

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

Chapter 721: AFCS, Unconditional Love [3]

"Ahhh! I'm trying!" Lily said through gritted teeth, her face scrunched up in anguish.

His bloodline energy loosened up her anal tract, helping her relax.

This time, Max didn't rush to shove the rest of his cock inside her, and instead, waited for a few seconds, letting her adjust.

Ha!

Lily took a deep breath and turned her head around to give him a sullen look, her lips pressed into a thin line.

Max smiled awkwardly before gently caressing her soft ass cheeks. "Sorry, baby. I couldn't stop myself. You excite me just too much to control my desires."

"Hmph! No need for these sugary words." She huffed in mock anger. Max sighed in relief in his heart when he saw she wasn't angry... or rather, too angry, and that his words had the intended effect.

After giving him another glare, she turned her face away and said in a low voice, "...You can continue."

"You sure?" He asked and instantly regretted it.

Just as he thought, Lily hurrumped and said in displeasure, "Now you are asking this, young master?"

Max leaned forward and kissed her back. "Sorry, alright. Now, don't be angry and see how I make you feel good."

"Hmm." Lily nodded while feeling giddy in her heart and also a little bad. She liked how he seemed to become scared seeing she was angry, but exactly because of that, she felt bad.

After hesitating for a little, just as Max was about to move, she said, "Young master..."

"Yes?" Max asked, stopping.

"You... As I said earlier, I'm already completely yours. You can do whatever you want with me and to me. As long as it is something that makes you happy, I would never say no to it."

Max nodded, his expression placid. "I understand. But... you should also know, I'm your man, and you have every right to stop or even scold me if you are not comfortable with or don't like anything I do or decide to do, understand?"

Lily felt her heart warming, and a blessed smile blossomed on her face as she made a faint voice of acknowledgment. "Mm."

Emily silently heard their exchange and couldn't help but admire Lily's selfless love for him. She knew Max loved Lily a little more than her, but it didn't matter because she knew the difference was almost negligible.

However...

'Do I love him as much as she loves him?' She closed her eyes and questioned herself, and the answer she got was yes, she loved him and loved him a lot. She could even sacrifice herself for him, not to mention anything else, but... her love fell slightly short of Lily's.

Taking a deep breath, she stood up, no longer trying to hide from Lily, and walked over to the bed.

'Hm?' Max raised his brows in surprise while embarrassment overwhelmed Lily. She knew Emily was watching them, but since Emily was acting like she was not, she didn't feel as embarrassed, but now... she wanted to find a hole to hide in.

Emily climbed on top of the bed, came beside Max, put her hands on her face, and... kissed him, a full-on, tongue kiss.

One of Max's hands left Lily's soft ass and wrapped around Emily's waist, resting on the upper half of her ass cheek.

Lily had lowered her face to the bed, so she didn't see them, but from their rough breathing and the wet sounds of their lips and tongues, it was more than enough for her to realize they were kissing.

'Sister Emily... You should have come after we were done. Why did you...?' Suddenly she realized their conversation must have been the trigger for her to overcome her inhibitions and sighed.

'It's a good thing she decided to surrender herself completely to the young master. But... it's too embarrassing for me to have her watch.'

"Ahn~"

Suddenly, she felt his cock throb in excitement in her ass, and the sudden, soft movement made her moan. Immediately after which, she froze.

Then, she heard them stop kissing and then heard Emily say, "Don't be embarrassed, sister Lily. If it makes you feel any better, you can watch us when he does it with me."

Lily's face reddened at her words, and her anal muscles unconsciously gripped his cock.

Max grinned and slowly pulled his hips back until only the mushroomhead was inside her and then slowly moved forward. The friction made her feel all tingly, causing her to moan.

With one hand grabbing Lily's left cheek, his fingers digging into her flesh, causing her soft skin to redden, and with the other holding Emily close, caressing her back and ass, he started to move in and out of her slowly.

Ahn~ Mmg~

After a few strokes, he felt she was relaxed and her anal muscles weren't as stiff; he pushed in again, and this time, he didn't stop halfway but continued onward.

Mmnngggg~

As more of his bulging rod slid inside her, stretching her insides and exploring the uncharted depths, Lily raised her head, her eyes half closed as she bit her lower lip and let out a long, drawn-out moan, a mixture of pain and pleasure.

"Grab her waist." Max said to Emily, his voice commanding. Emily immediately obeyed.

Max then cupped her face, put his lips on hers, and shoved his tongue in her oral cavity, starting a sensual dance with her sweet tongue while not forgetting to move his waist.

As he indulged in these two incredible women, whose presence was enough to make him excited, he felt his lust spiking, his blood rushing to his head and his cock, causing it to harden beyond the limits. At the moment, he was truly harder than steel.

Mhm~

He groaned in pleasure, and in his excitement, bit Emily's upper lip, a little harder than intended. Panicking, he was about to break the kiss, but Emily suddenly put one of her hands behind his head.

His excitement had excited her too, and she was enjoying his passionate, almost hungry kiss. So, how could she allow him to pull away just because he made her bleed a little? Heck, she even liked the pain he caused her.

'Am I becoming too obsessed with him?' She chuckled in her heart at the thought.

Chapter 722: AFCS, Pure Lust [4]

Lily felt a strange sensation course through her body when she felt Emily's hands grab her waist.

'Since sister Emily isn't uncomfortable joining us, I shouldn't be either.' She thought and slowly raised her head, no longer trying to hide.

Then as Max started moving in and out of her, the pain she was feeling slowly transformed into pleasure. Although a little remained because his thick cock was constantly stretching out her tight hole, she liked it as it enhanced the pleasure.

Ahn~ Mm~ Nnng~

Letting out soft moans, she gathered her courage and turned her head around and saw Max and Emily passionately kissing, almost trying to devour each other.

'She is going to get addicted to him like us.' She smiled faintly but then pouted her lips, 'But I don't like the fact that she is distracting him. He... isn't doing it with the same intensity.'

Just as this thought appeared in her mind, Max's eyes flashed with amusement. One of his hands left Emily's face. He was about to grab her waist and increase the intensity of his thrusts and himself deeper because even now, he had yet to enter her fully.

However...

His hand stopped when it was about to touch her and hovered there because...

Thwop!

Lily had pushed her hips backwards, meeting his thrust halfway and causing him to enter her deeper.

Ahngg~

Mm~

Lily moaned in pleasure and satisfaction, and while Max also moaned, it was mostly because of his spiking excitement. His cock throbbed in approval of her decision and in encouragement.

Ahn~

Lily moaned, feeling his excitement. Her lips curled up in a small smile, and she started moving her waist, trying to meet each of his thrusts halfway and to take all of him inside her. Though she was clumsy at first, she soon found a rhythm.

Thwop! Thwop! Thwop!

Ahn~ Nnngg~ Hnnnggg~

'Fuck! This is good.' Max groaned in his mind. His hand was already placed on her hip, gently guiding her movements.

When she took almost ninety percent of him inside her, he broke the kiss with Emily, grabbed Lily's waist with both his hands, pulled back until only his engorged cockhead was inside her anal hole, and...

Thump!

Ahhhnnnngggg~

...With a powerful thrust, he pushed his cock all the way inside her, causing Lily to let out a loud moan as her body went stiff from the pleasure.

Argghh!

Max moaned too, feeling her warm and tight anal muscles envelop him completely and then squeeze, making him feel an incredible amount of pleasure.

Slowly, he pulled back before powerfully thrusting again, and slowly, he increased the pace. Half a minute later, he was wildly fucking her.

Ahhhnnng~ Hnnnnngggg~ Mmnnnggg~

Arghh~

Each thrust rocked her body and sent intense jolts of pleasure coursing through her body, making her moan and drool uncontrollably, her eyes glazing over. A few minutes in, and she completely lost herself to the pleasure.

Max was the same. The intense pleasure had turned him into a horny beast who sought nothing but pleasure, his pupils turning crimson pink in lust.

Then, before he knew it, he raised his hand and...

Slap!

...Slapped her buttcheek, making it ripple.

Ahhh~

The sharp sting of pain made Lily... moan, and her already tight insides clamped down on his shaft with even more force, giving him even more pleasure.

Slap! Slap! Slap!

He continued raining down slap after slap on her cheeks alternately. In just a minute, Lily's ass had turned so red that it seemed it would bleed from the slightest touch.

Emily watched all this with a dazed expression. She had frowned when he slapped her, but then she saw Lily's reaction and thought, 'Does she like this?'

As she continued watching him fuck her forcefully and brutally beat her ass, she slowly started feeling tingly between her legs, her pussy becoming wet with anticipation.

...

Ahhhhhhhhnnngggg~

Arrrgghhhh!

A few minutes later, they both cried out, their moans akin to beastly growls, climaxing at the same time, hard.

When Max was finished filling her hole with his thick spunk, he pulled out of her, letting her fall to the bed, and turned to Emily, who was rubbing her thighs, looking at him with a hungry gaze.

"Come here." He growled, his blue eyes now a vibrant shade of crimson-pink. Right now, although he was overwhelmed with lust, he was in full control, not his bloodline like before. In fact, it didn't show any signs of influencing him and was rapidly creating Nascent energy from their pure yin and yang energies.

Gulp!

Emily gulped in nervous anticipation, and before she knew it, she was on all fours in front of him, her sexy ass sticking out toward him.

Max wanted to take her anal virginity too, but he knew in his current condition, he wouldn't be able to control himself. So, not wanting to torture her ass, though he felt she might like it, he put the tip of his cock on her pussy's entrance and thrust his waist forward.

Schlick!

Without any problem, his cock, which was now slightly more than nine inches long and almost as thick as Emily's wrist, slid all the way inside her, slamming into her cervix violently as if trying to force its way into her womb.

"Ahhhnn~ It's inside~" Emily cooed in pleasure, biting her lips.

"Argh! You feel good, Emily." Max groaned, feeling a sensation different from Lily's ass, but almost as pleasurable.

"I'm happy~ to make my little Max feel good~" Emily moaned, her pussy throbbing on his cock, caressing it gently and lovingly as if welcoming it again after a long separation.

Throb!

"Argh! You make me too excited, Emily." Max groaned. The words 'little Max' were like a strong stimulant, exciting him even more and causing him to pull back until he was almost completely out of her slick pussy before thrusting inside with force, once again hitting her cervix.

"Ahhhnnng~ Sooo good~" Emily moaned, encouraging him to continue. Grabbing her hips, digging his fingers into her soft flesh, he started thrusting in and out of her wildly, pushing her pussy without mercy.

Thwop! Thwop! Thwop!

