Hero King 421

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 421: CH 387: PANDORA (1)*

The moment Sol decided to be more active in this situation, he put his arms around Pandora and lifted her up before putting on her the table so that she could be at eye level with him.

Pandora was quite startled but she obediently left herself moved as she wondered what this prince would do now.

This was why she was too late to respond when she felt his lips covering hers.

"It's only proper to start with a true kiss."

'Wait...? I am being kissed again?'

It was like the information had taken a few more second than normal before reaching her brain.

"Wait...!"

She tried to move in surprise but Sol caught her small arms and quelled her resistance by sending his tongue past her teeth.

Pandora was so surprised that she bit down in surprise. But this did not stop Sol from continuing to kiss her.

'Blood.'

Pandora's first kiss tasted like blood. But her mind could not focus on this.

'Ah~!'

She shivered as she felt her body heating up considerably. Succubi were higher ranked than Vampires. Any body fluid could be used to absorb the life force they needed. But blood and semen were without a doubt the greatest source.

She had sucked the blood of her enemies sometimes since it was the best way for her to become stronger without requiring more sexual means but she had never in her life tasted something so heavenly.

Only a few drops of blood were gulped down before the wound closed but it felt like she had absorbed more energy than she would have after sucking the blood of more than ten Duke ranks.

'He is supposed to be a hybrid, right?'

This went far beyond her understanding. The more she interacted with Sol the more she realized how wide the world truly was. Whenever she thought she understood something, there would be a new surprise to come.

"You are quite feisty."

Sol finally pulled away and muttered as he lifted her chin. There was no way he would flinch after such a small wound but he could see how she reacted after tasting his blood.

"I wonder, do you want more?"

Pandora fought between nodding hurriedly or protecting her pride but in the end her pride won.

She knew that life energy could be quite addictive for a succubus when the quality was high enough. If she let herself go, she might fall in his total control.

In a way, she was happy that she was the one to deal with Sol now. Her daughters might have lost their minds in her place.

Sol laughed. He didn't know what was going through Pandora's mind but he was willing to take his time.

He slid her shoulder straps aside and pulled down her dress, exposing her underwear was exposed to the outside world.

Her massive breasts were a sight a behold and all she was wearing was a pair of pantie covering her secret place. Her bra could barely called one and seemed to only be used to push up her breast more.

Sol could feel her scent trying to corrode his mind. He was sure that most people in his place would have already gone crazy with lust. But he was able to maintain calm.

He didn't know if it was because of his resistance to magic or because he was the Blessed of Luxuria, the goddess of lust herself but it didn't matter.

While embracing her very feminine body from behind, Sol first stripped off her bra.

Her clothing had hidden some of her curves but now he could simply marvel at the work of art sitting in front of him.

The breasts that spilled out were unnaturally plump for her otherwise slender body. He idly wondered just how much her shoulders should hurt on daily basis.

But remembered this was not earth.

Pandora frantically tried to cover her chest with her hands but he used that opening to reach down and pull down her panties. Her smooth and equally plump butt was revealed to him and he wished he could give them a smack now.

'Calm down. Everything comes at a time.'

There was no need to rush.

"Ah."

After being stripped bare in no time at all, she had no idea what to do and simply remained silent.

The ease and skill Sol had used to disrobe her would have surely made her teacher marvel in surprise at how skilled he was. There was no denying that he had enough experience to make some Succubus recognize his supremacy.

She began to wonder if she will really be able to take him down. This seemed more and more uncertain.

Sol did not let Pandora's confusion stop him. He wrapped his arms around her while leaning over her from behind and grabbed the pair of well-grown white peaches at her chest. They seemed to spill from her hand but he found his target fast and began to pinch her small and cute nipple.

He also rained kisses on her from her alluring nape to her shoulder blades while he teased and massaged her breasts. Pandora realized that she was being overwhelmed and needed to take some distance for her counterattack.

"Wait..."

But Sol did not wait. He was not just after her beautiful breasts. He squeezed her right one while moving his other hand to her crotch.

He covered her entire garden with his palm and softly caressed it to enjoy how it felt.

The hand on her crotch seemed to activate some kind of switch within her. Her resistance faded quickly and she collapsed weakly against him.

Her body refused to obey her but in her mind, she keep telling herself that she would fight back later.

She realized that for all her teacher had educated her in giving pleasure to her partner, she was never taught how to receive pleasure.

Like she was she was being completely being manhandled by a young man who was not even half her age and she could not fight in herself to fight. The blood from earlier had already made her too weak.

Her nipples had grown hard at some point, so he pinched the one between his thumb and forefinger, squeezed it, and rolled it around. On her lower body, three of his finger covered her labia and gently caressed her puffed outer lips that were already glistening with her love juice.

"So, what does it feel like? While coming to Lustburg, did you ever imagine you would be in such a situation?"

He teased her with his words, causing Pandora to blush even more. She had imagined many things when coming here but this was certainly not it.

The more Sol moved his finger, the more feverish she became. Her vision became blurry and breathing became difficult for her. She felt like she was becoming a bitch in heat as she stuck her tongue out to gulp more air.

"P-please stop this."

Confused by the unknown sensation, she tried to escape again, but he only continued teasing her breasts and slowly moving those three fingers to gently rub her labia.

"Heh, I will. So now, cum for me please."

He bit her earlobe and pinched her nipple and clitoris simultaneously.

"Nn~! Ahh~!!"

Pandora gasped her screamed her orgasm out. She forced herself to bite her lip as her entire body trembled and sweat soaked the curve of her spine. But there was nothing she could do to stop that pleasure that was clouding her mind.

"Well. I guess I won the first round, dear succubus queen."

Pandora shuddered slightly as she began to wonder who was supposed to be the sex demon exactly in this room.

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 422: CH 388:PANDORA (2)*

Pandora understood that this sexual bout between them would only end in her loss if she didn't do something fast. There was nearly no way for her to face him as she was now. Nearly being the keyword here.

'I just need to make him cum once.'

If she succeeded she was sure that she could take back the entire control of the situation from his grasp. Once his brain was flooded with lust, pulling him into the dream world would be far too easy for her.

Once there, she would be no different than a goddess. The rules of that world bent to her whims and she would be able to make Sol live through the greatest dreams ever.

She was sure that even someone like him would be lost once he entered that place. The Truth of a Zone was not enough to protect the psyche from such a mental attack from a Nightmare succubus. Only a King's Avatar could allow one to negate and escape the dream world.

Of course, she could simply activate her zone now and pull him in forcibly. But that would be the stupidest mistake that she could ever make in her life. After all, she was not trying to become his enemy and there were too many scary people in this tower for her to even entertain those thoughts.

"Well, shall we continue?"

"W-Wait!"

Pandora moved faster as she shook herself out of the feelings of ecstasy brought to her by the previous orgasm.

"Since you took care of me, I will do it as well."

"Hmmm?"

Sol did not know what Pandora was thinking right now. Though, even if he knew, he would simply laugh at her face.

As he was now, he could nearly look at the face of a goddess without going insane. Even without that, his resistance to magic had grown even further than before his trip to the Astral Realm and while he wasn't completely immune yet, mental attacks would have a hard time taking him down.

"Well, if you wish to do so..."

He simply shrugged. He didn't let his lovers suck his dick during their first time as most of them were virgins and he wanted their first experience to be as vanilla as possible.

But it would be pretty ironic if the Succubus Queen out of all people ended up being a virgin.

In Sol's mind, all her actions and awkwardness were just a way of acting to lower his guard.

Well, this was generally what happened when people thought too much.

Like this, the Succubus Queen once again found herself kneeling in front of Sol's rod, ready to service him as she summoned all the knowledge she had learned in her youth.

Sol brought his hand to his penis and moved it right in front of her face.

'It looks quite menacing.'

She gulped before opening her mouth and slowly engulfing it whole. Her teeth touched it a bit and Sol's hips jerked back slightly in surprise.

"Hey, be careful."

Sol could certainly regenerate any part of his body. But he did not wish to know the feeling of missing his beloved little brother.

Pandora was feeling quite awkward and embarrassed by her mistake but she showed none of it and flashed a coy smile to him, giving the illusion that she had done this intentionally to tease him for a bit.

'Okay, Pandora you can do it.'

She chanted in her mind and the movement of her tongue stimulated the head. Her surprise made her breathe more rapidly through her nose and mouth and that tickled his throbbing member.

