was about to be attacked by something that could potentially destroy it.

However, before everyone could panic, a firm and calm voice reverberated in the city, telling everyone that it was going to be fine.

"Worry not, people of El Hazard," Darius said. "Sion is merely sparring with some friends outside the city. There is no need to be alarmed. However, no one is allowed to leave the city, or else you might get caught in the aftermath of the battle."

As if to reinforce this order, a white dome appeared around the city, shielding it from any stray spells that might destroy it by accident.

It also prevented curious people from leaving the city to watch the battle taking place in the distance.

After making his speech, Darius glanced at Gaap who was sitting on the rooftop, with Carol beside him, holding an umbrella to shield him from the sunlight.

"It will take more than that to beat Sion," Darius said. "Although their combination attacks are powerful, it is not enough to bring that monster wearing a human skin down."

"True," Gaap agreed. "But that's fine. My servants are doing their best to not accidentally kill him, so they're not using their Killer Moves right now."

The corner of Darius' lips twitched after hearing Gaap's reply. If that Ultima Blade that descended on his comrade's head wasn't a Killer Move, then he had no idea what the Halfling considered a Killer Move.

Naberius, who had unleashed his attack, narrowed his eyes as he looked at the dust cloud that was preventing him from seeing the outcome of his attack.

When the dust cloud receded, a red barrier with several cracks in its surface appeared in his vision.

"Congratulations," Sion stated as a mist of steam rose up from his body. "All of you have successfully made me angry."

Adonis, who was standing not far from the Saint, chuckled.

"Did you hear that, guys?" Adonis said. "He said we have successfully made him angry."

"Well, we're not exactly here to make him laugh, no?" Tarin sneered. "Just remember, our Master said that we shouldn't accidentally kill him, so hold back a bit, okay?"

The Drow's words were like taunts to Sion's ears, so he no longer held back and roared, creating shockwaves in his surroundings.

A moment later, his body grew bigger until he towered six meters above the ground.

"Annihilation Crash!" Sion roared as he smashed his axe towards the ground.

This time the ground didn't break, or sent dirt and rocks flying in every direction.

However, steel spikes that were over three meters tall jutted from the ground, and spread for several thousand meters around him, creating a Slaughter Domain under his control.

After becoming a Saint, this was the first time he had suffered a beating like this. His ego was bruised, which was why he was very mad.

Someone as powerful as him was revered by the people of Agartha, and they even treated him as one of their Sacred Guardians.

Yet right now, he was being one-sidedly pummeled by his opponents without getting a chance to counterattack.

Because of this, Sion thought that enough was enough and no longer held back, unleashing his Slaughter Domain, which he had not used for many years.

"No more games," Sion declared coldly. "I will now kill all of you for real!"

Baal, who now hovered in the air with his arms still crossed over his chest sneered at the Saint from a distance.

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall," Baal stated before glancing at Blackfire who was now hovering beside him. "If you plan to really devour him later, at least make it look like it was an accident, okay? We don't want to be blamed for the aftermath of this battle."

Blackfire nodded its head happily because it had been granted permission from its allies to devour Sion "by accident".

As to how the Black Coffin would be able to pull it off, not even Baal, the leader of Gaap's subordinates, had an idea.

How would the Black Coffin make it look like an accident?

Chapter 859: What If We Accidentally Kill Him?

"This?" Eiko asked as she showed something to Blackfire.

The Black Coffin shook its head.

"Bigger?" Eiko asked again.

Blackfire nodded.

"This one?"

"Still no?"

"How about this?"

At last, Blackfire nodded its head and thanked Eiko.

A few seconds later, Lux got out of the bathroom and glanced in the direction of the bed, where the Baby Slime was currently sitting.

"Who are you talking to, Eiko?" Lux asked.

Eiko shook her head and only gave her Papa a mischievous smile.

A single glance was enough to tell the Half-Elf that the Baby Slime was hiding something. However, thinking that it wasn't a big deal, he no longer insisted she tell him and started to dry his hair.

Not long after, a powerful explosion sounded in the distance, making Lux shake his head.

"It seems that Master's Covenant is still having fun playing with that Saint," Lux said before yawning. "I guess I'll just take a nap for the time being."

Lux wasn't interested in watching the battle between his Master's servants and the Saint of Agartha.

But there were some who were quite interested in it, namely Diablo and the others who had asked the Half-Elf if they could watch the battle.

Lux didn't find anything wrong with their request, so he gave them permission to leave the city and head to the battlefield. His only order was for them to not interfere with the battle and to keep a safe distance from it.

Eiko, who also had nothing to do, decided to take a nap with her Papa as well.

In just a matter of seconds, both were sound asleep, while the rest of the city was starting to feel anxiety due to the sound of powerful explosions that occurred every half a minute.

At the outskirts of El Hazard...

"I can do this all day," Adonis said before casually combing his hair while looking at his hand mirror. "Damn, why do I look so handsome?"

"Bastards..." Sion said through gritted teeth as blood dripped at the corner of his lips.

Earlier, he was quite confident that he would be able to deal with his opponents one by one.

However, it didn't take long for him to realize that no matter what he did, he was unable to even get close to his enemies because their coordinated attacks would push him back every time.

This was the first time that he had seen such flawless teamwork, and he now understood why the Black Knight had been so confident that five people would be enough to defeat him.

Wiping the blood off his lips with the back of his hand, Sion stood up and understood that his usual tactics wouldn't work on his enemies.

The slaughter domain that he had created didn't hinder his opponents one bit, and most of them even found it quite amusing.

His surroundings which had been covered with steel spikes that jutted off the ground were now nearly flattened as his opponents unleashed one powerful attack after another, forcing him to be on the defensive.

The Juggernaut of Agartha looked at his enemies before taking a long, deep breath. He then hunched his body, preparing to charge again, the sight of which made the Satyr, Adonis, yawn.

"Here you go again." Adonis shook his head helplessly. "Are you some kind of one-trick pony? Is all you can do charge at us like a madman, hoping that your attack will connect?"

Sion didn't reply and, instead, focused his full attention on the attack that had gained him the title of Juggernaut of Agartha.

A moment later, a spark flickered under the Saint's foot, that slowly traveled up his body.

A few seconds later, more sparks appeared and before Adonis knew it, a blaze had started to circle around Sion's body, raising the temperature to scorching levels.

"Hoh?" Adonis arched an eyebrow. "Not bad."

Before the Satyr could say another word, the flames surrounding Sion grew bigger and brighter, similar to a miniature sun that was slowly expanding outwards.

Darius, who was watching the battle from the City of El Hazard, frowned because he knew that his comrade was about to use his strongest attack after several years of peace in Agartha.

'So they managed to push you this far,' Darius mused. 'I guess this is where everything ends then.'

The Saint of El Hazard then glanced at the Halfling, who was still sitting on the rooftop with a calm expression on his face.

"I'm afraid that my comrade has finally decided to end the battle," Darius stated. "If you care for your subordinates, it would be best if you make them leave before it is too late."

"Thank you for the warning, but they will be fine," Gaap replied.

"You're that confident in your underlings, eh?"

"Of course."

Darius chuckled internally because he thought that Gaap was just trying to act tough after he warned him.

'It seems that you're underestimating Sion too much,' Darius thought. 'This will make you understand that the Saints of Agartha are not pushovers.'

What Darius didn't know was that Gaap was actually feeling very worried about Sion's fate, instead of the Fate of his servants.

'I wonder what Blackfire is planning?' Gaap mused. 'He can't possibly do what I'm thinking, right?'

Baal had already informed him that he had given the okay signal for Blackfire to capture Sion after the battle ended, as long as the Black Coffin would make it look like it "accidentally" devoured the Saint by accident.

Gaap almost cursed out loud after hearing Baal's report because there was simply no way that the Black Coffin could pull off such a thing.

'Blackfire... oh, Blackfire... please don't cause trouble for me and your Master,' Gaap said in his heart. 'We still need to go to the Pantheon of Exile, and we don't want King Septimius to have a reason to hunt us down.'

Back in the outskirts of El Hazard...

Adonis was no longer smiling as he looked at the blazing fireball in front of him that was still getting bigger.

Currently, the fireball was ten meters tall, and he had a feeling that it would continue to rise the longer they waited.

"Guys, are we just going to sit back and watch and let him charge up until he's ready to go?" Adonis asked with concern.

"I have analyzed this skill, and it is indeed quite a domineering one," Hana replied. "If we attack him now, our attacks will only increase the output of his power, making his Trump Card stronger. The best course of action is to let it take its course until he has reached his limit."

Tharin frowned after hearing his comrade's explanation. "Looks like we all need to take this more seriously guys. It looks like we no longer have the leeway of holding back."

Mia, the Naga, nodded her head in agreement. "If we don't use our Trump Cards, the ones who will perish will be us."

"What if we accidentally kill him?" Adonis asked worriedly.

"Don't worry," Naberius commented as he hovered in the sky. "Master is a Necromancer. I'm sure he can think of something."

After hearing Naberius' assurance, the members of Gaaps Covenant exchanged glances with each other and nodded their heads in agreement.

Since the situation had already come this far, it was time to unseal their powers and fight the Saint, without care if he died or not.

Chapter 860: Even I Didn't See That Coming

Sion's eyes burned with power as he gazed at his enemies, who were now looking at him with serious expressions on their faces.

'That's right,' Sion thought. 'Those are the faces that I want to see.'

He had gathered all the power inside of his body, which had now reached its limit. Since that was the case, it was time to show the fools who looked down on him earlier why no one in the Kingdom of Agatha dared to challenge him in a fight.

"Juggernaut Onslaught!" Sion roared as he stomped his right foot forward in preparation to dash with wanton abandon.

The ground under his feet shattered, and a second later, he shot out like a blazing meteor toward his opponents.

"Evade!" Hana shouted as she waved her hands to create several magic circles in her surroundings.

Adonis, Tharin, and Mia all jumped on the Magic circles that Hana created and were instantly teleported hundreds of meters into the sky.

The Foxkin also disappeared from where she stood and reappeared in the sky alongside her comrades.

"It's no use!" Sion sneered as he jumped upwards.

Since the Juggernaut of Agartha was at the center of the blazing ball of fire that was now over fifteen meters tall, those that were on the city walls of Agartha were able to see this destructive scene, and their faces turned pale instantly.

"H-His Excellency Sion is using his strongest attack!" The Guard Captain's eyes widened in shock after seeing the blazing meteor rising towards the heavens. "Is this really a sparring match?!"

The Guard Captain was truly worried because Sion's Juggernaut Onslaught was capable of destroying the landscape spanning several miles after it was used.

The moment the Saint unleashed his most devastating attack, anything it hit would be completely obliterated, causing a powerful explosion that would spread in his surroundings.

Simply put, the destructive power of this attack was similar to Eiko's tactical Nuke that was used against the Rankers of the Divine Army of Light.

It was Sion's do-or-die Trump Card, and it only had one result.

Complete and utter destruction.

Darius narrowed his eyes as he strengthened the barrier surrounding the city of El Hazard. He even activated the city's magical defenses to help reinforce

the barrier that he had created to ensure that they would be able to withstand the aftermath of Sion's Final Gambit.

Hana once again waved her hands and created magic circles around her teammates, allowing her comrades to use them as their footholds.

Adonis, Tharin, and Mia all jumped in different directions to make sure that they would be separated from each other.

Naberius and Hana did the same, distancing themselves from their opponent who had far exceeded their expectations.

"Should we go as well?" An Arachne who was standing beside Baal asked. "I have a feeling that we will be targeted as well."

Baal glanced at his comrade who had the lower half of a spider and the upper half of a woman.

"Worry not, Arania," Baal replied. "If he dares to attack us, I'll personally deal with him."

"That's quite reassuring." Arania smiled. "I'm not good at dealing with those who play with fire."