Schlick! Schlick! Schlick! Ahhnn~ Nngggh~ Hnnnnggg~

The isolation barrier was filled with the sensual sounds of their sex.

Chapter 723: AFCS, Prodigy [5]

Phew!

Sera exhaled deeply and opened her eyes, a satisfied and excited expression on her face.

In just one day, she had made more progress than she did in the last year. She was at the peak of Four Star already, and now she was closer to the Five Star realm, having converted over fifteen percent of her mana into quasi Five Star mana.

Unlike in the realms before, in the Four Star realm, one couldn't convert their mana to the Five Star level without overcoming the mana tribulation. So, most people tried to push it to the limits, so when they succeeded in overcoming the tribulation, it would automatically transform into the Five Star mana.

If someone who was working hard to convert their four star mana, or someone in the realms above, already having done it, found out she had converted an entire fifteen percent, more than one-seventh part of their mana, to the quasi Five Star level in just one day, they would be stunned, and most probably words like 'Incredible,' 'Monstrous Talent,' 'Prodigy,' etc., would come to their mind.

This cultivation speed, that too without any external help, was simply too unbelievable, after all.

'I need to temper my mana core, too. Otherwise it wouldn't be able to endure the pressure of high-level mana. Hm, I need to learn the [Water Light Rejuvenation] spell too. But...' She frowned, 'How am I supposed to comprehend the law? It's been such a long time since I reached the Superior Mana Control stage, but I have yet to catch even a glimpse of the law.'

She then remembered something else and sighed helplessly, 'I need to work on my aura too and form my aura field. Sigh! If I had met Lord Husband a few months earlier, I wouldn't have to do all this all at once.'

Just as this thought crossed her mind, her eyes narrowed as she looked at the isolation barrier. 'Why didn't he call me? Did he not want to disturb my cultivation, or did he lose himself in sister Lily's and sister Emily's warmth and forgot about me?'

She pouted her lips in dissatisfaction.

Her both guesses were accurate. Max didn't disturb her, both because he could tell she was fully immersed in cultivation and also because he lost himself in Lily and Emily.

However...

Zoom!

Just a few seconds after she stopped cultivating, the barrier opened, and Max walked out, buck naked, his breathing rough, his eyes burning with intense lust, and his cock throbbing hard, pointing to the ceiling.

Sera's breath hitched when she saw him, and her face reddened, suddenly becoming excited when she inhaled the strong scent of sex that was blasted out of the isolation barrier, saturating the room, when the barrier opened.

Swoosh!

"Come, baby. It's your turn." He appeared in front of her and lifted her in his arms before walking back to the bed.

Sera silently nodded and then looked over. Her eyes widened when she saw Emily and Lily lying on the bed, on top of each other, unconscious. Their expressions were a mix of supreme bliss and extreme satisfaction, and their pussies were swollen red, dripping with his cum.

Seeing their state, she unconsciously rubbed her thighs and felt heat rising in her loins that made her pussy wet.

...

Ha~ Huff~ Ha~

A few hours later, Sera was lying on the bed on her stomach, heaving deep breaths. Her eyes were glazed over in ecstasy, and she was drooling. Her pussy was also swollen and dripping with cum, while Max was fucking Emily, who had woken up a while ago upon sensing the disturbance, like a wild beast in heat.

Thwop! Thwop! Thwop!

Squelch! Squelch! Squelch!

Ahn~ Ahhnnngg~ Hnnnggg~

...

Almost 36 hours after they entered the training room, Max finally stopped, fully satisfied.

He lay in the middle of the bed with Lily lying on top of him and Emily and Sera on either side, sleeping soundly.

'Ha! It was amazing.' He thought, and then sensed how much Nascent Energy he had gained, how much Sera, Lily, and Emily had improved, and his lips curled up in a satisfied smile, 'What a fruitful cultivation session! I need to do this more often.'

Although Emily and Lily weren't able to cultivate after a few hours into their cultivation session due to their minds being overwhelmed with pleasure, they had absorbed

enough Nascent Energy in the first few hours and made significant improvements in their cultivations.

Emily had even strengthened her bloodline enough to awaken her second bloodline ability. She had yet to name it, so it was still nameless. While Lily also wanted to let her bloodline absorb the Nascent Energy, Max had stopped her. He wanted to be in his right state of mind when she did it so in case something went wrong, he could properly help her.

'I should be able to increase my cultivation to the mid-stage Four Star with all this Nascent Energy. Even if it falls a little short, I can use the mana crystals.' He thought, feeling excited. But then he furrowed his brows. 'But it would probably take up all my remaining time in the training room.'

When they left the room, he needed to have a significant amount of Nascent Energy as he needed to inject it into Wyomin's withered wood, and he also needed some of it to safely use the Death Energy.

Sigh!

He sighed and thought, 'Well, I should follow Alton's advice and prioritize tempering my foundation instead of increasing my cultivation realm.'

'But first, I need to get some sleep.' Thinking this, he closed his eyes, hugged the lovely ladies beside him, and soon fell asleep.

...

For most of the remaining second day, they slept like babies.

After waking up, they cleaned themselves with their mana and started cultivating.

Soon, the week passed, and it was time for them to leave the training room.

When he stopped his cultivation, opened his eyes, and dispelled the isolation barrier, he heard the sweet voices of the beautiful trio and the sound of them moving around.

They were sparring and guiding each other.

Seeing they seemed to have gotten even closer, treating each other like real sisters, he smiled.

Chapter 724: I Thought You Would Know

He wanted to watch them for a while in silence, but almost immediately, Lily's head flicked in his direction and then...

Swoosh!

She rushed over and jumped toward him, her arms outstretched and a beautiful smile on her face.

Max smiled and caught her before hugging her, "Whoa! Someone is happy today." He said, giving her lips a peck.

Before she could respond...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Emily and Sera also rushed over and hugged him, snuggling into his chest.

Hugging the trio and feeling their radiating love and happiness, he became happy and forgot all his worries.

'How wonderful!' He thought, hoping the time to stop so he could enjoy this calmness and happiness in their embrace.

Unfortunately, to his and the trio's dissatisfaction, just a few seconds later, a monotonous voice sounded.

[Your time is up. Please stand in the center of the room. You'll be teleported out.]

Despite hearing the announcement, the ladies didn't show any indication of moving, causing him to smile wryly.

He then playfully swatted their bottoms and chuckled, "Let's go, girls."

They reluctantly pulled away, and a few moments later, they were teleported to the transference hall.

Almost immediately, he felt his communication crystal buzz in his spatial ring. When he took it out and heard the message, he sighed.

"Who is it, my lord?" Sera asked, and Emily and Lily also looked at him.

"It's Wy—Lady Wyomin. She wants to meet me." Max said, "Let's go."

"But she wants to meet only you." Emily said, not wanting to go uninvited.

Max playfully pulled her cheek and said, "I want you to come with me, so come."

Emily swatted his hand away and glared at him as she rubbed her cheek. "Don't do that. I'm not a kid."

In response, Max grinned and deliberately looked her up and down before nodding, "Indeed."

Emily blushed and turned around. "Let's go."

Lily and Sera chuckled silently, thinking only he could tame her and make her act like this.

They had finished cultivating a day before and had been sparring and helping each other. They had indeed become a lot closer after doing it together, but they still felt slightly suppressed when facing her even when she hadn't activated her bloodline, and her behavior, although warmer than before, was still detached.

However, when she was near Max, she would stop exuding the natural suppression, and her personality would become warmer.

...

A while later, under his lead, they arrived in front of the wall behind which lay Wyomin's chambers.

Zoom!

A moment later, an opening appeared on the wall, and they walked inside.

They saw Wyomin sitting on the sofa in the center of the large room, looking at them with her brows raised.

"I hope you don't mind me bringing them with me, Lady Wyomin." Max casually said as he walked over and sat in front of her.

The trio didn't sit. After bowing toward Wyomin, they stood behind him, making him frown.

"Why are you not sitting?" He asked,

"It's alright, young master." Lily said, and Max sighed.

The trio was surprised seeing how casual he was being with Wyomin, which made them secretly sweat in nervousness. She was a fucking emperor for god's sake, someone who should be treated with respect, especially by low-realm mages like them.

However, he was acting as though she was just a normal person. Though they knew his relationship with her had become quite good, they were still worried if his lack of respect would anger her.

Moreover, they could see she wasn't happy about the fact that he brought them along. So, they didn't want to anger her any more by sitting in front of her like she was their equal.

However, to their surprise, Wyomin said, "Don't be nervous. Sit down."

After they sat down beside him, she glanced at Max and asked, "I assume they already know why you are here. So, I don't need to hide it, right?"

Max nodded, "You are right."

Wyomin looked at him; though she didn't show any anger or dissatisfaction, Max could feel the air in the chambers become heavy. However, he calmly looked at her, not a bit nervous.

Sigh!

Wyomin sighed and said, "It's my fault for not warning you beforehand."

While Max raised his brows at her words, she looked at the girls before looking at him, "You should know if the news of this piece of wood somehow leaks, I most likely die, and all those who know about it too."

"So, I hope, if not for me, for your safety at least, you don't tell anyone else about it, no matter how much you believe them or how close they are to you. The more people know about it, the more the chances of an accident happening."

Immediately, the trio's expression turned dignified, and Max narrowed his eyes, "Why did you not tell me this earlier?"

Wyomin looked at him evenly and said, "I had thought after seeing how secretive I was being and how precious it was for me, you would know it's something very valuable and would know not to tell anyone else."

"..."

Max looked at her speechlessly before sighing in his heart. 'It seems I should not share all secrets with them after all.'

"Don't worry, little Max. We will not tell it to anybody. So, you don't need to worry." Emily said with a serious expression on her face.

Max smiled and placed his hand on hers. "I know you wouldn't." Then he turned to Wyomin and said, "Alright. Give it to me."

Nodding, Wyomin took out the withered piece of wood and handed it to him. Emily and others looked at it with curiosity flickering in their eyes and thought, 'Indeed, just as he said, it doesn't look or feel anything special.'

Max placed it in his palm before placing his other hand on top of it. Then closing his eyes, he started, slowly, injecting the Nascent Energy into it while also trying to inspect it.

A minute later... Ha!

He took a deep breath and threw the wood, which looked no different than it did a minute before, toward Wyomin, his face pale.

Chapter 725: Grim Situation [1]

From his experience, he knew the wood would practically snatch the Nascent Energy from him, so he had been careful, not wanting to inject more than half of what he had left right now. However, despite his cautiousness, it still managed to squeeze out a little more.

