

S vs Rebirth 981

Chapter 981 All Out War (5)

Noel and Milfa moved toward Duke Briton's flood, planning to take advantage of that power to stop all the demons.

Obviously, other demons were coming straight to them according to Qiel's instructions, not letting them get away.

Milfa waved her hands, controlling the light to suppress the surrounding demons.

Still, the two Superior Demons were chasing them at high speed. The number of demons around them was much higher than the ones she handled in her original position, so she ended up getting occupied with the normal demons. Even if Dimitri or Anna used their True Spirit Body, their conditions would be similar to hers, unable to kill the Superior Demons.

However, Noel was currently with Milfa. As soon as he saw that Milfa couldn't handle the rest of the demons, Noel also began to make his move.

A pair of black wings appeared on his back as he soared into the sky. With this, they would have a hard time catching him.

However, Noel also knew that the Superior Demons wouldn't give up on this.

One of the superior demons stomped on the ground, cracking it. It actually grabbed the ground through the crack and lifted it up.

"!!!" Noel was quite surprised that a huge chunk of land actually flew into the air. He hurriedly shot out his Undying Phoenix, exploding the big lump of soil. Once shattered, the remnant flame reduced everything to nothing.

While he was able to stop this attack, the other Superior Demon jumped into the sky, releasing a beam of light from its mouth.

He didn't have enough time to release his ability, so the only thing he could do was utilize the Rune Body. He activated the Spiritual Barrier Rune that had been embedded in his body, creating a translucent sphere that blocked the beam.

Boom!

At the same time, Noel used the Enhance Forward Rune to counter the explosion force so that he didn't get blown away in the middle.

After blocking that attack, Milfa released a bit of her light to suppress the Superior Demons. "Go!"

Noel immediately took this chance to fly at full speed directly toward the water.

There were a few demons trying to block his path, but all of a sudden, numerous flying fish emerged from the water, slapping all of them away.

"!!!" Noel smiled, knowing that Duke Briton had him covered.

However, before he could reach the water, Qiel's arrow flew toward him, carrying an extraordinary amount of power.

Even his Spiritual Barrier Rune would have a hard time blocking this. Fortunately, Faust's arrow struck her arrow from the side, causing their massive energy to clash with each other.

Sadly, this was when Qiel showed her superiority as the number one archer in the world. Her arrow contained much stronger energy than Faust's arrow, causing the latter to actually explode in mid-air.

But even though Faust failed to destroy Qiel's arrow, it was still strong enough to alter the course of the arrow, causing the arrow that carried a lot of her energy to only hit Noel's left wing.

The arrow completely obliterated the left wing, destabilizing Noel's flight ability. Still, Noel finally reached the water area as he landed on top of the water, using his ice ability to freeze the water as his platform to stand on.

After that, numerous fish came out of the water to block the demons, giving Noel precious time to repair his wings before flying into the sky. Now that he was near the barrier, he simply had to fly above it before curving toward the wall.

With this, he safely retreated to the top of the wall.

"Master." Grandell hurriedly came to him to check on his condition. Luckily, Noel didn't sustain any injuries.

"Take care of her." Noel handed Felicia to him. Her name would soon spread in all four kingdoms, not only as the first rune ian but also as someone with the prowess that was capable of killing a Superior Demon while being a Spirit Master.

It was because of her that the Ardagan Family would be famous and even more terrifying.

"Understood." Grandell nodded with a serious expression. He never thought that there would be a day for a Spirit Master to be able to defeat a Superior Demon.

On the one hand, this might be the reason why Felicia managed to become Noel's direct vassal. On the other hand, Grandell knew that he might be able to do this in the future as long as he continued serving Noel.

Noel would definitely be able to make a great change in the kingdom. As long as they could win this battle, everything would definitely change.

Milfa also managed to return to the wall safely with her extraordinary light prowess.

"Are you alright?" Noel asked.

"Yeah. I'm not injured for the time being, but I have used a bit more spiritual energy than I originally expected. Still, you should know what it means to have the duke activate his True Spirit Body, right?" Milfa squinted his eyes.

Noel's expression turned serious. He obviously understood the effect.

As expected of Duke Briton, his field of vision was so wide that he actually managed to understand the whole battlefield situation from his position.

Duke Briton should have realized that if this continued, they would need too much time to actually kill all the demons.

Noel actually asked Felicia to come forward and moved the Gem Lord to stop the flying demon due to this particular reason. He knew that the battlefield might look extreme, but the progress hadn't been much done. Even on the north wall, he calculated that there were only about two thousand demons who had died during the past two hours.

Knowing Qiel, she must want him to release all kinds of trump cards he had hidden the whole time so that once everything was unleashed, they would launch an all-out attack. It would be even worse because this was the first fight for most soldiers.

They would wear down their stamina much faster than experienced soldiers no matter how much he raised their morale.

Noel shouted, "Did you see it, everyone? Even a Superior Demon can be defeated by the power of rune. Even if you are only a Spirit Master, not a Spirit Grandmaster, you can still defeat it. That's why we should trust the rune weapons we have and kill them all."

"Oohhh!" The soldiers cheered. They obviously heard Felicia's declaration, so they had witnessed the fight themselves.

They knew that defeating all these demons was not impossible.

'It's amazing that the duke can see everything from that position, but more importantly, the duke must have known what would happen after using his True Spirit Body. From the way I see it, he will be able to kill three Superior Demons on his side. That leaves Milfa to handle the rest by herself.

'What kind of effect will the duke bring with his True Spirit Body? How many demons have he killed? And what kind of effect will the flood bring?'

Noel thought it hard, wondering why the duke chose to do it. On the one hand, it looked like the duke wanted to wipe out the entire side with his power. On the other hand, it felt like the duke had one more hidden intention.

'The water... Milfa... Duke Briton... and one Superior Demon...' Noel looked down for a moment before widening his eyes in shock. "So, that's how it is."

"Is there something wrong, my lord?" Grandell asked.

"Grandell. I'm going to tell you two things." Noel raised two fingers. His voice was low enough that no one could hear him. "First of all, tell Aerton that he will have to clear the demons down below as soon as possible and go up here. Tell him that he will take over your job here after the signal."

"He will be here?" Grandell was stunned, not because Aerton was going up, but because his job would be left to Aerton. He thought that he had lost Noel's trust.

However, Noel continued with the second matter. "Secondly, I want you to follow me later. There will be a more important role for us later."

Grandell's expression brightened. "Y-yes!"

It turned out that he was going to an even more important place. He had misunderstood the Lord's intention.

Without hesitation, he hurriedly went to the bottom of the wall while carrying Felicia.

"Have you figured out something?" Milfa asked.

"Sort of. Once the True Spirit Body wears off, I hope that you can tell him this: 'I understand your action and intention. There is an even more important role waiting for you and I hope that you won't reject it.' That's all."

"More important role?" Milfa was quite surprised, but it seemed that Noel wasn't joking. She couldn't help but wonder what role Duke Briton was going to play after this.

Since she had some time, she took out the pill Khalid gave her earlier, trying to restore as much spiritual energy as possible before Duke Briton exhausted himself.

On the other hand, Noel shouted, "Anna, Dimitri, Andreas, Howard. Return to the wall right now!"

"!!!" All four grandmasters that were fighting the Superior Demons on the battlefield widened their eyes. This was not the time to pull back. There was only one plan where they needed to go back and it was to kill the Supreme Devil Organization members.

Noel actually sped up his plan.

"You're not going anywhere!" Laufey stepped forward, trying to stop Dimitri from leaving. However, there was soon an undying phoenix flying toward him, forcing Laufey to jump away.

Dimitri used this chance to disappear into the shadows, leaving the battlefield. Anna was also in a similar situation. With the support of Noel, she disengaged and returned to the wall.

Andreas's opponent almost died, so he didn't have much trouble going back while the giant bull that Howard fought was suppressed by the weapons from the wall.

Now that everyone had returned, Noel smiled. 'It's time for the execution.'

Chapter 982 All Out War (6)

'Now, it's time for execution.' Noel shouted, "We'll begin our main attack!"

There was something that Qiel couldn't see from outside the wall. It was the fact that the other side of the wall had actually been modified.

When one took a look behind the wall, they would notice that there was a catapult directly attached to the top of the wall. They were so big that there was an additional structure to support them.

Roel had been working tirelessly to make this weapon successful as this was their main attack.

"Get ready!" The former captain of the mercenary group, Genez, shouted, informing the soldiers under his command to charge the main attacks.

After hearing Genez's story from Howard, he realized that he would be perfect to monitor these weapons. Since he wanted to kill a lot of demons and the Supreme Devil Organization, he would definitely do a great job to fulfill that wish.

The soldiers began to move toward the catapult and pour out the demon crystals.

On the catapult was actually a huge glass sphere made according to Felicia's instructions. They had the same property as Felicia's bottles, which contained all that unstable spiritual energy.

When the demon crystals entered the system, the spiritual energy from them started to get extracted into these glass spheres.

Once filled, Genez ordered out loud, "Fire!"

The springs were loosened as the catapults swung violently, launching the spheres into the sky.

"Huh?" Qiel couldn't help but raise her head, noticing the incoming balls. She didn't know what it was, but from the spiritual energy emanating from it, it was definitely something dangerous.

"Not good! Destroy it!" Qiel shouted in panic while pointing her arrow at it. At the same time, she noticed that Faust was also doing the same thing.

Several demons jumped into the sky, while others gathered their energy to shoot them down.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

A series of massive explosions filled the air above the demons. The shock waves were so massive that they actually caused a huge mess in the demon's ranks. Most of the low level demons had a hard time stopping the shock wave and got blown away.

The other demons tried to use their abilities to form a barrier to block the shock wave, but they were coming from multiple directions, causing them to be unable to protect everything.

And this was only coming from the explosions in the air. What if these explosions reached the ground? The demons could picture themselves getting blasted into smithereens.

Qiel widened her eyes in shock. The blast actually killed a lot of demons, especially the ones that were trying to catch the spheres. They got knocked down to the ground so hard that their bodies were crushed.

However, these attacks didn't end there. Another volley of unstable energy flew into the sky.

"Shoot it. Shoot it before they reach us."

The demons were trying their best to shoot these spheres. This time, they had managed to actually destroy the incoming spheres before they were near them.

The problem was that because of her action and their wariness of this type of attack, Qiel ended up ordering all the long-

ranged demons to attack these spheres, meaning that the demons didn't actually support the other demons near the wall.

"Go!" Noel waved his hand down.