The most surprising part was how it felt inside her mouth.

A real penis was indeed different from the cold toy she had sometimes been trained with. It felt so hot and stimulating.

"Oh..."

Sol shivered at the sensation spreading through his penis in her mouth. She was indeed a succubus. He could already feel his body growing hotter and he was feeling more excited than ever.

He felt the urge to shove his dick all the way down her throat, but he was not so barbaric as to do so without knowing her preferences better.

Instead, he slowly pulled his hips back to enjoy the entrance of her mouth a little more.

The ridge of the head touched her lips and then half the head slipped out between them. That was when he pushed it halfway back in again.

He continued moving in and out of that shallow area to enjoy the feel of her lips on his bulbous head.

His partial erection achieved full erection in no time at all.

'This is...'

Sol was astonished. He nearly felt like he was having sex already. The moist sensation of her mouth and tongue wrapped around him felt heavenly and she would sometimes suck harder than normal, making him feel like he was in a vacuum.

Sol wasn't the only one being affected. Pandora could also feel her consciousness growing fainter.

All of her focus was concentrated on the cock moving in and out of her mouth.

She kept her teeth apart to avoid hurting the fragile member and pressed her lips together. She knew she had to be looking extremely silly right now, but she felt no desire to stop. Slowly her movements became more natural as she recalled what she was taught.

She slowly took his member out of her mouth and then licked it up before running her tongue along the head.

Her saliva made all sorts of naughty, sloppy sounds as her tongue stroked, poked, pushed, and licked the head.

After poking at the tip, she pressed her full tongue against the base. After supporting the base with her hand, she shifted her tongue to the shaft and coated the entire length with her drool.

Her current skills were high enough that even a professional prostitute would blush in shame and ask Pandora to teach her.

It took all of Sol's willpower to avoid giving in immediately as he watched her doing the act. He had been intent on controlling the pace but it seemed like he had underestimated the skills of a royal succubus.

Then she once again started globing the shaft up and Sol watched with wonder and amazement as his penis slowly vanished inside her mouth until his full length was deep in her throat.

Pandora looked up at him with obvious pride in her achievement.

But the triumphant look was somewhat undermined by how lewd she looked with her mouth opened wide to accept the thick cock.

Pandora squeezed her lips tight and pulled her head back up along the length of his penis. Then she swallowed it all again. From there, she repeated the process.

The rhythmic motion of her head picked up speed. She could tell his trembling penis had grown to the bursting point inside her mouth.

For Sol, holding it in any longer was simply not possible. He felt the pleasure in his lower body taking control of his mind.

"I am going to cum."

Still, he had enough control to give her a warning. But this only excited Pandora more as she knew that she would soon be able to take total control of this situation once she made him cum.

She could feel his glands swelling up in her mouth. She knew then that she had reached her goal.

A thick liquid erupted into her mouth.

After that initial blast, more and more cloudy liquid entered her mouth each time the penis throbbed.

'I won! Now I can...'

The moment she began gulping the semen that spread in her mouth,

'Ah~....'

Pandora realized she had made a mistake.

Succubus could take energy from any body fluid, unlike vampires. This was a fact.

But it didn't change that they were sex demons and the greatest efficacy came from absorbing the seed of their targets.

A few droplets of blood had been enough for Pandora to feel a small orgasm.

What would she feel as she drank this copious amount of semen?

"Ah~!"

Her eyes rolled in their sockets and shone with a golden luster while her pupils took the shape of hearts. Her face melted in ecstasy as she felt like she was being given the most delicious dish in the entire world or like she was a junky receiving the highest quality of drugs ever created.

She literally felt like she was about to ascend to the afterlife as the amount of pleasure she was currently receiving was simply out of this world.

At this very moment, Pandora realized that there was no going back for her. Even though she had never even entertained the idea of having a mate, she knew that now even if she did, she would never be satisfied with anything else than this.

Like someone who had not eaten food in years, she licked up the semen dripping from his penis and even used a finger to scoop up what was dripping from the corner of her mouth to bring it right back into her mouth.

The ground became soaked as she reached the best orgasm in her life and she was on the verge of fainting. But—

'Wake up~ This isn't the end.'

Pandora shuddered powerlessly as she felt her legs being spread apart.

'Please. Don't do this. Don't break me further.'

This was what she thought as she belatedly realized that she was in fact the one spreading her own legs for Sol to fuck her while begging him to copulate.

Like a bitch in heat giving herself to her partner with no hesitation.

In this place, there was no Queen, much less a King ranked warrior. There was only a woman who wanted nothing more than to be fucked and pleasured until she passed out.

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 423: CH 389:PANDORA (3)**

Sol opened his eyes wide into saucers as he watched Pandora display herself in such a fashion.

Looking at her eyes, he was quick to realize the reason behind her sudden change in behavior.

'So I am really the best food for those who absorb life force, huh?'

He had realized this long ago but it was amusing to see how much he affected them sometimes. Even a mighty king could be reduced to such a putty mess due to his life energy.

'I wonder if I can use it in combat too...'

He thought idly while approaching Pandora and grabbing her by the roots of her hair.

"Well, there is no way I can refuse such a tantalizing sight now, right?"

Sol grinned. He had to admit that he was slowly becoming more and more excited than he usually would. It seemed that even he could not completely stop the seduction of a Succubus. Most likely because the aphrodisiac effect was not really considered harmful to his body.

Either way, he decided that he would devour the delicious food in front of him with no hesitation.

Making the literal Queen of Invidia his woman would mean that he was one step closer to accomplishing his goals and making love to a sensual woman was a pleasure in its own right.

"You are producing so much love juice. I believe I can enter right away."

He grabbed his thick shaft and slowly brought it close to her snatch. Aiming it at her juicy hole, he moved it up and down along the labia in order to coat it with her sticky and slimy juices.

Pandora simply moaned, not caring about how she actually looked in front of him anymore. All she wanted was to have his thick, hard, and long rod inside her snatch as fast as possible. Just imagining how it would feel was making her crazy.

"Do it."

Sol nodded and once the head was nestled inside, he grabbed her by her hips and then— pushed his full length in one go. The inside of her honeypot felt like hot magma. The countless folds wrapped around his manhood as if to suck it inside and never let it go.

"Ugh!"

The pleasure marring Pandora's face vanished for an instant as the pain of losing her virginity exploded inside her brain. She seemed to have cummed just from having his penis penetrate her. Her mature body seemed to be convulsing, as it was confused between the choices of feeling pain or feeling pleasure.

'Huh?'

Sol showed surprise as he saw her face contorted in pain then slowly looked down. His eyes widened in surprise when he saw a trail of blood slowly dribbling from the place they were connected.

"You..."

She was a virgin? The succubus queen was a virgin? Oh, the irony!!!

Sol realized then and there that all her awkward moments had not been an act but truly the result of her lack of experience.

His face crumpled a little after realizing this fact.

'I have been too harsh.'

The reason he hadn't hesitated with her was that he thought that as a succubus, her experience with men should have been plenty. As such there were many steps he could take without worrying about hurting her.

The first time with a woman was something she would never forget and it was important for him to make it memorable in an enjoyable way.

He could act more sadistic on their second or third time together as the girl would then have more experience and would already be accustomed to his member. Making it so that she had fewer chances of being hurt.

'Sigh...'

He wondered what he should do now. But in the end, he decided to stay silent and refuse to offer her any hypocritical kindness. From her earlier actions, she clearly did not wish for him to know she was a virgin.

'Well, I guess I will have to change the mood a little.'

He stopped advancing his hip movements and brought his face close to her nipples before starting to suck on them.

It was different from the way he did it earlier. It was more tender. Slowly trying to give her more pleasure and make her forget the pain.

Pandora noticed the change in his demeanor and she felt ashamed about being found out. She was happy that Sol did not do something like apologize to her. She felt like it would have been an insult to her determination and would have made all of her work up to this point feel worthless.

Kindness sometimes hurt more than anything ever could.

It was funny that her impression of Sol became better because of such a weird detail. But she was not in a completely stable state of mind anyway.

"You can move. I am alright now."

She turned her head to the side as she said those words since she was basically acknowledging her defeat but she could not fight her urge anymore. Pandora wrapped her arms around his back and her legs wrapped around his waist before she started to thrust her own hips up at him.