Furthermore, maybe because he injected just a strand of Nascent Energy into it, he didn't have any problem stopping, but as he injected quite a bit into it, a strong connection had been formed, which took him quite some effort to break and stop the almost uncontrollable injection of energy, the reason for his pale face.

'If not for my natural affinity for Nascent Energy, it would have drained me.' He thought, looking at the piece of wood with a solemn look in his eyes. Though he had already believed Wyomin, now he believed it even more that this piece of wood was something very extraordinary.

However, he still didn't know why it was so.

His bloodline sense had failed to penetrate it, and the moment Nascent Energy entered it, he lost all control of it, giving him no chance to inspect it in the slightest.

Wyomin inspected it with her divine sense and, sensing no change in it, frowned.

Seeing this, he shook his head and said, "Whatever it is, it needs a lot more of my energy before it shows any sign of recovery. So be patient."

Given how wondrous the Nascent Energy was, he believed if it had been any other dead plant or herb in its place, no matter how high its grade may be, it would have come to life, even if it did not recover completely.

Wyomin looked at him silently before nodding. She then asked, "How many times do you think you need to inject your energy before it recovers completely?"

Max thought for a moment and said, "If I inject the same amount I did just now, it would probably need almost a hundred or maybe two hundred more injections."

While Wyomin raised her eyebrows, he added, "Unfortunately, I can't inject the same amount every time because this energy is not easily created."

Her brows furrowed even more tightly when she heard this.

After staying silent for a few seconds, she extended her hand holding the wood toward him and said, "You keep it with you then. I'll take it after a year. I hope you would've brought it back to life by then."

Max didn't take it immediately. Instead, he asked, "What if I die before then? Wouldn't it be lost?"

The corner of Wyomin's lips curled up into a small, confident smile, though just for a moment, as her expression turned normal the next instant as she said, "You don't need to worry about it."

"Alright, then." Max took it after thinking for a moment. He then said, "If you don't mind, can you help them train?"

Though he was helping her revive the wood as repayment for saving him and also keeping his secret, given how difficult it was and how important it was to Wyomin, he figured she wouldn't mind helping him.

And just as he expected, after hesitating for a while, she nodded, "Okay."

With that, he left the war temple. Although Emily, Lily, and Sera were reluctant to stay away from him, they knew he had given them a really big opportunity, so they let him leave, but not before giving him a deep kiss.

...

The moment he stepped outside the temple and saw the scene in front of him, he became surprised.

The number of people had increased by a lot, but contrary to what one might expect, the atmosphere had become more tense, and everyone he saw had grim expressions on their faces.

His brows raised, he sent Martha and Kriss a message. If they left the training rooms earlier, they must know about the situation.

While Kriss did not reply, Martha responded a few moments later with a simple message. [I am at my formation house.]

Stowing away the communication crystal, he moved in the direction of her formation house.

The Five Star mages of the William, Fuller, and Martell families were gathered in front of Martha's house, wearing solemn expressions on their faces.

Martha was sitting in the head seat, listening to a man talking.

Swoosh!

Max's arrival attracted their attention, and when they saw him, while some relaxed, others' expressions turned grimmer.

"What's going on?" He asked, moving over to Martha's side where a chair was empty.

"After the nearby kingdoms fell..."

When Martha finished telling him everything, his expression also turned solemn.

As for why, it was because after the nearby kingdoms fell, everyone who could flee had fled and come to the Green Leaf kingdom. But because the capital city was already full of people, only some of them—mostly the young and older people who could not fight—were allowed in while the rest were sent to the battlefield.

Though most of them were in the three star realm, they still improved the human side's overall strength, and for the first five days, the human side dominated the demons. If not for the demons having more king rank demons, they would have pushed toward the demon city.

Still, everything was going smoothly, and the human side had started taking initiative, going into the demon territory to kill them.

However...

On the sixth day, two days ago, it all changed when none of the groups that had gone into the demon territory returned. More groups went in, but they also didn't return.

Then Alton gave them bad news. The demon tribes that were stationed in the nearby kingdoms had joined the horned and scarlet demons.

Max frowned, "Then why haven't they attacked yet?"

"It's probably because they are having internal conflict." Martha said, "Once they resolve their differences..."

She didn't finish, nor did she need to, as everyone knew what would happen. Everyone will be killed.

He then asked why there were still so many people present on the battlefield. Why hadn't they left?

"Where would they go? Go to the capital that will be attacked once the war temple falls?" Armand scoffed. "Green Leaf is surrounded. No one can leave the kingdom if they don't have multiple king mages. Even then the escape isn't guaranteed."

Chapter 726: Grim Situation [2]

Max furrowed his brows upon hearing this. The situation was really dire. But what he was really thinking at this moment was...

'Why didn't Wyomin tell me about it? Not only that, she gave me her precious piece of wood.'

His gaze flickered in thought, and then he looked at the tense crowd and said, "You all don't need to despair. The situation isn't as dire as you think."

Martha's eyes flashed, and she immediately said, "Did Sir Alton or the lady Wyomin tell you something?"

Max was about to shake his head when he noticed the subtle shift in her expression. He understood what she wanted and said, "I met Lady Wyomin just a while ago. Although she didn't say anything about it, she didn't look concerned. This means she believes everything will be fine."

As soon as he said this, Armand and others' expressions relaxed a little, and an early-stage five star mage from the Martell family asked, "Is what you said true, young master?"

"Yes. It is." Max nodded, "I don't know what they are planning and why they haven't already told you about it, but things aren't out of control just yet. So, I advise you all to

cheer up, and when the demons attack, focus on surviving and gaining as much war merit as you can if possible."

Martha swept her gaze over at them and said, "Now go, calm your people, and cultivate. Also be alert. The demons may attack any time."

After everyone left, Martha led Max in her formation house.

Sitting in front of him, she said, "Thank you."

Max shook his head. "There is no need. I didn't lie."

To his slight surprise, Martha nodded, "I know. I can also tell the emperors aren't too concerned about the situation. But they wouldn't have easily believed me if I told them the same. So, thank you."

After a pause, she added, "Also, I hope you don't mind their reactions when they saw you."

Max shook his head. "It's completely understandable. Knowing I'm the demons' target, they wouldn't be at ease if I am with them."

Martha nodded in appreciation before asking, "Where are those three?"

"They are still training in the temple." Max said, and before she could ask anything more, he changed the topic, "Kriss hasn't come out yet?"

Hearing his question, Martha's expression changed, becoming a little sad, and pity flashed in her eyes, which made him frown.

"What is it?"

Sigh!

Martha sighed and said, "He had come out earlier than me and entered the demon's territory with others."

Sighing again, she added, "Pauline also went with him."

Max's brows knit together tightly. Then he asked, "Have you tried contacting them?"

"We have. But they didn't respond." Martha said before sighing in pity, "What a pity. Both were extremely talented and would have—"

"I feel they are still alive; at least Kriss is." Max said, interrupting her.

Martha raised her brows at his words. Then a moment later, she nodded, "I hope you are right and they are alive; otherwise, it would truly be a pity."

After making some small talk, he left her formation house and headed toward the demons' territory.

However...

Just when he was about to leave the humans' territory, Alton's voice sounded in his head, [Feeling adventurous, are we?]

Max stopped and stared ahead, in the direction of the demon city. He could feel many vague presences in front of him and knew the moment he stepped into the humans' domain, he would be attacked.

"No, just checking things out." He said before thoughtfully adding, "It seems they have already sorted out their differences and will attack sometime soon."

[Quite observant you are.] Alton's slightly surprised voice sounded.

"You all have some plan, right?" Max asked,

[Yeah, a simple one.]

Max sighed in relief hearing this, but in the next moment, he became stunned.

[...Fight and beat the overconfidence out of those ugly bastards. Isn't this plan good?]

Max waited for a while for him to say he was joking, but Alton did not. His expression became grim, and he said in a gloomy voice, "You are not serious, right?"

[I am, kid.] Alton said, [But you don't need to worry... Well, not too much, because mages from the central plains will soon come and help you fight them.]

Max didn't relax and instead asked, "How soon?"

[Well, as you must have already found out, the demons have surrounded your kingdom. So, going out and coming in is a little difficult. But I can confidently tell you they will arrive by tomorrow evening at the latest. So, pray the demons don't attack until then.]

[Now, return. And be careful. Like before, you'll be in the most danger.]

Saying this, the voice vanished.

Max stood there, his gaze flickering in thought.

After a while, he took out his communication crystal and contacted Ashroth and asked him what was going on in the demon city and when they were planning to attack.

When Ashroth responded a half a minute later, his expression turned heavy, and he immediately sent Wyomin a message.

[Don't let them leave the war temple until the reinforcements from the central plains arrive.]

Swoosh!

After that he contacted Martha and told her to gather all Five Star mages as soon as possible and rushed back.

He didn't bother telling what he found out from Ashroth because he believed they must already know this or would find out soon enough.

When he arrived, Martha and others were already gathered, looking confused.

Some of them wanted to ask why he gathered them so soon, but when they saw his expression, they kept quiet, and the air became thick with tension.

Swoosh!

With a wave of his hand, he cast an isolation barrier and enveloped everyone in it. After that he swept his glance across them and told them what Alton told him.

"That's good. Now as long as the demons don't attack before tomorrow evening, everything will be fine." Someone sighed in relief, but others didn't share the same sentiment and kept their gazes glued to Max, who looked at the early-stage Five Star female mage who had just spoken and slowly said.

"Unfortunately for us, the demons are going to attack within an hour."

Boom!

Chapter 727: The Benefactor

His words were like a bomb that caused an explosion in their minds. Their faces became pale; even Martha, Armand, and others weren't an exception. Some weak-willed ones even started trembling.

"I-Is that true, young master?" The early-stage Five Star female mage asked in a shaky voice.

Max nodded, "Yes. You don't need to doubt that."

He then swept his gaze across everyone and said, "I can understand you must be scared, and it's completely normal. After all, the demons have a complete advantage over us, and we will most likely not survive."

"But if you panic, you won't be able to fight at your best, and the little chance you have of surviving until the reinforcements come would vanish. So, for yourself, keep a calm mind and don't panic."

Martha took a deep breath and spoke up, "Sir Max is right. Let's not despair and think of a way to last until the reinforcements come."

Being Five Star mages, everyone's mental fortitude was quite good, and they quickly calmed down. Then a mid-stage Five Star mage of the Williams family looked at Max before saying, "Sir Max, I mean you no disrespect, but if you stay with us, no matter how hard we try, we won't be able to survive."

Martha, Armand, and others glared at him, but they didn't refute his words. Max's expression became indifferent when he heard this, and he said in an even tone, "Since I will be a target of the demons, I never planned to fight with you all and put you in danger. The only reason I came over was I consider you all my allies since you have fought together with my women. So, I didn't want you all to panic and die uselessly."