The flying squad once again flew into the sky. Instead of the flying beasts, they were actually looping around the city and releasing the bombs they carried in their backpacks. As for their destination, it was obvious.

The Water Lord, who was still controlling his elemental, noticed incoming allies from the sky. They dropped a lot of spheres from their bag, raining them down.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

A lot of demons had their bodies obliterated by these bombs.

The two Superior Demons that kept him occupied couldn't help but realize what they were planning to do. The snail looped around, trying to shoot them down. However, the Water Lord controlled the green-colored elemental to slam its body into the snail.

"!!!" The snail fell down.

The snake, on the other hand, soared into the sky by taking advantage of its size. However, the blue water elemental grabbed the snake from behind and dragged it back to the water.

Shaaa!

The snake struggled, but there was nothing they could do as the flying squads killed a lot of them.

The bombardment continued as the flying squads tried to kill as many demons as possible.

These demons wondered what they should do currently.

Qiel widened her eyes in shock, realizing Noel's plan. 'So, that's how it is. He is sealing our long-ranged attack. To stop all the incoming spheres, I have to gather all those demons that are capable of releasing a long-range attack. And with this, there's no one who can stop the flying squads from obliterating the rest of the demons.

'No. He must want to kill the demons on the side so that those four Spirit Grandmasters could actually help the north wall. And if this continued, the Superior Demon I stationed over there would be killed too.

'No. The trigger must be that Duke! He actually killed three Superior Demons by using his True Spirit Body, and he was able to maintain that position for a bit longer. Even if he has exhausted his power, Milfa could easily protect that side by herself from the remaining demons.

'They are trying to force me to reinforce those sides to keep them at bay. But if I spread myself too thin, Noel would definitely use this to crush all the demons in the north side.'

Qiel panicked, realizing that she had fallen into his trap. 'What should I do? What can I do to resolve this situation? Commence a full scale attack on the wall? But that's not the original plan. If I do it right now, the soldiers still have a lot of energy left to defeat us.

'Then, should I send Laufey and the others? No. If I do that, it's going to be extremely hard for us to drag those people back to the battlefield, especially during the bombardment.

'We have to drag at least a few of them from those walls so that they stop the bombardment even for a moment.'

Qiel was trying to find an alternative so that the plans could work like they originally intended.

Noel didn't know Qiel's original intention. However, he did know that he simply had to kill at least fifty thousand demons so that Qiel wouldn't have enough demons left to pressure them. And he had to do it today.

Due to Qiel arriving midday, they only had several hours left before the sky turned dark. And at that time, it would be hard to locate the enemies and what they were planning to do.

It seemed that Qiel had planned the timing carefully. Noel made the assumption that Qiel's real plan came in the dark.

That was why they didn't have a lot of time left to destroy these demons. Duke Briton should have realized this and chose to light up a spark on the battlefield to progress it forward.

Qiel and Noel looked at each other, wondering what each other was thinking.

Noel wanted to kill the demons and force Qiel to send reinforcements to the other sides. On the other hand, Qiel had been stalling for a while. Before Duke Briton did anything, they only lost about seven thousand demons from all sides. While the number looked amazing at first glance, it was only less than ten percent of their total force.

Even if they continued until dusk, they would still have fifty thousand demons left, which was big enough for them to do something.

But because Duke Briton activated his True Spirit Body and Noel took advantage of that spark, they lost more than five thousand demons in just thirty minutes. The rate would definitely get even higher when the Water Lord, Paladin Aurelia, and Milfa came to the north wall.

'Think. Think. I have to think of a way to stop all this...' Qiel gritted her teeth, wondering how she could outsmart Noel.

Laufey and the other two Devil Saints had returned. Laufey asked, "Oi, old hag. What are we going to do next? Even though I am not adept at a large battlefield like this, I still know that we will lose if this keeps up."

"We have to find something... We need to stop them. What can we actually do to force her to stop?" Qiel ignored Laufey and kept muttering.

"Can we just launch an all-out attack now?" Another Devil Saint asked.

"No. Our original intention was to destroy the city. If possible, capture both Anna Stargaze and Noel Ardagan alive."

"Then, why don't we just lure them out if we want to capture them?" Laufey snarled.

"!!!" Qiel widened her eyes in shock as if she had gotten an idea from Laufey's remark. "What did you say?"

"Why don't we just lure them out if we want to capture them..." Laufey repeated his words, confused.

"That's right. We should lure them out. If they are leaving the city, the bombardment has no choice but to stop for a moment. The demons can surround them and weaken them. After that, we will destroy them... As for how to lure them..." Qiel looked around, wondering if they had something that could drag Noel out.

Qiel raised two fingers. "Laufey. Pass the message to the Superior Demons, especially the remaining demon tree. I have a new order."

Their expressions turned serious as they couldn't help but gasp, realizing the insanity of Qiel's plan. However, if they succeeded, they could definitely turn the battle around.

With that thought in mind, the remaining demon tree came forth and spread its branches as if it were trying to cover what Qiel and the others were planning to do.

"Hmm?!" Noel couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, feeling something was wrong.

"Noel. I feel like the threat are moving away... There are a lot of them moving toward... there..." Anna pointed to the northwest where the demons came from.

"Huh?" Noel looked shocked as if he couldn't believe what Qiel was planning to do.

"Are they retreating? Should we chase them? Or should we destroy all the demons here?"

Noel clenched his fists. "We should chase them."

"Chase them? What are they planning to do, Master?" Dimitri asked.

"Livia." Noel only dropped a single name, which became the biggest hint.

Anna instantly picked up and explained what she found. "Don't tell me, they are going to reinforce the demons that Damian keeps at bay. Are they going to fight the Greenwood Kingdom?"

"They have no choice. And by doing this, we have no choice but to stop them. And there should be a lot of demons and multiple Superior Demons that Damian stops. If they get all of them and add them to this army, it's going to be our loss."

"!!!" Anna and Damian shuddered. Anna shouted, "Then, send me out. I will definitely stop them."

Noel looked down, falling into deep thought.

Chapter 983 Decisive Moment (1)

The battle continued with the enemies going further and further away. If this continued, Qiel would definitely defeat Damian and bring back enough reinforcement to turn the situation around.

However, to reach her, Noel and the others had to cut their way through these numerous demons.

Finally, the flying squad returned to the north wall before dropping everything they had around the gate.

After that, the city gate on the north wall was finally lowered. The first two people that emerged from the gate were none other than Dimitri and Anna.

Lightning Piercer.

Shadow Gate.

An enormous lightning strike flew toward the demons, hitting one of them and electrocuting everyone around. On the other side, a giant circle appeared on the ground and started swallowing the demons as though it were a gate to hell.

There were two Spirit Masters that accompanied them. They were the two original direct subordinates of Howard.

Their original task was to bring a total of fifty elite soldiers with them and protect them as they tried to break through the demon army.

"Kill them!" Laufey obviously wouldn't allow them as he sent forth the demons.

The demon army shifted a little bit, positioning themselves to stop Anna and Dimitri.

Four Superior Demons also came forth. The Ancient Demon Tree sent the roots to crush the soldiers behind Anna. This was also another reason why it would be hard to break through the enemies.

If only the two of them reached the other side, it would be hard to stop Qiel and those numerous demons. At the same time, the demon army would do everything they could to kill as many soldiers as possible.

"I will create a path for you, young lady Anna." Dimitri took a deep breath as his shadow began to return to his body, forming several tattoos. At the same time, a red horn appeared on the left side of his forehead. "True Spirit Body."

The spiritual energy inside Dimitri's body erupted, causing the ground to reverberate. Even Laufey, who was commanding the demon, noticed Dimitri's action. "He is really going to activate his True Spirit Body."

He couldn't help but smile, realizing that everything had gone according to Qiel's prediction. Even if Dimitri could last for a while, they could just wear him down first before defeating him.

"Shadowless Body." Dimitri's transformation wasn't as grand as that of Duke Briton. However, that was exactly why he had the shadow power. If one took a look at his body, they would notice that there was no shadow underneath him. It was because he controlled every shadow in the world. And if he still had his shadow, that shadow would also be affected.

With a single wave of his hand, numerous roots suddenly emerged from the ground.

"!!!" In every single root, there was a black shadow spiraling to the very tip. Two more Superior Demons charged forward, blocking their path.

Dimitri stepped forward and raised his blade.

"Shadow Explosion."

The moment Dimitri waved his blade, the shadows of every living thing felt like they were being pulled back.

The wave of energy coming from his sword caused an extremely powerful shock wave that launched all the shadows away. And obviously, the shadows ended up pulling up the real bodies, clearing up their path.

Laufey gritted his teeth. Even though he knew that Dimitri was strong, he never expected that he would be this strong. Just like Duke Briton, if he wanted to cause massive destruction, it wouldn't be hard for him.

The low level demons couldn't withstand the pressure from that blade, causing them to have their bones pulled out of their bodies and ultimately killing them.

Now that there was a gap, the soldiers increased their pace, making sure that they didn't get left behind.

"Kill them!" Laufey gritted his teeth. This wasn't enough. He should weaken Dimitri even further. "Even if they get past you, just chase after them."

This was also Qiel's scheme. If they could chase after Anna and Dimitri before Qiel turned around, flanking them from two sides, even with the True Spirit Body, they wouldn't survive.

However, the water inside the ditch suddenly rose, startling Laufey.

'This power... Isn't he supposed to be...' Laufey gasped and hurriedly shouted, "Not good. Hurry up and back out! Superior Demons, hurry up and form a barrier to redirect the water to avoid all of us getting killed."

"Tsunami."

The water started to fall forward, creating a raging wave that swept the battlefield.

All of a sudden, Duke Briton stepped on the north wall, looking at the entire situation much more clearly than before.

The Superior Demon Tree hurriedly created a barricade with its roots, but Duke Briton sent forth multiple creatures to take it down. Meanwhile, Milfa had returned to her position, taking over Duke Briton's job.

'There are still ten minutes left.' Duke Briton thought before waving his hands, controlling the waves so that the enemies didn't chase after Anna and Dimitri.

Laufey furrowed his eyebrows, thinking, 'So, that's what they want. Duke Briton still has some time left, so they want him to stop the demons from chasing after Anna and Dimitri. At the same time, even if Duke Briton has exhausted his power, his expertise on the battlefield is much higher than that of Noel or Howard.

'In other words, there will be two commanders on top of that wall, allowing them to create two separate actions. This is not looking good, but I still have enough strength to resist them.'

Laufey hurriedly arranged the yellow flower to gather the demons so that they could block off the waterway connected to the river. As long as there wasn't enough water, Duke Briton's strength wouldn't do much.

