

Legion lich 271

Chapter 271 Second wave

"You will go to our clan's barracks and be trained again, but this time to our clan's standard. Those who meet our clan's standards may serve us, but the rest will be expelled and sent back home. ." Lots of grumbling and gulping sounds were heard from the crowd.

"Don't get your hopes up for Master Nero's speech, most here won't last long enough to see his words come true." Sergeant Brain began to walk through the crowd, who moved left and right to avoid getting in his way.

"The few that remain, however, will really have the chance to participate in the operation that Master Nero described and leave their name in the history of our kingdom. And who will decide who deserves to have that chance will be me, so listen to every word I say, if you don't want to miss your only chance in life." Sergeant Brian grinned wickedly, daydreaming about making life hell for the black hawks.

'I can't tell if this guy is fanatical about his own clan, hates black hawks, or just abusing the power at hand.' Ash thought confused, but tried to keep his presence as low as possible so as not to draw the sergeant's attention to himself.

"Well, I can save the rest of the sermon for later, for now I'll take you to your quarters, follow me." Sergeant Brain flapped his wings once, but heard only complaints from the black hawks.

"We've just finished a march of over 18 hours and we already have to fly again?" A black hawk complained, wings still sore after flying for so long.

Before any other voices of complaint could arise, the sergeant disappeared in a flash, leaving only spark behind. He appeared in front of the complaining black hawk and hit it on the chin with his sheathed sword, knocking it out in one blow.

'How fast! Is that the speed of a tempest eagle using acceleration?' Ash wondered, barely able to follow the sergeant's movements with his eyes.

He wondered if he could react to that move and realized that he could only resist if he had prepared in advance, with skills to increase reaction time and agility.

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As a surprise attack, it would be almost impossible to defend in time.

"Well, that's one less for me to train. Anyone else have any complaints?" Brain looked around at the black hawks, who swallowed their complaints and looked down. "No? Great, then follow me in silence."

'Now I understand why the father was so strict with us during the trip. It was just a piece of what we were going to experience as soldiers here.' Ash thought as he trailed behind the sergeant, followed by all the beastmen except the one who had passed out.

He began to smile unconsciously, hopeful for the future.

While Ash was busy starting his training in the sky wing clan and Athos was busy working on perfecting the potion to develop the magic organ in the other black skeletons, the invasion of evolved demihumans in the west of the continent continued.

The order of magic and the church went ahead with the plan to attack demi-human ships before they reached the mainland and sent mages with magic items that allowed flight or the church's flying units, but the plan failed miserably.

Unlike the first invasion of evolved demi-humans, which was composed exclusively of demi-humans who fought hand-to-hand, the second wave had demi-humans like Solars or Merman, who were able to fight at a distance by controlling the natural elements that were attuned.

Merman were water-attuned demi-humans with blue skin and green or blonde hair. On land they could walk on two legs and in the sea they could form a fish tail to swim quickly.

Just as the solar were able to control and shape natural fire, mermans were able to do the same with water, making them deadly threats while in the ocean.

During attacks by the order of magic and the church, the mermans defended the evolved demihumans on the boats, creating domes with tons of water and mana. After defending themselves, the water domes split into dozens of geysers of pressurized water.

Normally, the water would lose pressure after a few tens of meters and fall harmlessly back into the ocean, but the mermen's mana kept the water pressurized for hundreds of meters and cut mages or church members in half along with the cloaks' magical protections delighted.

Some managed to dodge in time or cast defensive spells strong enough to protect themselves, but the mermans just needed to readjust the geysers to chase those who fled or increase the amount of mana in the geysers they hit to break through the defenses.

When attacks from spears or thrown weapons made from condensed fire from the solar hit them, the human mages were forced to retreat to avoid further losses and regrouped with the forces on the continent.

The ships reached the mainland a few hours later, along with huge waves that hit the barriers, causing a huge impact and shaking the entire barrier.

The gigantic waves didn't stop there, but surrounded the barrier and pressed from all sides, causing huge cracks through which the water began to seep.

In the church fortresses the situation was even worse. The light shields had small gaps the mermans exploited to seep water and expand, making room for even more water to enter.

The church's paladins cast ordinary light barriers, realizing that the multiple shields they often use were ineffective, but it was too late. The light cannons had been flooded before they even activated and the large scale spells they were casting were not helpful in stopping all the invading water.

The waves had washed the ships up to the light shields, so the demihumans hadn't taken damage from spells or cannons. They further widened the spaces between the light shields to get in, further increasing the amount of water that invaded.

Large scale light spells hit the evolved demihumans and killed dozens, but even more broke through the shields.

The church forces tried to resist as long as they could, but the paladins' barriers didn't last long and the demihumans had an easy time slaughtering the humans with no barriers blocking them.

Most of the strongholds had to be abandoned to reduce the loss of life, but the demihumans pursued them not to allow them to escape. In the end, the order of magic needed to open portals to rescue the church's troops, or at least those who were near the portals when they opened.

Demi-humans weren't stupid and despite not knowing what a portal is, they realized that humans were running through them and attacked the portals, forcing the mages on the other side of the portal to close them so they wouldn't be attacked.

Individual portals had been built in various cities across the empires over the past month and although multiple individual portals lessened the danger, there was still a risk of demihumans breaking into the portals and attacking the different branches of the order or church in the empire.

It was a risk the humans had to avoid at all costs, even if they had to sacrifice hundreds to thousands of soldiers. The chances of a second anomaly like the one that destroyed the portal tower were unlikely, but it was of the utmost importance to prevent the loss of portals during a time of war like this.

In the fortresses defended by the order of magic the battle was a little more arduous, but it was still in favor of the evolved demihumans. The barriers conjured by the magic items blocked the sea waves and the mages could cast their large-scale spells, but their effects were greatly reduced compared to the previous invasion.