On the receiving end of that intense movement, Sol felt like he had fallen into a trap of pleasure. He started moving his own hips as well and the two started the oldest dance in the world.

Pandora was spilling sticky drool out of her pussy as she used her hips with incredible force to get the boy to use his own hips. It was like the earlier pain was just a lie.

She felt like she was finally complete. As if, her whole life, she had been waiting for this.

She realized that she had been denying her instincts for far too long, refusing to move on from an old crush that had never returned her affection in the first place.

It was ironic that the one who made her realize this was the son of her crush. But she was currently too high into the realms of pleasure to care about this detail. She would leave those troublesome problems and thoughts to her future self. She just wanted to enjoy the moment.

Seeing her lose herself in lust, Sol obeyed his lust just as much as the woman did hers as he pounded his penis inside her with intense pressure. Sometimes, it felt good to not think about anything. He lost himself in thrusting his hips inside her hot and stuffy snatch.

"Ahhh!"

Pandora opened her mouth wide and arched her back with a sudden jerk. Drool dripped down from her cherry-red lips and soaked her slender chin.

But Sol could not stop his hips.

He felt like his penis would continue like this forever when he thrust in her sweet hole. The room was already filled with the smell of sweat and love juice and this did nothing more than make the two of them more excited.

Her red and engorged snatch spread wide as the boy's hard cock mercilessly pumped in and out. Knowing the woman was enjoying it could only speed up a man's hips to pack more inches inside her.

He dug into her inner flesh all he wanted.

Sol felt like he would never stop at this rate.

Driven by lust, he lost himself in massaging her breasts and thrusting his hips. When he thrust in, love juices flowed out. When he pulled back, he stirred those juices up and soaked even his balls.

Pandora looked incredibly cute as she writhed in his arms.

"Pandora, I'm about to cum!"

"Ahh!! Cum...cum inside me. Cum inside me. I'm also...about to..."

Pandora spoke gibberish. Not caring about any possible consequences. She needed this. She wanted this. She wanted to reach the greatest heights of pleasure possible for a succubus.

Once he had permission, Sol intensified his thrusting even more. His penis felt like it was made of steel as it danced freely around inside her, stirring up her honeypot.

He used his youthful energy to thrust again and again until the succubus surrendered before him by reaching climax before himself.

"Ah~!!"

She let out a wild voice as her entire body convulsed.

The crazed undulating motion of her body repeated again and again and her vagina tightened seductively around him.

This was the last straw for Sol. He grabbed her hips and pushed his penis all the way in then groaned and sprayed his cum into her vagina while continuing his piston-like movements.

"Ah, ahhh..."

Pandora wordlessly trembled as her vagina continued contracting again and again until she had sucked out every last drop and her eyes once again began to roll back as the pleasure that hit her was too high for her brain to comprehend.

In the end, she simply passed out in his comforting arms.

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 424: CH 390:JuST LISTEN

The first thing she noticed when she woke up was the soft feeling of the mattress beneath her back as well as the ceiling above that she could not recognize.

'Where am I?'

She felt so drowsy at this moment that she did not even follow her warrior instincts and focused on trying to understand what was happening with her body.

'I was...'

Her memory was pretty blurry and hazy, making it hard for her to immediately recall the happenings of the past. But as she focused on what she needed to know, the images began to replay in her mind. A young body, melding with hers. Her debauched and sultry voice, begging him to give his all to her.

Then she finally remembered everything that transpired before.

'Oh my gosh!'

She felt like she wanted to crawl and bury herself six feet under. She had never thought that she would one day show such a shameful sight to someone. Much less to such a young boy that wasn't even half her age.

'What the hell did I do?'

She always had the bad habit of moving before thinking things through. That was exactly what happened when she decided to come to Lustburg all those years ago and began following Mars on his journey. She had absolutely no reason to have done what she did after all.

This was also why she had once again come to Lustburg and sought the help of her old companions.

But to think that she would fall for the provocation of a little brat and give her precious virginity like this with no hesitation whatsoever. She wasn't able to understand just what had gone wrong with her mind.

'Ugh. Pandora, you are so stupid.'

She felt like bashing her head once again. This was so idiotic of her to do. She had let her tunnel-vision induced mind and emotions take control of her when what she should have done was to take a few steps back to observe and judge the situation appropriately.

'Though... It felt really really good.'

Pandora let out a sultry breath as the pleasure that she had felt with her first partner came to her mind again. Just the aftertaste of their union was heavenly in itself. She couldn't understand how such a feeling could exist in this world.

She then blushed when she realized that she was acting like a debauched harlot in heat.

Now that she had gotten calmer after that sensual high, she was starting to observe her surroundings more calmly while keeping her thoughts active.

Her virginity was lost, this was a fact. Speaking of her virginity...

'He came inside me, right?'

She wondered if she might fall pregnant at this rate.

Her face paled for an instant before she shook her head. 'No, I am sure I must have devoured all the energy of the semen unconsciously.'

The reason witches could not become pregnant was because they absorbed the life force of the egg inside them before it even had a chance to form. This non-conscious skill for the witches was something that all Succubi could perfectly control.

Otherwise, it would be impossible for them to have sex without falling pregnant. Succubi could selectively choose whether to kill the egg before it even formed by entirely devouring the energy or letting it form and conceive children through their union with their chosen mates.

Once she realized that she was safe on that front, Pandora let out a sigh of relief. She could not even begin to imagine what she would have felt if she had gotten impregnated by the son of her first love.

'This feels so weird.'

She had never imagined that she would be in such a weird situation by coming to Lustburg.

The prince had surpassed everything she had expected of him and went beyond what she thought was possible of him. He was a complete enigma.

In fact, He was so unlike his father that comparing them was not even funny. But it was the reality and she had nothing that she could do about it.

Now, she needed to decide how she would act around Sol...

"Ahem."

Pandora looked beside her and saw a young Golden haired and Blue eyed man standing with an awkward expression on his face and holding a plate with what looked to be hot chocolate on top.

"Oh..."

She recognized this face. After all, he was the reason for her earlier anguish.

But... There was one problem.

"Just how long have you been present here."

Please. Please. Don't tell me...

"Well... Since you woke up, I guess?"

Pandora groaned and closed her eyes. "Just kill me, please. End my suffering."

This went beyond shame itself. She felt like she was being bullied by the world at this point. She felt as though she was going to spill tears of blood at this rate.

"Haha."

Sol exhaled a short laugh and placed the tray filled with the hot chocolate before sitting on a chair near the bed.

Silence enveloped the two in its smothering embrace with no signs of any sound being made anytime soon. But in the end, the first one to break the suffocating silence was none other than Pandora.

"How long was I out?"

"Just a few hours. It's currently evening."

Pandora sighed out loud and spoke in a steely tone.

"Just because I gave you my body does not mean that I belong to you, I hope you understand that."

"Oh?"

Sol's eyebrows rose abruptly at the suddenness of the words spoken by Pandora and the voice with which she had uttered them to him.

But Pandora had to be clear about this fact. She had read that once a girl gave her first time to a man, they generally became entitled and felt like the girl belonged to them.

It didn't matter how clumsy, how thoughtless, and how tunnel-visioned she could be sometimes—Pandora was one of the top most powerful beings in the world.

She would never let herself become bound by anyone in her entire life of her own volition.

"Hmm... Well, I have never thought that any of... Hmm... Well, indeed, I can be a little possessive sometimes. Haha..."

Sol chuckled to hide his awkwardness as he nearly lied to her. He could be 'quite' possessive, which he recognized. But...

"Do not worry. I will never force someone to be with me when she has no feelings for me."

He had no feelings for Pandora as well. It was just pure lust. Even his relationship with Persephone was deeper than the one he shared with her.

"Of course... Whether you can find someone else is another matter altogether."

Sol grinned, causing Pandora to flush with embarrassment as she was unable to refute him. In the first place, she had never managed to find a mate ever since Mars' death. There was simply no one she was interested in. This was why, in the end, she had simply divided her energy to give birth to her current children.

At the very least, she became less lonely and had people she could care for. But even without all that, now that she had tasted Sol's energy, she wondered if she could ever live without this taste again.

Just imagining it felt like torture in her opinion.

'I truly made a grave mistake.'

Now she was no different from a drug addict that was under the control of their dealer. She would ruin herself to get even more of this delicious drug.

"Tell me what you really want from me."

There was no way Sol had done all this just for the alliance. She felt like there was a deeper reason. One that went beyond mere lust. She wanted to know what it was now.