Qiel didn't care about this because Duke Briton didn't have much time left on the battlefield. This also showed Laufey's ability to command the demon army.

Because he ordered the demons to stop the flowing water, Duke Briton could finally isolate them.

The raging water suddenly shifted as if it had its own will. However, what actually happened was that the left side had a higher flow rate than the right side.

Duke Briton actually pumped out more water toward the left side, causing a small flooded area that separated the left side and the army in front of him.

"!!!" Laufey widened his eyes in shock. Something was going on, but he didn't know what Duke Briton was trying to do.

Duke Briton glanced at Aerton. "Go!"

Aerton nodded. He was tasked with doing everything that Duke Briton ordered. So, he immediately sent off the signal for the flying squads to exterminate all the demons on the left after they were isolated.

"!!!" Laufey widened his eyes in shock. "Wait a minute. Don't tell me, he is..."

Laufey reacted a bit too late because the flying squad had gone straight to the demons that were trying to fill up the waterway with soil.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The demons were so focused on dealing with the soil that they didn't react fast enough to the bombardment.

Laufey trembled, his face was pale. "He... he actually wanted me to use all the demons that had the ability to control earth or soil and eliminate all of them. He knew that they would be the most dangerous ones because they could create a bridge that could reach the top of the wall. Qiel actually wanted to use them as a trump card, but Duke Briton saw through it and eliminated all of them."

That was right. The Demon Tree was dangerous, but it was still only a single tree. There were other demons that could manipulate the earth and form a staircase to the top of the wall with that power.

Qiel originally wanted to wait until the sky turned dark before building complex staircases all around the wall. This way, the people on top of the wall didn't realize that their doom was about to come.

Hence, eliminating them would cause the demon army to suffer an insurmountable loss. Even if they wanted to reach the top of the wall, they would need to make a lot of sacrifices. And there was no guarantee that they could actually win or not.

Laufey knew that he had made a huge blunder.

Duke Briton simply smiled as if everything had gone as expected. "You are too young to fight me on the battlefield, brat. Better call that old woman or a genius like Noel Ardagan if you want to fight me."

This was the second intention of Duke Briton using his True Spirit Body early. Even if he couldn't fight anymore, he could still command the army.

"Release all we have and mow them down. We will reduce their number as much as possible before dusk." Duke Briton commanded.

"Yes, Sir." Aerton hurriedly passed the message to others.

Howard let out a long sigh. The second stage of the battle was almost done. He had to recover first before they could move on to the third stage.

But before that, there was another place he had to go. Howard rushed back to the bottom of the wall where Clara fought against the Superior Demon Crocodile.

With both of them here, the Superior Demon would die sooner or later.

Even the Gem Lord was impressed by how the situation developed. He had never thought that Noel could gather all these people.

"It seems that I haven't made the wrong choice. Well, I'll be enjoying the wealth of the Ardagan Family after this battle and passing on my mantle as an elder of the Tower Association. I wonder if the Earl allows me to enjoy my peaceful retirement in his city..." The Gem Lord playfully smiled.

He would get twenty percent of the mine's shares. If he retired, it meant that he could spend the rest of his life researching things without any pressure.

And with this battle, the Ardagan Family would definitely soar into the sky, becoming the perfect place to retire.

"It seems that I have to contribute much more than this if I want to retire here. While I don't have the fancy True Spirit Body, I still have enough strength to kill a Superior Demon and thousands of lower level demons." The Gem Lord became a bit energetic, as if his future was on the line.

There were two other people who worked extremely hard. While they didn't have a fighting role, they still played a fairly important role in this battle.

The first one was Rose. She had been stationed inside the city in case their strategy against the underground demon failed.

But since the strategy succeeded, her role turned into that of a support and analyst of the battle. With the sense and power she had trained when she was with the Demon Banner Army, Rose actually knew how she should move the troops.

After seeing the number of injured people that had been brought down from the city wall, Rose said, "Bring the injured to the east ward. Also, send another one hundred people to the wall."

"Understood." A soldier immediately left her to bring the message.

The women and kids were moving around the town with bandages and hot water, helping with the treatment of the soldiers. And Rose was the one controlling everything.

Charlotte was looking at her from afar while shaking her head helplessly. "It seems that my successor can help not only with administrative problems but also on the battlefield. I'm glad."

Jasmine sighed. "My knowledge is not related to this, but help me with the number of herbs, will you? I will create a farm both for food and medicinal herbs after this battle."

"I know. Anyway, we rested long enough. Let's continue treating the others."

"Yeah."

On the other side of the city, Livia was shouting at the men who were carrying boxes after boxes. "Bring those boxes over there. These boxes are immediately sent to Tristan."

Yes, Livia was also playing an important role. While she was good at fighting, her identity as the second princess caused her to work as someone working behind the table even in the Greenwood Kingdom. And Noel took advantage of this and made her the supervisor of their logistics.

She had been sending supplies of the flying squad's bombs, demon crystals, and runes.

With these two women working on their jobs, the wall wouldn't fall.

That was why Anna and Dimitri could chase after Qiel. As expected, the one that would determine this war would be their battle.

Chapter 984 Decisive Moment (2)

"We are out." Anna looked back and noticed that the demons didn't chase after them because of the flood.

Dimitri, who had activated his True Spirit Body, only had the same amount of time as Duke Briton when he first activated his True Spirit Body.

Hence, it would be better not to waste this opportunity.

"I will go first so that we can catch up to them."

"It's on you, Dimitri. You just have to target Qiel and their entire army won't have no choice but to stop." Anna nodded with a serious expression.

"Understood." Dimitri disappeared into the shadow.

Qiel might only bring a thousand demons with her, but there were two Devil Saints with them. There was no need for the Superior Demons, considering Noel couldn't send out all his power as well.

If it was only Dimitri and Anna, she had the confidence to take both of them down in this place.

Dimitri suddenly appeared behind them with black-colored energy enveloping his body.

As he raised his blade, it felt like there was a black curtain attached to the sky.

"So, you've come." Qiel secretly signaled the two Devil Saints to take their position as her body was enveloped with light.

"Shadow Expansion!" With a single wave of his sword, the curtain expanded toward Qiel. Anna already told her that he only needed to stop Qiel, so he did.

As expected, the demons stopped. This black curtain contained massive energy that cut everything apart, including the ground. When the demons tried to stop it, they were immediately slashed into two.

However, before it reached Qiel's position, a piercing light flew toward the black curtain, bending it to the limit before breaking it apart. At the same time, the light lost all of its energy and got engulfed in the residual power of the black curtain.

Dimitri raised his head, looking at the one who stopped his attack. Qiel had also transformed.

On her back were a pair of white and black wings. Instead of a horn, she actually had a third eye on her forehead.

Her bow was extended. The upper part had a black-colored extension, while the bottom part had a white extension. The arrow she formed was white in color, but the energy that shrouded it was dark.

"Profound Cannon." Qiel released the arrow.

The arrow flew much faster than anything she had shot before. Even though there didn't seem to be any weird energy flowing out of the arrow, Dimitri had to wield his sword with both hands and strike the arrow with all his might just to deflect the arrow.

Boom!

The arrow landed on the ground a bit farther away from him, causing a massive explosion that even left a crater 30 meters in diameter. And it was just from a single arrow. If this kind of arrow hit the city wall, even the Spiritual Barrier Rune wouldn't be able to stop it.

"You are a fool, Dimitri. If you think that you can defeat us here, then you're dead wrong. This will be the place you shall be buried." Qiel spoke, her voice gave off a bit of an ethereal feeling.

"Utter nonsense. I have always wanted to assassinate the strongest sniper in history, then how about I achieve it today?" Dimitri smiled while raising his blade.

"If you assassinate me during the night, I might not be able to do anything against you. But it's daylight now." Qiel harrumphed.

"Shadow might be able to blend with darkness during the night, but the shadow is much darker during the day!" Dimitri suddenly disappeared.

"Take care of Anna and the soldiers!" Qiel ordered the demons and the two Devil Saints.

"Do you think you have time to order your people?" Dimitri used her shadow to appear behind her.

Qiel turned around while swinging her blow to stop Dimitri, but the latter grabbed her wrist and planned to cut her down.

However, a stream of light appeared around them. Even Dimitri was wrapped in this light as they suddenly flew into the sky like an arrow.

That was right. Qiel turned them into an arrow with her ability and launched them into the sky.

There was a lack of shadow in the sky, so Dimitri wouldn't be able to utilize his power.

"!!!" Dimitri saw Qiel flapping his wings to ensure that she remained in the air, while Dimitri had no choice but to fall down. Qiel even aimed her arrow at him.

Dimitri smiled. Even if they were in the sky, as long as he had the sun, it was enough.

With a snap of his fingers, Qiel's wings suddenly closed up.

'My wings? No, the shadow on my wings?' Qiel realized how Dimitri did it, but it was too late. She had released her arrow, which ended up with her shooting her own wings and creating a massive hole in them.

Still, the arrow headed straight toward Dimitri.

Dimitri pulled back his sword, utilizing Qiel's shadow once again to connect his shadow. He aimed at the arrow and made a thrusting motion.

Shadow Connection.

Suddenly, the shadow from his blade and Qiel's shadow extended as if they were trying to reach each other.

The arrow hit this shadow, having a hard time piercing through. At the same time, the connection from behind began enveloping the arrow, neutralizing it.

Qiel waved her right hand, forming multiple arrows around her. After that, she took one and drew her arrow.

The other arrows followed this arrow and flew straight to Dimitri in all kinds of directions.

Dimitri didn't know why this woman used this kind of power. The arrows didn't contain a lot of energy, so even a weak defense would be enough to stop them.

With that thought in mind, Dimitri spread his shadow into multiple spikes, hitting one arrow after another. There was even an arrow so white that it almost blended with the sun. Fortunately, Dimitri saw it coming and blocked it.

However, he felt something even more dangerous coming from his side. He instinctively raised his left arm, which ended up being pierced by an arrow.

"!!!" Dimitri couldn't believe it. It was no wonder why Qiel made such weak arrows. It turned out she was trying to lower his guard.

She even played with the brightness of the arrow, which ended up blinding him with another arrow.

Because it didn't contain a lot of energy, it could blend perfectly with nature and almost hit Dimitri.

A smile formed on Qiel's face as if implying this was a payback for forcing her to shoot her own wings.

Both of them were about to land. Even Qiel couldn't repair her wings mid-air due to the extensive damage. When she flapped her wings, she had a hard time maintaining her altitude, so she also planned to land gently on the ground.