He then glanced at Elder Bajj and a few others, "I wish you all luck. We'll meet again if we survive."

"Sir Max, please wait!"

Swoosh!

As soon as he finished speaking, he removed the isolation barrier and rushed away, ignoring Martha's shout.

Martha sighed and looked at the person who had spoken in disappointment. Though she didn't scold him or say anything, he felt bad and regretted speaking just then.

A few moments later, Martha shook her head and stopped thinking about Max and said, "Alright. Now let's talk about how we are going to fight..."

However, right then, the early-stage female mage spoke up, "Princess, why don't we just stay in the war temple? Since the demons haven't attacked yet, we can still enter."

At her words, others' eyes lit up. That was right. Only when the demons were attacking did the emperor not allow anyone to enter the war temple, but if they were already inside...

"You are right. We can do that." Before Martha could respond, Armand spoke up. He then sneered, "But you lot are forgetting you need to be in a training room when the demons attack, or you will be thrown out. If you have enough merits left to rent a training room, sure, go ahead and save yourself."

Save for a few of them, everyone's expression fell at his words. They... had no war merits.

Martha glanced at the few of those who seemed to have enough merits, one of whom was the person from her family who had told Max he couldn't fight with them, and said, "Just as Uncle Armand said, you can go ahead and enter the temple. But remember, even this opportunity you only have because Sir Max found out about the demons' plan beforehand. So, be grateful to him." After a while, a few from the Martell family and a few from the Fuller family left. But from the Williams family, none left.

How could they? If King Azaroth found out they had abandoned his sister, they would still die.

Martha had no change in her expression as she started telling them how they were going to fight to increase their chances of survival.

As for those from the Martell and Fuller family, they didn't rush to the war temple and instead gathered the people from their family who had enough war merits and took them with them.

...

After leaving, Max had worn the mask and hid his identity and was standing in the middle of the battlefield with his eyes closed. Many people around him were looking at him with weird gazes, but none said anything.

Just then, Alton's voice, a bit grave and surprised, sounded in his head, [You have a spy in the demon city?]

"Yes." Max said, opening his eyes.

[...If I weren't sure you weren't colluding with the demons, I would've killed you right this instant.] Alton's voice returned to normal, [But damn kid, you are full of surprises. You got the news before us. Maybe we should use your spy instead?]

Max didn't respond and kept quiet. A moment later, Alton's voice rang throughout the battlefield.

"Get ready, everyone. The demons are about to attack."

Immediately, everyone tensed up, and the majority of them started losing their minds in fear.

Alton then announced the news about the reinforcements.

However, it didn't calm them down because from this moment until the projected time of reinforcements' arrival was a long gap of over thirty hours.

Thirty long hours... They didn't believe they could last this long if the demons attacked in full force.

Max stood there, unmoving, his head held high and staring into the distance. There was no trace of fear on his face. Instead, if someone looked closely, they would notice deep within his eyes was a bubbling excitement.

As for why he was excited...

Just then, he sensed someone rush in his direction and turned his gaze around. When he saw who it was, his eyes flickered with pleasant surprise and relief.

Swoosh!

When the person arrived in front of him, he smiled, looked him up and down, and said, "I'm glad to see you alive."

This person was none other than Leo Feng, his benefactor who had gifted him those twenty-two mana crystals.

Seeing him smile, Leo was a little surprised, but then he also smiled, "Thank you, sir."

Max looked at him, a hint of surprise flickering in his eyes, and said, "Congratulations for entering the Five Star realm."

"Huh?"

Chapter 728: Notorious Leo Feng

"Huh? You can see my cultivation, sir?" Leo asked in surprise before touching the necklace he wore.

Max smiled. "Your necklace works fine."

Leo smiled wryly, "As expected. Sir is no ordinary person."

With his concealment necklace that he bought from the war temple, even King mages weren't able to tell what his exact cultivation was, but Max could.

Max smiled and introduced himself, "My name is Max, and as you must have heard, some people call me Kingslayer, but I would like it if you called me Overlord instead of Sir."

Leo nodded. Just like most of the people who were present that day when he and Kriss killed the demon king, he also knew he was one of the Kingslayers. He wanted to meet him earlier but couldn't.

"I will call you Overlord, then." Leo nodded before saying, "Sir Overlord, you don't seem much concerned. May I know why?"

"Well, getting worried or concerned over it wouldn't help me. It will hinder me, instead. Besides..." Max smiled at him and said what he was hoping to hear, "I'm confident I will survive."

Leo's gaze flickered, and after hesitating for a bit, he gritted his teeth, feeling embarrassed, and said, "Sir Overlord, would you mind if I stayed nearby? I... I am afraid I wouldn't be lucky enough to survive without any help."

Max wasn't surprised; instead, he looked at him curiously and asked, "You don't know I'm the demons' number one target?"

Leo understood what he was asking and nodded, "I know, sir. And I also know everyone around you would be in danger, and this is why you are here alone. I will be in danger if I stay near you, especially if the demons saw you help me, but I believe I will still have higher chances of survival."

"Oh?" Max raised his brows. He could tell Leo wasn't a coward or a pessimistic person, but he was very worried, or rather afraid, right now, even though he seemed calm outwardly.

"Someone is targeting you?" He asked,

Leo froze at the question. He then lowered his head and nodded, "Yes, sir."

Max could tell he was feeling ashamed for using him like that, but he didn't mind. Leo was his benefactor, as those mana crystals had really helped him.

So, he said, "Alright. As long as you are ready to face the dangers, you are welcome to stay near me. If I can, I will help you."

Saying this, he asked, "By the way, who wants to kill you?"

Leo's face reddened slightly as he said, "All four noble families. In fact, if they recognize me, the royal family's people will want to kill me too."

"..."

Max looked at him, stunned. He wanted to say the emperors won't let them kill him, but remembered how chaotic the situation was going to be. They most probably wouldn't be able to stop them.

So, he instead asked, "How did you offend all of them?"

"I, cough!, stole a few things from them." Leo answered and then started telling him about himself.

As he heard him, Max didn't know whether to laugh or cry. When he told him the four noble families were targeting him, he had thought—due to his bias—the noble families must have wronged him somehow, and he might have retaliated, which created enmity. However, the truth was, it was all his fault. Leo Feng was famous, or more accurately, a notorious thief of the Green Leaf. He had stolen from all noble families and organizations; hell, he didn't even spare the royal family, and hence became their enemy.

However, to everyone's frustration, no matter how hard they tried, they were never able to find him. In fact, apart from his aura and mana signatures, they knew nothing about him.

As for the aura and mana signatures, they were useless because he, apparently, was able to fake them thanks to his bloodline.

"Unfortunately, after I broke through to the Five Star realm, my bloodline ability seems to have become useless. I can no longer change my aura and mana signature." Leo finished, a deep, worried frown on his face. For him, an orphan, his bloodline was his everything. It was all because of it that he managed to change his destiny and become a peak Four Star mage and now a Five Star mage.

'Maybe I shouldn't have broken through after all.' He thought, sighing in his heart. When he was ready to break through, he had a premonition, but the lure of becoming a Five Star mage made him ignore it.

Max, unaware of his concern, looked at him with raised brows and asked, "You said you could fake your aura and mana signatures. And since they don't know how you look and all else, how will they know it's you?"

Then he suddenly remembered something. In the movies he watched in his past life on earth, those thieves who thought themselves unrivaled in the field would leave a mark to become famous.

Just as this thought crossed his mind, he saw Leo smile sheepishly and say, "Well, Sir Overlord, I used my original aura and mana signatures when I did the robberies. So..."

Slap!

Max couldn't stop himself from slapping his head and saying, "You deserve it. Who told you to be so foolish?"

"No one. I just found it thrilling and—" He started saying but shut his mouth when Max shot him a glare.

After a few moments when Max didn't say anything, he hesitantly asked, "I can still stay nearby, right, sir Overlord?"

"Honestly, if you hadn't helped me, I would've given you to them myself." Max said,

Leo sighed in relief before smiling, "I knew you were a good man."

Apart from his worries about his bloodline and possible death at the noble families' or demons' hands, he was happy right now. All these years, he had been unable to share his feats with anyone. So, after telling Max about them, he felt a strange sense of satisfaction and happiness.

Max could feel he was feeling proud, and to be honest, it was indeed something to be proud of, as stealing from all powerful families and organizations without being caught was really a tall feat.

He sighed and felt a trace of envy, 'Here I am, trying not to create any problems and wanting to live a peaceful life with my women while he goes around creating troubles without any worries.'

Chapter 729: Dreadweave

While thinking this, Max sighed and touched his forehead.

Immediately, he remembered he had already worn the mask, and no one below the peak King mage realm should be able to find out who he was, but Leo did.

When he asked Leo this, he smiled, "Don't worry, Sir Overlord. Your mask works fine. And unlike you, who can see my true cultivation level despite my concealment necklace, I can't see through your mask. I had just happened to see you when you left Princess Martha's group. So, I was following you when you put on your mask."

Saying this, he added, "I want to say you should have been careful back there, but then I think you wanted to conceal your identity from only demons."

Max nodded, but his brows were still furrowed.

As for why?

It was because...

'Why did I only remember this when I unintentionally touched my face?' He thought. If he was a normal person, or even if he was a Three Star mage, he wouldn't have thought about it too much because it was normal for people to forget some little things sometimes.

However, after he broke through to the Four Star, his awareness seemed to have been enhanced a lot. He suspected it wasn't because of him becoming a Four Star mage, but because of him breaking his first bloodline lock.

Nonetheless, he should've realized that Leo had recognized him when he came, but he did not.

While thinking this, he looked around. There was nothing suspicious. People were sitting or standing in groups, alert and ready to fight.

Leo, seeing him looking around with his brows furrowed, realized something was wrong, but just as he was about to ask him, he saw Max's expression undergo a drastic change, becoming dark.

He gulped and immediately raised his guard and was about to ask him through his divine sense when Max gave him a look, stopping him.

Max then closed his eyes and scanned himself and found that a strange, difficult-to-detect but very malevolent energy had invaded his mind.

He immediately took control of some of the Nascent Energy and sent it into his mind. When the Nascent Energy came into contact with it, it was instantly annihilated, or rather, refined into nothingness.

Following this, he opened his eyes and looked at Leo with a surprised look in his eyes.

"Don't resist." Saying this, he placed a hand on his head and scanned his mind with his bloodline sense.

He also had the same strange energy in his mind. With some of his Nascent Energy, he refined it.

