

S vs Rebirth 991

Chapter 991 Decisive Moment (9)

?*Boom!*

Boom!

Boom!

Every time Qiel released her arrow, she caused a massive explosion that created a crater in the area. Fortunately, Qiel and Dimitri fought a bit further away, or others would definitely get hit by one of these arrows.

"What's wrong, Dimitri? You are not strong enough to fight against me." Qiel smirked. This was also another reason why they didn't get hit.

Dimitri had been repelling the arrow that would come in their direction while trying to kill Qiel.

As a result, Dimitri's body was covered in bruises due to the extraordinary impact that the arrow produced. It was much more difficult to fight against an opponent while trying to protect others after all.

However, Dimitri was still one of the top fighters among the spirit grandmasters. He managed to inflict some injuries on Qiel with the deepest wound on her right side.

It was bleeding so profusely that Qiel had to use one of her wings to press the wound to stop it.

As a result, Qiel couldn't go to the sky anymore.

However, the situation had become much more difficult.

Dimitri's expression turned grim, thinking, 'I feel like my power is depleting fast. If this continues, the True Spirit Body will only last for another nine minutes. The master...'

Dimitri was sensing the people on the other side. It seemed that there wasn't much progress.

Noel managed to fight against two Devil Saints. Although they were weaker than the previous Devil Saint, these two were still considered one. It would be hard for Noel to fight them.

If Dimitri could look at Noel's state, he would definitely feel worried because Noel believed that the only way to kill these two was to sacrifice his body a little bit. That could make them lower their guards and finish them before Dimitri's True Spirit Body ran out.

On the other hand, Anna was in a similar position. Because of the elemental advantage Laufey possessed, Anna was unable to unleash her power. In fact, if not for the original Anna helping her boost her power output, she wouldn't be able to fight Laufey on equal terms.

Last but not least, Howard and the other soldiers. Howard had done a good job fighting the tiger, especially in that condition. However, he doubted that Howard could actually do anything on the battlefield, especially regarding these four Devil Saints.

That was why Dimitri was in a dilemma. On the one hand, he had to take down Qiel before his True Spirit Body wore off. On the other hand, there was another mission that Noel told him about before the war broke out.

When Dimitri clenched his sword, Noel's voice couldn't help but ring once again in his ears. 'Dimitri. No matter how hard the situation, I hope that you don't risk your life. In the near future, we will be fighting against a much more powerful opponent and witnessing an even larger-scale invasion. I still need your help... and I'm sorry that I can't let you retire just yet.'

Back then, Dimitri only replied, 'Don't worry, Master. I will serve you until the day my hands are unable to wield a sword anymore.'

Dimitri took a deep breath, dissolving his resolve. The only way to defeat Qiel was to sacrifice an arm or a foot, but at that time, he wouldn't be able to help Noel in the near future.

Hence, he decided to change his strategy. Even if he couldn't defeat Qiel, he would severely injure her. That way, she would be too weak to continue fighting even in her current form.

"..." Qiel noticed the change in Dimitri's expression as she hurriedly pulled her bow.

Dimitri waved his left hand, raising the shadows that the trees produced.

Qiel jumped to the side, using one of her wings to smack the rising shadow. That was just a distraction as Dimitri had raised his blade, ready to unleash all his strength in this one strike.

"Shadow Curtain!"

"Darkness Arrow."

Both of them released their attacks at the same time. The black curtain rose into the sky, cutting everything in its path. However, it was made by a black-colored arrow that suddenly burst out and flew like a meteor, distorting the black curtain.

The arrow's movement gradually decreased before eventually, it was cut.

"!!!" Qiel hurriedly flapped her wings, causing her to fly to another side to avoid the black curtain.

Because her right wing was covering the wound, that sudden movement caused the bleeding to continue.

"Kh." Qiel clicked her tongue. If she lost more and more blood, she would be severely weakened. In addition, it would be troublesome if her upper body, or at least her right arm was paralyzed during the battle since she couldn't draw her bow anymore.

And this was precisely what Dimitri wanted.

Dimitri suddenly disappeared from her vision.

Qiel spun her body and kicked something behind her.