Meanwhile, Dimitri came crashing down. When he was about to reach the ground, Dimitri waved his hand.

Shadow Manipulation, Net Form.

The shadows expanded from the tree branches and connected with each other, forming a net. He landed on top of it and used the spring to actually launch himself toward Qiel.

Intertwining Arrow.

Qiel released another arrow to stop Dimitri. This time, it was a straightforward arrow that contained a lot of energy. She must want to stop his momentum with brute force.

However, when Dimitri struck this arrow, it didn't meet much restriction. Instead, it actually split into two, looping around Dimitri from both sides before curving back toward him. They even joined back together.

Dimitri used his shadow to pull his body, causing it to spin in mid-air. It used the rotation to hit the arrow before extending the sword with the shadow.

Qiel took the full brunt with her bow, causing her to be launched back to the ground.

The shadows around her began to move before turning into spikes around her.

If not for Qiel's fast reaction to jumping away, there would have been a lot of holes in her body. Even if she was fast enough, some of the spikes still grazed her skin, causing some superficial wounds.

Even the wings didn't escape unscathed, making her unable to fly. It seemed that Dimitri was planning all this.

As long as she was on the ground, there were a lot of shadows that could become his weapon. That was why this place would be her execution ground.

Qiel looked at Dimitri with a solemn face. Even though the situation was a bit unfavorable for her, Qiel wasn't afraid of him. After all, she had planned all this.

Boom!

An explosive sound echoed from behind them, alerting Dimitri.

"!!!"

...

A moment ago.

Anna looked at the incoming demons and said, "Get ready! We will turn ourselves into a spear and pierce through their formation. Leave the two grandmasters to me."

"Yes!" The soldiers shouted, ready to move in unison. Although there were a total of one thousand demons among them, they were the elite soldiers of the Ardagan Family. This number was still within their means, especially with Anna and Dimitri leading the group personally.

"It's impossible for you to stop us. It's your destiny to fall on our hands, Anna Stargaze!" One of the Devil Saints actually spoke while stopping the demons. It seemed that he was trying to lower their morale by reminding her of the severity of her situation.

"You don't have to waste your words on me. All I need is to kill both of you, and this battle is as good as ours." Anna snorted.

"Do you think you can stop us? Even if we are still a bit weaker than the previous Devil Saints, we are still Devil Saints."

"You're just mere replacements. Don't talk like you are someone good. The two of you aren't enough to defeat me." Anna snorted. "No need to say anything! Get ready!"

Anna, who was just about to engage with the demons and the two Devil Saints, was quite shocked by the sound of an explosion. She couldn't help but turn around and notice the incoming reinforcement.

"Huh?" Anna blinked her eyes a few times. There were about another one thousand demons coming from behind and she could actually see Laufey and a Superior Demon Tiger with him.

The Devil Saint smiled. "Yes. We both definitely don't have the strength to capture you, especially since you have your True Spirit Body. But what if there are Laufey and another Superior Demon?"

"You are simply too arrogant, Anna Stargaze. You don't realize that we're simply buying time for them."

Laufey also had a True Spirit Body. It could be said that Laufey was her equal on this battlefield. If Laufey chose to stop her while the others exterminated the knights, even she might not be able to do anything.

"Surrender Anna Stargaze. We won't treat you badly... at least until we get your fiance."

Chapter 985 Decisive Moment (3)

"Surrender Anna Stargaze. We won't treat you badly, at least until we get your fiance."

Anna looked at Dimitri's situation before turning back, looking at the incoming demons. They would be attacked from two different directions by at least two thousand demons. Even with the strength of the soldiers, it would be hard for them to kill these demons alone.

As the Devil Saint said, resistance was futile.

"I know that this is a trap already. There is no way that you are leaving your post so easily without any plans in mind."

"Young lady Anna..." One of the Spirit Masters came to her, preparing for the worst. He wanted to advise her to leave the battlefield as they had opened a path for her.

Anna waved her hand as if this matter were still salvageable.

But because of that rejection, reinforcement had arrived. They stopped right before them, showing how obedient the demons could get.

There was only one reason why Laufey stopped the demons.

"Anna Stargaze. It's better if you give up now. You might even be treated gently if you don't put up any resistance as well as tell me everything about the Ardagan Family." Laufey looked down on her from on top of the demon.

Anna couldn't help but smirk. "Laufey Ardagan, the uncle of my fiance... To think that you would betray the Ardagan Family in the past."

"Ardagan? I have long abandoned that name. No, should I say that I have never belonged to the Ardagan Family?" Laufey snorted. "If you think that you can buy some time by talking, it won't matter. We have completely sealed the exit. Unless Milfa uses her True Spirit Body, you won't be able to break through. And if she truly uses it, the Ardagan Family's doom is just a matter of time."

"You're talking big." Anna chuckled. "It seems that you don't know anything about the Ardagan Family."

Laufey couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"What do you want to ask me? The Ardagan Family's weapons and trump cards? Or are you going to ask me about your desire... about the secret information of the Ardagan Family..." Anna gave a subtle hint because it was Laufey who stole one of the secret books that the Ardagan Family had.

"!!!" Laufey widened his eyes in shock. As the future lady of the Ardagan Family, it would be obvious if Noel would tell Anna about some secret. However, he never thought that without a formal marriage or heir, Noel would dare tell her about those secrets. "Hurry up and tell me everything!"

Anna smirked before sticking out her tongue. "I don't want to. Why don't you force me to say it?"

"You—!" Laufey gritted his teeth and raised his right hand, signaling the demons to get ready to charge.

"You guys protect our rear. I will handle everyone here." Anna looked at Laufey with a serious expression. Her hair started flickering and changing color. The lightning began to spark all around her body.

"If you want it, why don't you try to get it from me?" Anna smirked, taunting Laufey.

"So be it! Attack!" Laufey shouted, ordering both the demons under his command and the ones on the opposite side.

"Lightning Transformation!" Anna shouted. The lightning erupted, shattering the earth around her.

"True Spirit Body? No, it should be the transformation she showed in the capital." Laufey waved down his hand. "Don't be afraid. It's not the True Spirit Body."

Looking at the incoming demons, Anna muttered with a smile, "Look at these demons... Don't you think it's time to show them who the boss is?"

Her sword responded as though there was a soul coming out of the sword with the same figure as Anna. "Of course. How many do you want to kill?"

"All of them." Anna raised her sword, activating the rune on the sword. "Sword. Drink my blood."

A rune on the blade activated as it suddenly produced a small spike on the handle, piercing Anna's palm. The rune was drinking Anna's blood and extracting the pure energy contained in every drop of blood.

Then, the blood gradually moved toward the blade and started turning the blade red. This was yet another rune, Conductor.

It was using the blood to coat the sword and conducting the ridiculous amount of energy contained within it.

Anna raised her sword before swinging it diagonally. "Extension."

"No!" Laufey noticed the rune and hurriedly stopped them. However, the Superior Demon was able to act faster since he was closer.

Anna swung the sword diagonally as the sword extended so far, cutting all the demons within range. They were currently charging at Anna, so they didn't put anything into their defense.

There wasn't a single demon that could stop the blade, especially because Anna increased the sword's power by using her own blood.

In just a single swing, she killed more than a hundred demons until the Superior Demon Tiger struck the blade with its claws before she managed to complete her swing.

Seeing that she couldn't continue the swing, she retracted the extension rune and used her speed to move toward the Superior Demon, trying to kill it first to lower their number.

However, Laufey appeared in front of her and struck her with his blade.

Anna activated yet another rune on her sword, the Burst Rune. With a single swing, the explosive spiritual energy was discharged from the sword.

Boom!

The contact of their blade caused that energy to explode, blasting Laufey several meters away.

"Kh... How can she be that strong?" Laufey gritted his teeth. Anna's strength was truly above his prediction. And she was still going toward the tiger.

Fortunately for them, the two Devil Saints weren't that foolish. As soon as they saw Anna dominating the battlefield, they decided to join the fight to suppress Anna instead of killing the elite soldiers.

They flanked Anna from left and right.

The first Devil Saint was a master of body transformation. When he was trying to attack Anna, his right arm turned into a bear paw and slammed her from above.

The other Devil Saint was using a spear, thrusting his weapon from a rather safe distance after seeing how Laufey was also overpowered by her.

Anna caught the bear's paw with her left hand, surprisingly not overpowered by the momentum and weight the bear's paw had.

"What?!" The Devil Saint was stunned. Even Laufey would have to block or avoid it when facing this paw, yet Anna could actually catch it completely. What kind of monster was she?

What she didn't know was that Anna had the power of two Spirit Hearts and Spirit Minds, allowing her to harness twice her original power. And the original soul also controlled Anna's spiritual energy to ensure that they didn't use an excessive amount of power.

There was no way she needed to be scared of this level of paw. For the spear user that attacked her from a distance, Anna simply waved her blade, unleashing her lightning which caused the Devil Saint to block it with the spear's handle. Even then, the power was still enough to push him back several meters.

"Don't let her charge the power in her scabbard. If it's unleashed, one of us is going to die!" Laufey shouted, remembering what kind of terrifying power Anna could unleash after sheathing her blade.

However, Anna actually tapped the ground with her shoe, forming a big rune on the soil.

"!!!" The three Devil Saints jumped away as soon as they saw the rune, while the Superior Demon was stuck, not knowing what the rune was for.

All of a sudden, streams of light came out of the runes and enveloped the elite soldiers, increasing their physical abilities.

"This is..." One of them noticed immediately and shouted, "This is the rune to increase your physical abilities from the young lady. We can't disappoint her! Ardagan Family's soldiers, charge!"

"Oohhh!" The soldiers used this surge of strength to kill all the demons in front of them.

Laufey realized that their lack of knowledge about runes could be used to force them to back away. If it was an attack rune and they didn't retreat, they would definitely be devoured alive.

"What's wrong? Are you scared?" Anna smirked, taunting them. "To think that the Supreme Devil Organization, which is normally spreading fear, is actually a coward."

"You..." Laufey gritted his teeth. "Kill all of them. It doesn't matter if you have to cut a few of her limbs as long as she survives! You are simply clinging to Dimitri's ability. When his True Spirit Body wears out, you won't be able to do anything."

The demons surrounded Anna and the soldiers. The Devil Saints and the Superior Demon were ready to move again, but this time, they were more careful than anyone else.

"I know that your plan is to lure us out so that you can kill or capture us, which can be used against Noel. You must have two original plans. The first is to overwhelm us with the number of demons. The second plan is something about buying time.