After he removed his hand, Leo couldn't stop himself from asking, "What's wrong?"

Max turned his gaze to the people in the distance and said through his bloodline sense, [Look at them." Do you see anything strange?]

Even as he said this, he reached for the communication crystal in his spatial ring and sent Wyomin a message.

...

In the war temple, in a grade three training room, Wyomin was guiding Emily and others when she got Max's message. Her expression changed when she heard it.

"You guys wait here. I'll be back."

Swoosh!

By the time her voice sounded, she had vanished from the room and arrived in front of Verana's chambers.

Almost at the same time, an opening appeared in the wall, and she entered.

Verana looked at her with raised brows and asked, "What is it, Wyomin?"

"This is bad, Lady Verana. The demons have..."

...

Leo looked at the people but didn't notice anything strange at a glance, but when he observed them closely, his eyes narrowed.

[They... seem calm outwardly, but they have become more anxious and afraid than they were a while ago.] He responded through his divine sense, sounding a little unsure.

Since they knew the demons are about to attack, it's understandable that they would become more anxious as time passed, but they were a little too much. Moreover, the same was true for everyone he could see, not just a few.

[You are right.] Max said, [They are being influenced by some strange energy. You and I were too.]

His gaze became solemn. [If I'm not wrong, this energy won't just mess up with their emotions, but it will also somehow affect them and make them unable to put up a proper fight when the demons attack.]

What he didn't say was that he was worried it would agitate them so much they might end up fighting and killing each other.

[Fuck! That's terrible!] Leo's face turned pale. 'Now I have even less chance to survive.'

At the same time, he sighed in relief because Max had removed the energy from him.

"Come with me." Max said after hesitating for a moment and turned around to rush in Martha and the group's direction. Even though he knew their concerns weren't wrong, their earlier attitudes had dissatisfied him, but it didn't mean he could let them die when he could help them. They were, after all, as he said earlier, his allies.

However, right as he was about to move...

Rumble! Swoosh! Rumble!

The ground started trembling as though a massive beast tide was approaching, and the sounds of air whistling sounded, indicating some people were rapidly flying over.

"They Are Here!!"

A loud voice rang throughout the battlefield. Max's expression fell. From the speed of the approaching large army, he knew by the time he reached Martha's group, they would be upon them, and he wouldn't be given enough time to remove the strange energy from their brains.

'I hope Lady Verana and others have some countermeasures against it...'

He had just thought this, giving up on going over to them, when his communication crystal buzzed.

Wyomin had sent him a message. [This energy is called Dreadweave. A special tribe of demons, mind demons, produce it. It entangles the mind in fear and hopelessness, making the victims unable to use their full power, and slowly corrodes their sanity.]

She had given him this description of the strange energy affecting everyone's mind, and it was followed by a message that made his expression ugly.

- Chapter 730: Selflessness

Chapter 730: Selflessness

[We have a countermeasure for it. Unfortunately, we found out about it too late. Now that the demons have already attacked, we can't use it as it would be considered interference, and the demon emperors would stop us.]

"Fuck!"

Max cursed. Swoosh!

He then grabbed Leo, activated the [Phoenix Wings], and rushed in the direction of Martha and the group.

The human mages had gone stiff in fear when they saw the massive demon army rushing over and were entertaining the thoughts of fleeing even though they knew it would be useless and could only buy them a little more time at best, which made them hesitate.

However, when they saw Max and Leo rush in the opposite direction, seemingly trying to escape, they stopped hesitating and started fleeing in panic.

'Fuck!'

Max cursed again when he noticed this but proceeded to ignore it.

Right at that moment, a loud voice resounded.

"Everyone, calm down and feel it. You aren't as afraid as you think you are. The demons have used a despicable move and have injected us all with their poison energy that amplifies our fear."

"So, everyone, calm down. Don't let it influence you too much and get ready to fight. As long as we can survive until our reinforcements come, we will beat them back."

Max looked up and saw it was one of the King mages of the Williams family who had just spoken, trying to increase their morale. Then the rest of the King Mages flew and released their auras.

"Don't lose hope. We can win."

While most of the fleeing people stopped when they heard them, Max ignored them and continued forwards and soon arrived before Martha and others.

BOOM!

BANG!

BOOM!

Just as he had expected, right then the demon army clashed with the frontlines, and battle started. Now he had very little time to remove the Dreadweave from their brains.

Swoosh!

He immediately released his bloodline energy and fire elemental mana and covered everyone in an isolation barrier.

He could see a few members from the Martell and Fuller families were absent while other people, who didn't belong to any major family, were there.

"Princess Martha, tell them not to resist!" He shouted at Martha, who, showing her trust in him, immediately shouted at the people in front of her, "EVERYONE! If you want to survive, believe in him and DON'T RESIST!"

Swoosh!

As soon as she shouted, he closed his eyes and released one-fourth of his remaining Nascent Energy, and pushing his limits, he controlled it and divided it into hundreds of thin strands that shot toward everyone present's heads.

Just this made him bleed through his mouth, nose, and ears, but he gritted his teeth and didn't let his control slip.

A few moments later...

His body became limp, and if not for Leo hurriedly supporting him, he would have fallen to his knees.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Martha, Armand, Elder Bajj, and others rushed over to his side, looking at him with worried, surprised, and grateful expressions on their faces.

They knew he had purged the poison energy from their brains just now, freeing them from its influence. So, they couldn't help but be grateful to him.

They were surprised because not only had they not expected him to be able to cure it, they also hadn't expected him to return to help them, that too at the cost of weakening himself. This made them admire him.

So, seeing his condition, they became worried for him.

Ha! Hah! Hah!

Max heaved deep breaths, his head throbbing so violently that he thought it would burst.

Doing what he did just now required a very high level of control over and affinity with the Nascent Energy, which he did not have. It also required a large amount of mental energy. Though he fortunately had enough of it, exhausting almost all of it in just a few seconds took a toll on his mind.

His consciousness was hazy, and he was on the verge of fainting, but he could let himself. Because if he did faint, the demons would ensure he never woke up.

So, with difficulty, he focused on his dantain and controlled some more Nascent Energy. As it slowly rose up and entered his brain, the throbbing pain was slowly alleviated, and his consciousness cleared up.

Hah!

He took a deep breath, nodded at Leo, and stood on his feet.

He then looked at several people in the crowd, the look in his eyes turning icy cold.

Martha and others noticed this and realized what may have happened for him to react like this, and their expression became ugly.

"These ungrateful bastards!" Armand said through gritted teeth.

"Sir Max, if you want, you can kill all those who resisted. None of us will have any complaints."

Martha, Elder Bajj, and the Five Star mages from the Martell family didn't speak, but their expression conveyed that they agreed with him.

They could imagine how angry he must be right now. How could he not be when he had made such a selfless sacrifice, but those he wanted to help had refused his goodwill?

Max, however, shook his head. "There is no need to kill them. Either the demons will do it, or they will die after going insane. You just make sure they are not near you."

As he said this, he waved his hand and marked everyone, a total of 29 people, who had resisted and caused the backlash to be more intense than it should have been.

By now, these twenty-nine people had realized that Max was trying to help them, and they immediately regretted resisting and fell down to their knees, pleading with him to forgive and help them.

Max, however, ignored them.

"You guys protect me for a while. I need to rest for—" Just as he was saying this, he noticed the demons had reached this place already, and he sighed helplessly.

"Get ready. They are here." Just as Max said this and was about to remove the barrier, Martha and Armand waved their hands, and the heads of all twenty-nine people, among which were the members of their family too, exploded.

Martha then swept her gaze across everyone and ordered, "None of you are to reveal to anyone how you got rid of the poison energy."

"Yes, princess!" Everyone echoed in unison.

Chapter 731: Three New Demon Tribes [Bonus]

Max glanced at Martha and Armand, a hint of surprise and appreciation flickering in his eyes.

The only reason he hadn't killed those people was because almost half of them were from the Williams, Martell, and Fuller family.

If he had killed them, the chances were high that their companions wouldn't have liked it and would have become resentful toward him in their hearts, something he didn't want, especially right before the big battle.

Armand nodded and said, "Sir Max, you should never be merciful to these kinds of people, especially not in our current situation."

Max nodded. Then Martha said, "Remove the barrier, Sir Max, and stay behind. We'll try our best to buy you as much time as we can so you can recover."

Saying this, she glanced at people in front of her and shouted, "I don't need to lie to you all. You know the odds are stacked against us, and the chances of our survival are abysmally low. So, I ask you not to panic and lower them even more. Go all out to ensure your survival, but remember not to sacrifice your companions for your benefit."

Saying this, she released her peak Five Star aura that was stronger than it was a few days before and smiled, "If we survive, I'll invite you all to the royal palace for a feast."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Armand, Elder Bajj, and other Five Star mages from the three families and independent mages that had joined them released their respective auras too, their mana madly churning in their mana veins, ready to erupt at a moment's notice.

Seeing their determined stance, the Three and Four Star mages calmed down and gathered their courage.

Then suddenly a loud laughter resounded, "Haha, since the princess has invited me, I'll have to do my best to not die in those filthy demons' hands."

Max noticed with his bloodline sense that the one who just spoke out loud was Devor, Heena's man, and he couldn't help but smile lightly.

His laughter eased the tension significantly. Heena, standing beside him, pinched his side, making him flinch.

"What are you doing, woman?" He shouted,

"You can't wait to go to the princess's feast, huh? How about I help you?" She narrowed her eyes at him, her lips pouted.

Devor put his hand around her waist and grinned, "That would be wonderful. Hahaha!"

Heena hurrumped, but everyone could see she wasn't even a bit annoyed. In fact, she was helping him ease the tension.

Several people shot them grateful glances, and Martha even nodded in their direction right before Max removed the barrier.

Swoosh!

As soon as the barrier vanished, a large number of demons appeared in their sight, rushing toward them with ferocious looks on their faces.

Everyone's expressions turned pale when they saw them.

In the large crowd rushing toward them, apart from the horned and scarlet demons and their underlings, dwarf and green serpent demons they recognized, there were three types of other demons.

First were the demons that looked like a hybrid of black wolves and humanoids.

"Abyssal Howlers..." Elder Bajj muttered under his breath, his face becoming pale.

Abyssal Howlers were physically superior to humans and were very ferocious and bloodthirsty in nature and killed indiscriminately. More terrifyingly, when they howled, they could induce fear in their enemy while covering the area in the darkness that made them stronger.

Fortunately, though, they weren't too skilled in using the demonic energy, which was the only consolation.

The second type of the demon tribe was also dark, but apart from this, and the fact that they left trails of cinders in their wake, they looked completely human.