Sol looked at Pandora. Her cuteness had made him forget that she was not someone he could underestimate.

If the two of them fought to the death, he would only be able to flee by employing his dimension as he had no way of winning against her. He had only been able to toy around with her because of his inherent advantages and there was nothing to be proud of with just this much.

Now was the time for the true test. He could not say everything now. But it wasn't a problem. Since Aurora had shielded his thoughts, he could at least be a little more honest, "I need you to simply follow a few orders for a few days without asking what is happening."

Sol did not want Pandora to know that the previous king before Mars had used the remainder of their beloved Queen to create Lilith. This would create useless tension and might jeopardize his plan.

'Now all the pieces are in place.'

Soon, he would be able to put this whole charade behind him.

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 425: CH391:PLEASE.

[Tower of Babel – Hanging Gardens]

The hanging gardens of Babylon were a work of art that could go into the annals of history without a shred of doubt. It wouldn't be a complete lie to call them the most beautiful sight of the Mortal Realm. Such were the heights of beauty and aesthetics this piece of art had reached.

The moon was currently hidden behind the clouds of winter as the snow fell incessantly and covered the ground.

Usually, the Tower had a shield deployed that left no weather change to go through as it could affect the garden. But, as of now, Lilith considered that she could afford to open it.

After all, with the current protection that gathered in the Tower, this shield would make little to no difference.

Sitting near a frozen lake and feeling the ashen snow falling on her face, Lilith closed her eyes and remembered her past. An agonizing yet beautiful reminiscence.

For her, the snow had a very symbolic and important meaning. After all, it was the first thing she had witnessed of the world outside of the walls of the chamber she had been created in. [1]

It was in this place that everything changed for her in its entirety.

Back then, she remembered that she had asked her creator a harrowing question. A question of her existence...

"What am I?"

His answer had been simple and relayed with no hesitation and no remorse.

"You are the tool that will allow me to reach my goals."

A tool. As simple and sad as that. Nothing more, Nothing less.

Back then she did not have the emotional capacity necessary to feel things like sadness or disappointment.

This was why she had felt nothing even after being told such a cruel reality. 'Her' reality.

She had nothing to care for and no one who cared for her in the world.

But what might have truly sealed her fate was what followed after.

Back then she remembered having seen Mars training his swordplay under the falling snow.

She had asked who he was and the answer, like a curse, had followed her to this day.

"He is my son. Your role will be to serve the Royal family until the day you die. So I guess he is your master?"

Lilith laughed after hearing her creator's words. It was a depreciating laugh full of mockery towards herself.

As she grew in maturity and emotions...

She began to realize that her life was not normal and so she rebelled against her creator...

But in the end...

'Nothing really changed.'

She fulfilled her role as a tool and bore a daughter, rendering Neptune's operation a complete success. Neptune was able to attain his goal, even though he wasn't there to witness it himself.

She trained all her life with all the intention of becoming the sharpest sword for Mars. The sword that could cut everything that could stand in his path and pave the way ahead for him. And in the end, she truly became what she envisioned. Only to lose the reason she became what she was, Losing Mars.

She then lived in harrowing loneliness as she raised Sol so that he could stand up for himself. Now that he was an adult, her time in this Realm was coming to an end and even the goddesses wished for her absolute demise.

Neptune's words had been the truth, after all.

She was born as a tool and would die as one as well.

Nothing more... Nothing less...

"Ah..."

A breath escaped her lips as she appreciated the coldness of the winter snow seeping into her bones after she put down all of her defenses.

When she did not use her Mana or Intent, she was just a weak and fragile woman with a frail body that was on the verge of death.

'How. Utterly. Pitiful...'

She shook her head and walked in the snow-covered path until she reached a long branch that had fallen from a tree.

The maids had started to avoid staying here as it was simply too cold for their comfort but she did not care.

Taking one step, with the sword in hand.

She began to remember her earliest memories.

Why did she become so entranced with Mars?

She could not truly remember.

Was it because of his kindness?

Was it because he did not treat her like a tool?

She truly could not remember the reason behind her obsession.

All she remembered was the sword in his hand moving as he danced under the snow.

And so, she danced as well. Danced in the tune and rhythm of the intangible sword.

Like an immortal fairy, she moved her sword in such a way that anyone watching this scene could only be mesmerized by its aesthetics.

This was the case for Sol as well, as he floated even higher in the sky and looked down at her visage.

The movement of her intangible sword, the flow of her body, the rhythm of her breathing.

Sol closed his eyes as he felt like he was watching something that surpassed even his wildest imagination. Even replaying it in his head seemed like blasphemy as his memory could never perfectly capture this moment in its true essence.

Her beauty transcended reasoning itself. It now treaded in the realm of a concept. Something that could never be replicated.

"She is truly incredible."

Ambrosia spoke as she appeared next to Sol, breaking him out of his reverie.

"I know."

"No. You do not understand, Sol. This woman is simply something that goes beyond even my own knowledge. Something that I had once deemed to be impossible. She is someone who pioneered her own path."

She looked down at Lilith and sighed ruefully...

"Do you know? Be it I, Anubis, or even Echidna. Even though we managed to become the first mortal demigods, we all knew that it was thanks to outside help and circumstances that played their parts."

Anubis was a reincarnated being born with a fragment of Death inside his soul.

Ambrosia was linked to Asmodeus and could use the power accumulated by all the witches in existence.

Echidna was specifically created by the goddesses with two blessings.

"We were all born special— loved by the world and by lady luck herself."

This did not stop at them. All the singularities who made their marks in history and became renowned throughout the eras had something special to them. Someone who gave them a path.

This went for Siegfried, Sun Wukong, and even Mars as well.

This was how the world went on.

"You are not different from us."

Sol nodded in acknowledgment. It wasn't like he didn't work hard himself and he had his fair share of hardships.

But it was true that his current skill set would have never been developed without the help of many people and the touch of the goddess of Lust— Luxuria.

His dragon blood and his dimension were innate talents and he would have never obtained his zone without all the help he got during the war in the Dragon realm. The help he received from his

grandmother that adored him to no end as well as his lover Skuld, who transcended time itself to help him out.

"But that woman? She is truly something else."

Born with a defective body that was weaker than average.

No blessings. No outside help. A body that slowly brought her toward her untimely death.

The only thing she had was a large quantity of Mana. Something that was not all that rare in the world. Something that could be called worse than average in the realm of geniuses.

"...And despite all her defects, all her constraints, she created an art that can transcend the impossible. Kill the unkillable. Cutting even space and time and perhaps even concepts... All this, without ever awakening the meager amount of succubus blood that was inside her."

In all her life, with all her knowledge, the All-knowing witch had never witnessed such a monster. Even reasoning was beyond her, more so than what Sol could ever achieve.

What if Lilith managed to obtain a perfect body brimming with talent? What if she managed to become a demigod?

She shuddered just at the mere thought of that possibility.

Even now, watching Lilith's display, Ambrosia could feel her neck go cold from the sense of foreboding she felt from her Immortal Slaying Art.

"I want you to understand something, Sol."

Ambrosia took her eyes away from Lilith and gazed deeply at Sol's indifferent eyes with her own...

"I have always believed in growing without holding up the hands of my children."

She did not interfere with whatever decision they ended up making and even in the council, she never gave her opinion.

"I created the witches out of my own selfishness. My thirst for power and my fear of loneliness."

She considered the witches as her own daughters simply because she did not want to be alone.

Loneliness was scary. Researching things alone was not fun.

Even being friends with Anubis and Echidna had never managed to erase the deep loneliness that constantly stabbed at her heart.

She became jealous when the two started having a relationship with each other. Because it was something she could never even wish to have.

So she created the witches. Sharing a curse that would make even more lonely people tread her path so that she would feel even a little less lonely in the world.

"I talk to you now, not as a demigod or a witch. But simply as a stupid mother who had never done anything for her daughters."

She did something that surprised even Sol.

She bowed deeply with all the seriousness in the world and put down all pretenses and her shoddy pride.

"I will help you. I will make sure to study Pandora as fast as possible and give you the results. I will use all my powers to help you realize your wishes."

Her voice was hoarse and filled with emotions.

"So, please... Help my daughters relieve their curse."

Sol stayed silent as he observed Ambrosia.

Not long ago. He had been the one helplessly begging the goddesses to save Camelia's life.