A chuckle escaped Baal's lips because he understood this part. All of them had strengths and weaknesses, and one of Arania's weaknesses was fire.

Even so, her comrades would always be there to fill in the gap of her weakness, allowing her to fight against those who wielded the power of fire.

Sion clicked his tongue as he continued to trail across the sky in pursuit of the pesky Monsters who were doing their best to evade his attack.

None of them bothered to shoot spells or attack him directly, focusing on running away.

With each passing minute, Sion's anger grew, making the flames around him burn even brighter.

Suddenly, something unexpected happened. The meteor in the sky suddenly disappeared without a trace.

A few seconds later, it reappeared dozens of meters behind Adonis, catching the Satyr by surprise.

"Sh*t!" Adonis cursed out loud as he braced himself for the impact.

However before the Meteorite hit him, Hana reappeared beside him and kicked the Satyr away.

A moment later, the Meteorite crashed into her body, dragging her through the sky and making her cough out a mouthful of blood.

"Die, wench!" Sion shouted as he increased the power of the flames with the intention of incinerating the beautiful lady, whose face had turned ashen due to the force of the impact that hit her.

"It's no wonder you're not popular with the ladies," Hana commented as her body was engulfed by flames. "You don't know how to treat a lady right."

A sneer appeared on Sion's face because he couldn't care less about his enemy's dying words.

However, instead of seeing helplessness and a distraught look on the Fox Lady's face, he only saw a smile that made him wonder if his enemy was smiling through the pain she was feeling.

"Through Hellfire and Beyond, I call upon thee," Hana shouted as her entire body was set ablaze. "Lord of Flames, bestow your powers upon me!"

"Ifrit!"

The beautiful fox lady then transformed into a fiery demon, who merged with Sion's fireball and reached out toward the Saint, who didn't expect this sudden turn of events.

Even so, the Juggernaut of Agartha regained his composure and grappled with the so-called Lord of Flames that had possessed Hana's body.

While the two were fighting in order to overpower each other, the blazing fireball remained stationary in the sky and continued to grow bigger and bigger.

It also raised the temperature in the surroundings, forcing all Agarthians to seek shelter in their homes to avoid the scorching heat wave that washed over their city.

"Master, it might be best if you return inside the inn," Carol said as she stood in front of Gaap, protecting him from the heat wave that made her gothic dress flutter.

"No need, Carol," Gaap replied. "I trust them."

As if waiting for that cue, Adonis, Tharin, Mia, and Naberius, who were all standing on the ground now, chanted in unison.

"Exalted spirits of the world, we need you in our troubled hour. Grant us the power to vanquish our foes and overcome all obstacles that stand in our way. Let those under the heavens witness your illustrious might!"

"Azure Flames!"

A giant magic circle appeared in between the four of them and summoned blue flames that rose toward the heavens.

The Azure Flame then collided with the miniature sun, but instead of making it explode, it lifted it upwards.

From the eyes of the people, what they saw was like a burning comet that was shooting toward the sky, leaving a blazing trail of blue flames behind.

With every passing second, the tip of the comet rose higher and higher until it was several thousand meters up in the sky.

Finally, after reaching a certain threshold, the miniature sun exploded creating a powerful shockwave that spread outwards.

At the same time, a strong earthquake rocked the surface world, with the epicenter right under the Empire of the Divine Army of Light.

If not for the Divine Sovereign and the Supreme, who had almost made a full recovery, guarding the fort, their entire domain would have crumbled into oblivion.

Using their Divine Power, they forcefully prevented the collapse of their empire, until the tremors came to a complete stop.

Meanwhile, back in the Kingdom of Agartha...

Two figures fell from the sky.

Hana, who had reverted back to her original form, was caught mid-air by Naberius, preventing her from falling directly to the ground.

Her body was nearly burned to a crisp, and only her beautiful face received less damage, having only received minor injuries.

"Looks like you won't be on active duty for a while," Naberius commented as he held his comrade firmly in his arms.

"Only for a month or two," Hana replied weakly. "I just hope that Baal won't nag me later."

"I'll put in some good words for you."

"Thanks, Naberius. I'll go take a nap for now, okay?"

"Sure."

A moment later, the beautiful fox lady turned into particles of light, which flew towards the City of El Hazard, where her Master was waiting for her return.

Sion, who was caught by nobody, crashed to the ground, creating a crater that was hundreds of meters wide.

To everyone's surprise, the Saint was still alive, but he received very serious injuries.

Sion slowly propped himself off the ground, and blood spilled from his ears, nose, and mouth.

He was in a very weak state, and if one of his enemies attacked him now, he wouldn't have the strength to defend himself.

That was when he saw it.

Dozens of meters away from him, a black coffin moved in an erratic manner as if it was drunk.

Little by little it made its way towards Sion, which made the Saint's face turn solemn.

He had heard what this Black Coffin had done in the Gladiator's Coliseum, and he had a feeling that it was planning to do something fishy.

As a Saint, he wouldn't allow himself to be devoured by such a thing, so he clenched his fist and prepared to smash the coffin and break it to pieces.

The wobbling coffin continued to slowly make its way toward Sion like a drunk old man that had been wasted in a tavern and was on his way back to his home.

Finally, when it was only five meters away from the Saint, it collapsed on the ground, with its lid sliding off its body, revealing its dark interior.

However, nothing happened.

Sion watched the coffin cautiously with his right arm ready to strike.

Although he didn't have much strength left, he was confident that he could smash the coffin the moment it reached his striking range.

A minute passed...

Two minutes passed...

And still, nothing happened.

Sion didn't lower his guard and his attention was still focused on the Black Coffin, which seemed to be immersed in its acting of playing dead.

Because the Saint's full attention was on the Black Coffin, he didn't notice that a Blast Bomb that was over a meter tall had rolled up behind him.

Suddenly, and without any warning, the Blast Bomb exploded, sending the Saint and the Black Coffin flying.

The first one to drop on the ground was Blackfire, and after rolling for several meters its body faced upwards with its cask open wide.

Sion, who no longer had the strength to regain his balance mid-air turned pale when he found himself falling towards the Black Coffin, which lay idly on the ground where he was going to land.

"Noooooooooooooooooooo!" Sion shouted in fright as he landed face-first in Blackfire's open casket. It was as if it had carefully calculated where he was going to land and was waiting for the Saint with open arms.

The black coffin shuddered a bit after the Saint entered its body.

A few seconds later, it groggily stood up and walked like a drunken old man towards its lid that was lying a few meters away.

When it reached its destination, it lowered its body to "pick up" the lid and return it to its rightful place.

Not long after, it continued to wobble away like a drunkard before disappearing from everyone's sight.

The corner of Baal's lips twitched after seeing this scene.

The members of Gaaps' Covenant also had dumbfounded looks on their faces.

After a minute passed, Adonis spoke out, breaking everyone out of their daze.

"That was an accident, no?" Adonis asked his comrades who all looked at him weirdly.

"Um, yeah, it was an accident," Tharin commented. "I mean, who would have thought that a Blast Bomb would appear out of nowhere? Totally unexpected, yup."

"Right, it was an accident," Mia stated. "A totally unforeseen outcome. Even I didn't see that coming."

"People should really pay attention to their surroundings, especially during a battle," Adonis stated. "You never know what will pop out when you least expect it."

Baal looked at his comrades before looking up at the sky.

A moment later, he nodded his head in agreement.

"Although it was unfortunate, accidents do happen," Baal stated. "Some things are simply out of our control."

All of his comrades nodded their heads in agreement.

Their leader was right.

There were things outside of their control, and an accident caused by a stray Blast Bomb was one of them.

Darius, who saw what happened from the city of El Hazard, couldn't stop his eyes from twitching.

He then glanced at the Halfling sitting on the rooftop, but the latter only shrugged as if telling the Saint that he had nothing to do with it.

However, deep inside, Gaap didn't know if he should laugh or cry at Blackfire's latest antic.

The only thing he could hope was that Lux could talk to his greedy black coffin and ask Blackfire to spit out the Saint of Agatha before a bigger problem fell on their heads.

Chapter 861: You're A Very Bad Boy, Blackfire

"Um, can someone tell me what's going on first?" Lux asked as he looked at his Master, Cleo, and an Old Man he hadn't seen before, who were currently inside his room.

He and Eiko were taking a nap when he was suddenly woken up by his Master, Gaap, who had a solemn look on his face.

A moment later, he sensed two other presences inside the room. One of them was the Saintess, Cleo, and the other was the Old Man, who introduced himself as Darius.

The first thing that Darius demanded Lux was to return his comrade, Sion, who was "accidentally" swallowed by a certain black coffin.

After hearing the details of what happened, beads of sweat started to form on the Half-Elf's forehead. He finally understood why everyone in the room had serious expressions on their faces.

Left with no choice, Lux summoned Blackfire, and the Black Coffin answered his call.

"Did you swallow a Saint earlier?" Lux asked.

Blackfire nodded its head like a polite child.

"Can you spit him out?" Lux asked before pointing at Cleo and Darius. "His friends are very worried for his safety."

Blackfire tilted its head as if pondering whether he should obey Lux's request. A minute later, the Black Coffin shook its body side to side, which everyone easily understood as a "no".

"That won't do," Darius stated. "If His Majesty comes to know that one of the Saints of Agartha is currently confined inside this... thing, I don't know how he will react to the news."

"You heard him, Blackfire," Lux said.

However, Blackfire still shook its head, not caring about Darius' subtle threat.

A moment later, rows of text appeared in front of everyone, which caught everyone by surprise.

[This Saint sent Bounty Hunters to capture my Master, so he is a bad person. Also, based on his personality, I am certain that he will carry a grudge against my Master, which might result in further attacks in the future. In order to ensure that such a thing will not happen, I will confine him until my Master leaves Agartha.]

Darius frowned after reading the message that seemed to be coming from the Black Coffin.

Lux, on the other hand, was mind-blown as this was the first time he found out that Blackfire had means to communicate after it had transformed into a Divine Artifact.

"That's not possible," Darius replied. "I'm sure that His Majesty will demand Sion's release as soon as he hears this news. If you don't comply, then your Master's safety will still be jeopardized."

Blackfire tilted its head to the side once again as if thinking of a proper reply to Darius' comment.

A minute later, rows of text once again appeared in front of everyone, which was Blackfire's reply.

[Then, tell me, Old Man. Can you guarantee that this bad person will no longer target my Master after he is released? Are you willing to sign a Contract of Fealty to my Master stating that if you or your King fails to prevent this bad person from harming my Master again, you will become my Master's subordinate for a thousand years?]

The corner of Darius' lips twitched after seeing Blackfire's reply.

He knew that his comrade was someone who held grudges, and there was no way in hell that he would sign a Contract of Fealty for Sion's sake.

Darius was confident that after a day or two, the Juggernaut of Agartha would come looking for trouble again, which would trigger the Contract, binding him to become Lux's subordinate.

Even so, he still remained firm and tried to reason with the Black Coffin, who seemed adamant about confining Sion inside its body.

"But His Majesty might be upset with your Master if Sion isn't released," Darius insisted.

Blackfire's reply was simple.

[Then let him become upset. It's not my problem.]

"Didn't you hear me earlier?" Darius sighed. "His Majesty might target your Master and might even hold him in confinement. He just gained his freedom not long ago, but he might even be forced to stay here in Agartha for life."

Blackfire turned its body to the side as if glancing at its Master before shifting its attention back to the Old Man in front of it.

[Your King has given a decree that allowed safe passage to my Master. One of his subjects defied this decree, and you are also considered an accomplice since you knew about it and didn't stop it. Tell me, what is the punishment for defying your King's direct order?]

[Also, I can spread this news through the entirety of Agartha in a heartbeat. A Saint attacked a Highlander in El Hazard because my Master is more good-looking than him. This Saint also insisted that King Septimius decree doesn't hold power over him because he is a Saint and is above the law.]