The waves formed a natural barrier that, along with the merman's mana, mitigated the force of large-scale spells. Evolved trolls and minotaurs took the brunt of the attacks and several were killed or seriously injured, but the other evolved demihumans were still unharmed.

Between the constant pressure of the waves controlled by the merman and the attacks of the evolved demihumans, the barrier gave way after a few minutes, almost as fast as the first barrier despite the humans using magic items even more powerful than the previous ones.

The battles were even more chaotic and destructive than the previous ones, thanks to demihumans like Solar or Merman adding their destructive power. The solar were not very strong during human ambushes because they were in the middle of the ocean and only had the flames they carried as weapons and their own body heat as a weapon, but they were still deadly during battle.

Chapter 272 Settling on the continent

Just like the church, the order mages were forced to retreat after a few minutes of battle, but their losses were minor. Mages with an affinity for wind or magical items that allowed flight fled through the air and took as many mages as they could with them.

The order of magic only used mages and disposable slave troops, so they could retreat much easier compared to the church, which relied on large numbers to fight.

Dozens of coastal cities and fortresses fell, this time the damage being far more serious than the previous battle. During the previous battle, the demihumans had taken over the strongholds and despite the structural damage, the focus was on killing the humans, so the repairs weren't as extensive after the humans regained their territories.

This time, however, the story was different. The destructive power of the Mermans in the ocean was on par with natural disasters like tsunamis and they submerged entire cities, leaving only wreckage after the tide passed.

The only battles that ended with the humans winning were the places where saints and elders fought, but even those battles were difficult compared to the previous ones, an obvious bad omen for humans.

All the elders defended their respective locations alone and ended the battles completely out of mana and unable to support the other strongholds that were defeated, as they did during the first invasion.

That simple fact showed the difference in power between the first wave and the second, making all humans fear how strong were the evolved demihumans that would come during the next waves.

They also knew that at this moment, the demihumans who had reached the southwest of the continent were peacefully disembarking at the bases that the demihumans of the first wave had created, but they could only gnash their teeth helplessly.

Humans weren't even able to properly defend their territories, it was impossible to send enough soldiers to eliminate the evolved demihumans along the entire coastline.

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This also reinforced Eishin's thinking that he should speed up his ascension plans and once again came into contact with Samael, who forced the holy spirit to produce even more holy energy, causing the spirit even more suffering.

Samael once again warned Eishin of the dangers of accelerating further, but Eishin again ignored his warnings.

Canan and Eirin, on the other hand, were regretting their past decisions while working at their moon base. They had neglected the Caprio continent after establishing the three kingdoms, focusing their resources and armies mainly on the nearest Sytrer continent.

There were no known demigods on the Caprio continent and the world's energy density was weaker compared to the other continents, so the continent's own magic resources and natives grew at a slower pace compared to other continents.

Even the order of magic that was created as an organization to support the human kingdoms on the continent only kept three of its elders on the continent, the other four usually stayed in the Makima empire.

The Caprio continent has always had a low priority for the human gods, who supported the humans only in order not to lose their foothold on the continent and left the rest to the three kingdoms, supporting them only when they were in times of crisis.

None of them could have imagined that this decision would cause such a situation, but there was no use crying over spilled milk.

The order and the church along with the human kingdoms began planning how to retake the lost cities a second time, but the mood was tense and despondent throughout all the meetings.

The demonstration of the evolved mermans' destructive power was enough to send shivers down the spine of anyone who wanted to face them. The ability to manipulate water made each merman a natural disaster when near the ocean and a catastrophe as a group.

Each could generate destructive power equal to a large-scale spell and control them with the same naturalness as a member, something a group of mages was unable to replicate.

Armies led by masters of magic might be able to defeat them after an arduous battle, but the losses would be huge. It would also be possible to only send Elders and Saints, who have already shown to be able to defeat them, but that would leave them exhausted and they wouldn't be able to keep up the pace for long.

Many of the elders were of advanced age and despite being excellent warriors, they lacked the stamina for so many consecutive battles.

Both the Three Kingdoms and the Order of Magic's strategists stated that it would be unfeasible to defeat the mermans while near the sea, strongly suggesting that they wait for the evolved demihumans to move away from the ocean before attempting a counteroffensive.

The church objected, stating that it was too dangerous to allow the evolved demihumans to take root on the continent, but they also did not offer an alternative option.

They were the ones who suffered the most during the invasion, along with the kingdom's soldiers and the thousands of slaves of different races, but nobody cared about the latter. Unfortunately, there wasn't much any of them could do and however much they thought until they almost broke their brains, they couldn't think of a way to overcome the strength of the mermans.

The order of magic had magic items that interfered with the world's energy and made certain elements unusable, but they were useless against mermans.

Mermans used the racial ability to control the ocean and consumed only mana, without a drop of world energy.

Mages who possessed mana bodies noticed that the mermans' ability was very similar to how they could control natural elements that had high affinity and shared the information with the order, but this did little to resolve the situation.

As none of the strategists could come up with a strategy to suppress the merman's ability, it was decided that they would abandon most cities and coastal strongholds, preferring to face them away from the ocean where their powers would be limited.

Mermans could still carry weapons made of water that would remain solid as long as they were holding them, but it was much better than facing them near large bodies of water that could be freely controlled.

The Belaster Islands would be a big problem, though. Half of its territory was made up of islands and the mermans would have an easy time submerging them, along with anyone foolish enough to try to defend it.

Thersec, the water elder who was left in charge of one of the coastal islands had a hard time dealing with them and was almost defeated, surviving only because of the countless artifacts he carried with him.

The church and order of magic would still organize raid parties with elders and saints, plus masters of magic and anyone else strong enough to accompany them.