What did he feel then?

The helplessness, the humiliation. This deep and wrenching feeling of powerlessness as you could do nothing but beg and hope.

What did the goddesses answer back then as they laughed at his plight?

I refuse.

As such...

"I accept and please, raise your head."

He turned his back to Ambrosia and began walking away into the air.

He had never wished to back Ambrosia against the wall.

He felt no pleasure in seeing her bow down and beg him so.

'I am sorry.'

He did not say those words out loud.

Because he knew very well that if he had to do it again... He would do so without any hesitation.

[1]: You can read interludes 9 and 10 for this. In fact, I really urge you to read at least Interlude 9 and ideally add 10.

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 426: CH392:TALKING WITH A FRIEND

It had been two days since that snow filled day...

After Ambrosia decided to help them out, the gears started to shift faster than they had ever done before. Sol was finally nearing the end of his goal.

The first thing that happened was the witches kidnapping Pandora and storing her inside Medea's world. Ambrosia, alongside Medea, used their full powers over the aspect of time to accelerate the time spent inside the monochrome witch's world.

They deduced that they would need a few months to understand everything they needed about the succubi's physique.

As such, Lilin also followed suit as she was the perfect result of Neptune's crazy experiments.

They needed to map the biological structure of their bodies and find the difference to perfectly analyze all the traits and functionings of Lilith's body.

The ones who took charge of this were Hathor, Persephone, and Isis. The three had the greatest understanding of biology and the aspects of life and death.

There as well Ambrosia helped by sharing her knowledge about the discovery already made on the Succubi.

This was an extensive project but they had no other choice other than to push through.

Even Kali offered her help as her understanding of the aspect of destruction could give insight into how to use Nirvana to bring everything together after deconstructing Lilith's body and then building it up from scratch.

Freya was not spared either from this scenario. The current time acceleration that the mother-daughter duo had enacted was putting incredibly high pressure on the pocket space she had created for Medea so she was forced to constantly use her powers so that the space wouldn't just collapse on top of them.

Lilith was of course unable to enter that domain as with the sudden time increase, she would simply die faster with her body decaying into nothingness.

So she was forced to stay out and observe as they all worked hard to keep her alive.

The more she watched, the more complicated she felt inside.

'Why...? Just why are they doing all this for me?'

She realized that she could not understand their motives or the thought process behind their current demeanor.

When Sol had told her that he would heal and save her no matter what, all she had seen was the struggle of a young boy who refused to accept reality.

She had long since given up on all hopes about her health and life. After all, if even that madman of a man, Neptune, could not heal her, what could Sol do?

'Did I still look at him like a helpless child?'

Lilith was feeling utterly lost and as such, she did the only thing she could do in this situation.

She went to see her one and only friend. As well as her longtime rival.

But as soon as she took one step, she could see Milia appear not far from her.

"How can I help you, Your Majesty?"

"Huh?"

"His Highness is currently busy practicing in his dimension. He ordered me to take care of you in the meantime."

Lilith nodded in acknowledgment. She knew that Milia had never seen her as the true monarch. But at least she had never shown her disrespect in any shape or form. That was enough for her.

"Warn the Gatekeeper. I want to go to the church."

"The church?"

Milia's voice showed the surprise she felt. After all, Lilith had never directly visited the church during all those years she had observed her as the leader of the Crown's Shadow.

But still, as an experienced maid, she managed to get a hold of her expression as fast as it came.

"Very well, Your Majesty. The Gatekeeper will be ready."

Milia bowed and Lilith gave her a look of surprise.

"You are not going to keep tabs on me?"

Milia was not surprised that Lilith knew she was being followed. In fact, the opposite would have worried her instead.

But she was not flustered. They had never intended to hide it in the first place.

"His Highness told me that you can do whatever you wish to do. He will not intervene further and stop you from making your choice."

"Oh?"

Lilith was surprised. Not only because of those words, as Sol had been adamant in keeping her under observation, but also because she felt hurt hearing them.

It felt like he had decided to finally give up on her.

This startled her deeply. She felt like a defective weapon that was about to be thrown away.

She furrowed her brows and shook her head to bury those thoughts.

"I see. Tell him to not worry. I will never take my own life. I won't go back on my promise."

If she died, it would be either because of her body or while fighting a battle that was worthy of her demise. Never for anything else.

She thought as such as she walked away.

Now alone in the hallway, Milia muttered under her breath...

"I hope you won't disappoint him, Your Majesty."

She truly did not care whether Lilith died or not.

But she hoped that she would live. After all, this would make Sol happy. And she could do anything for his happiness.

When Lilith used the teleportation portal and entered the church, all the nuns stopped in their tracks and opened their eyes wide in bewilderment.

'What is the Queen doing here?'

This question flashed through each and every one of their minds.

After all, it was common knowledge that the Queen had never visited the cathedral for years already and that she would not do so until something big happened.

"Your Majesty!"

They all bowed in respect. The goddess they worshipped may be above, but the queen was right at their doorsteps.

They had no reason to show her disrespect.

"You can rise."

Lilith waved her hand and looked at the highest-ranked nun present.

"Go call Ca... *Ahem* Tell the Supreme Daughter that I wish to meet her."

Lilith slowed down and used a more respectful title for her friend.

No matter how much she bickered regularly with Camelia, there was a clear distinction between private and public conduct.

This was why, when the two of them found themselves alone in a guest room, her aloof expression fell as she took a seat opposite her friend and chortled in amusement.

"So, what have you been up to nowadays? Outside of copulating with my nephew of course."

"Heh..."

Camelia sneered. She knew that this was going to be an interesting day.

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 427: CH393:STUDY

[Medea's World]

Pandora was confused by most of the things going on around her these days. Since time passed rather differently in this weird space, she had already been spending a few days here already and she had to admit that it was a bit, no, a lot different from her expectations.

Much of the time spent in this time-dilated world, all she had to do was to sit and do nothing at all. Generally, she would just talk with Lilin while drinking tea, or she would spend some time with Persephone and have small talk or reminisce about their adventure with Mars.

They would also sometimes ask her to show her true form or ask her to fight against Lilin as the two used their powers to duke it out with each other.

This was when Pandora started to realize that there was something a bit different about Lilin, a special trait that shouldn't occur in her.

The power to bring the abstract and the imaginary into reality.

This was the same power that the previous Nightmare Queen wielded and though the girl had a lesser mastery of this power and focused on dealing damage rather than using it as a way to manipulate reality at will, it was still not less absurd to watch a human like her to wield this power.

Pandora wasn't arrogant enough to believe that in the whole universe, only Succubi were the chosen beings with the ability to use this power. But it was quite the coincidence nonetheless.

There was also the fact that Lilin and even Lilith had the same appearance as a high-ranked Succubi would when keeping their human forms.

This made Pandora begin to wonder if Lilith and Lilin had succubus blood running through their veins or not. This wouldn't be particularly surprising, in fact.

Succubi loved men of power and seducing the then-king of Lustburg and bearing his child would be seen as an honor for them. So, it was really not a big deal.

'But I never felt Lilith's power being close to a succubus' though.'

Lilith could also cut space on a conceptual level and even affect the soul if she so wished. But this was made possible thanks to her incredibly pure intent to cut absolutely everything in her path. This was a power that had absolutely nothing to do with simple bloodline but was related to pure talent and will. An all-encompassing will to sever anything and everything.

'Perhaps it was due to a removed ancestry? Or maybe even atavism?'

It wasn't rare for the blood of an old ancestry to resurface in the current descendants.

'So do they want me to train the girl then?'

Pandora chuckled when she reached this conclusion and decided to become more serious about this whole scenario. She had trained her daughters quite well, if she says so herself, and had always been proud of their achievements.

Partial energy being like them generally ended up having children through asexual means and Pandora had not hesitated to do the same in her case due to Mars' demise.

But unlike how divine beasts would feel detached from children born in this way, she loved her daughters with all her heart and soul, truly considering them as her own flesh and blood instead of an extension of her energy.

'I should bring a gift to Minerva when I go back home.'

The poor girl had been 'acting' as her all this while, as she jumped from one place to another, and this was only possible because the two of them were both Blessed. But this couldn't last for long.

Sooner or later, they would realize that she was not the one to sit on the throne and while they could not harm Minerva, Anastasia was not protected by the divine laws so this made her an easy target.

"Do you still want to use that sword?"