Cough!

Dimitri spat a mouthful of blood because that kick actually hit his stomach. There wasn't even protection. However, this was a necessary sacrifice.

After all, it allowed Dimitri to use all his energy for that speed as well as give him the opportunity to wield his sword.

Right before Dimitri was blown away by that kick, Dimitri had stabbed Qiel's leg.

"He is aiming for my foot?" Qiel looked at the sword that pierced through a little above her ankle. This would definitely make it hard for her to run or stabilize her position. Still, with Dimitri behind her, it meant she could aim at Noel and the others.

Dimitri didn't allow this as he formed a net from the shadows, bouncing him back toward Qiel.

Dimitri was ready to slash Qiel, who had exposed her back to him, but Qiel actually expected Dimitri this way. She suddenly turned around and used her bow to parry Dimitri's sword.

Meanwhile, Qiel did the same as Dimitri by using her other hand to stab the arrow she had formed earlier.

Dimitri couldn't block it with this momentum. The only thing he could do was raise his arm slightly, causing the arrow to miss his muscle and bone.

While it was going to bleed, he would still be able to fight this way.

Dimitri landed between Qiel and the others again.

'Seven minutes.' Dimitri muttered in his mind, counting the remaining time he had left.

He charged again, forcing Qiel to wave her bow to match Dimitri in close quarter combat.

'What's wrong with him? He is exposing his sides. Is he seriously going to make me fall for those so that he can injure me? No, is that his real intention?'

Qiel formed a giant arrow on top of their heads, causing Dimitri to slash upward while striking her bow on the way.

Qiel took advantage of this predictable strike to loop around Dimitri.

'Six minutes.' Dimitri followed Qiel's movement, who actually aimed her bow at Noel. He hurriedly jumped toward her, trying to strike the arrow or the bow. At the same time, he manipulated the shadow with his other hand to form a screen to block Qiel's vision.

At that time, Qiel simply let go of her bow and arrow, causing Dimitri to strike them over nothing.

As a result, Qiel could cover both of her hands with spiritual energy and try to reach Dimitri's heart.

Dimitri's clothes had a Hardening Rune, so it managed to stop Qiel's nails from penetrating.

Even then, it still felt like a spear hitting him.

Dimitri hurriedly used the shadow to pull him away, regaining some distance from Qiel.

"Hu..." He took a deep breath. His action became more tattered as he was close to his limit.

On the other hand, Qiel was laughing. "You can't do anything, Dimitri. Unlike the once famous assassin who has nothing but the target, you have grown weak. If only you didn't have people to protect, you could probably defeat me. Those people you serve... are just your weaknesses."

"Really?" Dimitri smirked as he suddenly took out two pills from his pocket and devoured them without hesitation. "I may have gained a weakness as you say, but I have gained much more strength than that weakness."

These al pills were provided by Khalid. In the instant he took it, his wounds started closing in at a speed visible to the naked eye. Even Qiel couldn't contain her shock because she had never heard anything about this. Who provided Dimitri with that pill? Even the previous Ardagan Family didn't have someone who could make it.

And those pills were similar to the ones from the Zaecuria Kingdom. Was it Duke Briton who brought those pills from their royal alchemist?

Qiel didn't know that a former royal alchemist had become one of the pillars of the Ardagan family.

Dimitri couldn't help but smile, remembering the time Khalid gave this pill to them.

"This blue pill is a recovery pill. It boosts your metabolism so much that your wounds will be closed in no time. But it will definitely make you weak after some time. The red pill is a berserk pill. It's basically stimulating your spirit heart and spirit mind to the limit, allowing you to release all the latent abilities you have for five minutes. But after those five minutes, you will be in a weakened state for at least two weeks, so I only recommend taking this red pill during the emergency."

Noel asked a question at that time. "What if we take both of them at the same time?"

"You will get both of their effects, but the side effects might be prolonged to three weeks or even a month depending on your constitution. But I dare to say that during those five minutes, you are like a god-like figure where your wounds will heal and your fighting prowess is at its peak."

Dimitri smiled as his spiritual energy burst out of his body. He lowered his sword while saying, "My True Spirit Body will last only five more minutes. I am going to use these five minutes to kill you earnestly."