It was the only way to reduce the influence of the evolved demihumans on Doravon, even if it was only a temporary measure.

The order also undertook to collect the corpses of demihumans to study them for weaknesses or countermeasures against their racial abilities.

Reinforcements would also be sent to towns closer to the coast, but it was doubtful whether that would make much of a difference. Cities that already had defenses and branches of the order would easily receive reinforcements, thanks to the teleportation crystals they had serving as a beacon for the portals.

Small towns that lacked magical defenses or rural villages, however, would have to be completely abandoned and their citizens evacuated to larger cities. It was impossible to defend all these small places, even at the loss of fertile land and resources near the cities.

The large number of refugees would cause a major problem for the kingdoms, causing unprecedented famine and overpopulation problems in cities that were not prepared for it.

The kingdoms started food rationing to try to reduce hunger and bought food from the Caria empire, which had an abundance of food and used to export, but it still put more economic pressure on the kingdoms.

Both Belaster and Mirkor were spending everything they could on equipment and resources so that their soldiers would have a minimal chance of fighting, instead of being trampled like ants by the evolved demihumans as happened in battles so far.

The only ones that were helpful were the court mages, though they paled in comparison to the order mages.

All humans could feel that they were slowly being cornered, but there was nothing they could do to reverse the situation.

Chapter 273 Formorian

Unlike in the past, humans were alone and had no support from any other species, so they had to play the roles of all allied species during the age of chaos alone, something almost impossible for humans in the current age.

In the ruins of one of the coastal cities, at the same time the humans were discussing strategies.

The evolved demihumans were celebrating their victory over the church troops they had just destroyed, while devouring the corpses of crusaders and paladins in a huge feast.

Evolved demihumans had no problem eating human flesh, so they feasted on the raw corpses of humans, only stripping them of their clothing and armor.

They were setting up camp in the ruins of the city and while most were busy resting after the battle, a few were watching the surroundings, watching for any attempt at ambushes or espionage.

The aberrations had shared with everyone that there were powerful humans among the enemies capable of exterminating the first wave's evolved demihuman armies and would most likely attack them as well.

The demihumans didn't believe there were any humans strong enough to stand up to them individually, much less be able to defeat entire armies, but they still took the warnings to heart and put the demihumans with better senses on the lookout.

Dozens of Formorians, the race with the best eyesight among demihumans, were busy surveying the surroundings. Evolved Formorians were a race of demi-humans approximately 6 meters tall and black-skinned, with no special features, with the exception of the single giant eye on their forehead, which took up the entire upper part of their face.

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Formorians possessed two vision-related racial abilities, the first called mythical eye, which extended their field of vision by almost a kilometer and the effects of any eye-related abilities.

The second was evil eye, which consumed a large amount of mana to fire a black laser with extreme destructive power and causing a series of curses to victims who survived.

Common Formorians would be temporarily blinded after using evil eye, but were able to overcome this weakness after they started to evolve and would only become unable to use eye abilities for a short time.

"Hey, do you really believe this story that lone humans are strong enough to eliminate our brothers who came first? I know they were just rejects who didn't even pass the first barrier of progression, but it should be impossible for a single human to defeat us." An evolved troll asked the nearest formorian as he dismembered corpses and ate only the arms as snacks.

"I have my doubts too, but orders are orders." The nearest formorian spoke with a shrug, but continued to keep a close eye on his surroundings.

"I believe it's possible to have humans strong enough to kill one of us, but an entire army is hard to believe." A merman spoke, but one of the formorian guards cut him off.

"Um, what's that?" One of the formorians pointed to something approaching in the distance, drawing the attention of everyone around him. A lone human was approaching the ruined city quickly, not bothering to hide his presence.

The human was wearing red armor of ancient dragon scales, carrying a double-headed ax almost as big as he was. The ax was made from dragon bones and the head was made from fangs, its blade being serrated to maximize the cut.

“Attention, enemy attack! One of the strong humans came to us!” The formorian shouted excitedly, alerting all the demihumans in the city ruins. Everyone simultaneously turned their faces towards them and took up arms, preparing excitedly to face him.

Even though the demihumans had been warned that humans capable of exterminating entire armies of demihumans existed, they weren’t scared but excited.

They were superior to the first wave demihumans and thanks to the mermans obliterating the humans during battle, most had energy left over for a fight.

The human walked up to approximately 100 meters away from the row of demihumans, curiously observing the characteristics of each one of them.

“Human, you must be one of the strong ones who killed our weaker brothers during the first invasion, right?” one of the mermans asked cynically, pointing a trident made of water bigger than the knight himself.

“Sorry, but I don’t speak your language and I have no idea what you’re talking about. I don’t have much time either and I need to destroy two more camps before noon, so let’s start the fight at once.” Kian Avant’s voice sounded from under his helmet and he positioned himself to attack.

“Crush this human!” The merman screamed and hurled the trident like a harpoon, but Kian was faster and crossed the distance between them in two strides, reaching the merman’s feet in an instant and slicing through the demihuman’s ankle in an instant.

Before the merman could register the attack, Kian leapt up and decapitated the merman with the axe, before kicking out the muscles in the neck and moving on to the next.

The dragon slayer ax was capable of cut the muscles and bones of evolved demihumans like butter. Even semi-humans like evolved minotaurs with their absurd resistance would be cut with ease.

The ax formed a blade of energy around its head to increase its range, in addition to its different enchantments increasing the raw power of the ax several times over.

Kian had no interest in complex enchantments and his weapon reflected this, all of the rune sets were focused on increasing the power and range of the ax itself, while the armor conjured multiple overlapping shields to protect it.

‘We will try to be quick and efficient. Things are going to get annoying if those mermans make it back to the ocean and hoard water.’ Kian thought, feeling slightly uneasy at the thought of dealing with the massive enhanced tsunamis.