Pandora asked as she watched Lilin prepare for another duel.

The two of them were standing in a clearing inside this accelerated world and surrounding them on all sides were the witches, the True Demon girl, and a King-ranked Phoenix.

This lineup gave Pandora goosebumps whenever she witnessed this scene and she would generally do her best to just ignore their existence altogether.

Just imagining how much damage they could inflict if all bans and rules were to be lifted was bad for her heart.

"Please."

Lilin nodded and gripped her long sword.

'Another difference from her mother.'

Lilith used a large heavy sword that could freely change its weight. A creation of Theresa's. Perhaps the small girl was the best blacksmith she had ever met in all her life and she doubted that she would be able to meet anyone better than her.

The sword in Lilin's hand though was incredibly long and thin, a complete contrast to the one that Lilith used. One would wonder how a sword of this shape held itself together and didn't just simply break.

It seemed that Theresa had created a sword for both Lilin and the wolf girl called Setsuna but the two of them had yet to use them.

"Well, let's go."

Pandora had not even finished talking and she could see that Lilin was already pouncing upon her.

By taking one step, Lilin had been able to traverse a great distance effortlessly. It was as though the concept of distance didn't even exist between them.

'This technique is really deadly.'

She avoided the sword even though it could not really hurt her, at least on a physical level. This was just an instinct that she had. One that told her that she absolutely did not want to know what it felt like to be wounded by this ominous-looking sword.

'If it's as nasty as Lilth's sword, then no thanks. I don't want to face something that dangerous.'

The fight, or rather the training continued as both Hathor and Isis observed the movement of the two fighters.

Persephone, who was sitting not far from them, kept cross-referencing the information she was currently receiving with the book their mother gave them. The result of their past studies about the Succubi.

There was a few difference between the two, but not so much that it could be considered to be headache-inducing.

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 428:

[Medea's World]

"How is the research going?"

The drunk Phoenix sauntered toward Persephone and asked with a smile.

Persephone looked away from the fight and nodded toward Hathor. The two had become quite close over the time spent together in each other's company since they were both healers and support and held similar powers.

Moreover, they also had many sisters they needed to take care of and a demigod mother that could be quite absent when they needed her presence. There were just many similarities between them that allowed them to connect with each other.

Besides, they also had a certain biased view toward life as one simply went through the motion without caring much about it and the other saw life as a series of books compiled one after another.

"I believe we have enough data already. I already mapped the whole body of the two and I am sure that I can recreate them up to 50-60% already. What about you?"

Hathor whistled at that news. The body was extremely complex and having such a deep understanding of a body that wasn't even your own was quite impressive.

"Done as well on my side. The physiology of the Succubi is quite similar to the True Demons and I healed quite a few during the last war so that was a bonus."

As she spoke about the war, Hathor showed an expression of distaste for an imperceptible moment before hiding it as soon as it appeared.

Persephone, as wise as she was, didn't ask more related to that matter. She didn't want to stir a hornet's nest by chance.

"Anyway, little Isis also finished her part. Later, we will train to maintain a certain synchronization when using this power. Kali will be with us and help us in case things go bad while Ambrosia and Medea will slow time to give us more leeway.

"Finally, even Sherezade will give us a hand and use her power for this. There is only a little problem left on our hands."

'Where to do this procedure?'

This was quite a problematic question for them.

This space was not a true dimension. So there was a limit to how much it could block from the goddesses' gaze.

"We will do it in the Inverse World."

Isis chimed from the side, "You guys have yet to see it, but it's pretty cool."

"So you've seen it?"

"Well, not from up close. I am a Duke rank after all. I don't want to have my feelings twisted and played with inside that realm. But it's pretty powerful."

Pandora was given no information about what they wanted to do. After all, while a King rank could block their thoughts from being spied upon, things were not very clear when it came to the relationship between a Blessed and their goddess.

Isis, meanwhile, had her soul protected from all outside observations since her birth. Trying to pass the block would immediately alert Anubis.

In the same vein, while Lilin had an inkling about what was happening, she was given no concrete information.

Whatever the results of their operation were, in the end, no one outside of them would know the truth.

"I wonder if we will succeed."

"We will. No, we must. At all costs."

A smile full of determination bloomed on her face as she watched the fight that took place between Pandora and Lilin.

This long plan was slowly inching toward its end.

They did not know what was at the end of the tunnel. But it did not really matter to them.

As long as they were together then she was sure that everything would be alright.

'Though, I wonder what Lilith will do later on.'

Isis had no particular attachment toward Lilith. However, she remembered Skuld telling her that even if she had to seal her soul to keep her alive, she must do it. This meant that there was no way Lilith could be allowed to die.

It seemed that, even beyond Sol's happiness, the Titan had determined that keeping Lilith alive was extremely important as she had the potential to reach a level few could ever hope to even achieve in their wildest dreams.

Skuld was a Titan as well as the being with the strongest power and understanding when it came to observing the aspects of the ever changing future.

Furthermore, her loyalty and devotion to Sol were beyond a shadow of a doubt.

'Well, I hope it won't come to that.'

An undead could never grow and absorb knowledge in the same way the living could. No matter what kind of potential Lilith may have, the moment she became an undead, it would be greatly diminished.

In the end, though, everything would still depend on Lilith herself. There was only so much they could do from their side.

"I wonder what she's doing right now."

"Perhaps she is brooding by herself in her room?"

"Or perhaps she is just employing her sword arts on the rooftop?"

[Castitas' Church]

No matter how much Isis and Persephone thought, they would have never guessed that the woman they were so worried and concerned about was currently downing a pint of beer big enough to make even the staunchest alcoholic cringe in fear and hesitation while feeling admiration and awe for doing such an act.

Camelia looked up with bewilderment as the throat of her friend kept moving on and on without end as she finished the whole thing in the span of a few seconds.

"Are you the new incarnation of gluttony or something?"

Not only was she drinking enough to make a whole sailor crew have justifiable doubts about their virility, but she was also wolfing down the food that was being presented to her like there was no tomorrow.

"Heh. Do not worry. Everything I eat is immediately devoured by my body down to the very molecules."

Camelia's smiling face twitched as she looked at Lilith's flat and fit stomach with envy and jealousy.

"Sinful women like you can never understand the pain normal women like us go through."

"Heh. Says the normal woman who should be near her forty but looks like she is in her twenties— the prime of a woman's lufe."

"Ahem. I am eternally 17 years old."

"Heh, and I am eternally 18. Did you forget already?"

The two looked at each other and smiled with light hearted mischief in their eyes.

This reminded them of the good old times when everything was simpler and they could bicker with little to no worries in their mind.

"So, tell me. Why did you come, outside of, of course, just wanting to finish all the reserves of food we accumulated."

"Why...?"

Lilith closed her eyes as she thought about why she came to this place— to her long-time friend after such a long time. A smile formed on her devilishly beautiful face as she came to a decision,

"I just thought that it would be nice to spend some time with my friend after a long time."

Her lips had stretched to form a forlorn smile full of melancholy. It had been so long since she could spend some time with Camelia like this. The circumstances just saddened her.

There was always a reason. Always something coming up that stopped her from going to speak calmly with Camelia.

But if she had to be honest about it, she simply did not wish to show her current pathetic sight to the one she had always considered her rival and also her best friend.

Perhaps Camelia's opinion was something that mattered to her even more than Mars. After all, in the past, she knew that Mars was too kind to ever hate her.

But the same wasn't true for Camelia— a very highly pragmatic woman who could be quite the snake when necessary.

"I feel like you are thinking something rude about me."

"I would never."

Camelia scoffed and leaned back in her chair with a tea in her hand but before she could even take a sip she saw Lilith pushing a second drink of pint toward her.

"Drink this. Let us go back to the first day you went drunk."

Camelia blushed and coughed as she remembered those embarrassing memories. "We do not talk about that."

Her expression was stern but she did not refuse the pint from her friend.

Lilith laughed out loud at her contradictory behavior. It was rare to see that woman become flustered with the mention of booze.

"Well, it was indeed something to see. I wonder what Sol would say if he knew that?"

Camelia blushed further at her remark, "Well, I think he would just laugh it off. But I don't want to destroy my image with you mentioning that dark page of my life."

Camelia had already spent too much building the image of a mature and calm woman for Sol. She didn't want him to see her sloppy side.