[I will also add that an old Saint named Darius was the Bad Person's accomplice and even encouraged the Bad Person to send Bounty Hunters to capture my Master for five million gold coins. How do you think your people will react after hearing this news?]

Darius laughed out loud because he didn't expect the Black Coffin would resort to blackmail. He found all of this very funny because he didn't believe that the people of Agartha would believe this news if it was spread throughout their kingdom.

"I can tell you now that even if you spread this news, people will just think it was a bunch of lies." Darius sneered. "You're just making things more difficult for your Master by doing this."

Blackfire seemed unperturbed by Darius' statement and replied in a heartbeat.

[Is that your final answer, Old Man?]

"Hahaha! You cheeky little coffin. Do you think you can cause waves in Agartha by spreading false rumors?" Darius laughed. "I'd like to see you try."

Blackfire nodded.

[Well, if you insist. I'll make sure to bring flowers to your funeral, Old Man. No. Scratch that. I'll just devour you when you die.]

The Black Coffin then made several rows of text that only Lux could see, which made the Half-Elf's eyes widen in shock.

He then looked at Blackfire and gave it the "are serious" gaze, and the black coffin only nodded its head as if to assure its Master that everything was under its control.

"Okay, let's do this," Lux replied.

He was also annoyed that a Saint dared to bully him in El Hazard, and he wanted to let the Kingdom of Agartha know that he wasn't a pushover.

A few seconds later, Blackfire disappeared from the room and reappeared on the rooftop of the Inn.

However, he wasn't alone.

Seraphina, who was Lux's Battle Angel, was with it.

The Black Coffin then communicated with the Angel of Heaven, which made the latter giggle.

"You're a very bad boy, Blackfire," Seraphina said as she lightly patted the black coffin. "But this sounds fun. I'm in."

The Battle Angel then flew towards the sky. Once she was thousands of meters high in the air, she pressed her hands together and started to make an announcement.

Although her Divine Powers were greatly diminished upon arriving in the mortal plane, she still retained a few of her abilities, and one of them was to broadcast an announcement to an entire continent.

Although this wasn't as powerful as a Worldwide Announcement, it was still suitable for Blackfire's plan to come to fruition.

While everyone in Agartha was going about their daily routines, an angelic voice resounded in the heavens and spread in the entirety of the Ancient Kingdom.

"I am a messenger of the Earth Goddess Cybele, and I have come to relay her dissatisfaction towards the King of Agartha, King Septimius Vi Agartha III, for something that his subordinates have done in the City of El Hazard..."

Darius, who was feeling smug a moment ago, instantly stiffened after hearing the angelic voice in the sky.

He thought that Blackfire was just bluffing when it said it could spread its fabricated blackmail to the entirety of Agartha in a heartbeat.

The Saint didn't expect the Black Coffin to resort to a fake "Heaven's Announcement," and when he heard it, all the colors from his face were immediately drained.

All the Agarthians worship the Goddess Cybele, and all of them were her pious worshipers.

If a Heavenly Announcement mentioning her name was spread in their Kingdom, there was a 100% chance that everyone would believe it, even if they were lies!

"Stop! Are you trying to blaspheme our God?! Are you not worried about Divine Retribution?!" Darius growled in anger towards the Half-Elf who had a calm look on his face.

"Worried about Divine Retribution?" Lux replied. "Nope. Not at all."

The Half-Elf even smiled at the Old Saint, which made Darius look at him in a dumbfounded manner.

Lux was one of the few people who knew that Elysium had already been abandoned by the Gods.

The only God that was governing Elysium was Eriol, and he was on Lux's side.

Even if the Goddess Cybele were to hear of Lux's unwarranted use of her name, there was nothing she could do about it.

Since she had already abandoned the world, she no longer had any say about what happened in this world.

This was the reason why Blackfire was very confident about its Blackmailing tactic and even resorted to having a Divine Angel from Heaven to spread the news to give it more authenticity.

Even King Septimius, who was taking a nap inside his Royal Palace at that time, immediately became wide awake after hearing the voice from Heaven.

Unlike his people, a Supreme like him was able to tell if something was genuine or not.

Although the voice was indeed angelic and had a tinge of Divinity in it, this was very different from the Heavenly Announcement that he knew.

'City of El Hazard?' King Septimius thought. 'Just what happened in that place?'

Without any hesitation, the King of Agarthia immediately used the Teleportation Gate of the Royal Palace in order to instantly travel to El Hazard.

He wanted to get into the bottom of this incident, and he had a feeling that the answers would present themselves once he arrived at the Border City where Lux was currently located.

Chapter 862: Something Profound

Seraphina purposely trailed off after making her initial speech because this was Blackfire's plan to pressure Darius to a compromise.

And it worked like a charm.

The Saint begged Lux to make the World Announcement stop.

Naturally, Blackfire paid attention to Darius the entire time, so when the Saint realized that his Fate was sealed, it decided to be merciful and asked Seraphina to put their plan on hold.

However, just before Blackfire was about to return to its Master's room, it sensed the presence of someone very powerful arriving in the city.

It was not only the Black Coffin that sensed King Septimius' arrival. Seraphina sensed him as well.

Naturally, everyone inside Lux's room also sensed the presence of the ruler of Agarthia, which made Darius' face turn a shade paler.

Before anyone could even react, a man who seemed to be in his early thirties appeared inside the room with a frown on his face.

"It seems that something very interesting is happening here," King Septimius said with a smile that didn't reach his eyes. "Can someone tell me what's going on?"

Everyone inside the room immediately pointed at Darius, making the King of Agartha look in his direction.

"Darius, it has been a while," King Septimius stated. "It's good to see that you are in good health. Where is Sion by the way? He should have sensed my presence. Why isn't he here?"

"About that, Your Majesty," Darius smiled bitterly. "Actually..."

The King of Agartha then raised his hand to stop Darius from finishing his sentence.

"We can talk about Sion later," King Septimius stated. "I heard something very interesting just now, and I was wondering if you can tell me what happened and why. Did something happen in this city? Make sure to start from the very beginning."

The King was still smiling and seemed to be very amiable. However, Darius could tell that his ruler was just putting on an act because the Highlanders were inside the room.

Left with no choice, Darius began to report everything that happened. From the moment Sion ordered the Bounty Hunters to capture Lux, up to the point where it ended in a fight. Lastly, he told his King what happened to Sion.

From start to end, King Septimius didn't reply and only listened to the Saint's report. When Darius stopped talking, the Ruler of Agartha rested his hand on Lux's shoulder and smiled at him.

"You brat. You dared to blackmail a Saint and even planned to tarnish my good name?" King Septimius said. "It seems that you need some discipline."

Suddenly, Blackfire appeared beside Lux and even moved close to the King of Agartha, as if staring at him eye to eye.

Rows of text then appeared on the black coffin's surface, allowing the King of Agartha to read them.

[I wouldn't do that if I were you. Earlier, this Old Man had the same domineering attitude as you. However, he realized his mistake and even pleaded for me to stop the announcement in your Kingdom.]

"Hoh? So it was you who was responsible for that fake Announcement." King Septimius narrowed his eyes at the black coffin that was hovering mere inches away from his face.

Words appeared on the surface of the black coffin, allowing the King of Agartha to read it.

[Yes. It was me. What can you do about it?]

The King chuckled before answering the black coffin, who was challenging his authority.

"I can just snap your Master's neck and rid myself of all troubles," King Septimius replied.

Blackfire wasn't perturbed by the King's threats and replied cordially.

[My Master has a relationship with two Supremes. The Dragon King and the Steward of the Crystal Palace. Just like my Master, they have the ability to instantly teleport to your Kingdom. Snap his neck, and you will face their wrath. Are you sure you can handle that consequence?]

"You're bluffing."

[You're a Supreme. You should know when someone is bluffing or not.]

Just like Saints, a Supreme could tell whenever someone was lying. However, since Blackfire was an object, he was unable to verify the authenticity of its words.

Naturally, he knew about the Dragon King because that being was the strongest Supreme in the world.

As for the Steward of the Crystal Palace, although he had only heard a little information about her, a Supreme was still a Supreme and must never be underestimated.

Since he couldn't tell if the black coffin was lying, King Septimius turned to look at the Half-Elf and asked him a question.

"Do you have a relationship with the Dragon King and the Steward of the Crystal Palace?" King Septimius asked.

"Yes, I have relationships with them. In fact, my Guild Headquarters is currently stationed at the Crystal Palace, and Her Excellency, Lady Augustina, personally escorted us to our new home."

Blackfire had used the term "relationship" making Lux's connection with the two Supremes very vague.

It was true that the Half-Elf had a relationship with the two Supremes, as to whether it was good or bad, that was no longer important.

As long as King Septimius thought that there were two Supremes that knew the Half-Elf, he would not do anything high-handed until he had confirmed the news to be true.

"Can they instantly appear here in my Kingdom?" King Septimius voice became cold as he asked this question

Supremes who had the ability to instantly teleport into his domain was something that he wasn't too happy about.

"I'll leave the answer to your imagination," Lux replied in a casual tone.

"You are planning to dodge the question huh?" King Septimius wasn't stupid. He could tell that the Half-Elf was avoiding his question, so he pressed on.

"Cleo, I will ask another question and I want you to make him answer me by force."

"Y-Yes, Your Majesty!" Cleo stuttered and looked apologetically at Lux.

Her unique ability allowed her to make those who were weaker than her to do things she commanded. After being good friends with Lux, she no longer wished to use her power against the Half-Elf.

Also, she was now Lux's subordinate for a year according to their agreement. But since it was a direct order from her King, she had no choice but to do it.

"What method can those two Supremes use in order to enter my Kingdom?" King Septimius asked. "Answer me!"

Cleo then used her power to compel Lux to answer, just like she did when the Half-Elf was being interrogated when they first arrived in Rishi City.

Lux's lips quivered as he fought off Cleo's compelling power.

He suddenly remembered his Master's advice to think of something profound in order to overcome her ability.

'S-Something profound!' Lux desperately thought as his will was being invaded by the Saint's power.

At that exact moment, a pair of beautiful thighs appeared inside his mind. Lux momentarily blanked out, and even forgot what King Septimius' questions were.

The Half-Elf recalled the memory of when his head was buried between Iris' and Cai's thighs back in the academy.

The scene was so profound that only the word "thighs" escaped Lux's lips, confusing King Septimius and Cleo.

"What thighs?" King Septimius asked. "I'm asking how those two Supremes can travel to my kingdom instantly!"

"Two thighs," Lux replied in a trance.

King Septimius and Cleo were both baffled by Lux's reply. They had no idea how two thighs could instantly teleport two Supremes to their Kingdom.

But the thing was, no matter what kind of variations they use to press the Half-Elf for answers, his reply would always be "Thighs, Thighs, and more Thighs".

Gaap, who was looking at his Disciple from the side, gave Lux a thumbs up in his heart.

Although he didn't know why the Half-Elf kept on mentioning thighs, he had a feeling that the thighs the red-headed teenager was talking about were the most profound things in the world for him.

Chapter 863: I Can Only Forgive You Once

After interrogating Lux and getting no other answers aside from "thighs," King Septimius and Cleo gave up.

They also couldn't do anything to him because the threat of two Supremes possibly rampaging in Agartha was something that none of them wanted to risk.

In the end, everyone sat and settled for a compromise. After negotiating for nearly an hour, the King of Agartha reluctantly agreed to the settlement that Lux's side had asked for.

"In order to compensate you for the psychological trauma that you experienced after being hunted down by Bounty Hunters and your Master facing off against Sion, I will grant you five Empyrean-Ranked World Bosses Beast Cores," King Septimius stated. "I will also guarantee that Sion will not trouble the two of you again for the duration of your stay here in Agartha."