It wouldn’t be a problem for him, but it would still be annoying and delay his schedule.

With a quick glance, Kian found the mermans among the army and hurried to eliminate them first. He ignored all the stupefied demihumans and only concentrated on those he considered the greatest threat.

The demihumans finally snapped out of their stupor and registered what had happened, roaring furiously and tried to attack him, but Kian was simply too fast and small compared to them.

Kian attacked the mermans from behind as they tried to make their way back to the sea, slicing the demihumans in half without a care. The mermans used the water and ice weapons they carried to try to block it, but Kian just kicked the air to change his trajectory and slash the demihumans.

He had no affinity for air, but could move through the air by releasing small bursts of mana through his limbs to propel himself. Every time Kian walked past a merman, heads were severed or deep gashes appeared on the mermans' bodies.

"Kill the human, even if you have to hit our brothers!" The orc general shouted at the formorian, who cast an evil eye around Kian, blocking all of Kian's escape routes.

Formorians were the only ones able to follow Kian's movements and they hit him with the precision of a sniper.

Kian was able to dodge the lasers easily while in the air, but he preferred to take the attack head-on. Evil eye was a powerful racial ability and several lasers at once would be enough to bring down an enchanted fortress.

Kian, however, only needed to cast a single spell to defend himself. His mountain shield spell conjured a 20 meter high stone shield overheated, mixed with light element to increase durability.

The black lasers collided with the mountain shield and generated a huge shockwave upon impact, but the spell held its own against dozens of lasers.

'These lasers are more powerful than expected. They won't be able to break through my shield, but I can't waste my time and energy on a war of attrition.' Kian thought as he killed the last of the mermans and dropped to the ground, stepping out of shield cover and exposing himself to his enemies.

The formorians' black lasers changed direction almost immediately and followed their position, along with the onslaught of dozens of evolved orcs and ogres.

The orcs were the first to reach him because of negative karma, and the ogres followed soon after, after absorbing the air, water, and light elements of world energy.

Dozens of aura blades flew at Kian from all directions, each blade the size of a house. The aura blades left deep grooves in the ground where they passed or distorted the air, showing the destructive power of each blade.

Chapter 274 Curse Master

Surrounded by so many attacks and unable to dodge, Kian wasted no time trying to defend himself and instead fled, leaving the demihumans a surprise.

Kian activated the teleportation crystal ring on one of the fingers of his right hand, being enveloped in a purple sphere and disappearing, the blades of aura and black lasers reaching where he was a second later.

The mountain shield spell fell in the next moment, the incandescent rock turning into magma and exploding in all directions like magma bullets, hitting several orcs and ogres.

The magma bullets hit with the force of a cannon and burned the orcs' skin and muscles. The ogres also suffered injuries, but the water element quickly lowered the temperature of the magma until it solidified and the light began to heal the injuries the moment they were made, restoring the ogres to perfection in a matter of seconds.

Kian appeared above the formorian furthest from the ruin, smashing his ax against the demihuman's nape. He prepared to hunt the formorian, considering them more dangerous because of the evil eye, but it was unnecessary.

The black lasers started to fade until they disappeared and the formorians grabbed their heads feeling a headache. The evil eye had a fatal weakness, the formorian themselves were not entirely immune to the curses cast and would accumulate a small portion of the darkness the curses would accumulate in their eyes.

The effect was temporary and would wear off after a few days of rest, but there had only been a few days since the battle had started and the formorian had not rested at all, so the remnant of the curse was still present.

'Without those annoying mermans and the formorians' lasers, I don't have to worry about anything.' Kian thought as he abandoned any sort of strategy and just went in for the kill.

He moved faster than any demihuman and struck harder than anyone, killing anyone who came within range of his axe. Every time Kian stepped on the ground, a crater formed and every time he swung the axe, the simple movement generated enough wind pressure to sweep the debris around.

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Kian tried to conserve his mana as much as possible, only casting the occasional spell when he was surrounded to kill as many as possible and avoid attacks from blind spots.

Whether orcs with their absurd strength, minotaurs with high resistance or trolls with their regeneration that bordered on immortality, they all dropped dead after Kian passed them by.

Those with special abilities lasted a few seconds longer, but died anyway. Solars weren't much more powerful than mermans and without eye abilities, formorians were just big and clumsy.

Kian slaughtered them all, leaving no corpse upon corpse.

Less than 30 minutes passed before every demihuman in the city's ruins was dead.

'I think I'm done here.' Kian looked around using mana vision to make sure everyone was dead and not just pretending to be dead. After making sure no one was alive, Kian took a communication cube from his dimensional ring and contacted Florence.

"Florence, I've already finished the battle here. I'm going to the next point after I eat something and drink a mana recovery potion. How's it going with you?" Kian asked as he leaned on a troll's severed arm and picked up the dimensional ring items.

“The battle is still going on here! We managed to eliminate all the mermans before they reached the ocean, but the power of the formorians was stronger than expected and the battle dragged on.” Florence responded between gasps as she cast different wind spells.

Kian noticed that Florence was flying above the ruins of the city, conjuring cyclones of wind blades to sweep the demihumans below, but she was busy flying back and forth, dodging a dozen black lasers that vehemently pursued her.

The demihumans on the ground were desperately attacking Florence to try to knock her down and stop the spells, but she was faster and dodged most of them, activating the armor’s mana barrier.

Several groups of adventurers were on the ground and faced the evolved demihumans head to head. They were parties of S or SS ranked adventurers that existed in the Mirkor realm, the most powerful of the entire adventurer guild.

S-ranked adventurers were at least at the ninth tier while those ranked SS at the very least would have to break through the second barrier of progression at the tenth tier.