This might be a little vain of her. But she wished Sol would always look up to and respect her. See her as a great woman when, in reality, she was still full of insecurities and imperfections. Too many of them, in fact.

"You are like him, you know? I guess you two are really fitting as a couple. Though the new girl he brought seems more fitting in that aspect than you are."

Camelia could only smile bitterly at Lilith's blunt remarks. She knew that Sol also acted more mature than he was in reality.

The two of them wanted to always show their best side to the ones they loved and cherished so they did not allow anyone to see their weaknesses.

This seemed to have changed however with the arrival of that Phoenix. She had received the report about their outings during the festival and she had to admit that she was positively surprised by what was written there.

"I always wondered... What do you like about Sol?"

Camelia laughed slightly at that remark of her friend, "Then tell me my friend, what did you like about Mars?"

Seeing Lilith becoming speechless at that curveball she threw at her, she continued,

"Love, you see, always needs a starting point. It could be anything. Physical appearance, personality, the circumstances, and even more.

"But once you go past that starting point... Things become fuzzy. I fell in love at first sight with his soul. But I would have never lasted so long with just that. I love everything about him, even the things he does not wish to show."

Lilith smiled, hearing those words, "The same way Blaze loved Mars even though the two couldn't be any more different."

Camelia snickered inside. In her opinion, Mars and Blaze were so suitable for each other that it was astounding. A match made in heaven.

Blaze was a very dominant woman while Mars was more on the passive side when it came to love and relationship as a whole.

Even though Mars and Blaze had signed a Pride-type contract, with Blaze submitting to Mars, the reality was completely opposite.

This reminded her of a picture Arachne once drew.

That of a slave kneeling in front of her master. But in a twist of fate, the slave was holding the chain of a collar in her hand... A collar that was tied around the neck of her master.

Theresa loved the picture so much that she bought it at a sky-high price.

"Well. Those were the good times I guess?"

The two smiled quietly as a comfortable silence fell between them.

Camelia stopped asking why Lilith came and Lilith never bought any particularly important topic.

They just quietly chatted away like the old friends that they were...

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 429: CH394:BANTER

[Medea's World]

"How is the research going?"

The drunk Phoenix sauntered toward Persephone and asked with a smile.

Persephone looked away from the fight and nodded toward Hathor. The two had become quite close over the time spent together in each other's company since they were both healers and support and held similar powers.

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"So you've seen it?"

"Well, not from up close. I am a Duke rank after all. I don't want to have my feelings twisted and played with inside that realm. But it's pretty powerful."

Pandora was given no information about what they wanted to do. After all, while a King rank could block their thoughts from being spied upon, things were not very clear when it came to the relationship between a Blessed and their goddess.

Isis, meanwhile, had her soul protected from all outside observations since her birth. Trying to pass the block would immediately alert Anubis.

In the same vein, while Lilin had an inkling about what was happening, she was given no concrete information.

Whatever the results of their operation were, in the end, no one outside of them would know the truth.

"I wonder if we will succeed."

"We will. No, we must. At all costs."

A smile full of determination bloomed on her face as she watched the fight that took place between Pandora and Lilin.

This long plan was slowly inching toward its end.

They did not know what was at the end of the tunnel. But it did not really matter to them.

As long as they were together then she was sure that everything would be alright.

'Though, I wonder what Lilith will do later on.'

Isis had no particular attachment toward Lilith. However, she remembered Skuld telling her that even if she had to seal her soul to keep her alive, she must do it. This meant that there was no way Lilith could be allowed to die.

It seemed that, even beyond Sol's happiness, the Titan had determined that keeping Lilith alive was extremely important as she had the potential to reach a level few could ever hope to even achieve in their wildest dreams.

Skuld was a Titan as well as the being with the strongest power and understanding when it came to observing the aspects of the ever changing future.

Furthermore, her loyalty and devotion to Sol were beyond a shadow of a doubt.

'Well, I hope it won't come to that.'

An undead could never grow and absorb knowledge in the same way the living could. No matter what kind of potential Lilith may have, the moment she became an undead, it would be greatly diminished.

In the end, though, everything would still depend on Lilith herself. There was only so much they could do from their side.

"I wonder what she's doing right now."

"Perhaps she is brooding by herself in her room?"

"Or perhaps she is just employing her sword arts on the rooftop?"

[Castitas' Church]

No matter how much Isis and Persephone thought, they would have never guessed that the woman they were so worried and concerned about was currently downing a pint of beer big enough to make even the staunchest alcoholic cringe in fear and hesitation while feeling admiration and awe for doing such an act.

Camelia looked up with bewilderment as the throat of her friend kept moving on and on without end as she finished the whole thing in the span of a few seconds.

"Are you the new incarnation of gluttony or something?"

Not only was she drinking enough to make a whole sailor crew have justifiable doubts about their virility, but she was also wolfing down the food that was being presented to her like there was no tomorrow.

"Heh. Do not worry. Everything I eat is immediately devoured by my body down to the very molecules."

Camelia's smiling face twitched as she looked at Lilith's flat and fit stomach with envy and jealousy.

"Sinful women like you can never understand the pain normal women like us go through."

"Heh. Says the normal woman who should be near her forty but looks like she is in her twenties— the prime of a woman's lufe."

"Ahem. I am eternally 17 years old."

"Heh, and I am eternally 18. Did you forget already?"

The two looked at each other and smiled with light hearted mischief in their eyes.

This reminded them of the good old times when everything was simpler and they could bicker with little to no worries in their mind.

"So, tell me. Why did you come, outside of, of course, just wanting to finish all the reserves of food we accumulated."

"Why ...?"

Lilith closed her eyes as she thought about why she came to this place— to her long-time friend after such a long time. A smile formed on her devilishly beautiful face as she came to a decision,

"I just thought that it would be nice to spend some time with my friend after a long time."

Her lips had stretched to form a forlorn smile full of melancholy. It had been so long since she could spend some time with Camelia like this. The circumstances just saddened her.

There was always a reason. Always something coming up that stopped her from going to speak calmly with Camelia.

But if she had to be honest about it, she simply did not wish to show her current pathetic sight to the one she had always considered her rival and also her best friend.

Perhaps Camelia's opinion was something that mattered to her even more than Mars. After all, in the past, she knew that Mars was too kind to ever hate her.

But the same wasn't true for Camelia— a very highly pragmatic woman who could be quite the snake when necessary.

"I feel like you are thinking something rude about me."

"I would never."

Camelia scoffed and leaned back in her chair with a tea in her hand but before she could even take a sip she saw Lilith pushing a second drink of pint toward her.

"Drink this. Let us go back to the first day you went drunk."

Camelia blushed and coughed as she remembered those embarrassing memories. "We do not talk about that."

Her expression was stern but she did not refuse the pint from her friend.

Lilith laughed out loud at her contradictory behavior. It was rare to see that woman become flustered with the mention of booze.

"Well, it was indeed something to see. I wonder what Sol would say if he knew that?"

Camelia blushed further at her remark, "Well, I think he would just laugh it off. But I don't want to destroy my image with you mentioning that dark page of my life."

Camelia had already spent too much building the image of a mature and calm woman for Sol. She didn't want him to see her sloppy side.

This might be a little vain of her. But she wished Sol would always look up to and respect her. See her as a great woman when, in reality, she was still full of insecurities and imperfections. Too many of them, in fact.

"You are like him, you know? I guess you two are really fitting as a couple. Though the new girl he brought seems more fitting in that aspect than you are."

Camelia could only smile bitterly at Lilith's blunt remarks. She knew that Sol also acted more mature than he was in reality.

The two of them wanted to always show their best side to the ones they loved and cherished so they did not allow anyone to see their weaknesses.

This seemed to have changed however with the arrival of that Phoenix. She had received the report about their outings during the festival and she had to admit that she was positively surprised by what was written there.

"I always wondered... What do you like about Sol?"

Camelia laughed slightly at that remark of her friend, "Then tell me my friend, what did you like about Mars?"

Seeing Lilith becoming speechless at that curveball she threw at her, she continued,

"Love, you see, always needs a starting point. It could be anything. Physical appearance, personality, the circumstances, and even more.

"But once you go past that starting point... Things become fuzzy. I fell in love at first sight with his soul. But I would have never lasted so long with just that. I love everything about him, even the things he does not wish to show."

Lilith smiled, hearing those words, "The same way Blaze loved Mars even though the two couldn't be any more different."