Lux and Gaap nodded because this was the condition that they had requested.

"Are you sure you don't want to negotiate Leonidas' release?" King Septimius insisted. "I will be generous and add two more Beast Cores for his freedom. You can keep the other Gladiators. I only want Leonidas."

"Sorry, but Sion's and Leonidas' cases are not the same," Lux replied with a smile. "We fought him in a Deathmatch, and in a Deathmatch, there is only one outcome. Either they die, or we die. Since we won, their lives belong to us, and this is non-negotiable."

King Septimius snorted before grumpily tossing a storage bag towards the Half-Elf, which contained the five Beast Cores as compensation.

After checking its contents and making sure that they were all World-Bosses Cores, Lux smiled and glanced at the black coffin that was hovering beside him.

"Spit him out, Blackfire," Lux ordered.

The Black Coffin nodded and opened the lid of the casket.

A moment later, a heavily injured Sion collapsed on the floor, the sight of which made King Septimius frown.

"Take him, Darius," King Septimius ordered before giving the Half-Elf a sidelong glance. "Know that it is not only Sion who isn't happy with my decision to allow you Highlanders to freely roam my kingdom. There might be other Saints who will come and harass you along the way."

"Really? That's good news then," Lux smirked. "Blackfire still has plenty of room for Agartha's Saints."

King Septimius scoffed before disappearing from the room.

He had to return to the Capital City and hold an emergency meeting, notifying all of the Saints, as well as their subordinates, to not mess with the Half-Elf while he was roaming Agartha.

He didn't expect Gaap to be capable of fighting against Saints. That was something that he, as well as Sion, didn't see coming.

During the Deathmatch, Gaap did nothing, so everyone assumed that he merely decided to not get in the way because he was only a Grade-A Apostle.

After this incident, King Septimius, Darius, and Cleo would no longer underestimate the Halfling, who seemed to have no fear, even when he was in the same room with an angry Supreme.

King Septimius also noticed that Lux wasn't afraid of him. The only reason that he could think of why they acted this way was due to the two Supremes that were backing them.

If he were in their shoes, he would also have the same attitude, which solidified the King's belief that they were telling the truth.

Darius picked up the injured Sion and also disappeared from the room, leaving Lux, Gaap, and the Saintess, Cleo, who had a guilty look on her face.

"It's fine, Cleo," Gaap said after making sure that they were truly alone in the room. "You had no choice, and my Disciple didn't mind. Isn't that right, Lux?"

Lux nodded. "I'm sure that you did it against your will, so let's forgive and forget shall we?"

"Lux... Gaap, thank you," Cleo replied with an apologetic look on her face.

"Ah, but if this happens again in the future, I will force you to call me Daddy, okay?" Lux stated. "I can only forgive you once. Next time, you will need to be punished."

"Okay." Cleo nodded. "If this really happens again, I will call you Daddy."

Cleo really didn't plan on using her ability against Lux ever again, even if her King ordered her to do so a second time. Also, since Lux already knew how to counter her ability, it would be useless even if she tried again.

"By the way, why thighs?" Cleo asked while arching an eyebrow. "You have some kind of thigh fetish?"

Lux pretended that he didn't hear Cleo's comment and simply handed the storage bag to his Master, Gaap.

"Master, since one of your Covenant Members is seriously injured, you can use these Beast Cores to give her a full recovery," Lux stated.

"I'll just take three of them," Gaap replied. "You can keep the rest."

Lux used the term seriously injured instead of perished. Although Hana had died after her battle with Sion, she was part of Gaap's Covenant, so she could be revived once Gaap sacrificed an adequate amount of Beast Cores.

In order to revive her, Gaap needed two Emphyrean-Ranked World Bosses Cores.

The last Core that he took was for future emergencies, in which he might need a Beast Core to tend to his injured subordinates.

"Thank you, Blackfire," Lux said as he patted the Black Coffin's body. "You can rest now."

Blackfire nodded before disappearing from the room.

Truth be told, releasing Sion wasn't a very big deal for Blackfire and Lux. The moment the Juggernaut of Agartha was sucked inside the Black Coffin, his Fate had already been sealed.

Anyone that Blackfire had devoured would treat Lux as their Master and would be forever loyal to him.

Also, since Blackfire's Mark had already been placed in Sion's body and soul, the Half-Elf would be able to summon the Saint anytime he wanted.

Just like he could summon Sid and Scarlet to aid him, he could now call forth a Saint without the need to make him part of his Guild.

Lux understood this as well, so he and Blackfire put on an act of reluctantly agreeing to King Septimius' request.

Not only did they gain a Saint as a subordinate, but they also got five Emyrean-Ranked Beast Cores in exchange.

Lux was planning to use the two remaining Beast Cores for Leonidas and Alcapone.

According to Blackfire, these two Rankers had a very high chance of evolving into something great if they were revived using the Black Coffin's power.

Similar to Lux's Undead Generator Skill, Blackfire could now take in other materials aside from Beast Cores in order to revive any creature it devoured.

The Half-Elf's plan was to have Cleo unseal the Cursed Weapon in his possession and have Blackfire use it as an ingredient alongside the Emyrean-Ranked Beast Core to transform Leonidas into a more powerful being.

He believed that after Leonidas' rebirth, he would become one of Lux's strongest subordinates, who would serve him for as long as he lived.

"Rest for now," Cleo said before walking towards the door. "We will be leaving tomorrow at noon. The journey to the Pantheon of Exile is a long one, so prepare yourself for the journey."

Without another word, the Saintess left the room in order to return to her own room.

Gaap also bid his Disciple farewell because he needed to perform the ceremony that would revive Hana.

Also, the Halfling needed to talk to Baal about future battles against Saints. He had a feeling that even if King Septimius forbade all the Saints, as well as

Rankers of Agartha, to harm them, they might still face other threats along the way.

To ensure their safety, he had to make preparations that would ensure that his subordinates could fight to their fullest potential and lower the risk of another death among his Covenant Members in their future battles within the Ancient Kingdom of Agartha.

Chapter 864: Very Soon, You Will Belong To Me.

"Are you sure you're fine, Sion?" Darius asked as he looked at his comrade, who was currently submerged in spring water that was filled with rare healing herbs and elixirs.

"I already said I'm fine," Sion replied in an annoyed tone. "You nag too much, Old Man."

"Well, you should thank this Old Man. If not for me and His Majesty, you would still be trapped inside that boy's Black Coffin."

"I said zip it! Can't you even understand simple human language?!"

Darius shook his head helplessly. "Fine. I'll leave for now. Make sure to call me if you need anything else."

The moment Darius left, Sion closed his eyes to focus on his recovery.

Right now, he was feeling very annoyed and conflicted.

The moment he regained his consciousness, he instantly felt that there was something very different about him.

The first thing that came to his mind was, of course, the Half-Elf. However, just as he was about to curse Lux, he found himself unable to say anything.

He did a few more experiments like cursing the Half-Elf in his thoughts, but even that didn't work. As more time passed, the more unsettled Sion became.

In the end, he started to meditate and go inside his inner world to better understand what was happening.

When he got inside his Sea of Consciousness, he found a familiar Black Coffin floating inside of it.

"All things are equal in death, let this be a sign," Blackfire said in a voice that seemed to belong to a child. "All who oppose my Master will meet their end, and their body and soul will be mine."

Sion felt his body shudder after hearing the Black Coffin's ominous words. He couldn't tell whether Blackfire's voice belonged to a boy or a girl, but that didn't matter.

The lid of the Black Coffin opened a bit, and a golden chain materialized in thin air.

A moment later, Sion looked in horror when he realized that the golden chain was connected to his body and had bound itself around his heart.

"N-No... this can't be happening!" Sion shouted inside his Sea of Consciousness. "I am the Juggernaut of Agartha! One of the most powerful Saints in the Kingdom—this can't be happening to me! I am the Master of my own Fate! No one has a hold over my will."

A childlike chuckle spread inside Sion's Spiritual World, which forced him to cover his ear. However, even with his ears covered, he could still hear Blackfire's words that were as clear as day, as if the Black Coffin was hovering right next to him.

"You are in the first stage of grief, which is denial," Blackfire said with childlike innocence. "Next will be anger, bargaining, depression, and finally, acceptance. But let me tell you this, Sion. Being my Master's subordinate is not a bad thing."

"Shut up!" Sion roared in anger. "I am no one's subordinate! I am my own person!"

"Oh? You're angry now?" Blackfire tilted its body to the side. "You're already in the second stage of grief? That was fast."

"You damn Coffin!" Sion charged towards Blackfire with his fist ready to strike. "I will destroy you!"

However, before his punch could even reach its target, it stopped a few inches away from the Black Coffin's body.

No matter how hard Sion tried to push his fists forward, it simply wouldn't budge as if refusing to harm the Divine Artifact that now held his Fate in its hands.

After repeatedly trying to attack the Coffin using all means at his disposal, Sion finally gave up.

"What must I do in order to regain my freedom?" Sion asked through gritted teeth. "Tell me!"

"Bargaining?" Blackfire chuckled. "I didn't think that you would reach the third stage of grief in just a span of a few minutes. You Saints really are different from normal people."

The Saint of Agartha clenched his fists tightly, as he forced himself to remain calm.

Although Blackfire had a childlike voice, the ridicule in it made him very upset.

"Answer my question!" Sion demanded. "What must I do to regain my freedom?"

Blackfire didn't answer right away as if pondering the answer to the Saint's question.

A few minutes passed in silence as Sion stood with his chest heaving up and down, in an effort to control the rage he was feeling.

He had never felt so helpless in his life until now. It felt as if he was wearing a Slave Collar on his neck, and the only way to remove it was if the Master gave him mercy.

"Very well, I will make an exception just for you," Blackfire answered after a few minutes passed. "My Master is currently fighting against the Divine Army of Light. It is an organization in the Surface World that makes themselves look like they are the most righteous individuals on Earth.

"Their influence spans countless miles within the center of Elysium, as well as beyond the borders of their Empire. Their High Council is composed of thirty

Saints, but the Saints that belong to their organization numbers a little over a hundred."

The Black Coffin paused as it slowly floated towards Sion, stopping only when it was only a meter away from him.

"You want your freedom, right?" Blackfire asked.

"Yes," Sion replied in a heartbeat.

"Then help my Master defeat this organization," Blackfire stated. "Then, and only then, will you regain your freedom."

"But they have a Supreme, don't they? And I am only one Saint," Sion countered. "I can't fight over a hundred Saints at once."

Although the Black Coffin didn't have a face, for a brief moment, Sion thought that he saw a smile appear on Blackfire's lid.

"Who said that you needed to fight all of them at the same time?" Blackfire's innocent voice reached Sion's ears. "It doesn't matter what means we use, whether good or foul. One by one, we will hunt them down, until their numbers dwindle.

"Worry not, for you are not alone. Others will move alongside you, and they will help you accomplish this goal."

From behind Blackfire, dozens of Souls appeared.

He recognized his subordinates among them and even saw the souls of two Saints, which were bound by countless chains.

As he raised his head to look upwards, he saw a beautiful elf lady, whose beauty took his breath away.

She was sitting on a golden throne, with her head resting on the palm of her hand.

A single glance was enough to tell Sion that the Elf Beauty was asleep, and yet, he had a feeling that the moment her beautiful eyes opened, the world would tremble in fear for what was about to come.

"That's right," Blackfire's devilish words once again reached Sion's ears. "You are not alone. Many others will help you accomplish this goal. And then, when you have done what I expect of you, I will give you a choice."

"The first choice is for you to remain my Master's subordinate and continue to serve him."

"The second one is to regain your freedom, and have complete control of your Fate once again."

The Black Coffin slowly backed away and closed its lid, making all the silhouettes behind it disappear.