Chapter 992 Decisive Moment (10)

Dimitri looked at Qiel with a solemn expression. Qiel, on the other hand, was completely perplexed. The pills came out of nowhere. On the one hand, it might be related to Duke Briton, but she didn't think it was that simple.

After defeating the demon tree, Noel also swallowed a pill. If Duke Briton had brought them, she would have gotten some information about it since it would definitely not be a small number.

The people on the border would definitely check their luggage and confirm that there was no pill.

'Wait a minute. There is one more possibility.' Qiel suddenly noticed something. The Supreme Devil Organization had a lot of information about this kingdom, including the fact that one of the royal alchemists, Khalid, was retiring in this kingdom.

He had been moving around so that no one could find him. But when she thought about it, there was a possibility that they managed to recruit Khalid.

If that were the case, there would be a lot more pills than she could imagine.

Meanwhile, Dimitri was slightly adjusting to his current state. He felt weird that Qiel didn't attack him, but it didn't seem she was fully distracted.

There must be a thought in her mind, but she still made sure that she could react to Dimitri's movement. In that case, there was only one thing to do.

Dimitri disappeared into the shadow.

Qiel hurriedly placed her hand on the ground, causing the ground to be enveloped by light. This circle of light would prevent any shadow from coming to her.

Dimitri returned to the surface after looping around Qiel and waving his blade. Qiel instinctively lowered her upper body as the slash actually cut down all the trees around them.

"!!!" The one who was shocked by this move was actually Qiel. It wasn't that she was scared or that this attack was too fast for her. Instead, she didn't understand why Dimitri decided to cut down all these trees. After all, Dimitri could manipulate their shadows.

She was the one who had been destroying the terrain this whole time to open up the area.

When that thought occurred in her mind, Dimitri waved his left hand down.

Before the trunk fell to the ground, it projected a new shadow due to its falling motion. He extended all these shadows to create an unpredictable pattern.

"!!!" Qiel jumped into the air to avoid the shadow, but the latter rose into the sky, chasing after her.

She wanted to flap her wings, but the bleeding would weaken her even further.

Hence, she actually shot an arrow to the ground, but this time, there was a black-colored string attached to the back of the arrow. She then grabbed the black string and pulled herself to the ground.

Dimitri leaped toward her while waving his blade from above.

Qiel held the bow with both hands, parrying Dimitri's slash. However, Dimitri actually used the black curtain for this slash, causing Qiel to feel tremendous pressure on her hands. It felt like the hands were about to snap.

"Aaahhhh!" Qiel shouted while using all her strength to stop this attack. As a result, the ground underneath her began to crack.

Dimitri swiftly landed on the ground next to her, ready for the second leap. This time, he would cut her down directly.

Qiel endured the pain in her hands and hurriedly tilted her body to the side so that she could aim her bow at Dimitri. Before he leaped, Qiel released an arrow.

Boom!

A single arrow was enough to create much more destruction than Dimitri's attack, but the latter was swift enough to avoid the arrow.

He looped around and waved his blade.

Qiel formed a translucent shield behind her while drawing her bow. When Dimitri's blade was about to reach her, it was stopped by Qiel's barrier for a split second, allowing Qiel to lower her body once again to avoid the slash.

After that, she shot at Dimitri.

Dimitri skillfully dodged with his speed, but as expected, it would be hard to attack Qiel even in this situation.

Qiel kept following Dimitri while thinking, 'His ability is boosted by at least thirty percent. I might not be able to keep up with him soon. This is getting ridiculous.'

Qiel had one thought in her mind. As long as she could withstand all of Dimitri's attacks for five minutes, she would be the winner.

Dimitri sped up once again as he vanished from Qiel's vision.

As an archer, Qiel had always had a good understanding of her surroundings. Even if Dimitri disappeared, she could still use her spiritual energy to check the surroundings.

To her surprise, Dimitri was actually gone. She couldn't see anyone near her within a ten meters radius.

"!!!" Qiel hurriedly raised her vision. There was only one place where Dimitri would go; it was above her.