The only SSS-ranked adventurer was Kian himself and no one had come close to reaching him since the founding of the guild. The difference between a warrior who had just broken through the tenth layer and Kian who had reached the twentieth layer was absurd.

“Do you need backup? I can go there if you’re having trouble.” Kian got to his feet and picked up his axe, preparing to leave. He had never been to where Florence was, but he could teleport to a nearby location and run the rest of the way, catching up in a few minutes.

“No, just go to the next demihuman camp. We can handle something of that level, it’s just going to take a little longer.” Florence responded with difficulty and with perfect timing, the black lasers weakened and disappeared in seconds.

The evil eye’s time had reached its limit, allowing Florence to move unimpeded and increase the number of cyclones.

The adventuring parties were also slowly turning the tide of battle in their favor, making use of teamwork to keep the demihumans at bay while killing them off one by one.

Adventurers had several spells focused on immobilizing large monsters or slowing down their movement, something hard to find among order mages. Order mages normally only trained in offensive or defensive spells, so it was rare to find a mage capable of interrupting enemies without barriers.

“You seem to have things under control, so I’ll hang up and confirm the situation with the other two before heading to the next camp.” Kian briefly said goodbye to Florence and called Elish afterward, but she was even busier than Florence.

“I don’t have time to talk right now, Kian! I’m busy right now!” Elish screamed anxiously and Kian could see that she was surrounded by huge waves that tried to crush her, along with the surrounding adventurers.

Elish had led teams of adventurers from the Belaster Kingdom to attack one of the islands taken over by the demihumans, but they were unable to stop the mermans from reaching the sea and the battle dragged on.

They had already managed to eliminate half of the demihumans, but the other half was strongly resisting the adventurers' attacks. Elish and a few stronger adventurers among them teleported to ambush the mermans and took out a few, but more than half survived with serious injuries and surrounded the humans.

The humans were only able to defend themselves thanks to the items that allowed flight and Elish, who weakened the mermans enough to resist. Elish was a curse master and spread different curses on injured mermans, causing negative effects such as dizziness, diarrhea, extreme pain in random places on the body and disrupting the mermans' mana circulation and consequently their control over water.

Curses were a branch of dark magic just like necromancy, but they were far less developed in comparison. Curses were spells of darkness that accumulated in different parts of the body and disrupted or disrupted the functioning of certain parts of the body, rather than just rotting flesh like darkness would normally.

Normal curses would only cause temporary effects that could be corrected with mana circulation, but some more complex curses would cause damage that would permanently alter the body, to the point that even light magic would not be able to heal and a skilled healer would be needed.

Kian was about to offer to help, but Elish snarled and teleported away with the adventurers, escaping the mermen's water prison and appearing on the other side of the island, on top of a group of ogres who had isolated a group of adventurers and pressured them with their tri-elemental spell-like abilities.

Elish and the adventurers hit the evolved ogres from above before they could react, crushing the ogres' skulls with spells and abilities, killing them instantly. Ogres were able to heal themselves thanks to the light element flowing through their bodies, but it wouldn't be enough to regrow a lost head.

The adventurers used the same trick to teleport across the island and ambush the evolved demihumans when they were distracted. None of the demihumans had teleportation crystals, so they couldn't do the same to surround and ambush the humans.

Chapter 275 Kian's decision

Adventurers, on the other hand, all had rings with teleportation crystals and moved all over the island. Fusing teleportation crystals into rings was better than carrying them loose and the guild shared it with all the adventurers who participated in the operation.

"The tide of battle is turning! Keep pressing them and don't let them regroup!" Elish screamed at the adventurers, at the same time expending a large amount of mana to cast a mass curse of agonizing pain and hitting several demihumans at once.

"I'm busy right now so I'll talk to you later Kian!" Elish was still holding the comm cube, but had to switch off to focus on the battle now that they were at a decisive moment.

"See you later, Elish." Kian left with a wry smile, but Elish had already hung up. Lastly, Kian called Zulu, who was leading an attack on another island.

Zulu was the guild master of Tivan kingdom and although the kingdom was not in immediate danger, Zulu still rallied the adventurers of Tivan kingdom to support Kian.

“Kian, have you finished the second camp yet? You really are on another level.” Zulu answered the call within seconds and to Kian’s surprise, he was resting sitting on a tree trunk.

He looked exhausted, but his relaxed expression showed that the battle had ended in his favor, instead of them retreating after the operation failed.

“Yes, and I still plan to knock down other camps. I just called to confirm how you all are doing, but it seems like it’s unnecessary. You were the first of the three to knock down a camp.” Kian spoke half surprised half relieved.

He knew that Zulu was the strongest among the three guild masters, but he didn’t expect that he would win so quickly. Zulu was a necromancer, but he didn’t control large armies like most necromancers.

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Instead, he controlled a few dozen special undead as elite units. Undead like Liches, death knights and zombie assassins were some of their undead.

Most were powerful beastmen from the realm of Brumia, while some of the liches were elves. Zulu was not as powerful a necromancer as Louis, but he had a large collection of undead of his own.

Zulu was also a warrior and mage, so he wasn’t as dependent on the undead as other necromancers.

“Do you think you’re in a position to attack another camp with your current forces?” Kian asked hopefully, noticing that Zulu had no visible injuries and despite being spattered with blood, his equipment was undamaged.

“Are you kidding me?” Zulu exclaimed as he cursed Kian’s ancestors for raising someone so clueless. “I’m completely out of mana and I’ve lost half of my undead.”

“Several adventurers are also seriously injured and the light mages are busy treating them. We also had some dead who didn’t get treatment in time and even the living are exhausted and out of mana.” Zulu bit his lip in frustration, feeling that the deaths were his fault.

As the leader of the operation, he felt responsible for the deaths of adventurers, and despite knowing that death was inevitable in war, it still hurt to lose comrades in battle.