"I look forward to the Juggernaut of Agartha's rampage in the Surface World," Blackfire stated. "I know that Agartha is quite peaceful, and you feel like you don't belong in this kingdom. Fortunately, the Surface World is vast and conflicts are everywhere. I'm sure that you will be able to put your talents to good use. For now, just recover. Soon, we will be needing your services."

A sigh escaped Sion's lips as his recollection of his meeting with Blackfire ended.

The Black Coffin had promised him his freedom after the threat of the Divine Army of Light was gone.

Sion didn't know why, but for some reason, the prospect of going all out to fight against Saints in the Surface World intrigued him.

Just like the Black Coffin had stated, Agartha was too peaceful.

He found his current lifestyle dull and monotonous.

No one dared to challenge him because of his power.

No one dared to confront him because they were afraid of his retaliation.

His battle with Gaap's subordinates made him understand that he had lost his touch. Due to the many years of not fighting against people of the same rank as him, his battle sense had rusted and his performance had many flaws.

"Although I know that you are just using me, I'll play along with you for now," Sion muttered as he slowly opened his eyes. "Divine Army of Light, huh? Wait for me."

Sion raised his fist high up and clenched it tightly.

"I'll make sure that the Surface World understands that no one below the Supreme Rank is a match against me," Sion declared.

Somewhere, in a place that the Saint of Agartha couldn't see, a certain Black Coffin hovered in the air.

"Little Oracle of Light, please wait and see," the Black Coffin said softly. "Very soon, you will belong to me."

After saying those ominous words, the Black Coffin disappeared and returned to its Master's side...

Waiting for the moment when it found new victims to devour to increase its Master's army until it reached a hundred thousand strong.

Chapter 865.1: A Wandering Calamity [Part 1]

"Thank you for your services. You can rest for now," the Oracle of the Divine Army of Light said to one of her subordinates who was kneeling in front of her.

"Yes, Your Excellency!" the messenger replied before leaving the room.

Once she was finally alone, a sigh escaped the Oracle's lips. She turned her head, looking at the scenery outside of her window.

"Who would have thought that our mighty Empire, which has stood for hundreds of years, would suffer great damage due to a natural disaster?" the Oracle shook her head helplessly.

After that great earthquake that spread from the center of Elysium, many kingdoms that belonged to the Divine Army of Light suffered serious damage.

Although the number of injured people was countless, the silver lining was that the response of the Rankers and Saints was fast, and they were able to rescue those who would have otherwise died without anyone's help.

Their Divine Sovereign, as well as their Divine Ancestor, had also reacted quickly enough, activating the city's defenses that protected their people in time.

Without them, the Capital City of their Empire would have crumbled, and countless people would have lost their lives.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, the casualties were kept to a bare minimum.

Still, the Oracle wondered why she didn't receive a premonition about the natural disaster.

Usually, she would be able to perceive these things before they happened. However, this time, she didn't have any warning whatsoever, catching all of them unprepared.

'Things haven't been going our way since that Heretic appeared.' The Oracle of Light clicked her tongue as she thought of the Half-Elf, who had been able to escape their pursuit time and time again.

In each of their operations, their members suffered injuries, and some even died. Because of this, she was determined to make their third attempt succeed at all costs.

"One day, your luck will run out, boy," the Oracle of Divine Army of Light muttered. 'Wash your neck until then.'

Kingdom of Agartha...

"The moment you meet her, your luck will run out, boy," Cleo said with a smile. "Bad luck will follow you wherever you go. Are you sure you want to meet up with the Misfortune's Beloved?"

"You've asked this question many times already, Miss Cleo," Lux replied. "If I didn't want to meet her, I would have backed down long ago."

After traveling for a few days, they were nearing one of the border outposts of Agartha, which they needed to pass through to get to the Pantheon of Exile.

Eiko, who was taking a nap on Lux's head, suddenly opened her eyes and looked outside the window of the carriage.

"What's wrong, Eiko?" Lux asked as he lightly patted the Baby Slime's head. "You can sleep a bit more, you know?"

Eiko didn't answer right away and instead narrowed her eyes as she looked in the distance.

A moment later, Cleo and Gaap felt something, which made them also look in the direction Lux was looking.

"Something's coming," Cleo said in a solemn tone. "Do you feel it, Gaap?"

Gaap nodded. "Something strong."

Lux, who didn't feel anything earlier, opened his Soul Book and checked the map inside it.

As soon as he opened the map, he saw a very big blinking dot heading in their direction from the West.

The Half-Elf was very good at accurately estimating the strength of any creature that appeared on the Map of his Soul Book.

However, this was the first time he was seeing a blinking dot this big, surpassing even the size of Empyrean Ranked Creatures.

'A Calamity Ranked Creature?' Lux's face turned grim after seeing the size of the blinking dot on the map. 'This could also be a Demi-Human. But why is it heading our way?'

Lux was certain that the blinking dot didn't belong to a human. Since that was the case, it could only be a Beast or a Demi-Human that possessed a very strong Life Force.

But there was one thing that surprised Lux the most.

The color of the blinking dot changed nearly every second.

One second it was Red, which meant that it was hostile.

The next second it was Yellow, which signified that it was a neutral creature.

In short, Lux didn't know if the creature was hostile or not, but one thing was certain.

It was coming for them.

"We can't outrun it," Cleo stated. "Let's get out and see if we can fight it. If not, let's just escape with all our might."

Lux and Gaap nodded.

With the three of them together, it was highly possible that they would be able to fight anything that came after them.

After unsummoning her carriage, Cleo raised her hand and summoned a bow.

Lux was also holding the Spear of Longinus, ready to strike if the creature was hostile.

Gaap simply stood with his hands behind his back. However, the Black Knight, Baal, was already standing beside him.

"Pa!" Eiko suddenly spoke, making Lux nod his head.

"I see it as well, Eiko," Lux replied. "It's big."

In the distance, something that seemed to be around ten meters tall was headed toward them at a very fast speed.

Lux had already tried to use his appraisal skill on it, but the majority of the information that he saw was a bunch of question marks, proving that the creature was several times stronger than him.

Even so, he still managed to get two pieces of information with his appraisal skill. The first one was the name of the Monster.

The second was its Rank.

< Wicked Queen Slime >

Monster Rating: Calamity Rank Monster (Peak)

Health: ??????????????????/ ??????????????????

Mana: ?????????????????? / ??????????????????

Strength: ??????????????????

Intelligence: ??????????????????

Vitality: ??????????????????

Agility: ??????????????????

Dexterity: ??????????????????

Both pieces of information surprised Lux, making him feel as if he was about to face the Last Boss Monster in a game.

The only thing missing was the background music, which would immediately start to play when such an encounter happened.

Eiko, on the other hand, looked more curious rather than afraid of the approaching Creature.

Five minutes later, a ten-meter tall, blackish-purple slime stopped several meters away from them.

Its gaze locked on the Baby Slime on top of Lux's head for a few seconds before it shifted its attention to the Half-Elf, who was looking back at it.

"I-It can't be..." Cleo's lips trembled after she recognized the Monster in front of them. "W-Wicked Queen Slime! What are you doing here?! This isn't part of your territory!"

The Wicked Queen Slime narrowed its gaze as it looked at the Saintess, making Cleo subconsciously take a step back.

This monster was the Calamity-Ranked Monster that their King didn't dare to fight head-on, in fear that he wouldn't be able to annihilate it completely.

"Shut up, child," the Wicked Queen Slime said in a cold voice oozing with killing intent. "If you don't want to die, you better seal your mouth."

Cleo gritted her teeth as she stared at the Monster before her. She didn't dare defy its orders for she knew that, if she did, she would definitely die without a doubt.

'We haven't even met Princess Aurora and our Bad Luck is already starting,' Cleo thought bitterly. 'Just how did we end up in this mess?'

However, just as the Saintess was at a loss for what to do, an innocent voice spoke up, which caught the Wicked Queen Slime's attention.

"Aunt?" Eiko asked in an uncertain tone.

The Wicked Queen Slime then started to laugh as if finding what the Baby Slime had called her Aunt to be amusing.

Its laughter reverberated in the surroundings, even causing the ground under their feet to tremble.

Such was the power of a Calamity-Ranked Monster, which could only be defeated by dozens of Saints working together.

Eiko, who found the Wicked Queen Slime's laughter amusing, also started to giggle.

Cleo, who was witnessing this firsthand, looked at the Baby Slime perched on Lux's head and almost screamed internally.

The Wicked Queen Slime was a creature that rarely showed mercy to anyone. If someone was to ridicule it, or even laugh at it, that person would die a very gruesome and painful death.

No one in Agartha dared to do so.

But right now, a Baby Slime was innocently giggling at the Monster in front of her.

A Monster that could easily erase the three of them, if they were to get on its bad side.

Chapter 866.2: A Wandering Calamity [Part 2]

"In my entire lifetime, this is the first time someone referred to me as 'Aunt,'" the Wicked Queen Slime stated. "But, I'll let this one pass because you are still a baby. "What's your name, little one?"

"Eiko!" Eiko replied with a smile.

"Eiko? A decent name." the Wicked Queen Slime nodded. "Did this Half-Elf give you that name?"

"Yes!" Eiko nodded. "Papa!"

"Papa?"

"Un!"

The Calamity-Ranked Monster then shifted her gaze to Lux, which made the Half-Elf shudder.

"I can tell that this Slime is bound to you," the Wicked Queen Slime said. "What is your name, Half-Elf?"

"Lux," Lux replied.

The Calamity-Ranked Monster then gave the red-headed teenager an appraising gaze, scanning him from head to toe.

"I thought I was just imagining things when I sensed the presence of a Royal Slime from hundreds of miles away." The Wicked Queen Slime smirked. "I thought that she was being held captive by Agarthians, so I decided to come to her rescue. I was also planning to kill the fools who had captured her... but, seeing her like this, it's pretty obvious that she's not being enslaved by anyone."

The ten-meter-tall slime then started to shrink at a rapid pace and then transformed into a beautiful mature woman with jet-black hair and purple eyes.

A black crown faintly glittered on top of her head, making her look like one of the Evil Queens in one of the Fairy Tale stories that were popular back on Earth.

"Since you have already introduced yourselves, it is now my turn to return the gesture," the beautiful woman stated. "The Agarthians call me the Wandering Calamity or Wicked Queen Slime. However, you may call me by the name Lilian."

"Aunt Lilian!" Eiko shouted.

"Good girl." Lilian nodded her head in satisfaction. "Well then, Lux, I'll keep this short and simple. I will be taking Eiko with me. What do you want as compensation?"

"Sorry, but I won't be handing Eiko to you," Lux replied. "She's my daughter and my Beast Companion. She's not an object for sale."

"L-Lux!" Cleo, who had been silent since earlier hurriedly tugged on the Half-Elf's robes. "I know that Eiko is special to you, but in this kind of situation, it would be best if you just agree to her demand."

"Oh? It seems that someone here understands the situation." Lilian smiled. "Very well, I will turn a blind eye to you defying my orders to keep silent. You should listen to this Saintess while I'm still being cordial with you. You won't like it when I stop being civil."

"My answer will not change," Lux replied. "You will not take Eiko away from me."

Eiko, who seemed to have realized what was going on, was no longer giggling and even glared at Lilian for trying to take her away from her Papa.

"Bad Aunt!" Eiko shouted. "Bad! Bad!"

"Eiko, Darling, I'm just doing this for your own good," Lilian said. "You will have a better life with me than this Half-Elf. Also, he still hasn't awakened your bloodline power, which is the first step to becoming a truly powerful monster."

"No!" Eiko shouted. "Bad Aunt! I love Papa!"

A sigh escaped Lilian's lips as she put her hand on her forehead, looking very troubled.

"I tried to settle this peacefully, but it seems that peace was never an option," Liliana stated in a disappointed tone. "Since that is the case, I guess I will have no choice but to use force."