Dimitri was actually placing himself between her and the sun so that his shadow would be projected on her.

As soon as she saw through that intention, she jumped to the side, trying to avoid it.lights

However, Dimitri had reinforced his shadows to the fullest, turning them into a spike that ended up hitting Qiel's left leg.

"Kh." Qiel gritted her teeth. It was a deep injury. If not for the fact that she was extremely strong in spiritual energy control, she might not be able to move her left leg after this.

She hurriedly used the spiritual energy to enhance her leg.

The moment Dimitri landed on the ground, he hurriedly waved his blade horizontally, trying to cut Qiel's upper body.

Qiel once again ducked to avoid the slash that cut all the trees around them.

"!!!" Qiel remembered what happened earlier and jumped forward, avoiding the falling trees. With this, Dimitri shouldn't have control over the shadow from those trunks or at least extend them long enough to reach her.

Even though Qiel was going closer to Dimitri, she still believed she could somehow block his attacks.

It was at this time that she realized she had made a mistake. The sound of falling trees never echoed from her ears as if they never touched the ground.

At the same time, her vision darkened as if something covered the sun.

Qiel realized it was the trunks. Dimitri turned out launching all the trunks into the sky. This was probably the reason why he cleared up the area.

He was approaching his limit and the only way to utilize his shadow was by extending the shadow naturally as much as possible. In other words, placing the trunks between Qiel and the sun.

"Shadow Rain!" Dimitri waved his hand.

Multiple giant spikes emerged from the trunks, impaling the ground around Qiel.

"Kh." Qiel gnashed her teeth while doing her best to avoid every single one of them. However, some of them managed to graze her. Two of them were even quite deep like the wound on her waist.

In the end, she used her other wing to block one of them while letting the other one bleed profusely.

Qiel moved between the shadow spikes, barely coming out alive. And it was at this time that she saw Dimitri ready to slash his blade.

In fact, he had been waiting for her. Now that she was out, Dimitri could finally strike her down.

"Shadow Curtain!"

Block it? She wasn't in the position to block it. At the same time, she was severely injured from the last attack.

It was already amazing that an archer could fight an assassin like Dimitri in close quarter combat. But this was the end.

"Aaaahhh!" Qiel shouted, using her last resort. Both of the wings suddenly moved forward, trying to block Dimitri's black curtain from splitting her into two.

However, there was no way these wings could do it. It only managed to block Dimitri's black curtain for a split second, but it seemed that Qiel had made her resolve.

That split second was used to tilt her body to the side so that when the black curtain slashed through her wings, it only cut her right side.

"!!!" Dimitri widened his eyes in shock. To think that Qiel was still strong enough to stop the attack by sacrificing her right arm and right leg.

'No. I should kill her!' Dimitri jumped forward, trying to deliver a killing blow.

But on the way, he suddenly spat a mouthful of blood as the black tattoo on his body disappeared.

"Gah!" Dimitri instantly lost all the strength in his body. The pain was so unbearable that it almost knocked him out immediately.

His body refused to move and ended up falling to the ground.

On the other hand, Qiel managed to survive even though she had to sacrifice a lot. At the same time, she still had her True Spirit Body.

"You bastard..." Qiel gritted her teeth, glaring at Dimitri. To think that she would lose all this from the fight while Dimitri managed to close all his wounds.

Even then, the victor was her. Dimitri didn't seem to be able to move anymore and there would be nothing to stop her from killing Dimitri.

"Do you think I can't shoot you anymore in this condition?" Qiel used the last bit of her wings to form her limbs. Yes, the left wing turned into her right arm while the right wing turned into her leg.

Although this was only temporary, she could still wield her bow.

Dimitri looked at Qiel, resigning to his fate. It seemed that he had failed his master. 'I'm sorry, Master. I can't stand by your side anymore.'

Dimitri didn't know why, but he remembered the first time he met Noel. He was just a baby at that time, but he actually held Dimitri's finger with a big smile on his face. And it made him even more regretful because he couldn't accompany the kid who had brought him from living in the shadow to basking in the bright light.

"Die." Qiel shouted while releasing her arrow.