“Okay, sorry for pushing you like that.” Kian apologized, noting the anguish in Zulu’s expression.

“Kian, I know it’s a little late to ask this, but are you sure it’s a good idea to get involved in this war without notifying the realms? We had a job in this war and we could be judged for getting involved directly.” Zulu asked worriedly.

Kian had decided that he couldn’t stand back just watching the humans get defeated again and decided he was going to get involved, taking down as many demihuman camps as possible.

He shared his decision with the three guild masters, who tried their best to convince him to put the idea behind him or at least inform the order and church of his plan to attack the camps, but Kian was adamant in his decision.

Kian knew that the three kingdoms would immediately accept the guild's help and go back on their words to keep the guild out of the war to avoid monstrous tides.

The order and the church wouldn't refuse help either, although the order probably wouldn't bow its head because of your arrogance.

Kian feared not that the kingdoms would reject them, but that they would accept them and try to force adventurers to join the army. Adventurers were free-spirited and didn't follow anyone but their own interests.

Even Kian and the guild masters had to pay an exorbitant amount using guild funds as rewards for adventuring parties.

If the kingdoms tried to pressure the adventurers, it was possible for them to run away and hide so as not to get involved in the war.

"I'd also like to prevent adventurers from getting involved in the war against Doravon, but I can't stand by as I watch the realms slowly being destroyed." Kian answered without hesitation, making Zulu sigh in frustration at his stubbornness.

"The adventurer's guild is also established in the three realms and we cannot allow them to be destroyed. Our adventurers also have families and everything they built is in these realms, so they will also have to fight eventually."

"I already know all that, but my question is another." Zulu cut Kian off before the latter could delve into his rant. "Why didn't you tell the kingdoms, the order or the church about our participation in the war?"

"If you had informed them, we could have done a joint operation instead of carrying out a clandestine mission like this." Zulu asked something that was bothering not only him, but Florence and Elish as well.

Kian was very adamant about not letting the operation leak to anyone outside the guild and although Zulu questioned him about why, the former didn't explain. Zulu was loyal to Kian and obeyed, but he couldn't help but question himself.

"Why do we need to show the strength of the adventurer's guild if we want to avoid being swallowed up by the kingdoms and be able to maintain the independent organization status we've maintained until now." Kian began to explain his thoughts.

"I created the guild to be an independent organization where warriors and mages could develop without bending the knee to the realms, joining the corrupted order or the fanatics of the church."

"I don't agree with the way these two giant organizations act and I refuse to submit to either of them, but for that we need to prove that not only me, but you also have enough strength to be respected and not absorbed."

"And the best way to do that is to prove that we are capable of destroying the camps that the order and the church failed to protect." Zulu added and Kian nodded in agreement.

"I didn't explain it to you right away just because we didn't have time to discuss it and Elish and Florence would definitely try to convince us to share the information and coordinate with order and church." Kian finished recovering his mana and stretched his body, ready for another battle.

"Florence I don't know, but Elish would definitely do that." Zulu had to agree with Kian's opinion. Since the beginning of the war, Elish had been pestering them to get involved in the war.

She wasn't very patriotic, but she had family scattered across the Belaster kingdom and several of them were forced to evacuate to save themselves.

"I'm going to hang up now, Zulu. When you're done resting, don't forget to collect the corpses and pile them up somewhere for the order collect in a few hours." Kian said goodbye and hung up the call, closing his eyes as he concentrated on his next destination.

There were nearly a hundred demihuman camps, but Kian could only destroy a dozen a day before he had to stop. Even stopping to rest and taking mana regeneration potions, it would be impossible to do more than that.

If he abused and drank too many potions, his core might overheat from absorbing too much energy in a short period of time. Kian was extremely powerful and could withstand many more doses of potions than the average warrior, but he preferred to avoid taking risks.

'The nearest camp is almost 200 kilometers north of my position, but it's a town I've never been to before. I won't teleport to save mana and I'll run there, but it will take a while.' Kian thought and started running at a moderate speed so as not to get tired quickly, although a moderate pace for him was the same as a beastmen tempest eagle flying with acceleration.

Chapter 276 Infiltrators

Almost half an hour passed before there was any movement in the ruined city.

Dozens of aberrations climbed out of the sea and walked along the beach, looking in horror at the destroyed city and countless demihuman corpses. They were part of the second wave of demihumans, but they didn't mix with the other demihumans.

Aberrations were unlike all other demihumans and were excluded even among their allies. They had avoided actively engaging in the battle against the humans and remained in the ocean even after the battle was over, avoiding engaging with others.

The Aberrations had been ordered by the patriarch of the species to gather information from the human territory, so they would leave in a few hours after recovering from the tiring journey.

It was also the only reason they were able to survive Kian's massacre, as Kian's senses didn't reach the bottom of the sea.

The aberrations had noticed the battle thanks to the sensory sharing they had with the demihumans, but had not become involved in the battle. Quite the contrary, they went even deeper into the ocean and stayed away from the beaches to avoid detection.

Unlike the demihumans who were sent out as soldiers, the aberrations were spies.

As they were the only species capable of manipulating minds, they were the only ones who could do that job and should prioritize their mission, even at the expense of their fellows.

‘It’s even more impressive up close.’ One of the aberrations shared his thoughts with his companions. ‘I knew there were some really strong humans, but I didn’t expect there to be so many.’

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‘I understand what you mean.’ A companion responded with a nod. ‘This strange human was not among those who participated in the battle last time, so we have no information about him, but just by the performance he showed, he should be on the same level as our patriarchs.’

‘I believe he is above even the patriarchs.’ Another aberration spoke, his words shocking his companions. ‘I mean, I’ve never seen someone with so much physical power, even the orc patriarch wasn’t that powerful.’