As soon as she finished her words, she released a very powerful killing intent that descended on Lux's and Cleo's bodies like a mountain, rendering the two incapable of moving due to how strong the pressure was.

Eiko was the only one exempted from the overwhelming pressure because Lilian didn't want to hurt her by accident.

"Pa!" Eiko shouted worriedly.

"I'm fine, Eiko," Lux replied as he forced himself to keep standing. "This is nothing."

Lilian, who saw the Half-Elf resisting her killing intent, smirked.

"Hoh~ not bad for a D-Ranker," Lilian commented. "But can you handle this?"

Lilian was about to increase the strength of her killing intent to make Lux and Cleo kneel.

But before she could even do that, the Halfling, whom she wasn't paying much attention to earlier, lightly cleared his throat, dispelling the pressure that she was emitting.

"Can you not bully children?" Gaap asked in an annoyed tone. "If you want to use force to have your way, then so be it. You're not the only one who can call the shots here."

As if waiting for that cue, a gigantic head materialized above Gaap, and Antero's crazy chuckle reverberated in the surroundings.

"Queen Slime," Antero said after chuckling. "Squishy Slime."

This time, it was Lilian's turn to feel pressured. Her Bestial Instincts were telling her to run away because the creature in front of her could potentially threaten her life.

What Gaap was doing was only Partial Manifestation of Antero, so it didn't drain much of his life force.

Also, he only made the Golem's head appear, so it didn't become too much of a burden for him.

A tension-filled silence descended upon the surroundings as a hushed standoff between the Wicked Queen Slime and Antero commenced.

This continued for a few minutes until Gaap spoke up, making Lilian shift her attention to him.

"You said earlier that Eiko's bloodline power still hadn't awakened, right?" Gaap asked. "Then do you know how to awaken it?"

"Of course," Lilian replied. "However, I will only do it if Eiko comes with me."

"But that won't happen," Gaap stated. "As you can see, she will not abandon Lux, and Lux will not abandon her. Forcing them apart will just lead to conflict. So, let's do it this way. You can just treat this meeting as if it never happened and we'll be on our way, or you can awaken Eiko's Bloodline Power and let her stay with my Disciple here."

Gaap made sure to highlight the word "Disciple" to make Lilian understand that he was Lux's Master.

This was the Halfling's way of telling her that if she did anything malicious to the Half-Elf, he would not hesitate to attack her until one of them died.

Lilian then shifted her attention to Antero's head before looking at Eiko, who was glaring at her.

Seeing that the Baby Slime seemed to hate her right now, she decided to back off for the time being until the Fairy Princess cooled off.

Without another word, Lilian turned around and disappeared from everyone's view.

Cleo was only able to breathe a sigh of relief when she felt that the Wicked Queen Slime had really left them.

However, Lux didn't share her relief.

His Soul Book was still floating beside him, and the map in it was still active.

Because of this, the Half-Elf was able to see the blinking red dot at the very corner of the map.

This time, it no longer switched to yellow.

Instead, it was blinking in a very deep shade of red, showing great hostility.

The Half-Elf was certain that, now that Lilian had seen Eiko for herself, she wouldn't stop until she got hold of the Baby Slime, whom she deemed to be a special existence just like her.

Chapter 867: Arriving At The Atlas Stronghold

Just an hour before sunset, Cleo's carriage finally arrived at the Atlas Stronghold.

Lux, who was paying close attention to his Soul Book, sighed internally.

'She's still following us,' Lux thought. 'What a persistent Calamity.'

The Wicked Queen Slime, Lilian, still hadn't given up on Eiko and was stalking them from a distance. This had caused much stress not only to the Half-Elf, but also to the Saintess. Both of them felt very wary of Lilian's strength and tenacity.

However, they temporarily cast this problem aside when they reached their destination, the last hurdle they had to pass through before reaching the Pantheon of Exile.

The moment Lux and Gaap disembarked from the carriage, they were briefed about where the Pantheon of Exile was located.

"Do you see that red pillar of light on the horizon?" Cleo pointed in the distance. "That is where the Pantheon of Exile is located."

Lux and Gaap could see it clearly even with the fading light of the sun. It was like a beacon, shining in the distance as if making sure that everyone was aware of its existence.

The only thing that was blocking their way was a vast, bubbling, purple sea, which Cleo insisted had claimed countless lives in the past.

"So, how do we cross it?" Lux asked as he looked to where the pillar of light was shining.

"We can't," Cleo replied.

"Excuse me?" Lux glanced at the Saintess with a confused look on his face. "What do you mean we can't?"

"Just like I said, we can't," Cleo stated. "No one except a Supreme can fly over this sea because there is an enchantment placed on it preventing anyone aside from a Supreme from flying over it.

"Anyone who tries will find themselves falling face first in that highly acidic water that can melt metals like ice in boiling water. This is the Pantheon of Exile we are talking about. Once you enter it, you will never be able to leave it. Also, those who try to reach it never came back alive."

A frown then appeared on Lux's face. He had just used the Elysium Compendium to gain information about the Purple Sea of Death, and it was just as Cleo had said.

According to the Compendium, unless someone is completely immune to acid, they would not be able to swim through the waters, let alone reach the Pantheon of Exile.

"It's getting late, and that Wicked Queen Slime is still out there," Cleo said softly. "Why don't we stay in the Stronghold first and rest for the night? You can leave this place tomorrow and return to the Capital if you like."

"Return?" Lux asked. "Why should we return?"

"Because no matter what you do, you will not be able to cross that sea," Cleo answered. "Also, there are Sea Monsters who are immune to acid that live there. All of them are Deimos-Ranked and above. Aside from them, there are also Wraiths patrolling the sky above the sea. Many believe that these were the spirits of those who have died in their attempt to cross these waters."

The frown on Lux's face deepened as he listened to Cleo's words.

"So, you brought us here to feel helpless, is that it?" Gaap asked with a smile. "You want Lux to see this sea and hope that he will give up on seeing Aurora, right?"

"I would be lying if I said no." Cleo nodded. "I want Lux to see that his goal to reach the Pantheon of Exile was impossible from the start. Unless you are a Supreme, you can't fly over those waters. That place is where the most dangerous creatures and individuals, who can threaten the stability of Agartha, are kept.

"Even if they manage to escape the Pantheon of Exile, they will not be able to cross this sea alive, leaving them with no other option but to stay on that island forever."

Lux pondered for a bit and was about to experiment when he felt someone tug on his robes.

"Let's rest for the night," Gaap said. "I know that you are feeling impatient, but we have had a long journey. We need to get some proper rest before you attempt to cross that sea. Not to mention, Lilian is still out there somewhere. She might even attack us while you are conducting experiments, so it is best to recuperate a bit in order to regain our spirits."

Lux sighed as he glanced at the pillar of light rising from the horizon. He had been feeling on edge as of late because of Lilian's stalking. He was certain that now that their negotiations had ended, the Wicked Queen Slime might resort to violence in order to capture Eiko.

Although he wasn't too worried since his Master was there, he still felt that it was his responsibility to protect the Baby Slime from harm.

Because of this, he reluctantly nodded his head and agreed to rest for the time being and conduct his experiments to cross the sea when morning came.

A few minutes later, they entered the Gates of the Stronghold, and they were welcomed by the Commander, who was tasked to ensure that if and when something could cross the Purple Sea of Death, they would warn the Capital City at once and inform their King of such an event.

Commander Garen, who was the top dog of the Stronghold of Atlas, welcomed Cleo politely.

Similar to the Saintess, the commander was also a Saint. He was stationed in the Stronghold to act as its Guardian, just in case something powerful was to emerge from the sea and invade Agartha.

"This is His Majesty's Decree," Cleo stated as he handed the scroll to the Commander. "Please read it. This is the reason for our visit."

Commander Garen nodded and opened the scroll. A moment later, a scowl appeared on his face before he glanced at Lux and Gaap, who were standing behind the Saintess.

"Madness." Commander Garen scoffed. "They want to see THAT girl and even set her free? By the Gods, are all of you Highlanders insane? Our King also agreed to this farce?"

"Watch your words, Commander." Cleo frowned. "Our King has given his decree. We only came here to let you know why we are here."

Commander Garen rolled up the scroll and returned it to the Saintess. However, his next words made the frown on Cleo's face deepen.

"I don't mind providing food and shelter to you, Cleo," Commander Garen said. "But my Stronghold doesn't have a place for these Highlanders who are courting death. If they really want to, they can camp outside our walls. There is plenty of space there."

"Commander..." Cleo was about to say something, but Garen raised his hand to stop her.

"I am the Commanding Officer of this stronghold," Garen declared. "I have read the King's Decree, and I will tolerate their presence here. But that doesn't mean I am obligated to shelter them. They can stay if they want, but only outside the walls of this Fortress. As to how they will cross the Purple Sea of Death, I'd like to see them try."

Commander Garen sneered at the two Highlanders, who looked back at him as if they were looking at someone dumb.

However, in order to prevent any more possible conflicts, Lux and Gaap left the stronghold and decided to camp outside.

Eiko looked at the Commander and stuck out her tongue in his direction. Clearly, she didn't like people who looked down on her Papa.

Cleo gritted her teeth and followed the Half-Elf and Halfling, but not before glaring at Commander Garren.

The Commander of the Stronghold of Atlas only shrugged as if he couldn't be bothered by childish tantrums.

No one could cross the Purple Sea of Death unless they were a Supreme. Only death would follow those who were stupid enough to ignore their warnings.

Chapter 868: We Need To Talk

This wasn't the first time that Lux and Gaap had camped outside, so they already had the necessary items to do so.

Lux had obtained one of the tents from the Rowan Tribe that was compressed into a storage ball.

All he needed to do was throw the ball on the ground, and it would activate, constructing itself without too much effort.

The tent was very spacious and was the size of a house. Clearly, Cai made sure that her fiance only had the best, so the tent she gave Lux could house a dozen people comfortably.

Even Cleo was pleasantly surprised when she entered the tent and immediately fell in love with it. There was already furniture inside it, including several beds that were very comfortable to lie on.

Lux took the initiative to prepare their dinner, while Cleo and Gaap sat on the couch, making themselves feel at home.

An hour later, they all finished eating and decided to talk about their plans for the night.

"Who will be on watch duty?" Cleo asked after they had eaten dinner. "That Wicked Queen Slime is still out there, and I don't want to take chances."

"You don't have to worry about that," Gaap replied. "My subordinates will handle the watch duty. Just get your beauty sleep."

If it were in the past, Cleo wouldn't have believed Gaap's words and would just think that the Halfling was spouting nonsense. However, after the battle in El Hazard, the Saintess no longer looked down on the Halfling due to his low Rank.

"I'll take you up on that offer then," Cleo said before going into one of the "rooms" inside the tent that she had claimed as her temporary lodging.

When only Lux and Gaap remained, the Halfling smiled before taking out a pipe to start smoking.

"You should rest as well, Lux," Gaap stated. "You will not be able to think of ways to cross this sea in your current state. I know you've been on edge due to Lilian following us, but rest assured, as long as I am here, she will not be able to lay her hands on Eiko."

"Pa!" Eiko nodded as if to support Gaap's words.

Although she didn't hate Lilian, the thought of being separated from her Papa made her feel upset.

"Understood, Master." Lux nodded. "I will rest for now. Thank you."

"You're welcome," Gaap replied. "I'll handle the rest."

Lux then went into one of the rooms to sleep, leaving the Halfling alone. Truth be told, he had already thought of a few ways to cross the Purple Sea of Death.

It was just that he still needed to conduct experiments to check whether his ideas would work. However, since Gaap insisted that he rested, he decided to follow his Master's advice and sleep for the night.

Gaap then stepped outside of the tent and looked at the beautiful lady who was standing hundreds of meters away from them.