Chapter 993 Decisive Moment (11)

"Fire Transformation, Release!"

The black wings flared up, melting the ice wings. Noel's hands started to turn black as if they were influenced by the black sword on his hand.

"!!!" The two Devil Saints felt something much more ominous coming from Noel. It seemed that the fire element was truly above the ice element.

Instead of both of them, Noel actually focused on the demons not far from them. While they were in shock, Noel stabbed the ground with his sword.

Outburst.

Multiple explosions occurred in front of the sword, creating a new chain of explosions in a fan-shaped area toward the demons.

"!!!" The two Devil Saints were astounded. Instead of focusing on them, Noel actually attacked the demons.

When they took a glimpse of the situation on the other side, Noel's action seemed rational.

Although the soldiers were still hanging on, they were still overwhelmed by their numbers. So, Noel actually blasted a lot of demons to relieve them.

However, this was an insult to the Devil Saints. Noel had gone all the way to fight two Devil Saints, yet he still focused on other battlefields.

Without hesitation, the two Devil Saints jumped forth. Since Noel thought he was that capable, they just had to cut him down here.

Noel's plan had worked. The moment they came here, he immediately activated the Flame Devil.

An avatar similar to Howard's emerged from Noel's back.

This avatar leaned to the right, smashing the Transformation Devil Saint. The latter changed his legs to those of a rabbit, using the jumping power to escape from the fist.

Meanwhile, Noel waved his sword toward the spear user.

Sword Transmutation.

The Spear Devil Saint hurriedly raised his spear to block this sword with its handle. However, he soon noticed something was wrong. The energy on his sword suddenly flared up and got extended like that of a whip.

"What?" The spear user hurriedly ducked while lowering his arms to avoid getting hit by this whip-shaped energy. He had never heard about a technique like this.

Of course, he didn't know about it. This was a technique that he created after learning from the Sword Arbiter. He had understood what he should do regarding the Everchanging Emotion Sword Style.

The name itself was always changing, so how could the energy that the sword produced remain as a sword? He could use things like a whip or even a spear. However, Noel still handled them like a sword.

Even when the whip-shaped energy looped around, it still banged the spear's handle like metal.

'Guilt is not enough?' Noel furrowed his eyebrows. The 'Guilt' emotion was based on the overwhelming need to change one way to avoid making the same mistake. That was why the sword could turn into a whip.

However, he thought that this was enough for a surprise attack. Even when the Spear Devil Saint ducked down, he still maintained a certain balance that he could escape if Noel attacked him.

At the same time, the Transformation Devil Saint managed to loop around and attack Noel from behind.

Noel activated the Spiritual Barrier Rune to block his kick. However, the Transformation Devil Saint had turned his foot into that of a horse, boosting the power in that kick.

Even Noel's Spiritual Barrier Rune actually cracked from the impact. He even wanted to perform another kick to destroy it.

Fortunately, Noel was fast enough to draw an Amplification Rune. His target was actually the cracked Spiritual Barrier.

When the Transformation Devil Saint sent out the second kick, it shattered the cracked part of the Spiritual Barrier Rune, but it was not enough to completely destroy it.

"!!!" The Transformation Devil Saint realized that he had been tricked. This was actually Noel's intention. He had to draw his foot immediately as he saw Noel turning around with his sword, ready to cut his foot.

Before the sword could reach him, the Spear Devil Saint thrust his spear from below.

"Snake Spear!"lights

Noel glanced back. The spear was swift, so Noel tilted his body to avoid this thrust.

However, he didn't know if his eyes were failing him or if he had been so injured that he began hallucinating, but the spear looked like it was curving toward him.

'Wha—!' Noel threw himself to the side as the energy from the spear burst out, grazing his cheek and right shoulder. It was so powerful that the skin was gone. If he hadn't reacted fast enough, his head would have been blown away.

Before falling to the ground, Noel waved his hand to send forth the Undying Phoenix toward him. Because of his current condition, he failed to release it with precision.

The Spear Devil Saint also tried to stand up and get away, but the Undying Phoenix had reached the ground next to him and exploded.