They were called Ashen Fiends and were rumored to be born of fire and ash and were as, if not more, terrifying than the Abyssal Howlers. While the Holders ripped their enemies into shreds with their fangs and claws, these Ashen Fiends burned their enemies into ashes.

"Ashen Fiends and Frostclaw Demons..." Armand's face became unprecedentedly solemn.

Third were the Frostclaw Demons. Like most demon races, they were humanoid, and just like humans, their skin color varied. But when they used their long, icy blue claws, their skin, hair, and eyes would become icy white.

Compared to the Ashen Fiends, not to mention the Abyssal Howlers, they were less ferocious and more calm, but almost as terrifying. Rarely anyone in the same realms survived after being hit by their Frostclaws that froze their target from inside out.

Standing beside him, Leo saw Max looking at everyone's expressions in confusion, clearly clueless about the new demon races, and couldn't help but be a little surprised. He then quickly told him everything he knew about them, mostly their introductions, to him via his divine sense that took just a second.

Max's eyes flashed with understanding when he heard him, 'No wonder they are so solemn even though there aren't as many peak and high-stage Five Star demons among them.'

If instead of the Abyssal Howlers and Ashen Fiends, there were other demon tribes, even if as strong as them, they would have comparatively more chances of survival because those tribes most probably wouldn't have been so bloodthirsty.

"Attack!" Martha shouted, and all Five Star mages—save for Leo and Jonas, one of Martha's two male companions other than Armand, who stayed behind to protect Max as he recovered—rushed forwards, their mana churning and spells activating rapidly, which then rained down upon the demons.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Boom!

The Three and Four Star mages weren't slow, as just a few moments after the Five Star realm experts began fighting, they engaged in battle with the Three and Four Star demons.

For the initial half a minute, there were almost no casualties on either side, but after that, this part of the battlefield descended into a scene of unrelenting, gruesome carnage.

As Max watched everything play out while using his Nascent and Bloodline Energy to recover his mental energy, his gaze became increasingly colder because for every demon in the Three and Four Star realm dying, three human mages were being killed.

As the rest of the humans saw this, their courage started crumbling, making it easier for the demons to kill them.

{Castle Bonus---> (1/3) Thank you very much Andthomas4 for the gift!}

Chapter 732: Not Bad [Bonus]

Although the situation of Five Star mages' wasn't as bad, it wasn't much better either. Two early-stage Five Star mages from the Martell and one each from the Williams and Fuller families had already lost their lives to the Abyssal Howlers and Ashen Fiends. Before dying, they had managed to severely injure their opponents, but the demons could easily recover using slightly higher-grade healing medicine.

"It seems the horned and scarlet demons aren't happy with the three tribes' intrusion." Jonas said after noticing that the demons from both tribes weren't going all out like before and were only fighting those human mages that attacked them. Their subordinate tribes, dwarf demons and green serpents, were doing the same.

Swoosh!

Ra! Puchi! Bang!

Fwoosh!

Although it was a good thing for them, the newly joined tribes, especially the Abyssal Howlers and Ashen Fiends, were proving themselves to be very tough opponents.

They fought with regard for their safety and only focused on killing humans. The Abyssal Howlers, when about to attack, would howl, which would give them a sudden boost, taking the humans off guard and injuring them quite badly.

While the human mages were starting to get used to their fighting styles and were starting to use their magic spells to defend themselves better and put distance between them to retaliate, they weren't able to properly tackle the Ashen Fiends because of their strange, elusive movement techniques and fearsome fire element control.

It seemed all Five Star Ashen demons had comprehended the Fire Law, as they were able to destroy almost all of the magic spells thrown at them using the simple fire elemental spells. They would then close in and touch the humans, setting them on fire, which was dark red in color. Even stranger, those who had caught this fire weren't able to properly use their magic spells, which made it very difficult to put it out.

Unlike them, the Frostclaw Demons were fighting slowly while making sure they didn't get injured. This was why they hadn't killed any Five Star mage yet.

But everyone had realized they were very troublesome opponents, even more troublesome than the other two, because when they wanted, they could burst with strength like the Abyssal demons when they activated their Frostclaw bloodline and were also able to use and cast Ice Elemental spells, which, just like the Ashen demons' fire spells, although simple, were very powerful.

As the minutes ticked by, the battles became increasingly ferocious.

An hour later, when Max's head stopped hurting entirely, he told Jonas to join the battle. "Have you recovered, Sir Max?" Jonas asked,

"Not completely, but I'll be able to defend myself. Moreover, Leo would be here with me, so don't worry and go help them."

Seeing he was just an early-stage Four Star mage, protected by two Five Star mages, one high-stage and the other early-stage Five Star, almost no demon had tried to attack him until now, which was good. But now that Max could protect himself, he thought it was a waste to keep Jonas with him.

Jonas nodded and left his side, rushing to where Martha was fighting two peak Five Star Ashen Fiend demons.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Just a minute after he left, a group of three demons from the Abyssal Howler tribe—one early-stage Five Star and the other two peak Four Star—rushed toward them.

"Can you handle the Five Star one?" Max asked as he stopped using his Nascent and Bloodline energy to recover his mental energy and stood up.

"Just leave it to me." Leo said, not a hint of fear or nervousness in his eyes.

"Alright. Go fight him and let the other two come to me." Max said, slowly stretching his body.

The demons became enraged when they heard him. They clearly had learned the human language.

Rawr!

The Five Star Abyssal demon growled and slowed down while the two Four Star demons shot toward Max, ignoring Leo, who was still beside Max.

Leo looked at two angry half-wolves with pity before rushing toward his opponent.

The Five Star demon's beastly dark eyes flashed with a hint of surprise seeing Leo leave the weak human's side. It had been staring at him and was ready to attack the moment Leo tried to attack his underlings.

Then its face twisted in a dark sneer, and a voice resounded in Leo's head, [You arrogant human, watch as he is shredded into pieces.]

"Oh?!" Leo stopped, his lips curling in a smile as he said, "Let's watch then."

Grr!

The demon grunted in acknowledgment, but seeing Leo wasn't even a bit concerned, a hint of wariness appeared in its eyes, and it sent the duo a message,

[Don't underestimate—]

However, it hadn't even finished its message when...

Swoosh! Bang! Bang!

...Max took a step forward, exploding with a speed faster than them even without using his bloodline energy or mana. Then before the demons could react, he punched two times, each punch connecting with their heads, causing them to explode in a rain of blood and gore.

"Hm? Not bad." Max muttered as he came to a stop behind their falling bodies.

The Five Star Abyssal demon's eyes widened in shock, which immediately turned into the bubbling rage.

Swoosh!

Its dark eyes flashed, and more than ten meters of area with him as center became shrouded in darkness. Its muscles bulged and contracted, indicating the sudden surge of strength. Then it rushed toward Max, wanting to bite his head off.

However...

Swoosh!

Leo appeared before him and slashed his hand horizontally in front of him, sending a sharp crescent of wind whistling toward him.

The demon tapped into its demonic energy and covered its fist with it before punching the crescent, destroying it.

Swoosh!

It didn't stop there and followed up with another punch aimed at Leo's chest.

Leo clicked his tongue in annoyance, a hint of wariness flashing in his eyes, and retreated backwards while casting a wind barrier in front of him.

Max was a little disappointed seeing Leo fall into a disadvantageous situation so quickly.

Just when he was thinking if he should help him, he sensed another group of three demons leave the chaotic battles and rush toward them.

Sensing one of them was an early-stage Five Star and the other two, while peak Four Star like the two he had just killed felt stronger, he cracked his neck and twisted his shoulders.

'Let's see how much I have improved.'

{Castle Bonus---> (2/3) Thank you very much Andthomas4 for the gift!}

Chapter 733: More Uses of Death Energy [Bonus]

Five days ago, when he started tempering his mana core, he made a wonderful discovery. While he could temper his core using the old supreme mage's method, which was a slow and painful process, or he could use his bloodline energy or the Nascent Energy to do it faster and without any pain.

When he, however, experimented with the Death Energy, which at that time he felt stupid for trying, he was pleasantly surprised to discover that it could temper his mana core several times faster than the Nascent Energy could.

Not to mention, it was a more thorough tempering and could refine his mana at the same time, condensing it and making it more powerful.

He was about to focus on tempering his mana and mana core when a thought crossed his mind.

'If the Death Energy can temper them, couldn't it temper my body too?'

This thought was even more ridiculous as he couldn't even circulate it through his mana veins without harming them. But once it appeared in his mind, it didn't go away.

So, in the end, he gritted his teeth and infused a tiny bit of the Death Energy into his shoulder muscles.

Once again, to his pleasant surprise, he realized it was possible. He just had to mix some of his bloodline energy into it to make it less violent.

He then spent two days tempering his mana and mana core, and for the rest of the remaining time, he tempered his body and pushed his [Barbarian God Physique] to the peak of level two.

While the improvement in his physique made him almost two times stronger physically, the elevation of his mana, although just a little, increased the power of his magic spells. When he had used Phoenix Wings earlier, he was faster than before when using the same amount of mana and bloodline energy—though it was also because his bloodline energy was constantly being strengthened thanks to the devil's blood.

Last but not least, the strengthening of his mana made it easier for him to take out mana from his core, slightly lessening the time needed to cast a spell.

Him finding out these uses was also the reason why he was excited deep down when he found out that the more demon tribes had joined the horned and scarlet tribes. With more demons to kill, he could easily gather more Death Energy and continue improving rapidly.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

These three demons were from the Ashen Fiend tribe, not the Abyssal Howler tribe like he expected.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

These three demons were from the Ashen Fiend tribe, not the Abyssal Howler tribe like he expected.

When he saw the Five Star demon was also rushing toward him with the two Four Star demons instead of going to help the half-wolf demon kill Leo, he wasn't too surprised because they had clearly seen him easily kill the two peak Four Star demons, which meant just these two Four Star demons, although stronger, most likely wouldn't be his match. Also, since the Five Star Howler demon wasn't at a disadvantage, they could help him after dealing with him.

Max's expression remained the same, but his eyes flashed with an amused glint.

'Let's see if I can kill this early-stage Five Star demon with just my physical strength.' He thought before covering himself in a thin layer of his bloodline energy, so they wouldn't be able to burn him.

When they were less than fifty meters away from him, he bent his knees slightly before bursting into a sprint toward them.

Swoosh!

Since the demons were rushing toward him and he was running toward them, in just a split second, he arrived in front of the early-stage Five Star demon, who narrowed his eyes slightly before extending his hand to slap at him.

Max didn't try to dodge. The layer of bloodline energy wouldn't let him burn, so he wasn't worried about it. As for the strength behind the slap, well, wasn't it perfect to test his physical defenses?