"Unfortunately, our strength is much stronger than you originally thought, causing you to pull back and act like you are struggling to buy time. But once we see through that plan, you are luring us out to take out a few commandants to weaken the city.

"And because of that, I am here with Dimitri. We have no choice but to fall into your scheme."

"So, what? You have been trying to buy time this whole time. No matter what you do, you won't be able to escape from here." Laufey squinted his eyes.

"Then, humor me with one last question. What will you do if you all actually die here?" Anna smiled. Instead of using her Lightning Transformation to push Laufey a bit further, Anna actually released a ridiculous amount of energy as a pair of horns appeared on her forehead.

"True Spirit Body."

"!!!" Laufey couldn't help but tremble, feeling this energy. The lightning was raging around Anna. Even the demons felt scared to approach her.

The white lightning gradually changed color as if it had been dyed with blood.

"Lightning Berserker Body."

Laufey knew what to do when she transformed this way. He simply had to surround her until they exhausted a portion of her strength before using his own True Spirit Body to defeat her.

However, all the precious time Anna had bought was important. He simply didn't realize how much it mattered.

There was only one person who understood why Anna bought all this time. It was Qiel. Due to her position, she could see a cloud of dust rising behind Laufey's demon army.

"What are you doing, Laufey? Hurry up and defeat—" Dimitri appeared in front of Qiel and knocked her to the ground when she was distracted.

"!!!" Laufey's body shook. There was no way Qiel would scream like that for no reason. Was there something she didn't know? Did she buy time for some reason? He could think about it later. "Attack her!"

"Sorry, it's not possible. You underestimate us too much." Anna smirked.

Bam!

Roar!

Roar!

Suddenly, a huge explosion sound echoed from the rear as numerous demons were blasted into the air.

If they turned around, they would notice a small army completely obliterating their rear. And there was a young man flying in the sky, monitoring every single situation from the sky. It was none other than Noel.

How could he arrive here? Did he break through the demon army just to reach her? Was it even possible? Did Anna waste all that time just for this? Did she use the True Spirit Body because she knew Noel was coming and utilize it to buy a bit more time?

There were a lot of questions in Laufey's mind, but they didn't really matter as Noel had already arrived. His soldiers were killing one demon after another.

It was then that Noel waved his hand down as if commanding the soldiers to kill all their enemies.

"Ooohhh!"

Chapter 986 Decisive Moment (4)

?A few moments ago.

As soon as they saw Qiel leading a lot of demons away, Noel couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"Noel! We have to stop them. If they bring out more reinforcement, especially the ones that Damian has blocked... I'm afraid that we will be in trouble."

Noel's expression remained calm as if everything had gone according to plan.

"Anna. I want you and Dimitri to chase after them. Bring the two squad leaders to lead the soldiers and buy us some time."

"So, we only have to stop those people for a few hours while we're killing all the demons here?" Anna asked.

"No. You just have to give us ten minutes or so. Our real target remains the same. Qiel and Laufey have to die in this battle. You should be able to figure out the rest, so get going immediately. Also, I will inform you when I am about to arrive. That's the signal to unleash your True Spirit Body."

"A signal?" There was no way they could signal each other on a battlefield, especially if they were not near each other. However, there was something that could actually give the signal. She couldn't help but raise her left hand, looking at the ring on her finger.

That was right. They had this pair of rings that the Sword Saint gave them in the past. These rings could release a signal to each other. Although it was only a blinking light, it didn't change the fact that it would be extremely useful in a battle like this.

"I understand. If I only have to stall for time, I can fight to the fullest."

"No. You just have to bring up the matter related to the Ardagan Family's secret without telling the whole thing."

"Are you sure it will work?" Anna couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows.

"On Qiel? No. That's why Dimitri has to separate Qiel from the rest so that she doesn't influence them. As for Laufey, he might be a good schemer, but his vision is too narrow on a battlefield like this. That's why he will think that it's not possible for me to help you. Hence. That's the only thing you need to buy time from Laufey. I have told you everything. Figure out the rest for yourself since we don't have a lot of time."

"Alright." Anna nodded with a serious expression before waving to Dimitri. "I'm ready."

Both of them didn't hesitate to jump off the wall, gathering the soldiers.

Meanwhile, Noel moved to Grandell and said, "Tell Duke Briton to take command on the wall. He should be able to outwit Laufey, and he will take care of the wall until we return. Use everyone as he sees fit. Aerton will become his deputy."

"After telling him, you go to Howard and tell him that we will utilize the ghost squad to strike them. Prepare yourself to die because we are going to annihilate some Devil Saints."

"Yes, sir!" Grandell acknowledged the order and hurriedly rushed to handle the problem.

Meanwhile, Noel jumped off the wall, heading back to his mansion. It wasn't that he was trying to get some rest.

Instead, he turned on a few mechanisms hidden underneath his mansion, opening a secret tunnel underneath the mansion.

This tunnel led to a hidden opening on the north beyond the demon army. In fact, Noel had asked Anna to take care of this job personally because he knew he would use it sooner or later.

Inside the tunnel, the remaining thirty elite soldiers as well as a total of a hundred normal soldiers had been waiting for him.

"My lord!" They hurriedly went to their knees, greeting Noel.

"Are all of you ready? This will become a decisive moment. Prepare to fight as if you were a beast and we shall cut down some Devil Saints. If we manage to win this, the rest of the demons won't be a problem."

"Y-yes, sir! We are prepared to lay down our lives for you."

Noel had reinforced the tunnel with runes, but it seemed that the demon tree and other demons had truly caused some damage. Although it didn't fall apart, he noticed a few cracks here and there.

Fortunately, they didn't know about this tunnel. In fact, all his plans had been stopping them from finding this place.

When the underground demons dug up the ground, they would bump to this 'hard rock.' Normally, they would report it to the higher-ups, but Theo utilized the water wall so that their focus would shift to the water instead of the tunnel.

Anna also fought the other demon tree on the side, far away from the tunnel. Last but not least, there was the other demon tree that Noel killed as quickly as possible.

With all these plans, Qiel failed to notice the tunnel underneath the battlefield.

And all these soldiers had been waiting for their turn. At first, he thought about utilizing them to set up an ambush when Qiel was about to escape. But this moment wasn't bad at all.

"Let's go. We only have five minutes to reach the other side of the tunnel and another five minutes to attack our enemies from behind. I will be supervising our army, but Howard will be the commander of this army with Grandell as his deputy. Understood?"

"Ha!" The soldiers responded.

"Move out!" Noel shouted as he led the way to the other side of the tunnel.

As planned, Howard and Grandell also entered the tunnel a few minutes later and caught up with their speed.

The moment they reached the other side, they opened up the exit and led all the soldiers outside.

"Follow me." Noel hurriedly led them behind the demon army, following Laufey.

The reason he was so confident this trick would succeed was because of Duke Briton. At first, he was a bit skeptical about Duke Briton and originally wanted Howard to be in charge while bringing Andreas with him.

However, he was quite surprised that Duke Briton was that good on the battlefield. Despite having retired, it seemed that his skills hadn't gone rusty.

Hence, he could feel assured of leaving the battlefield to him. Howard could go with him since he would be more adept at commanding the army.

Of course, Anna had also done a good job of buying all the time they needed. As he expected, Laufey truly had a narrow vision for a battlefield, allowing him to hit the demon army from behind.

"Howard. Take care of the demons, especially that tiger. I will be fighting those Devil Saints." Noel leaped into the sky and summoned his wings.

"Did you hear that man? We would be killing all these demons. Show your guts!" Howard moved forward and summoned his big avatar to make his presence known. Because the demons were too focused on Anna, they didn't have time to look back, allowing the soldiers to massacre a portion of them.

"Kill!"

"For the Ardagan Family!"

"Show them our power!"

Laufey wanted to turn around, but Anna hurriedly closed in, charging her blade with blood-colored lightning. Laufey had no choice but to activate his True Spirit Body as well.

"True Spirit Body!" Laufey's body began to transform. There were a few weird red lines appearing all over his body as if they were made of blood. There was a demonic tail coming from his back, but there wasn't much transformation other than those two.

All of a sudden, the red lightning began to move in a weird direction as if it were trying to avoid Laufey.

"!!!" Anna noticed the difference and hurriedly leaped back.

"Devil Blood Body." Laufey raised his left hand, cut his thumb with his nail, and let a blood droplet fall to the ground. "Blood Domain!"

"!!!" Anna hurriedly stomped the ground with all her might as the droplet from earlier expanded, dyeing the ground red. All of a sudden, numerous spikes emerged from the red ground, impaling a few demons.

"What?" Anna was surprised. Luckily, he destroyed the ground in front of her, causing the expansion to stop. If it continued moving toward the soldiers, they would have no power to stop him.

"Your True Spirit Body seems to be related to blood as well. But as the ruler of blood, I will show you what it means to be the sovereign!" Laufey glared at Anna. He actually formed his sword with another droplet and leaped toward Anna. The blood that he got from the demons empowered his abilities.

When he struck Anna's blade, he actually launched her into the air before landing back more than ten meters away from them.

It showed how much Laufey had increased his strength. At the same time, every time Anna released her lightning, the lightning actually avoided Laufey as if the blood were refusing to fight this person.

"No matter what you do, it's impossible to defeat me. Your element won't be able to touch me." Laufey released all his frustration and planned to settle this problem with Anna.

The other two Devil Saints also planned to help Laufey end this battle as soon as possible.

However, Noel had reached them. He first used the Ice Mirror to block their path before summoning the Undying Phoenix and exploding it in front of them.

The two Devil Saints had no choice but to stop as Noel landed between them and Laufey. Even with that disadvantage, Noel believed that Anna could still win against Laufey. All he needed to do was trust her.

"Your opponent is me." Noel declared.

The tiger seemed to be trying to create an opportunity for the two Devil Saints as it was charging at Noel, pouncing on him.

When it was about to arrive, a pair of giant hands grabbed the tiger from behind and threw it to the side.

It was Howard with his avatar. "No one shall interfere with my lord's fight."

Noel smiled. He glanced at Anna for a bit as if telling her that she would leave Laufey to her.

At the same time, he was speaking to Ardagan. 'Come on, buddy. You haven't given me any missions related to this war despite preparing for so long. Give me a mission like killing Laufey or winning the war.'

[Heisk.]

There was only a single response every time. It seemed that he had to wait for Heisk since according to the Spiritual Energy Reserve Theory that Ardagan and Heisk told him, the True Spirit Body would definitely use up a large portion. If Ardagan gave him several missions like Noel wanted, it would cause a fundamental issue within Noel.