‘Silence, everyone.’ The platoon leader silenced the telepathic conversation. ‘Regardless of who it is, it is certain that it is a dangerous enemy that we didn’t know about until now.’

‘Before we proceed, we need to inform our leaders about the new enemy. Get in formation now.’ He ordered and the other freaks nodded, before surrounding the leader in a circular formation.

The aberration in the center began to concentrate, sending out a telepathic signal that only other aberrations could detect. Those around did the same, mixing their own signal with the main one and amplifying it.

The amplified signal was the only way to contact the aberrations left behind on the Doravon continent. Even for aberrations with their great mental ability, it was impossible to send a message capable of crossing an ocean and reaching the aberration on the other side.

It was the same method the aberration patriarch and his assistants had used to successfully visualize the demihumans during the first wave of invaders.

After a few minutes of waiting for the signal to travel, they finally felt someone connecting to them. There were outposts on the coast of the Doravon continent created by the aberrations, to pick up the telepathic signal sent by the spies as quickly as possible.

‘This is the leader of spy platoon #22, I’m reporting back after getting some important information. Who am I talking with?’ The platoon leader said with a respectful salute.

‘I am Wula, responsible for contacting the units and transmitting their information to the army.’ Wula spoke a few minutes later, trying to be as concise as possible.

Even if the communication was telepathic, it still took time for thoughts to travel long distances like that. The story would be different if they were powerful demihumans who would have strengthened bodies and minds, but the platoon was composed of aberrations that had just broken through the first barrier of progression.

The leader wasted no time talking and uploaded all the footage they could get of Kian slaughtering the camp. An aberration’s mind functioned like a library and they could store and share information like files.

He tried to be as accurate as possible and avoided revealing his own impressions as much as possible, to let wula draw his own conclusions.

‘Is there another mighty warrior among humans? This needs to be reported to superiors. Thanks for the info. Get in touch if they discover any more important information.’ Wula spoke and disconnected from the mind link.

The aberrations stopped sending the signal and began to move, leaving the destroyed camp and half-human corpses behind.

Using telekinesis, the aberrations could fly easily and by increasing the amount of mana, they could accelerate and fly at high speeds.

‘For now, there are no living creatures for miles around, but we need to be careful not to be seen, so stay tuned.’ The platoon leader spoke to the other freaks, carefully scanning their surroundings.

Everyone was on the lookout for any form of life, stopping whenever they encountered any monster or animal. They brainwashed every animal they passed to try to get any information and tag them for future sensory sharing use.

Monsters were simple creatures and barely knew anything outside their respective territories, so they didn’t have any useful information and ended up as food for aberrations.

Birds, on the other hand, were much more helpful and had information about human cities and towns.

The aberrations changed course and headed towards the nearest human village.

The trip took almost 2 days for the aberrations to fly, but the trip would take twice as long over land. Aberrations barely needed sleep, so they traveled almost non-stop and only stopped when they needed to eat or ran out of mana.

‘We are approaching human settlements, so we need to be even more careful from now on. Use photokinesis to not be seen and avoid mages as much as possible.’ The platoon leader spoke as they flew over a forest.

‘I see no need to avoid the wizards, sir.’ one of the freaks replied. ‘Manipulating a mage’s mind might take longer than usual, but it should still be a simple process if we all work together on it.’

‘Let’s avoid mages and focus on those with less resistant minds, at least initially. I want to get general information first and settle down, before slowly getting more important information’ The platoon leader explained and activated photokinesis.

Photokinesis was one of aberrations’ multiple psychic abilities and allowed them to manipulate light, but the ability was different from magic. It was impossible to harden light to form weapons or use light to heal.

Their ability was limited and allowed them to focus light to generate heat rays or manipulate it to generate flash. One of the applications of this ability was to allow natural light to pass through the body without reflecting it, becoming invisible to the naked eye. The other aberrations followed suit and finally emerged from the forest’s edge, a human settlement becoming visible in the distance. It was a small city without any special features, with stone walls of approximately 6 meters.

City guards were busy patrolling the walls, but they were watching the inside more than the outside. Inside the city, people moved restlessly, nearly trampling each other.

The information that the coastal cities were destroyed had reached the baron who ruled the city, as well as the order to evacuate. All the citizens were hastily gathering all their belongings before fleeing through the opposite gate, fleeing in the direction of the nearest large city. 'There doesn't seem to be any magical defense in the city, but don't let your guard down.

There may be mages and warriors capable of using mana among the fleeing humans, so avoid entering the mana vision range of any powerful humans.' The platoon leader informed his companions.

They split up shortly thereafter and flew over the city, gathering information from several different locations. Even without brainwashing their victims, the aberrations could learn a lot just by reading people's surface thoughts through telepathy.

Memories would take a little more effort and consume mana to infiltrate people's minds, but they didn't want to risk mages detecting the mana and being exposed.

Language barriers did not exist for the aberration, who could learn all of a victim's information within minutes, including the language they spoke.

By reading people's thoughts, the aberrations figured out where people were evacuating to and the location of cities with adequate defenses, but getting more information from people evacuating in a hurry would be difficult.

Chapter 277 Triple alliance

Most thoughts were filled with worry and anxiety as people tried to gather as much of their belongings as possible before fleeing.

'I found a mage in the baron's mansion.' The aberration that flew towards the noble area of the city spoke, drawing the attention of its peers. He was speaking in human language, trying the new language to get used to it easily.

'There are a few dozen mana users, but most are weak and aren't even in the second layer life. This place must be a city of low importance to humans, there are barely any forces defending them.' The platoon leader noticed and began to lose interest in the city.

'There's nothing that can interest us in this town, so let's go ahead and follow the fleeing people to the nearest big city. We can take this time to tag as many people as possible.' He kept talking and left the city, followed by his companions.