The ashen demon grew wary when he saw Max wasn't trying to escape or defend and got ready to use his movement technique to escape.

Max could tell what he was thinking, which made him curl his lips into a mocking smirk.

For a moment, the urge to use Phoenix Wings so as not to let him escape appeared in his mind because after watching the ashen demons fight, he knew just relying on his base speed, he wouldn't be able to catch him after he used his strange movement technique. However, he immediately discarded the idea because he wouldn't be able to check his physique's limits if he did that.

Slap!

The slap landed on his left shoulder, making him wince in pain as his skin was torn, causing droplets of blood to flow out, but apart from that, nothing happened.

Max's eyes lit up while the demon's narrowed in horror, and he immediately retreated.

Swoosh!

Max tried to punch him before he could move away but failed. So, keeping his momentum, he ignored him and rushed towards Four Star demons that were just a few meters away from him.

"Retreat!" The Ashen Five Star demon shouted. Even though he had seen Max kill those two Four Star Howler demons, he was confident he wouldn't be able to kill his

nephews just as easily since they were stronger. And with him there, even if he turned out to be stronger, he could help them.

However, the exchange just now made him realize he had vastly underestimated Max. Hell, seeing his slap that had more than three-fifths of his peak power unable to do anything to him when he hadn't used any defensive spell, he knew even he wasn't his match, not to mention his nephews.

'Why didn't those horned and scarlet bastards tell us about someone so strong—Wait!' Suddenly his eyes widened, 'Could he be...'

Bang!

This thought had just appeared in his mind when the sound of something bursting snapped him back to his senses.

Seeing one of his nephews had met the same fate as those howler demons, his expression turned ugly.

Swoosh!

When he saw Max move toward his other nephew, he hurriedly took out a black marble and threw it at Max.

BOOM!

Chapter 734: Eager To Die

Swoosh!

The moment he threw the black marble toward him, Max could feel a very powerful and violent energy emit from it, on the same level as the high-stage Five Star realm, and his brows furrowed tightly.

'What a pity!' He sighed and waved his hand, causing his bloodline energy to surge out, which covered the black marble right before it exploded.

Boom!

The Five Star Ashen demon was about to rush over and save his nephew while Max tried to defend himself, but his eyes widened when the Ashen Bead exploded... doing no damage but producing a muffled boom.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Max had slowed just a bit, and by the time the Ashen Bead exploded, he had arrived in front of the last Four Star demon, who looked at him in horror, and threw a punch at his head, causing it to explode.

Max then turned to the stunned Five Star Ashen demon, ready to chase after him when he sensed several high-stage and a few peak Five Star demons rushing in his direction and sighed.

The moment he used his bloodline energy to defend against the Ashen Bead, he already knew the demons would recognize him and he wouldn't be able to properly test his physical limits. Unfortunately, he had no choice but to use it because even though his mana had become stronger than before, it was still well within the Four Star realm and wouldn't have been enough to stop the explosion.

The Ashen demon glared at him with fury burning in his eyes, but Max could see relief deep within, which made him curl his lips.

"You think you are safe now?" As he said this, crimson-pink wings of fire appeared behind him with a whoosh and then gently flapped.

Swoosh!

Immediately, he disappeared and appeared in front of the demon, his hand—covered with the mixture of his bloodline energy and Fire elemental mana—grabbing toward his neck.

The demon's pupils constricted, and he wanted to dodge, but even with his strange movement technique, he failed to do so, and Max firmly grabbed him. However, to his surprise, Max didn't immediately break his neck like he thought he would do and instead looked at him with a provocative look, which incensed him.

"Your arrogance will be your downfall, human!"

Shua! Shua!

Immediately after he shouted out, his demonic energy burst out of him in waves before turning into the black ashes that floated toward Max and enveloped his entire figure save for the hand that was holding his neck.

"Now Burn!!" The demon sneered, and the ashes burst into dark crimson flames.

Fwoosh! Fwoosh!

There was a manic look in his eyes as he watched Max burn, but then his expression froze.

Right then, Max's mocking voice sounded, "You have a really short memory, demon! Or could it be that you are also affected by the Dreamweave? How can you forget that you have already tried to burn me with that slap earlier and failed? Tsk! Tsk!"

The demon swept his divine sense out to see how far his reinforcements were. Sensing they would need at least three or four seconds to arrive and save him, his mind spun, trying to find ways to stall for time.

Suddenly, he thought of something and hurriedly said, "Heh, human. I know why you let me burn you just now. If you want, I can let you—"

Crack!

He hadn't finished speaking when Max tightened his grip and cracked his neck. Immediately after, his Fire Elemental mana, enhanced by his bloodline energy, burst out of him and enveloped his head before bursting into beautiful crimson flames with a light pink hue.

Fwoosh!

The demon's expression had frozen when his neck was broken, but when the fire started burning his head, it changed drastically. If not for the fact his vocal cords had been destroyed, he would have let out such loud and pained screams that would have made anyone shudder to their core.

In the group rushing toward Max, the Ashen Fiends' expressions turned ugly when they saw this while Frostclaw demons narrowed their eyes. As for the Abyssal Howlers, their expressions turned more ruthless, bloodlust flashing in their beastly eyes.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

It took the demons just less than three seconds to arrive near him, but this short time was enough for Max's flames to burn his skin, muscles, and brain into ashes. Even its skull seemed as though it was about to disintegrate.

Swoosh!

However, right then an Ashen Bead was thrown at him, which made him let go of the demon and retreat.

BOOM!

The Ashen Bead exploded and turned the demon's corpse and everything that was in its vicinity for more than ten meters into ashes while the produced shockwaves sent the Five Star demons tumbling backwards.

"What the fuck was that, you burnt corpse!" A peak Abyssal Howler shouted in rage at the high-stage Five Star Ashen Fiend who had thrown that bead just now.

The Ashen Fiend, however, ignored him, his and others from his tribe's furious gazes fixed on Max, who was staring back at them with a teasing smirk on his ugly face.

"Wiping out the traces of their shame." A high-stage Five Star Frostclaw female demon commented, chuckling lightly.

The Ashen Fiend tribe prided itself on its superior fire affinity. They even had a chant they would proudly say, 'We rule the flames, and there is nothing we can't burn into ashes.' So, seeing one of their own dying from the fire was a subject of shame, which they couldn't allow to exist.

As soon as this Frostclaw demon said this, every Ashen fiend glared at her, killing intent flashing in their eyes.

The Frostclaw demons returned their gaze, completely unbothered. In fact, they looked at them with provocative expressions on their faces.

Perhaps because they both ruled opposite elements or maybe due to some other reason, both tribes had been enemies and would fight at the slightest disagreement. Even in the demon city, they had many clashes.

Seeing this, the two peak Five Star Abyssal Howlers' eyes flashed with delight, and they rushed toward Max.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

As Max watched them rush over, he calmly took out the Thunder Sword.

"Eager to die, aren't you?"

Chapter 735: Death Rain Reappears

The Ashen Fiends and Frostclaw demons noticed almost immediately when the Abyssal demons moved.

The Ashen Fiends, after giving the Frostclaw demons a look, also rushed toward Max. Their enmity could wait, but if the howlers killed Max, it would be a pity because they wanted to capture him, as the reward for capturing him was greater.

However, to their and Max's, who was paying them attention too, surprise, the Frostclaw demons didn't move and acted like spectators.

'Are they confident we won't be able to handle him?' The peak Five Star Ashen Fiends thoughts, which increased their wariness by a few levels.

Max also had a similar thought, but when he looked at them, he raised his brows in surprise and confusion because he saw no ill intent in their eyes.

Swoosh!

Right when the two peak Five Star howler demons appeared in front of him, activating their special ability to induce fear and helplessness in him while increasing their strength, ready to attack, he noticed the strongest of the Frostclaw demons mouth a word, and understanding dawned on him.

Swoosh!

His Phoenix Wings flapped, and he disappeared from the place, appearing in front of one of the howler demons and slashed toward his neck, a trace of Death Energy—which his bloodline had just refined for him—coating the edge of the blade.

The howler demon's pupils constricted before it howled and slashed its claws at the incoming sword.

'How courageous and utterly foolish!' Max couldn't help but have this thought when he saw the demon's unhesitant action. Then, Shing!

The Thunder Sword slashed his claws into two before slashing through his neck.

Swoosh!

Max didn't slow down in the slightest as he flashed over to the other peak Five Star howler demon and slashed. To his astonishment, even after seeing his companion, who was as strong as him, die, the howler demon acted the same as him as he also clawed toward the thunder sword.

Right when the sword was about to slash the claw, a projection of a large, wolfish claw overlapped with it and swiped down.

Clang!

"What!" Max exclaimed in shock when the thunder sword failed to cut all the way through the claw.

Sure, he hadn't used more Death Energy to replace the energy he lost after killing the first howler demon, and the projection of the claw had made it severalfold stronger; he should have been able to achieve the same effect even though with some difficulty for no reason other than it was The Death Energy reinforcing the Thunder Sword. However, it only managed to cut through three of its claws.

The howler demon revealed a victorious, prideful smirk, but in the next instant, he coughed out a mouthful of blood, and his body withered rapidly until he was only a skeleton wearing the skin.

Seeing this, Max realized the claw projection was a sacrificial move, and he wasn't able to comprehend its true power.

Although the demon was almost a skeleton now, he hadn't died, and there was still a prideful look on its face as he croaked out, "No matter how extraordinary your energy is, it isn't undefeatable, human. Cough! If I could use the [Abyssal Claw] a few times more, I would've been able to kill you."

Max nodded, a hint of respect in his eyes, "Thank you. I won't forget this."

Shing!

Saying this, he lopped off his neck with a swing before suddenly retreating at his top speed.

Boom! Boom!

Two Ashen Beads exploded where he was standing, the resulting flames engulfing the howler demons' bodies.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Max had just stopped some distance away when another two beads flew toward him and exploded, prompting him to cast a mana shield to buy a moment before retreating. Even though these beads weren't as powerful as the first bead that high-stage Five Star demon had used to destroy the evidence, they were still quite powerful, and he didn't want to waste his bloodline energy to defend against them since he needed to fight for a long time, so he had no choice but to retreat while trying to find a chance to bridge the gap between them and kill them.

Unfortunately for him, his earlier display of killing the two peak Five Star howler demons had made the Ashen demons scared, even though they wouldn't admit it, and this was

why they were maintaining a distance between them while using their stockpiles of Ashen Beads to exhaust him.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The explosions were continuous, giving Max no chance to catch his breath, let alone retaliate.