Even without light, the Halfling could feel Lilian's strong life energy, which was like a beacon of light in the dark night.

"We need to talk," Gaap said before blowing white circles with his pipe. "You won't make any progress if you use force. You can try, but Eiko will only resent you. Is that what you want?"

Lilian didn't answer right away and instead looked at the red pillar of light in the distance.

"The Pantheon of Exile." Lilian narrowed her eyes. "So you and your disciple plan to cross this Sea?"

"That's the plan," Gaap replied. "Are you one of the Pantheon's former residents?"

Lilian smiled sweetly before glancing at the Halfling, who was still smoking his pipe.

"That place couldn't possibly hold me for long," Lilian stated. "Getting in and out of that place is mere child's play. How about I help you guys cross the sea and, in exchange, you give me Eiko? This is a win-win situation, and it sounds like a fair trade to me."

"Give it up, Lilian," Gaap commented. "Lux will not part with Eiko, and Eiko will not part with her Papa. How about I give you an offer instead?"

"An offer?" Lilian arched an eyebrow. "You want to reach a compromise with me?"

Gaap nodded. "Something like that. This might also be a good thing for you."

"Oh?" the smile on Lilian's face widened after hearing Gaap's words. "Start talking, Halfling. We'll see whether your proposal piques my interest or not."

The next day...

Lux did some light stretches while facing the sea.

The guards that were stationed on the walls of the Stronghold were looking at him with great interest.

Although it was not rare for them to see visitors coming to the Atlas Stronghold, seeing a Highlander in the flesh was something they didn't experience often.

If it weren't for their duties, they might have approached Lux and asked the Half-Elf to shake their hands.

Highlanders only existed in Myths and Legends, and although they knew that they were real, seeing one was not something they expected to experience in their lifetime.

"Eiko, are you ready?" Lux asked the Baby Slime on his head.

"Ei!" Eiko jumped in place, as if telling her Papa that she was ready to start their experiment.

"Okay, you do it first." Lux crossed his arms over his chest.

"Pa!" Eiko jumped off Lux's head and crawled closer to the beach.

When the Baby Slime was only a few meters away from the receding waves, she shouted, and a magic circle appeared in front of her.

"Come!" Eiko ordered.

A moment later, an Argonaut-Ranked Diabolical Acid Slime World Boss appeared.

This was the same Slime that Eiko had summoned back in the Gladiator's Tournament. Lux thought that Eiko's slime might be one of the keys to allow them to cross the Purple Sea of Death.

"Go!" Eiko ordered.

The Diabolical Acid Slime nodded its head and crawled towards the Purple Waters.

A moment later, it began to swim in it, looking perfectly fine.

Cleo, who was watching this from a distance, looked at the World Boss Monster with wide eyes.

"I forgot that she can summon one of those," Cleo muttered.

Originally, she thought that Lux would give up if his experiments bore no fruit. However, she was able to regain her calm after a few minutes. The sea's acidity was just one of the many hurdles that would block their path.

Although the Argonaut-Ranked Diabolical Slime could indeed swim in the highly acidic waters, there were still powerful Monsters and Wraiths in the sea.

If they were to face a Dreadnaught or Empyrean Ranked Monster while riding on the Diabolical Acid Slime, their chances of survival would decrease drastically.

Just as the Saintess was thinking that riding on the Diabolical Acid Slime wouldn't be good enough, Lux also walked towards the beach and raised his hand.

"Come," Lux ordered. "Deus Gigantia!"

A moment later, a gigantic Skeleton King appeared and walked towards the sea with steady steps.

Lux eyed the Skeleton King's body as it waded through the waters.

Seeing that the Acid couldn't melt its bones, an idea came into his head.

He then relayed his orders to the Skeleton King, and the latter continued to walk through the sea until its body slowly submerged little by little.

"It's quite deep," Lux commented.

The Skeleton King was over a hundred meters tall, yet its entire body had fully submerged under the acidic waters.

Even so, Lux wasn't worried because his experiment was still underway. As long as he confirmed that his hypothesis was correct, crossing the Purple Sea of Death wouldn't pose too much of a problem.

Not a problem even if the sea was infested with Sea Monsters and Wraiths, who were all Deimos-Ranked Monsters and above.

"Wait for me, Aurora," Lux muttered. "I'll be there soon."

Chapter 869: Danger That Lurked Within The Depths

Lux sat cross-legged with his eyes closed, facing the Purple Sea of Death.

Right now, he was connected with the Skeleton King, who was walking along the bottom of the sea.

Swimming around him were several monsters that were Rank 5 and below, most of which resembled underwater eels.

There was even a Deimos-Ranked Crab, which was nearly ten meters tall. It hurriedly scurried away when the Skeleton King walked in its direction.

The Skeleton King could sense the presence of other strong monsters that were Dreadnaught Rank and below in his surroundings, but he paid them no mind.

These strong creatures were not interested in the Giant Skeleton King because it was only made up of bones, and there was no flesh for them to eat.

Lux appraised these creatures through his connection with Deus Gigantia and took note of their features.

He had already expected that the Purple Sea of Death was deep, but he didn't know how deep it was.

A thousand meters...

Two thousand meters...

Three thousand meters...

Four Thousand meters...

Five thousand meters...

The Skeleton King then stumbled upon what seemed like a bottomless cliff. He stopped completely in front of it. These cliffs extended sideways, creating a natural barrier that prevented the Skeleton King from moving forward.

Left with no choice, the Giant Skeleton extended his senses downwards to check if there was something in the darkness below.

After several minutes passed, he detected a few things which he relayed to his Master, Lux.

"I knew it," Lux muttered. "Asmodeus, come."

The Lich King appeared beside the Half-Elf and waited for his order.

Lux told Asmodeus about his plan, and the Lich King nodded his head in understanding.

"Very well, I'll see to it that it is done to perfection," Asmodeus commented before teleporting to where the Skeleton King was currently located.

After the Skeleton King had been submerged in the highly acidic sea for a long time, he had confirmed that it had no effect on his Skeletal Body. However, in order to further test this theory, they needed to send one of Lux's Named Creatures, who was also an Undead Monster.

Among them, it was only Asmodeus who had a full body completely made up of bones.

Because of this, Lux felt that it was better if he sent the Lich King, rather than Diablo or Ishtar, who were starting to regain some flesh on their bodies after their evolution, making them look like Humans who had very pale complexions.

When Asmodeus arrived under the sea, he paid close attention to his arms, and legs to see if some of his body parts were melting. After staying there for five minutes, he confirmed that he was unaffected by the acid in the water.

"Well then, time to work," Asmodeus pressed his hands together as he looked down towards the bottom of the cliff that seemed bottomless.

"Skeleton Make... Ship!"

At first, nothing happened. However, a few seconds later, loud rumbling sounds reverberated from below the cliff in front of him.

Bubbles started to rise up to the surface as countless bones emerged from the darkness.

These were the bones of the Sea Creatures that had long died under the sea, and Lux intended to use them to build a ship that would help them cross it.

After several minutes, a ship made up of bones was formed which slowly rose towards the surface.

Lux, who was still connected with the Giant Skeleton King, appraised it in order to see whether or not it was capable of taking them to their destination.

< Ghost Ship Octavius >

Rating: Mythical

A ship that was formed from the bones of the Sea Creatures that had long died in the Purple Sea of Death. Although it is made up of bones, it is as hard as Orichalcum and can withstand the powerful attacks of Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters and below.

It is unaffected by the highly acidic water of the Purple Sea of Death, making it an ideal ship to sail through this deadly sea that has claimed countless lives.

After seeing the information, Lux nodded his head in satisfaction and commanded Asmodeus and the Giant Skeleton King to return to shore.

Now that they had secured a ship, they could travel to the Pantheon of Exile without any worries.

As for the Sea Monsters and the Wraiths that would stand in their way, Lux wasn't too worried about them.

On the contrary, he was even looking forward to fighting them and experiencing for himself how strong they really were.

Cleo, who was wondering if Lux had given up, was currently standing a few meters behind him with her arms crossed over her chest.

Several minutes later, a frown appeared on her face when she saw something white moving in their direction from the sea.

It was not only the Saintess who saw this but also the people stationed on the ramparts of the Atlas Stronghold.

Their duty was to repel any threat that would be coming from the sea, and they would not allow anything to get past their defenses.

"A ship made up of bones?" the Guard Captain muttered after looking through his telescope. A moment later, he raised his hand and called his Aide. "Report to the Commander that an unknown ship is heading our way!"

"Yes, Sir!" The Aide was about to leave when he heard Lux's voice from below the ramparts.

"There's nothing to worry about," Lux said, making sure to say it loudly so that everyone could hear him. "That ship belongs to me."

As if to assure everyone of his words, the head of the Giant Skeleton King emerged from the waters as he started to walk towards the shore.

Commander Garen, who noticed the commotion on the Ramparts, appeared and narrowed his eyes.

After seeing the Giant Skeleton King, as well as the Bone Ship, he frowned, but he didn't move from his spot.

He had seen many people try to cross the Purple Sea of Death with their own ships, but all of them sank not long after leaving the shore.

"Captain, should we inform His Majesty?" the Guard Captain asked.

"Wait for my orders," Commander Garen replied.

He had contacted King Septimius not long ago and informed him of Lux's arrival at the Atlas Stronghold.

The King of Agartha then ordered Commander Garen to report to him if the Half-Elf managed to find a way to cross the Purple Sea of Death or died in the attempt.

Right now, the Commander didn't know if the ship was strong enough to sail the deadly waters.

A part of him was hoping that it would sink mid-way through their journey, making the Half-Elf regret his decision to go to the Pantheon of Exile.

However, the latter half was quite curious if Lux would be able to reach his destination.

As far as they were concerned, only the Kings of Agartha were able to fly over the Purple Sea of Death, carrying those whom he deemed worthy of exile.

Countless people had tried to cross the sea, but none of them had succeeded.

After being stationed in the Atlas Stronghold for several years, Commander Garen had grown numb to the scenery around him.

Because of this, he was hoping that he would find some kind of entertainment in watching the Half-Elf cross the Purple Sea of Death, and face the monsters that lurked within its depths.

Chapter 870: Set A Course Towards The Pantheon Of Exile

"Are you sure that ship is safe to ride?" Cleo looked at the Ghost Ship Octavius anxiously.

"We'll know if we ride it," Lux replied.

"W-Wait?! You're not sure?!"

"Don't worry. It will not sink... I guess."

Cleo was very tempted to kick the Half-Elf and send him flying towards the sea for casually speaking about something so serious.

Even a Saint would not survive for long after falling into the Purple Sea of Death, unless they had hundreds of life-saving artifacts with them that would hold on to their life until they were able to return to the shore.

Seeing how worried Cleo was, the Half-Elf decided to give her a choice.

"You don't have to come with us, Miss Cleo," Lux said. "You can just wait until we return."

"And if you don't return?" Cleo asked.

"We will return," Lux stated.

Seeing the confidence in Lux's words, Cleo felt as if the Half-Elf was certain that the Bone Ship would take him to the Pantheon of Exile and back.

After pondering for several minutes, the Saintess sighed internally as she told Lux her decision.

"I'm sorry, but I will not be able to accompany you to the Pantheon of Exile," Cleo stated. "I will just wait for you here."

Lux nodded his head in understanding and didn't force the Saintess to join them on their journey.

In fact, the Half-Elf thought that this was for the better. He and his Master, Gaap, had many secrets, and, as much as possible, they didn't want others to know about them.

"Well then, see you when we return," Lux said. "Wait for us, okay?"

"I will wait for a month," Cleo replied. "If you're not back by then, I will assume that you are dead and inform his Majesty about your tragic end."

Lux smiled and bid the Saintess goodbye.

He was very thankful for Cleo's company because she had guided them as far as the Atlas Stronghold. The Half-Elf could also tell that the Saintess was genuinely concerned for his safety, so he didn't think badly of her when she decided to stay behind.