That was why he didn't have any missions related to the war yet.

Noel could only sigh. At the very least, his main target remained the same. This was something he had to do even if he didn't get any missions.

"Ice Transformation."

Chapter 987 Decisive Moment (5)

"Ice Transformation."

A pair of ice wings appeared on his back underneath the flame wings.

"!!!" The two Devil Saints were alarmed because this fluctuation of power was similar to what Anna showed earlier before the True Spirit Body.

Frozen Domain.

With a single wave of his hand, ice began to form underneath his foot, covering the soil and grass with a thin layer of ice. This ice spread with Noel as the center. The temperature dropped sharply as though the winter had come.

"This is..." The two Devil Saints looked at each other, noticing that they wouldn't be able to defeat Noel by themselves.

Since Laufey was the one fighting Anna, they had to somehow work together and defeat Noel so that they could help Qiel or Laufey.

Because of Dimitri's True Spirit Body, Noel only had approximately fifteen minutes before the True Spirit Body was worn off.

Hence, Noel had to do something in the next fifteen minutes and somehow defeat them. From the looks of it, the battle between Dimitri and Qiel wouldn't end after the True Spirit Body wore off, but Dimitri would definitely lose sooner or later because Qiel still had a lot of time left for her True Spirit Body.

With that thought in mind, Noel knew that he had to defeat these two Devil Saints within fifteen minutes. And a normal method wouldn't allow him to achieve that.

Noel leaped toward the spear user and increased his physical strength with the Empowerment Rune through the Rune Body.

The spear Devil Saint thrust forward, planning to stop Noel. However, when the sword struck his spear, he noticed that he couldn't pull back his spear as if it were glued to the sword. If he took another look, the sword was actually releasing an ice mist that froze the point of impact.

The Transformation Devil Saint appeared behind Noel with both of his arms turning into bear arms. He slammed Noel from above, but the latter actually rotated his body midair and raised his sword, causing the spear to get dragged up.

"!!!" The Transformation Devil Saint was startled. He didn't transform enough to cover his entire body since it required a lot of energy, but as a result, the spear actually scratched his chest.

Of course, Noel also couldn't stop the incoming paws. He had no choice but to use the Reduce Impact Rune to lessen the damage.

Bam!

Noel crashed into the ground, but fortunately, most of the damage was absorbed by the rune. He knew that he wasn't in a condition to defeat these two Devil Saints, considering he used most of his energy to kill the Ancient Demon Tree earlier.

Hence, he could only choose this risky strategy. By using unknown and reckless moves, they had no choice but to take damage as well.

The Transformation Devil Saint planned to slam Noel once again, but Noel was one step ahead and activated another ability.

Eternal Frozen.

Ice mist was released from his body, forcing the two Devil Saints to back away. There were a few demons that got devoured by the mist and froze in an instant.

The Transformation Devil Saint took a deep breath until his chest and stomach bulged like rubber. After that, he blew away the mist with all his might.

The Spear Devil Saint looped around to find Noel and stabbed him from afar. However, he instinctively raised his spear as if he were trying to protect himself.

"Sharp Changing."

Noel swung his blade downward as a wall of energy rose into the sky, running through the ground toward the Spear Devil Saint.

"!!!" The Spear Devil Saint gritted his power and stomped the ground. However, the attack was so powerful that he was being pushed back for several meters and had no choice but to deflect it into the sky. "Aaaahhh!"

The sword strike shot up to the sky and exploded, releasing a deafening sound that shook the entire battlefield.

Meanwhile, the Transformation Devil Saint jumped into the air, punching Noel from above.

Noel leaped away to avoid the strike. After all, the moment the punch was connected, the entire area turned into a crater, with a lot of rocks coming out to the surface due to the impact.

The Transformation Devil Saint kicked one of the stones toward Noel, causing him to slash it into two.

However, the Transformation Devil Saint turned out to have followed the stone, his feet had transformed into those of a deer.

"Tsk." Noel swung his sword extremely fast just like he did earlier when he used the Sword Transmutation and Anger to overwhelm the Spear Devil Saint.

However, the Transformation Devil Saint seemed to be one step ahead of him as his fist still managed to reach Noel and punch him away.

"!!!" The Transformation Devil Saint couldn't help but widen his eyes when he noticed sharp pain all over his arm. When he looked down, several cuts appeared.

Noel had just used the Imperial Sword, which was suitable for sharp, precise, and swift multiple swings. In addition, he applied two of his Emotions, Fear and Contempt for a boost in speed and precision. There was even one wound much deeper than the other because Noel hit it twice.

Still, because the Transformation Devil Saint blew him away, the Spear Devil Saint had a chance to strike Noel. The latter flapped its wings to stabilize his form mid-air, but it was useless. He had entered the Spear Devil Saint's range.

"One Thrust!" The Devil Saint gathered all the energy he could muster in those few seconds and released it in one go.

"!!!" Noel activated the Spiritual Barrier Rune and Reduce Impact Rune. He even activated the Anger emotion and the Spirit Weaponry that allowed him to cut spiritual energy itself.

However, the strength was much more powerful than he imagined. His body was being crushed by this pressure as his skin was shredded apart.

The Spear Devil Saint thought he had managed to defeat Noel, but to his surprise, a giant lump of energy appeared above him. This was the same energy as the one Felicia used against the Superior Demon Cat.

After using an enormous amount of energy, he didn't have time to protect himself from this.

'Did he only use a bit of his power to block my attack so that he could send out this attack to kill me?' The Spear Devil Saint was in shock. If Noel died, the entire campaign would be a success. So, he never thought that Noel would be this reckless by throwing away his life just to kill them.

Right before the Meteor Rune reached the Spear Devil Saint, another rune was activated. This was the Amplification Rune. The new rune that Noel got not long ago.

The giant chunk of energy suddenly became more violent and more robust. If the Spear Devil Saint thought he could still sacrifice one of his arms to save his entire life from the chunk of energy earlier, he realized that one arm wasn't enough for this one.

Whether it was fortunate or unfortunate, the Transformation Devil Saint appeared from the side, punching this lump of energy. His body had completely transformed into a combination of animals.

Boom!

The energy exploded, engulfing a larger area than the crater that the Transformation Devil Saint made earlier.

Due to the Transformation Devil Saint, the Spear Devil Saint managed to actually keep his life by only exchanging his left hand. It looked like the lower arm bent in a weird way, but he still stood firmly.

On the other hand, the Transformation Devil Saint was blasted away and crashed onto a giant boulder. His body was covered in multiple animal's parts, but the main defense would be the turtle shell on his back as well as the black-colored skin like that of a beetle.

Even then, a portion of them had cracked as his body was tattered from the explosion.

"Ha... Ha... What is that?" The Transformation panted multiple times before coughing some blood. He never thought that the rune could become this powerful. At the same time, the way Noel fought was extremely weird.

If it was a normal fight, they would use one technique at a time so that they could defeat the enemies without sustaining injuries. However, it felt like Noel was trying to cause mutual destruction.

Noel had runes on his body and the transformation he showed earlier proved that he was capable of enduring all the damage and coming on top even after fighting both of them.

They simply never thought that Noel would be this daring, which was the main cause of their current injuries. If only they focused on defending, they would have managed to escape with light injuries.

"..." The Spear and Transformation Devil Saints couldn't help but look around, wondering where Noel was. They looked at his original location after getting struck by the thrust, but he was already gone.

Suddenly, the temperature dropped once again, making them realize that they had entered Noel's domain. They all looked around, trying to find him.

It turned out Noel used the crater to hide himself. In the middle of the crater, Noel was placing his sword on the ground as if he were using it as a medium to maintain his domain. The energy around him also became violent as Noel activated the Cold Empowerment.

However, the thing that the two Devil Saints noticed so much were the injuries that covered his body. That was right. Noel couldn't escape unscathed after receiving that thrust without using a lot of abilities to protect his body.

That was why Noel's condition must not be that different from theirs.

When this thought came to their minds, both Devil Saints stood up. They were ready to charge at Noel again.

In the meantime, Noel was adjusting his breath while observing these two. While they were a new Devil Saint and their strength was still lower than the one his grandfather killed back then, it didn't change the fact that these two had become a Devil Saint. And Noel could see why they were promoted as such.

At the same time, Noel only managed to recover a bit of his energy after that fight. Even though he had the Ice Transformation and runes, it didn't change the fact that he fought two Devil Saints with only 40% to 50% of his spiritual energy. He really needed something else to catch these two off guard and turn around the situation.

The two Devil Saints exchanged glances as the Spear Devil Saint nodded his head, signaling their movement.

In that instant, the two Devil Saints moved forward.

Noel couldn't help but smile inwardly. Although there were a lot of techniques he could use to make the battle safer, he knew that he could bait them like this.

Before the two were able to reach him, Noel's hands were covered in a black layer as the pair of flame wings suddenly flared up, melting the ice wings.

It was just a trap. When they expected the ice abilities, he only needed to use the other element.

"Fire Transformation... Release."

Chapter 988 Decisive Moment (6)

?*Clang!*

Bam!

The clash between two users who unleashed their True Spirit Body was much more destructive.

With a single of Anna's swings, she released a powerful red lightning that shattered the ground and broke trees apart. On the other hand, the red lightning continued refusing to move toward Laufey as if he were some sort of god.

"It's impossible. Your lightning won't be able to reach me." Laufey shouted while waving his blood sword.

Anna struck this sword while releasing a bit of her lightning. However, Laufey used his power to deflect the sword while utilizing his blood power to redirect the lightning.

At the same time, a giant scythe formed from the blood of the demons, flying toward them.

"!!!" Anna hurriedly ducked when she saw the scythe swing. The blood felt like it was expanding and cutting down all the trees in their surroundings.

After that, Laufey kicked Anna, which was blocked by her sword. However, Laufey released a surge of blood, which amplified the power of his kick, launching Anna into the air.

Anna kept observing Laufey's ability.

'He could summon that powerful scythe with the right amount of blood... But why did he kick me away from the demons? Wasn't he going to use the blood as his weapon? Or was it because there was a limit of blood he could control?'

Anna believed that her thoughts were on the right track. It seemed that Laufey had the limit. For example, her body contained a lot of blood. If Laufey controlled it, she wouldn't be able to do anything.

Of course, she noticed the spiritual energy used to control the scythe, showing that if Laufey tried to control the blood in her body, she could somehow resist it with her own spiritual energy.