The gate on the opposite side was crowded and several carriages and wagons were leaving the city in a hurry, so the aberrations followed, hypnotizing as many refugees as possible.

The same thing was happening in several different places on Mirkor and the Belaster Islands, dozens of groups of aberrations reached small towns or human villages, brainwashing its residents to use them as puppets and unwitting spies for the demihumans.

Slowly, the aberrations were creating an espionage system in the human realms, which would only spread over time.

Those who landed in the southwest of the continent, on the other hand, didn't have to do anything as complicated as spying. There were no kingdoms or soldiers in the Savannahs, only monsters and half-human tribes.

There were large tribes of demihumans that had subjugated others to form territories, intelligent monsters that ruled over other species, or unowned territories where the law of the jungle prevailed, but none of these posed a real challenge to the evolved demihuman troops.

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The evolved demihumans of the first wave had swept through the regions closest to where they had set up camp, so they were more or less used to the level of power in the savannahs.

They lost a few dozen soldiers during the fighting, but they didn't hesitate to keep fighting to expand the demihumans' territory on the continent.

When the second wave of invaders landed on the mainland, the demihumans who were already camping received them warmly before leaving and starting to march east.

It was a custom of the giants that the weakest would always be sent ahead to exploit enemy forces, and the evolved demihumans had adopted this culture.

The evolved demi-humans of the second wave would only leave when the next ones arrived and could take over the camps.

The demi-humans on the march were still far from Athos's position and the black skeletons, but if they kept the pace, they could cross the Savannahs in the period of 10 months, a little more since they would have to face countless monsters and invade the territory of several clans.

It was uncertain whether the demihumans would be able to maintain their gait and cross the savannahs, however. There were simply too many monsters and half-human clans in the way.

Although the evolved demihumans were stronger individually, the enemies were numerically superior. There were only a few thousand in each advancing group, but the number of monsters and demihumans numbered in the millions.

While the aberrations created a spy network and the demihumans in the Southwest marched east, the humans also began to fight back to retake their lost territories.

After almost an entire day of destroying enemy camps, Kian contacted the main forces of the continent to inform them of his deeds and the adventurers, shocking not only the three kingdoms, but also the order of magic and the church.

Everyone knew that Kian was a powerful warrior, his deeds were legendary and known throughout the three kingdoms and beyond, reaching even to the Adula empires.

Kian was a warrior considered immortal and older than all the elders of the order and saints of the church, holding his position as the strongest human born on the continent of Caprio for centuries.

However, no one expected him to get directly involved in the war and in such a short period of time be able to kill so many evolved demihumans.

The performance of the adventuring parties was also a surprise to everyone. Adventurers were known to be individually strong, but had trouble working together as an army.

It was part of the reason adventurers weren't forcibly drafted into war. The leaders of all organizations feared that adventurers would not obey orders and act recklessly, compromising the army and exposing them to enemies.

Their mindset had to change after the adventurers' actions. Many voices were raised saying that they should start recruiting adventurers, but Kian himself was opposed to this.

He insisted that the adventurers maintain the status they had until now and act as an allied organization, rather than submitting to the whims of the three kingdoms.

Royalty and nobles were vehemently opposed to letting the adventurers run wild in such a troubled period, but strangely they were on their own.

The order and the church accepted that the guild would act independently, only requiring that they collaborate in defending the borders and take part in the burden of defending the fortress.

Many did not understand the church and order's decision to allow a third party to join a group in a similar position to theirs, but there was not much they could do.

The three kingdoms had already ceded authority during these times of war, so they could only express their dissatisfaction at seeing the guild join the war and immediately rise above themselves.

What the royalty and nobles didn't know was that Kian had contacted Canan and Eishin shortly after he finished attacking the camps. He had already contacted the human gods directly and made his request.

Kian had known the human Gods since he reached the twentieth layer of life and had caught the attention of both of them. In the past, they had invited Kian to their respective palaces and tried to recruit him, but Kian had both declined, arrogantly saying that he did not agree with their ideas and would not abandon the Caprio continent.

The two Gods did not take Kian's refusal well, but forgave him and kept in touch with him, wanting to maintain a good relationship with him, in case he was able to break the fourth wall of progression and step into the realm of the demigods in the future.

When they got the call from Kian and heard what it was about, they almost immediately agreed with him. They were both in need of help in their respective territories and it was impossible to send any help, so they were more than happy to have Kian and the adventurer's guild help out.

A few hours after the adventurer's guild was accepted as the third independent organization in the alliance, the humans began organizing a counterattack on the evolved demihuman camps.

The church and order already planned to attack the camps and were preparing to attack, so they only had to share the burden with the adventurer's guild and exclude those who were already destroyed by Kian or the guildmasters of the three kingdoms.

The three kingdoms also joined in a great offensive, gathering their armies to try to match the power of the international organizations, but they were barely able to match them.

Court mages were unable to match the powers of order mages, while elite knights barely matched crusaders.

The royal knight and mage were the elite of their respective kingdoms and everyone was at the minimum sixth tier of life, but that was just the minimum level for enemies.

Among all the armies, the forces of the three kingdoms were definitely the weakest and it was uncertain whether they would be able to destroy a demihuman camp even with their overwhelming numbers.

The only thing they were certain of was that whatever the outcome, it would be a bloodbath.

Inside the Black Skeletons' fortress, while the humans attacked the Evolved Demi-Human camps.

The construction of the fortress was progressing more and more, the skeleton dwarf, earth mages and runesmiths working almost non-stop, stopping only when they ran out of mana.

The mages had already finished enchanting the second wall and the stronghold was about to be completed, but construction had temporarily slowed down while the black skeletons worked inside the stronghold.

After learning that Athos was working on a way to develop the magic organs and recover the skeletons' bodies, the black skeletons hurried to build a laboratory where he could work.