The Spear Devil Saint was blasted several meters away. The fire caused a bit of scorched skin on the left side of his body, but the Spear Devil Saint was still skilled enough to brush off the flame so that it didn't stick to him. If the flame truly reached his skin, he might have to chop that part away before it engulfed him entirely.

Seeing the Spear Devil Saint was unable to provide any more cover, the Transformation Devil Saint, who had pulled back his foot, immediately jumped into the air before slamming his fist on the spot where Noel fell.

Noel looked at the Transformation Devil Saint. If this were a normal person, they might not be able to escape from it. But this was Noel.

He used the Enhance Forward Rune to propel himself away from the blast zone.

Bam! The punch created a massive crater.

Unfortunately for him, Noel managed to escape from him. Now that there was a crater, it meant that Noel could stop the Enhance Forward Rune, allowing his body to fall to the ground due to gravity.

He landed foot first while positioning his blade on top of his head.

Sword Transmutation.

Turtle. The Transformation Devil Saint created a turtle shell on his back and blocked the Sword Transmutation with it.

But the Sword Transmutation had been powered by Fear, Anger, and Shame. The fear increased his speed so that the attack could reach the Devil Saint before the turtle shell was fully summoned. The Anger gave the sharpness it needed to cut through the shell, while the Shame increased the penetration force.

As a result, the turtle shell broke apart. Sadly for Noel, the opponent was a Devil Saint. The Sword Transmutation actually failed to cut him down properly.

It only gave him a sword wound running from his right shoulder to his left back. Considering his current energy level, he should be satisfied with this result. The bleeding would definitely weaken him gradually.

Still, Noel had one more problem. He didn't have a lot of time left.

The battle was fierce, but he still failed to kill his opponent even after ten minutes. There were only a few minutes left before Dimitri's True Spirit Body wore out.

If he couldn't kill both of these Devil Saints before then, no one would be able to stop Qiel. Dimitri might die. Even if he could save Anna, Howard would probably bring the rear to stop their rampage. In the end, only he and Anna could probably survive.

At the same time, killing these two Devil Saints was not an easy task. He had been fighting recklessly the whole time, but he still failed to create an opening that could kill them.

In fact, he should be praised for being able to fight this much. He only had thirty percent of his energy left when he went all out against the demon tree. Even after using the pill, he only recovered twenty percent of his strength.

So, he had been fighting two Devil Saints in that condition. It was amazing to even keep up with them.

Noel took a deep breath, carefully assessing the situation. Howard was completely occupied and didn't seem that he could kill the tiger in the next few minutes.

Anna had been suppressed by Laufey's power. So, it didn't seem that she could defeat Laufey until the True Spirit Body ran out.

'What should I do now? Time is running out.'

Noel had used the new runes and his new mastery of the Everchanging Sword. Even both of his transformations had been revealed. But this wasn't enough. If he wanted to win, he needed the last push.

Ever since Heisk disappeared to get her True Spirit Body, he hadn't received any missions from Ardagan. At first, he thought that getting the mission's reward might be able to create an opportunity that he could never imagine before. At the same time, he could understand why the Ardagan didn't give him the mission due to the toll his body would take in getting a True Spirit Body.

As if realizing the dire situation, Ardagan suddenly appeared, giving another solution that he never thought was possible.

[Do you need a True Spirit Body?]

Chapter 994 Decisive Moment (12)

[Do you need a True Spirit Body?]

Noel raised his eyebrows, not expecting the Ardagan to come to him like this. Still, he had to fight these two, so he couldn't get too distracted.

'Yes. Are you going to give me the True Spirit Body?' Noel asked while watching the Spear Devil Saint come from the right.

[It's Heisk.]

'Is she done?'

[Not yet, but I can bring her back. The situation seems to be much more awful than you predict, so I'm thinking about bringing Heisk back to lend her True Spirit Body.]

'Won't that be a problem for Heisk? Will something happen to her?' Noel treated his spirits as his partners, so he didn't like the idea that he got an advantage over their sacrifices.

However, Ardagan seemed to have expected this response, as he immediately replied.

[Yes. She will be injured for a bit, but she can recover from that injury in three months. However, it will cause you to be unable to call Heisk for another six months. It causes her to require a lot more time to fully assimilate with her True Spirit Body.]