'If he has the limit, then does this mean we can overpower him?' Anna thought. She used 'we' to imply that the original soul would play a big role in this.

'He is trying to control the blood on the blade. The Blood Rune and the Conductor Rune will definitely not be effective against him.' The original Anna assessed.

'How about we use it as a distraction before overpowering him in another way?'

'That sounds good. Let's try it.'

As soon as they reached an agreement, Anna moved forward while raising her blade. The rune was still active, but Anna actually poured more energy into the sword to make Laufey think that she had just reactivated the rune.

"!!!" Laufey utilized his power to control the blood on Anna's sword, trying to move the sword. In addition, he also struck the blade with his blood sword to make it easier.

To his surprise, Anna hit the ground with her sword. In normal cases, this kind of attack wouldn't really work. But because Laufey had used a portion of his energy to deflect the sword, Anna could actually release her ability to the ground.

The original Anna amplified that power through the second Spirit Mind and Spirit Heart, forming a lightning dragon that was bigger than normal.

The lightning dragon shattered the ground and blasted the rocks, turning the area into a crater. After that, it bounced on the ground and turned to Laufey.

Roar!

The thunderous roar resounded across the battlefield as the dragon opened its mouth, trying to swallow Laufey.

Laufey used his power to redirect this blood lightning dragon, but to his surprise, his control failed.

'Overloaded?' Laufey couldn't help but widen his eyes. As much as he wanted to know the reason for it, he hurriedly ordered the scythe to come in front of him and change its shape to that of an umbrella.

The dragon ended up crashing into it as the lightning tried to shatter the umbrella.

It was Anna's turn to be surprised because the lightning actually failed to destroy the umbrella. Instead, it made the umbrella a bit stronger.

'Is he using the blood from the lightning dragon to recover the umbrella?' Anna frowned.

'Yeah. I think that's the situation. He should be maintaining about 80% control over the blood so that he can react if there is an overload. In the previous case, he is probably using another 10% to recover the umbrella by controlling our blood lightning dragon.'

Anna seemed to have realized that Laufey might be an opponent much more powerful than she originally thought. The elemental advantage he had over her was the one forcing her to the corner.

It seemed that her choice in using the True Spirit Body was a mistake. After all, because of the True Spirit Body, she couldn't use her normal lightning.

It would be impossible to defeat Laufey in a normal scenario. What she needed was a gap that she could exploit and use another ability that wasn't related to her blood lightning.

The original Anna spoke again, 'I will bait him to use that power. You find a way to utilize the rune.'

'Got it.' Anna approached Laufey again, but this time she was more careful.

"Hahaha. You won't be able to defeat me!" Laufey laughed, realizing that even her surprise attack didn't work on him. The umbrella returned to the scythe form and flew toward Anna.

Anna struck this scythe with her power, but as expected, the blood lightning was the one letting the scythe recover its power. If this continued, she would lose all her energy while Laufey remained unscathed.

The original Anna saw this as an insult.

'If you think you can withstand the power of the blood lightning, then try it!' The original Anna roared as she utilized the control of her energy to the fullest.

Just like the first time Anna and the original Anna met, the latter had a more powerful control over the element. And that control was reflected on how violent the lightning could be.

Suddenly, the red lightning sparked in all directions, hitting the spikes from all directions.

"!!!" Laufey widened his eyes in surprise. He tried to control the blood lightning, but the latter was simply rampaging as if it had no will anymore.

Laufey simply didn't know what it meant to be a berserker. The original Anna made the lightning berserk so that it would crush the blood scythe.

"Not good." Laufey waved his hand, utilizing a hundred percent of his power to control the berserk lightning to replenish the blood.

'Now!' The original Anna shouted.

Anna's eyes flashed as she formed the Meteor Rune.

Laufey was completely taken aback by the Meteor Rune. He hurriedly recalled the scythe, but it was too late. The chunk of spiritual energy hit Laufey's directly, engulfing everything in that explosion.

Boom!

"Hu..." Anna took a deep breath before noticing that the scythe actually dropped to the ground as the blood ended up splashing on the ground. "Did I kill him?"

Anna looked in Laufey's direction, having a hard time seeing through the cloud of dust.

However, a shadow seemed to be moving from within, alerting Anna's instincts.

Anna hurriedly raised her blade and barely blocked a blood arrow. It was at this time that she saw Laufey's entire body covered with an armor made of blood. Just like how he summoned his blood sword, he decided to let go of the scythe and use his own blood to protect himself.

'It's not enough?' Anna gulped down.

Laufey glared at Anna. He never thought that Anna had managed to corner him to the point where he had to unleash this ability. This was the last line of his defense. More importantly, he had an elemental advantage over her.

If it were normal lightning instead of blood lightning, he would probably lose against her.

"Ardagan Family... Why... Why did he always get the good stuff? His son is very talented. Even his fiancée is the most talented in the kingdom. Why?" Laufey gritted his teeth as he couldn't help but recall how he came to hate the Ardagan Family so much.

...

30 years ago.

Laufey was just a street kid. He was sitting in a dark alley while burying his face on his knees, crying. The hunger was so unbearable that he was about to collapse.

"Mhmm? There is someone here."

Laufey couldn't help but raise his head, following the direction of the voice. It was there that he saw a black-haired kid. His age didn't seem to be much different from his.

"Do you want to eat?" The guy asked, only his face was coming out behind the wall as if he were scared to show himself. After that question, his hand came out with a piece of bread.

Laufey's drool came out of his mouth as he instinctively approached the bread. The kid smiled and extended his hand so that Laufey could take the bread.

When his head was about to come out of the small alley, he noticed another kid with ragged clothing coming toward him. He recognized this kid because he came from the same area.

Instead of grabbing the bread, Laufey actually pushed the kid to alert him about the incoming kid who was trying to steal his money.

"Ah?!" The kid fell down on his butt while looking innocent. "If you don't like the bread, you don't have to push me. If you don't want me to pity you, then just say so. And the bread has fallen to the ground."

Laufey simply grabbed the bread while pointing at the thief.

"Oh?!" The kid seemed to understand what he was implying. "But I don't have any more money to spend, so even if he steals from me, he won't get anything."

The territory was actually very poor in the past, so it wouldn't be weird that even if someone dressed nicely, they wouldn't have enough money. In fact, everyone was just trying to survive here.

"You are a good guy, aren't you? And it seems that you are very knowledgeable about the people in this area. Do you want to follow me? I am Luke! I want to make this city brighter than anything in the world."

Laufey was only stunned at that time, but this was the beginning of his relationship with the man called Luke Ardagan.

Chapter 989 Decisive Moment (7)

The Ardagan Family was not a prosperous family even though it was a family with a long heritage. It was because of the current head of the family.

"You stupid low life!" The current head, Luke's father, kicked Laufey in the stomach. His hands were covered in bruises as he tried to protect himself from all this.

"Father!" Luke shouted in anger as he approached them.

"Hmph! Do you think you are good?" The current head snorted. Because of Luke, he didn't have the mood to beat anyone up anymore and simply left them.

Luke couldn't help but look at Laufey with a sad expression. "Sorry, Laufey."

"It's fine. I know that this is going to happen." Laufey shook his head helplessly.

"Please bear with me a bit longer. Even though my father is like that, he is very ill. Once I take over the family, I can finally reform everything."

"Yeah." Laufey nodded. "I've found a few names."

"Alright." Luke listened to him with a solemn expression.

The reason why the Ardagan Family became like this was related to the secret of the Ardagan Family, which could only produce a single heir.

However, due to his father's behavior, his grandfather decided not to tell him about it and only told Luke the secret of the family. That was why he was like this. All the wealth that the Ardagan Family possessed had been used to research medicine on how to produce an heir.

His father had even brought a lot of women into the mansion and had a lot of wives. Unfortunately, his grandfather couldn't do anything. With only a single heir, he couldn't really punish him and ended up cutting the bloodline of the Ardagan Family.

Knowing this, Luke was biding his time in the darkness for a reform.

The Ardagan Family was extremely poor. The taxes were high, the city's security was bad, and the food was scarce.

This was also the reason why Laufey ended up meeting Luke.

In that short period, Laufey realized this genius called Luke Ardagan. He had been preparing for the reform and had been recruiting people in the darkness like him.

And finally, the time they had been waiting for had arrived. Three years after the first time they met, Luke's father succumbed to his illness. The main wife, who was Luke's father, had cut off their relationship because the Ardagan Family had been reduced to a mere Count Family.

The other wives also did the same and pulled back, which was enough for Luke to make his move.

Luke succeeded the family when he was only fourteen years old. Everyone thought that the Ardagan Family would once again decline in Luke's hands.

Although they knew that Luke was different from his father, his achievement was never heard due to the nature of his work. That was why they were pessimistic about the Ardagan Family. There wasn't even a single engagement talk coming to the Ardagan Family.

It was at that time that Luke showed his might. He immediately reformed all sectors. All the funds he had been securing for the last four years covered everything.

Massive projects were all over the place, transforming the city. The security had increased, and the taxes were lowered.

At that time, Luke looked like the savior of the city. However, people still underestimated him, thinking that he wouldn't make it big as his funds were about to run out.

This was when Luke showed his prowess as a business genius. He turned this noble family into a merchant family and gained a massive amount of wealth.

When he was 18 years old, he actually managed to make the family stand on its feet again and it would only continue to rise from then on.

Seeing how the people began eyeing the family, Laufey realized that he couldn't be compared to him. At the same time, he also wanted to see the continuation of this rise.

Hence, Laufey expressed his intention of going to the Demon Banner Army.

"Are you sure about this, Laufey?" Luke asked with a frown.

"Yes. I have made up my mind. What the Ardagan Family lacks right now is the ability to protect itself. Hence, I am thinking about becoming a soldier there and making my way up before returning to the family. Once I return, I won't let the Ardagan Family get bullied anymore."

Luke's face turned grim as he said, "Laufey. You are like my brother. You have been on my side ever since the beginning of our reform. How could I..."

"Please trust me." Laufey had made up his mind.

Luke bit his lips. "You..."lights

Unfortunately, Luke couldn't stop Laufey from going to the Demon Banner Army. Although he was filled with grief, Luke still had to continue.

Luke rose to an even bigger stage. What most people didn't know was that the real reason he managed to do all this was because he managed to gain an ally.

She was the one making everything possible. Yes, she was Luke's wife, Leysha.

Luke accidentally met her in the past. Because of his charisma, Leysha ended up liking Luke and decided to help him.