The Giant Skeleton King picked up Lux and Gaap and gently placed them on the Bone Ship.

As soon as they were on the ship's deck, Eiko jumped off Lux's head and teleported to the steering wheel. The Baby Slime then sat on top of it and raised her head with a smile.

"Yar!" Eiko shouted before giggling.

She had remembered the time when she was with Captain Jack Spawow and was tasked to navigate the ship as they pursued the kidnapped Princess through the high seas.

Seeing how peppy the Baby Slime was, Lux decided to let her have her fun and even played along.

The Half-Elf summoned his Skeleton Gangbangers and ordered them around.

"Raise the Anchor! Unfurl the Sails!" Lux ordered and the Skeleton Gangbangers scrambled to do as they were told.

Eiko looked at all of this with sparkling eyes and even jumped up and down on the steering wheel as if cheering for everyone to do their best.

"Captain Eiko, set a course," Lux smiled as he pointed at the shining red pillar in the distance. "Towards the Pantheon of Exile!"

"Aye!" Eiko replied before jumping on the steering wheel to make the ship turn around.

Since it was a ghost ship, it didn't need any wind to push it through the waters. Still, when The Octavius was made, it came with sails as an added aesthetic.

The ship started to gain speed as it left the shore. Cleo watched it shrink into the distance with a calm expression on her face. She really wanted to go with them, but the fear of the unknown stopped her as she didn't want to take the risk.

Even so, that didn't stop her from making a simple prayer, asking for Lux's, Eiko's, and Gaap's safety on their journey toward their destination.

"May Lady Cybele watch over all of you," Cleo said as she pressed her palms together. "Don't die, Lux."

Commander Garen looked at the bone ship that was getting smaller and smaller in the distance with his arms crossed over his chest.

Only when the ship was but a minuscule black speck on the horizon did he return to his office to report the most recent development to his King.

On the Deck of the Bone Ship Octavius...

Eiko hummed as she sat on the steering wheel, feeling the wind blow past her.

Her Papa had assigned her as the Captain of the Ship, and she took this post very seriously. She even summoned her Terrorist Squad to act as support, just in case they were suddenly attacked out of the blue.

Lux and Gaap, on the other hand, were also busy monitoring their surroundings for possible attacks from above and below the sea.

According to Cleo, there were Underwater Monsters that were Emphyrean Ranked and below in the Purple Sea of Death.

Not only that, but there were also Sea Wraiths that were said to be very aggressive and would attack once they sensed any living creature in their territory.

When the Half-Elf summoned his Soul Book, countless red blinking dots had appeared on his map. Even so, most of them were very small, which meant that they weren't much of a threat to them.

Just to be sure, he had ordered Asmodeus, who had created clones of himself, to travel underwater to serve as a scout.

The Lich King's task was to handle the small fries that dared to attack their ship and hinder their journey.

Because of this, several underwater explosions, which sent bubbles rising on the surface, could be seen all around the ship.

"Animate Undead!" Asmodeus raised his hand, and the Rank 5 Monsters that he had killed all came back to life as Undead Zombies.

He then ordered them to serve as Advance Scouts, which would warn him if stronger monsters appeared along the way.

Although The Octavius was a very sturdy ship, Lux knew that if it faced powerful Sea Monsters that were of the Empyrean Rank, the possibility of it being damaged was high.

Because of this, he and his Master, Gaap, both agreed that they would fight it with long-range attacks before it could even come close enough to damage their ship.

Back on the shore, a beautiful woman with black hair and purple eyes walked towards the sea with a sneer.

A moment later, she transformed to her original size, making Cleo and all the guards in the Atlas Stronghold gasp in shock.

The Wicked Queen Slime then began to swim at a rapid pace, unhindered by the highly toxic waters of the Purple Sea of Death.

Clearly, she had no intention of being left behind and followed the Half-Elf to the place where she had been born hundreds of years ago.

Chapter 871: Your Fate Has All Been Sealed The Moment You Met Us

The sound of weapons clashing and spells exploding reverberated in the surroundings.

At the center of it all, a little more than twenty people stood back to back, facing dozens of Satyrs, whose ranks were Deimos-Rank and above.

The Strongest among this group of Monsters was an Emyrean Ranked Alpha Monster, whose gaze looked like he was licking the bodies of the women that were in front of him in his mind.

"Not bad," the Emyrean Ranked Alpha Monster said with a smile. "A combination of beauty, as well as strength to back it up—all of you girls will become the perfect broodmares for our race."

"Like hell we'll want to become your broodmares!" Alicia shouted as she stood in front of Iris, Cai, Henrietta, as well as the members of their guild, Serenity.

The Alpha Monster laughed after hearing Alicia's hateful reply.

"Worry not, fair lady," the Leader of the Satyrs replied. "My boys and I are all gentlemen. Right, boys?"

The other Satyrs all cheered in agreement with their leader's words.

"Don't worry, ladies," a Satyr, who had been eyeing Alicia since the beginning of the battle, licked his lips. "Soon, all of you girls will be shaking your hips in wanton abandonment once you have had a taste of our Carnal Prowess. I guarantee it.

"As for the boys... Well, we have no need for them," The Leader of the Satyrs commented. "But the succubus on the other side of the Forest would definitely love you guys. I'm sure we can get a good sum if we sell you all to them."

The Satyrs all laughed because this was indeed a good idea.

"Surrender now while we're still being generous. After all, we don't want to accidentally injure any of the women. It doesn't feel nice screwing a corpse, you know?"

"Hahaha! It's been decades since I've had a taste of Human women. I'll make sure that you girls won't be getting any sleep tonight!"

"As for the men, all of you should just surrender quietly. Who knows? You might enjoy becoming the playthings of the succubus. I know a few of them, and I will guarantee that one round with them will send you to heaven!"

Xander and two Rankers from the Rowan Tribe were standing right beside Alicia.

A few Rankers of the Xynnar War Pact and Skystead Alliance were also with them. Among them was Malcom, who was gritting his teeth so hard that he could hear them grinding.

Not far from them, the body of his dead Deimos-Ranked Wyvern lay in a pool of its own blood. The beast that Lux had given him had protected him until its very last breath, and Malcolm was feeling aggrieved by its passing.

"Damn it!" Malcolm cursed through gritted teeth as he held his ground. "Why did it come to this?!"

When they first entered the Domain of the Fallen, the first thing that the Rankers of the different Factions did was to spread out in order to hunt the Magical Beasts, gather resources, as well as investigate the Domain of the Fallen in full.

Previously, such had been quite impossible to do because only those that were Initiate Rank and below could enter the Domain.

After this restriction was lifted, everyone knew that the Domain of the Fallen would be ransacked clean of any valuable treasures due to the strong Rankers that were now allowed to enter it.

However, after checking every nook and cranny, they didn't find any Monsters, rare herbs, or any kind of treasures.

Only common herbs could be found and nothing else.

No one could figure out what happened, but they had come to the conclusion that someone had managed to enter the Dungeon before them and took everything before they could lay claim to it.

Naturally, their first suspect was Lux.

However, they didn't have enough evidence to back up this claim.

They also deemed that it was impossible for Lux to take all the treasures without fighting the strong monsters that were guarding them, who were all above his rank.

In the end, they all reluctantly entered the last gate of the Apocalypse.

In the beginning, everything was going well. They arrived at a Kingdom that had been ravaged by Monsters.

The Rankers found this turn of events a blessing and hunted down the Monsters without any problems.

They even forgot about the issue with the Domain of the Fallen because they managed to gain a lot of resources.

But, all of that changed when they explored the Temple on the outskirts of the city.

There, they saw an Abyssal Noble that was sealed by countless chains.

However, this being was already dead when they arrived.

After investigating its corpse, they found a Beast Core located on his chest, letting them know that it was actually a Calamity-Ranked Abyssal Noble.

The Rankers of the Skystead Alliance all said that since they were the ones that found the corpse, the Core should belong to them.

Although reluctant, no one opposed their declaration.

What they didn't know was that months ago, the Abyssal Noble, whose spirit had been captured by Gaap, cast a Grand Spell on his own core just in case something went wrong with his plan to possess a new body.

This Grand Spell would activate the moment someone tried to pry the core from his body, which was done by the greedy Rankers of the Skystead Alliance.

The moment the Black Obsidian Core was successfully pulled out, the Grand Spell activated and a black hole materialized, sucking everyone within the vicinity of the temple inside it.

90% of the people who had entered the Gate of the Apocalypse were transported to the Abyssal World in random places, making those who were watching them through the projections panic.

Out of the hundreds of people that had entered the Gate of Apocalypse, a little more than twenty of them were transported to a Dark Forest, where the Satyrs lived.

Alicia, who was the strongest Ranker in their group, was a C-Ranker.

It was impossible for her to fight against an Empyrean-Ranked Alpha Monster because only a party of High-Rankers could defeat it.

But that was not the main problem. After entering the Abyssal World, her Rank had degraded to D-Rank.

She was not the only one who suffered from this phenomenon. The Rankers who had all been sucked up by the Black Hole had their Ranks lowered by one stage.

Only Initiates and E-Rankers like Iris, Cai, Henrietta, Xander, and Malcolm were not affected by this degradation of Rank.

"Iris, Cai, Henrietta, Xander, listen carefully," Alicia said through the artifact that allowed them all to communicate telepathically. "I will launch an all-out attack using the Legendary Artifacts that your father entrusted to me. It might not be able to kill these monsters, but it will be enough to stall or seriously injure them.

"What I want all of you to do is run and find a way on how to escape this place. No matter what happens, you need to return to Elysium. I will not be able to face Sir Alexander and Sir Maximilian if anything happens to any of you. Now, prepare to run at my signal!"

Iris and Cai wanted to say that they will stay behind and fight together, but seeing how determined Alicia was about sacrificing herself, they were unable to bring themselves to do it.

The Rankers of the Rowan Tribe shared Alicia's determination. In their eyes, the safety of the High Priestess was above their own.

"Xander, make sure to protect Cai," One of the Rankers of the Rowan Tribe stated. "Even if you die, make sure she returns to the tribe!"

"Understood!" Xander replied while clenching his fists. "Even if I die, I will see to it that they return to Solais."

Suddenly, the Leader of the Satyrs laughed out loud.

"How noble," the Leader of the Satyr said. "But futile. I heard your little plan, and I can't help but think that you underestimate all of us. Do you think that we will let you run away from this place?"

The Leader of the Satyrs had the ability to read women's minds, similar to Eiko's Mind Reader ability, but more powerful.

Although it only worked on women, the Satyr was able to know Alicia's plan, which made him laugh internally.

"Even though I don't know why all of you appeared here in our Forest, it doesn't matter," the Leader of the Satyrs smiled as he took a step forward. "Your Fate was sealed the moment you met us. No amount of planning, courage, or determination will change anything.

"The Abyss is not a place for miracles. Hope doesn't exist here. Only those with power thrive, and as for the weak, they are merely the playthings of the strong. You girls will soon understand that your only role in this world is to give birth to Satyrs!

"I'll sample all of you girls first, and after that, my men will have their way with you. Don't worry, I will guarantee that even though today is your safe day, all of you will be pregnant before the sun rises in the morning."

The Satyrs laughed after hearing their leader's joke.

Here in the Abyss, the sun didn't exist. Only the light of the two moons that were high up in the sky, illuminated the land.

The Leader of the Satyrs, Ampelos, had already picked two girls among the group of Humans who had appeared in his territory to become his personal toys.

It was none other than the blue-haired beauty, Iris, and the purple-haired Henrietta.

Both were exceptional beauties, and he fully intended to fill both of them with his seed and make them give birth to his children.

"Enough talk!" Ampelos raised his hand with a smile. "Get them boys, and let the Carnal Feast begin!"