'This...' Noel frowned while parrying the Spear Devil Saint. Because of all the talking, he played a more defensive role. 'What about you? Can't you be the one to give me the True Spirit Body?'

[Without Heisk's True Spirit Body, receiving my True Spirit Body will reduce you to ashes.]

'...' Noel was speechless. It seemed that he didn't have any choice but to do everything by himself. There was no need to trouble Heisk.

[It seems that you are misunderstanding the whole thing. For a spirit, the True Spirit Body is their life-long dream. You have helped Heisk become a Humanoid Rank Spirit and even be granted the True Spirit Body by the Spirit God.]

[Not many Humanoid Rank Spirits receive this opportunity. So, originally, Heisk might be able to reach this stage, but there is a chance that she will never receive the True Spirit Body in her entire life.]

[That's why she is eternally grateful to you. If this kind of price is the only thing she need to pay to show her gratitude, she will gladly take it.]

'But still...' Noel bit his lips.

[The clock is ticking. If you don't choose now, you might lose that butler of yours.]

Noel seemed to have no other choice. Dimitri was approaching his limit. Even if he managed to defeat these two, he didn't know whether his current condition was able to stop Qiel or even create an opportunity for Dimitri or not.

'Fine. I will do it.' Noel's expression turned solemn. The two Devil Saints didn't know what was going on with Noel. But these expressions were enough for them to realize that Noel was having a hard time.

If they continued like this, they would definitely be able to defeat Noel.

The two Devil Saints exchanged nods as they approached Noel from both sides.

While waiting for Ardagan, Noel assessed the current situation to make sure that he didn't throw away this chance.

'Anna should be fine for the time being. Howard might not look like it, but he should be able to defeat his enemy. The other soldiers are in trouble, but they should do just fine. In that case, there is only one place I need to be.

'Dimitri's True Spirit Body is about to wear out. I'm sure that Qiel won't hesitate to kill Dimitri and use the remaining time to capture me. If I go there, I can stop her from killing Dimitri, but the problem is that... I have to fight Qiel and these two Devil Saints with the incomplete True Spirit Body.

'Still, this is better than nothing. Even if it's too weak, this should be enough for a bluff. If it's anyone else, they might not bite it, but since we're talking about Qiel, she would definitely overthink it.

'Although this sounds a bit reckless, I have to scare them away. The Two Devil Saints, huh?

Noel seemed to have come up with a plan. 'After scaring them like this, I won't be able to fight on the front lines for the rest of the war. It also includes Anna and Dimitri. In that case...'

Noel looked at the incoming Devil Saints. He waved his left hand toward the Transformation Devil Saint and sent forth his Undying Phoenix.

The Transformation Devil Saint stopped to avoid the phoenix while the Spear Devil Saint came from the other side, thrusting his spear.

Noel spun his body and struck his spear's handle to knock it to the ground, but the Spear Devil Saint noticed that the strength Noel put into his swing was much weaker than the first time.

He truly believed that Noel was going to be defeated sooner or later.

In that case, the Spear Devil Saint roared while waving his spear to show that he was stronger than him now.

Noel was launched into the air but still managed to land on the ground safely. The Transformation Devil Saint noticed that change and understood that the Spear Devil Saint wanted to tell him that it was time to attack.

Unbeknownst to them, Noel had been placing one trap after another. The direction in which he launched him had been calculated.

More importantly, the only thing he needed to do was buy time. It seemed that Ardagan worked fast to inform Heisk about the condition.

In just one minute, the help he was waiting for had arrived.

[Master.]

A woman's voice rang in his mind.

'Heisk?'

[Yes. I'm going to transfer the information about my True Spirit Body into your head through the mission. You might have to endure it while fighting these two.]

'Are you sure about this?'

[Yes, Master. Please allow me to repay you. And it's not just about me. You will also suffer the backlash from this incomplete True Spirit Body.]lights

'If you are ready, then I am ready.'

[I shall begin.]

At that moment, the system panel appeared.

[Mission: Heisk's Evolution III.]

[Description: Heisk will receive the True Spirit Body.]