For all those initial funds and other things, Leysha was the one managing them. Yes, the reform received help from the Greenwood Kingdom.

On the other hand, Laufey was struggling in the Demon Banner Army. He managed to go all the way up to the Zero Squad with his talent, but he was particularly not intelligent in other things.

And that was why he met the dark side of the kingdom, the Supreme Devil Organization.

Luke had everything. His wife was beautiful and came from a famous family in the Greenwood Kingdom. His wealth couldn't be counted anymore as he began his charity across the land, helping a lot of people. The Ardagan Family also had an ancient heritage.

It was under that condition that he met Qiel.

"What do you think, Laufey Ardagan? You, who was considered the brother of Luke Ardagan, actually had nothing. It seemed that your brother didn't care about you anymore." Qiel smirked.

"You're wrong. He is a good man!"

"If he is a good man, why does he leave you here? Just take a look around you, you have nothing. Is there even a letter from him? He has abandoned you, you just don't want to admit it."

"You..." Laufey gritted his teeth. It didn't take long for Laufey to come home, but that was when he saw the perfect life of his brother, Luke Ardagan.

His wife was already close to the Spirit Grandmaster, so there should be no more threat that could harm the Ardagan Family. Yet Luke never called him back. No, he didn't even send a message.

Without him realizing it, the seed of discord had been planted in his mind. At the same time, Laufey couldn't help but wonder. It was he who wanted to join the Demon Banner Army. He knew how strict the Demon Banner Army was.

If he continued working hard, he would sooner or later become an important person in that squad.

When was it again that his desire to help Luke started to waver? Was it really as simple as it seemed? Was his hatred as petty as his jealousy?

...

Laufey looked at Anna in front of her, reinforcing his opinion. The Ardagan Family had become even more powerful.

The Ardagan Family might have lost the wealth that Luke possessed, but there was something that the royal family couldn't seize. It was the heart of the people.

There were still a lot of pillars that would come to serve Noel even after Luke was gone. Noel, who didn't look like he could be something in the past, suddenly became the most favored person in the entire world, not just this kingdom. And his fiancée was the most talented woman in the world.

Noel had even received the heritage of his ancestor, which was the rune. Just like his father, Noel got everything for himself.

Laufey gritted his teeth while glaring at Anna. "You don't know anything about the Ardagan Family. You don't realize yet that you are only a chess piece that he can throw away at any time."

Anna couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows, not knowing what he was talking about.

"If you think you can mess up my mind with all your words, then no, I would never believe anything from your mouth." Anna raised her sword. "Besides, the winner and the loser have yet to be decided."

Laufey narrowed his eyes as he couldn't help but glance at Qiel. Dimitri's time was running out.

"Hmm?" Laufey seemed to know what he should do.

Anna hurriedly moved between them with lightning speed so that Dimitri couldn't do anything to them.

After that, Anna moved toward him while waving his blade.

"In the end, you will be like me. You will lose your desire to help the Ardagan Family because you are simply being used." Laufey smiled. He didn't know why he even recalled the past at this point, considering he was fighting someone with a True Spirit Body.

However, he felt like he saw himself in Anna.

Chapter 990 Decisive Moment (8)

"Kill them all!" Grandell shouted. Noel, Anna, Dimitri, and even Howard were already doing their best to take care of the Spirit Grandmasters on their side. If the knights couldn't even fight all these demons, they would bring shame to the Ardagan family's name.

"Hoo!" The knights roared in unison. The shield bearers raised their shields and moved forward, slamming the demons' heads in rapid succession.

The other fighters took advantage of that opportunity to cut down the demons.

Fortunately, most of them were only low level demons. For them, who had a lot of Spirit Wielders in their ranks, killing these demons was not hard.

However, Noel also brought a lot of normal soldiers or Spirit Apprentices that he got from the last recruitment to make up enough numbers.

"All the normal soldiers gather up and kill them one at a time. Don't kill yourself by going alone! These demons are not as scary as you think they are." Grandell shouted.

"Ha!" The soldiers responded. Most of them were using either spears or shields. The shield bearers were in front to block the demons, while the spear users utilized the gaps and thrust their spears. Even if they couldn't kill it in a single thrust, they just had to do it again and again.

And their equipment was a little bit specialized. Roel had made them a bit stronger than the ones the soldiers on the wall had.

That was why the demons' tough hide couldn't stop these spears.

"Abraham, Leiren! Go to the right side." Grandell gave another order while taking down one demon after another.

After receiving the weight of responsibility, Grandell had truly become a monster. He not only understood what Howard had been seeing this whole time, but he also understood when and where he moved his soldiers.

The two soldiers he commanded earlier were Spirit Wielders. As soon as they received the order, they noticed that the demons started to overwhelm the right side.

Without hesitation, they began peeling off the demons from them until the situation returned to normal again.

During that time, Grandell shouted, "Dan, Axel. Take care of my side. The rest of you... on me!"

Dan and Axel were another pair of Spirit Wielders. They immediately came to Grandell's side as Grandell sped up even further, cutting down the demons.

If one took a look from above, it was clear that they could see the middle was pushing back the demons at high speed as if they were trying to break through the demon army.

Grandell's aim was only one. They had to go to the soldiers that Anna had brought earlier and bail them out.

After combining their strengths, they should be able to reform their ranks and defeat all these demons without having too many casualties.

The reason why Grandell believed that the soldiers that were flanked from both sides could wait until they arrived was that the soldiers were the soldiers that Theo and Anna brought during the exploration.

Yes, they were the soldiers who had witnessed their lord, Noel Ardagan, fight on the front line. Despite his injury, he still managed to push back the enemies while they were only able to witness their lord's sacrifice. If not for Aurelia, they might not be able to see their lord anymore.

The weight on their soldiers felt different.

"Attack them!"

"Kill!"

"Are you going to show your weakness again and let the Lord you are supposed to protect sacrifice himself?"

"Kill them! At least drag 20 of them down if you're going to die."

"Ooh!"

The soldiers were fired up as they looked like an army of demons instead of their opponents. Even the two Spirit Masters that took charge of them were quite surprised that they were able to unleash this level of power. The two Spirit Masters didn't follow Noel and Anna after all.

However, these soldiers fought as if they were beasts. The injuries they sustained weren't light either, yet they still continued pushing the demons back.

They were the same as Grandell.

'My Lord!'

'My Lord!'

The scene where they rushed through the demon army while looking at Noel being surrounded from all sides kept replaying in their minds. Back then, Noel was so weak that he could barely protect himself.

But no matter how hard they fought, none of them could do anything.

'I'm sick of it. I've sworn to protect him, but the only thing I can do is become his burden.' Grandell gritted his teeth. His speed became faster and faster. His eyes started losing their light as he began to fight with instinct.

With this kind of fighting style, the demons started losing him mid-fight.

Grandell actually slid on the ground or jumped into the air. But every time he did it, several demons would suddenly get cut.

Anna once said, 'Speed wasn't everything.' Grandell, who relied on speed at that time, didn't understand what she meant.

However, after getting beaten by Anna, he realized one more important thing. That was right. Speed was a very cool and strong ability. However, if they were predictable, there was no need to be bothered by their speed. The enemies simply had to place their weapon in the way, preventing the speed from being usable.

When he saw Noel repel the demon, he finally understood what he should do.

Grandell jumped to the right side. Three demons noticed his movement and tried to stop him.

One of them even slapped Grandell with its giant paw. Unfortunately for the demon, Grandell actually stepped on this paw and decreased his momentum to the point that it felt like he landed gently. After that, he sped up once again while waving his blade.

In an instant, the demon's paw was sliced into pieces as Grandell made his way toward the demon's real body and slashed its neck. After that, he used the demon's body to propel himself to the other two demons and cut them apart.

Grandell looked like his momentum was going to carry him all the way toward another demon, but surprisingly, the momentum abruptly stopped.

It lasted for an instant before Grandell reached his maximum speed again but in another direction.

That was right. The solution Grandell was searching for was none other than a change of pace.

He absurdly decreased his momentum to zero before rising back to his maximum speed in an instant.

It would definitely put a strain on Grandell's body, and even then, it would be hard to find a path with a single glance. To solve this problem, Grandell actually honed his instinct and trusted it.

Even Anna wouldn't be able to defeat Grandell easily this time. If she used the same tactic, which was to put her blade in Grandell's path, Grandell could simply stop and move in a different direction.

Still, this taxing movement really took a toll on his body. After two minutes, Grandell suddenly dropped to the ground, breathing heavily.

"Ha... Ha..." Grandell gritted his teeth. "It's not enough."

But his action opened the path for others. Dan and Axel, who took care of his two sides, finally caught up and blocked the demons for him.

"Sir. Please take your time to regain your breath." Dan smiled.

Grandell nodded while looking at the situation. "Hans, Everan. Shift your position a bit to the left. The second squad will take care of the right side and let the first squad rest for one minute. We will begin the second thrust in one minute."

"Oh!"

The soldiers immediately moved according to his instructions.

Even Howard, who watched the entire thing from the side, smiled. He couldn't take care of the army because of the Superior Demon. However, it seemed that he didn't have to worry.

Grandell reminded him of his young self. This must be how the former captain of the Ardagan family's garrison felt when he saw him having a spurt in his growth.

If there was someone who would become the next vice captain, it would be Grandell.

"I can't really lose, can't I?" Howard smirked, looking at the tiger.

Roar!

The tiger pounced on him. The big avatar behind Howard stretched its hands to grab the tiger, but the latter used both paws to push them away.

The big avatar suddenly hit the tiger with its head, knocking it to the ground. After that, he tried to grab the tiger.

Still, he had been fighting a Superior Demon when he was on the north wall, so he had depleted a lot of his energy.

As a result, the tiger moved a little bit faster than his avatar and suddenly leaped into the air and bit the avatar's right hand before ripping it apart.

"Kh." Howard gritted his teeth, enduring the pain. Even though it was only an avatar, he still felt the same pain as the avatar.

However, Howard didn't plan to take a beating just for it. He immediately used the other hand to punch the tiger.

Bam!

The tiger was knocked down again. Before it rose back up, Howard's real body rushed to the demon.

While the avatar was his main fighting power, it didn't mean that Howard was weak. In fact, he was the biggest man in the city.

When he raised his hand, the muscle on his arm bulged. He punched the tiger with all his strength and blew it away.

There was even a hole in the tiger's head.

Howard looked at his arm covered in green liquid and simply brushed it away.

Even though he had exhausted a lot of his power, Howard didn't plan to lose against this tiger.

The tiger was already standing, ready to fight to the death with Howard.