Camelia snickered inside. In her opinion, Mars and Blaze were so suitable for each other that it was astounding. A match made in heaven.

Blaze was a very dominant woman while Mars was more on the passive side when it came to love and relationship as a whole.

Even though Mars and Blaze had signed a Pride-type contract, with Blaze submitting to Mars, the reality was completely opposite.

This reminded her of a picture Arachne once drew.

That of a slave kneeling in front of her master. But in a twist of fate, the slave was holding the chain of a collar in her hand... A collar that was tied around the neck of her master.

Theresa loved the picture so much that she bought it at a sky-high price.

"Well. Those were the good times I guess?"

The two smiled quietly as a comfortable silence fell between them.

Camelia stopped asking why Lilith came and Lilith never bought any particularly important topic.

They just quietly chatted away like the old friends that they were...

Son of the Hero King

Chapter 430: CH395:END OF THE SIDEQUESTS

While everyone was working on the matter regarding Lilith and Lilith herself was spending her time away drinking like no tomorrow with her old friend Camelia, Sol had his hands full working with Clara about the matters regarding Lustburg.

"Your Highness needs to have a meeting with the Highland family. Athena Highland has been chosen as the representative for the meeting from the Highland's side."

"Hmm? Athena? What about the old man? Anything happened to him recently?"

"Sir Tyr is still very much healthy, Your Highness. I surmise that he wishes to introduce Athena to more important matters of the family through this and most likely wishes to make her spend more time with you."

"I see..."

Sol nodded in understanding and acknowledgment to Clara's words. Athena had already been acting as a representative of their family every now and then before he left for the Astral Realm, so it was not anything new.

But now, it seemed that she would be taking full control of the Highland family's affairs.

'Then again, Tyr is only a human, after all.'

He had to admit that after being around the divine beasts, he had forgotten that the lifespan of a human, no matter how powerful he may be or whatever realm they might have attained, was quite low, comparatively speaking.

Tyr was only a Duke-ranked human so living more than a hundred years would be complicated without some external supplement in use.

'I guess the same goes for Setsuna and Milia too. And... To a certain degree, Camelia as well.'

Even a King-ranked human had an average lifespan of 300 years or so. It was impossible to reach 500 without treading on the Demigod realm but that was a whole other matter altogether. Meanwhile, for the divine beasts, even events from 700 years ago still felt like fresh news. A past that wasn't really a past but more akin to the events of a month ago at most.

He was still young, so he couldn't really understand the weight of his longevity but he hoped from the bottom of his heart that he would have those he loved always close to him and share their life together till the end.

'Well, I still have time.'

"I think your highness should take Athena Highland or at least a relative of hers as a concubine. This would strengthen the power of the royal family greatly."

Sol chuckled and shook his head, "I have honestly no romantic interest in Athena for now. As for the power of the royal family? As long as I am alive, no such thing will be necessary."

When he visited the Four Dukes family, he had a discussion with Tyr about Athena becoming his knight and possibly his fiancee or concubine.

Certainly, back then having the Highland on his back seemed very enticing. But now not much so. Anything that could actually threaten him currently would reduce Athena to nothingness in an instant.

If the witches, Camelia, and Lilith were not considered in the picture, Sol could say without a hint of arrogance that he was the strongest being in the entirety of Lustburg.

When you took into consideration that all those stronger than him were all his staunchest allies, then his control over Lustburg would never be in jeopardy no matter what.

Clara had to fight her inner urge to scream like a fan girl after hearing him speak so resolutely and with such unrestrained confidence. She adjusted her glasses and coughed lightly to gather her bearings before she made a fool of herself before her Lord...

"Your Highness is certainly strong. But power alone cannot assure the good functioning of a Kingdom as large as Lustburg."

Sol grimaced slightly after hearing her words. Lustburg was a very big country [1]. All in all, it covered no less than 3 million square kilometers.

If compared to his old world this was roughly equal to India in the area alone.

Furthermore, this was the result of having lost some territory to other countries during past wars. Prominently, during Neptune's reign.

This world had a weird mix of technology and magic while retaining the lifestyle of medieval times. So, at the very least, the life of the citizens was pretty much assured at this point.

But since the territory was so big, problems always followed them around.

"When I came to Lustburg with Princess Lilin, we were attacked on the road by bandits not far from the capital."

Sol sighed as he listened to Clara's report, "Furthermore since Queen Lilith focused mainly on the interior politics of Lustburg, the nobles on the frontier are more or less acting like kings in their territories and have increased the taxes greatly. Making life moderately harder for the citizens. It's almost a tyranny at this point."

"Of course, after the recent purge, they calmed down. But human beings really have a short memory, don't they? Some nobles are trying to skimp on the war resources they need to provide."

Sol wished he could instantly become a demigod and cover the entirety of the Lustburg at least as his territory.

Then this whole thing would change into a big simulation game as he would have absolute control over every part of the kingdom. This way nothing would be able to go past his supervision and he could instantly strike down any mishappenings in the kingdom before it could get out of hand like this.

'This is why I don't want to conquer the world.'

Dealing with one kingdom was hell already. Dealing with the world would be something he couldn't even start to imagine.

He shook his head to suppress those tiring thoughts, "I guess Milia is doing something about this?"

Clara gave an icy smile as she placed a list on his table, "There are many decisions we couldn't take as it would be abusing our authority. But now that you are present, I believe that it's time to sort this situation."

Sol calmly read the list that could have been called a death note in a way.

After all, all those on this list were judged to be worthy of being executed.

Sol pondered a little before asking her an important question, "Any replacement ready?"

"Yes. But it would take time for them to acclimate and that is why... Milia made a simple proposal... Using the war as a means to achieve our goals."

"..."

Sol closed his eyes and replied with an indifferent tone, "You mean killing them covertly on the battlefield."

"Indeed. Lustburg already had too much turmoil in a short time span. So a mass assassination operation would only incite more chaos in the country and the people's mind. But by using the war as a means we can keep our hands clean."

He could only form a bitter smile with his lips after hearing Clara's words, "I wish I was the kind of person who could show outrage at such a proposal."

He stood up and waved his hand, "I will review the information about them and give my decision once I am done with the reviewing. Please bring me their complete background and the crime they are accused of."

Sol did not doubt Clara and doubted Milia even less.

If Milia judged that they needed to die then he was sure they needed to.

But... He refused to take this decision lightly.

He needed to know. Needed to understand all the reasons before steering those people to their untimely deaths.

From now on, all his decisions would affect millions of people. He couldn't just say <<I didn't know>> or <<This wasn't my choice>> just wash his hands off of the matter.

'I also need more competent and loyal retainers to use as administrators.'

Clara was a gem but she only had one body and mind. Even the Crown's Shadow had basically been permanently changed into an open administrative institution because of how much work they were doing due to the lack of trustworthy and competent personnel.

'After I finish dealing with Lilith 's problem, I will ask Isis to help me with her undead.'

Just imagining a group of 100% loyal and tireless undead working on paperwork for him brought a small smile to his face and swept away the feeling of gloom that was burdening his mind.

He also needed to have a talk with the witches.

'I wonder if I can learn a way to create many clones.'

He felt like this wouldn't be impossible. After all, his power was still entirely linked with the concept of mirrors.

He should be able to create at least one copy of himself. The only problem was that he was quite scared to do it.

If the clone was his mirror then its personality might also be the opposite of his own.

'All that for the future.'

"Hmmm?"

Sol tilted his head in wonder as he heard someone running in the hallway outside...

"Who might it be?"

Clara had already left to go find the documents he had asked for but he doubted she would run like this.

His question was answered promptly when he felt the aura of Isis as she burst through the door with no consideration.

"Sol! Sol! We... We succeeded! We finally completed the perfect map and made a plausible plan that's sure to work!"

Sol's fist clenched unconsciously at the news.

Finally... The time had come.

He approached Isis and took her in his arms before giving her a deep searing kiss in the throes of excitement he felt from this news.

"Thank you."

She blushed slightly due to the curveball he threw at her but nestled herself in his arms the next moment, feeling quite happy with her actions.

"You should also thank Sheherazade later."

"Heh, I guess my debt to the little fairy is growing every day."

He shook his head as his expression became firm and resolute, "I will go and find Lilith. It's time to end this..."

It was time to complete the main quest after clearing out all those damned cumbersome side quests.

Finally... It was time to end it all...