At a glance, it seemed he was helpless and the demons were in an advantageous position, but both parties' expressions said otherwise.

Max, despite being the one in a disadvantageous position, had a calm, almost leisurely expression, whereas the demons, who were dominating him, had ugly looks on their faces.

The Ashen Beads weren't easily made and needed an Ashen demon to invest quite some time and energy to do it. The beads they were using had the lethal power of a high-stage Five Star being, and even though they were peak Five Star demons, they needed two days at the very least to produce one of them, not to mention they needed to exhaust quite a bit of their bloodline energy, which again needed quite some resources to recover.

That was why they weren't comfortable wasting so many of them.

Suddenly, Max's gaze flickered with a grim light, and he stopped retreating.

Shua!

The mixture of his fire elemental mana and bloodline energy erupted out of him and created a defensive barrier around him. He then tightened his grip on the Thunder Sword and rushed toward the Ashen demons.

Swoosh!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Many explosions rocked the barrier, but none managed to shatter it. So, he continued forward.

The two peak Ashen demons' exchanged a glance and started retreating while one of them glanced in the direction of their high-stage Five Star companions, who immediately rushed to where Leo was fighting the early-stage Five Star howler demon.

Max's gaze flickered, and his expression turned colder when he noticed this via his bloodline sense.

"You could have lived a few minutes longer if you didn't force me. So, blame yourselves for your deaths." He said in an indifferent voice before stopping in his tracks and raising his hand in front of him.

The demons' hearts skipped a beat when they heard this, and dread filled their minds. Immediately, they stopped throwing the Ashen Beads, turned around, and fled as fast as they could.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

Max's mana core spun, and his mana burst out of him in waves, rapidly turning into the fire elemental mana. After that, the Nascent Energy covered his mana veins, and some of the Death Energy flowed out, mixing into the fire elemental mana.

He knew if these demons focused on staying away from him, no matter how hard he tried, he wouldn't be able to close in on them. They were, after all, at the peak of the Five Star realm while he was still an early-stage Four Star mage, even though he was way stronger than almost ninety percent of the Five Star beings.

Therefore, if he wanted to kill them, he only had two ways. First, he could use his bloodline ability—The Annihilation Finger, as he named it.

Unfortunately, it took too much of his mana and bloodline energy to activate. Worse, it was a single-target attack, meaning he would need to use it two times in a row to kill both of them, which would definitely drain more than half of his current mana reserves and bloodline energy.

The second way was something he had been thinking about but hadn't tried yet—using Death Energy to enhance his magic spells.

He had done it with his bloodline energy and Nascent Energy, but not with Death Energy for obvious reasons. However, he knew if he used it to enhance his magic spells, especially the attack-type ones, the result would be shocking.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

Under his conscious efforts, the Death Energy merged with the fire elemental mana, changing its color to crimson gray. He then activated the magic spell he hadn't used for a long time now—Death Rain.

The mixture of the energies was divided into several portions and took the shape of foot-long arrows that radiated a fearsome aura. This grade two magic spell had surpassed the limits of grade four magic spells and entered the realm of grade five spells thanks to the Death Energy.

Everyone who sensed the aura radiated by the arrows wore solemn expressions. As for the two peak Five Star Ashen Demons, they cursed in their hearts and increased their speeds while taking out their defensive artifacts or talismans.

After a moment, Max's gaze sharpened, and he snapped his fingers.

Shu! Shu! Shu! Shu!

More than a dozen arrows flew out, four in the direction of the fleeing demons and the rest toward the demons rushing toward Leo.

Chapter 736: Gone Mad?

The arrows' speed was very fast. In less than a second, they reached their targets.

Puchi! Puchi! Puchi! Bang!

The ashen demons rushing toward Leo were caught unawares, and the arrows easily drilled into their heads or the backs, puncturing their hearts. Then the Death Energy showed its intrinsic annihilation power and rapidly obliterated their brains and hearts.

While those who had their heads pierced died immediately, not feeling even a bit of pain, those who had their hearts destroyed suffered before finally succumbing.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

All of their bodies fell to the ground at the same time.

Hah!

Max took a deep breath, his face pale due to him using quite a bit of his mental energy, which he hadn't completely recovered yet, on executing this spell. Despite that, however, he had a pleased expression on his face.

'It was way better than I thought it would.' He thought. All of those who died just now were in the Five Star realm, with several of them being in the mid-stage and high-stage Five Star realm.

He then sighed in regret, looking in the direction where the two peak Five Star demons had fled, 'Unfortunately, it can't harm demons as strong as them with defensive artifacts.'

If anyone heard his thoughts, they would want to strangle him. Just a bit of the Death Energy had turned a grade two spell into a top-tier grade five spell, but he still wasn't satisfied with it.

Swoosh!

Not wasting any time, he turned on his heels, his wings flapped, and he rushed toward Leo.

The early-stage Five Star howler demon, who was stunned like everyone who saw him kill so many Five Star demons simultaneously, immediately rushed away from Leo.

He was bloodthirsty like most of the people of his tribe, but it didn't mean he wanted to die uselessly.

Leo snapped back to his senses and wanted to stop him, but before he could, Max arrived beside him, grabbed him, and rushed into the crowd.

...

The Frostclaw demons and the remaining Abyssal Howlers watched him vanish from their sight with dazed looks in their eyes.

While the Abyssal Howlers were astounded by his display and angry at him for killing two of their peak Five Star companions, the Frostclaw demons', especially the peak Five Star one's, eyes flickered with a hint of awe, and no malice could be seen within them.

The reason they hadn't attacked him was because of Ashroth, who had a meeting with their demon emperors. They didn't know what they talked about, but their emperors had ordered them not to attack Max and, if possible, help him if they could when he was in a disadvantageous situation. Of course, they had to do it covertly.

They had followed the orders and didn't attack him, and when the Ashen demons had started playing the cat and mouse game with them, they had told Max that the demon kings of the Ashen and Howler demons were coming and he needed to escape quickly.

This was why Max had stopped trying to conserve his energies and decided to go all out, and after killing everyone he could, he escaped.

However...

'You should have left sooner.' The peak Five Star demons thought, looking in the sky where two figures were rapidly flying in the direction Max went.

...

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Max's expression was grim. Although the two demon kings were still far away and hadn't locked on to him yet, he knew it was only a matter of time before they found him.

After his recent power-up, he was a little more confident in facing an early-stage demon king like the one he had killed with Kriss' help, but those two chasing after him, although he couldn't scan them since they were way out of the reach of his bloodline sense, he guessed were stronger than her, and not by a little.

He continued fleeing while dodging the demons on the way. Fortunately, the battlefield was vast, and even though the Five Star demons were here in significant numbers, they weren't everywhere. As for the demon kings, they were fighting, or rather, toying with the human kings in the sky. They most likely wanted to kill all of them before starting a massacre on the battlefield below.

Leo felt a little dizzy as he wasn't used to travelling at such high speeds. However, he quickly got used to it and asked via his divine sense, [Why are we fleeing, Sir Overlord?]

When Max told him to call him Overlord, he felt a little awkward because overlord word wasn't taken lightly, as it represented absolute domination and unmatched power. He knew Max was strong, way stronger than his peers, but he could still not take up the title Overlord.

However, after seeing him kill multiple Five Star mages with a single magic spell, he was floored; the respect and admiration he had in his heart spiked, and now he no longer felt awkward calling him overlord.

Max told him about the demon kings chasing after them, upon hearing which he went silent before saying, [Sir Overlord, you should drop me somewhere on the way. Even though I can't use my bloodline ability, I'm confident I can hide from them.]

Max raised his brows. He could tell he didn't believe what he said.

Max frowned. He knew, with his mask, if he didn't have to carry Leo, he could most likely escape from the demon kings. However, he couldn't sacrifice him to save his skin. He wasn't selfish and coldhearted like that. So, he wasn't even considering his words. Instead, he was thinking about something else.

[You said your bloodline worked fine until you broke through to the Five Star realm, right?] He asked, to which Leo nodded, even though he didn't know why he was suddenly asking him this.

[Alright. Don't resist. Let me check your bloodline for a moment.] Max said, and before Leo could respond, he forced his bloodline sense into his body.

Leo was stunned and instinctively wanted to resist but suppressed the urge, choosing to believe him. Besides, it wasn't like he had some secret he couldn't let him find out about.

After a few moments, Max withdrew his bloodline sense and said, [I'm sure you know, or at least can feel, that the Four Star realm isn't your bloodline's limit, right?]

[Yes.]

Max continued, [You are right about that. Your bloodline's limit isn't the Four Star realm but the King realm. However, not only is your bloodline very thin, but it also seems to have an injury that has reduced its grade further.]

[Bloodline can get injured too?] Leo asked, stunned. This was his first time hearing something like this.

Max shrugged. [It's not exactly an injury, but it looks similar, so I called it that. It might be some form of mutation or deviation.]

Leo nodded. [I understand. But... Why are you telling me this, Overlord? You don't think finding out why my bloodline isn't working is my last wish, right?]

"..."

Max was speechless. This guy, was he the same one who was trembling in fear when he asked for his help a while ago?

[Even if it is, I'm not telling you this to fulfill it.] He said before adding, [I told you this because I can cure it; however, because it's my first time working on an injured bloodline, I'm not sure what will happen. It can recover and be as it was supposed to, or it can mutate into something undesirable and completely useless.]

Leo looked at him as if he was some monster... or god?

[Is there anything you can't do?] He instinctively asked.

Max liked the look in his eyes and smiled despite their grim situation. [Yes, I can't kill the demon kings or anyone stronger.]

"..."

This time Leo was speechless, and then both burst out in laughter.

...

High in the sky, both the demon and human emperors were watching the battles below in an isolation barrier.

Unlike last time, however, the human emperors didn't have the upper hand even though there were six new emperors—who were assigned to the kingdom that the Frostclaw tribe, Ashen Fiend tribe, and the Abyssal Howler tribe conquered—on their side because the number of demon emperors was higher after the emperors of these three tribes joined them.

However, even though the human side didn't have the upper hand, their side wasn't weaker in overall power, which was the reason the demons were calmly watching the ongoing battles, or, more accurately, massacres.

After Max started fighting, they were paying him attention and watched him kill the peak Five Star howler demons and Ashen fiends. Now they were watching him escape, waiting for the demon kings to catch up and kill him.

So, when he and Leo suddenly started laughing, they narrowed their eyes in confusion, not understanding what was going on. The same was true for Lady Verana, Alton, Wyomin, and others.

'Has he gone mad from the despair?' Alton's eyes flickered in thought. He had a feeling this wasn't the case.