[Reward: Heisk's True Spirit Body.]

The moment it was completed, the system seemed to be calculating everything that Noel had, especially his spiritual energy reserve.

In that instant, multiple missions appeared in front of him.

[Mission: Defeat the Demon Army.]

[Description: Exterminate the demons and repel the demon army from this land.]

[Reward: Demon Exterminator Medal.]

[Mission: Kill Sniper Devil Saint]

[Description: Kill Qiel, the brain of the Supreme Devil Organization.]

[Reward: An Advanced Rune (One Category of Choice).]

[Mission: Kill the Two Devil Saints.]

[Description: Show the newbie Devil Saints the strength of Noel Ardagan.]

[Reward: 2 Special Ardagan Sword Techniques.]

[Mission: Solve the hidden danger.]

[Description: There is an incoming hidden danger coming to the city. Protect the city.]

[Reward: Spirit Information Part 3.]

Although Noel wanted to look at all these missions, he had no time. In fact, the two Devil Saints wouldn't allow him to get that distracted even for a second.

Hence, Noel immediately pushed away all the missions and focused on the information that Heisk sent through the mission.

The completion of the mission allowed the system to impart the knowledge. It gave him everything he needed about the True Spirit Body.

Although the influx of information made his head feel hotter, he could still endure it while fighting against these two.

Even then, the Devil Saints took advantage of that moment of weakness to push Noel even further.

"Spear..." The Devil Saint stopped not far from Noel as he thrust his spear. "Overlord!"

Noel clicked his tongue, seeing the overbearing energy beam coming toward him.

Sword Transmutation.

Noel tried to split it in half, but he was in no condition to use the Everchanging Emotion Sword Style to boost his power. In the end, both of them neutralized each other.

Meanwhile, the Transformation Devil Saint came from above, trying to punch Noel. The latter managed to jump back to avoid it, but the punch shattered the ground.

Noel ended up using his wings to get away, which was a bit slower than the jump. The Transformation Devil Saint jumped forward, kicking Noel.

Fortunately, Noel blocked it with his sword, but the force still blew him away, forcing him to roll on the ground multiple times.

The two Devil Saints were thinking the same thing. Noel was finally weakened, so it was their time to attack. As long as they could kill or capture Noel, the war would definitely end.

Both of them were charging forward, not realizing that even though Noel was focused on defending, he was positioning himself between Dimitri and the Two Devil Saints. In other words, he had made sure that he was in the best location where he could interfere on both sides.

[The information has been fully transferred. Please call its name, Master.]

Noel made a big grin as his energy burst out of his body.

"What?!" The Two Devil Saints abruptly stopped after feeling the energy. "Is he still hiding this much energy?"

"No. This feels like something else!"

The Two Devil Saints saw the black wings on Noel's back disappear. Soon, four pairs of ice crystals hovered around his back and expanded, turning into four pairs of ice wings.

A golden crown appeared out of nowhere with a blue-colored jade on it. Noel's expression turned solemn and cold as if he was looking down at the world.

"True Spirit Body." Noel shouted as the wings flapped, releasing their true force. The temperature of the surrounding area dropped so dramatically that their breath started freezing. "Ice King Body."

Chapter 995 Decisive Moment (13)

"Die." Qiel shouted while releasing her arrow.

All of a sudden, an eruption of energy shook the area. The fluctuation carried chills, making it distinct from any other people in this place.

"!!!" Qiel was in shock. Because Dimitri couldn't do anything after using up his power, she thought that a normal arrow would suffice. However, that burst of energy actually repelled the arrow.

After that, a towering ice wall appeared between Dimitri and Qiel.

Qiel gritted her teeth. It was clear that this power came from Noel. If she didn't make a move fast, Dimitri would survive. At the same time, she wondered where this power came from.

'Did Noel have a True Spirit Body?' Qiel's face became pale. There was no data about it. 'Had he deliberately hidden this power the whole time? Does that mean the Ardagan family has three people with True Spirit Body?'

The True Spirit Body meant everything. It was basically the lifeline of a family. The Spirit Grandmasters might be scarce, but the ones with True Spirit Body were even rarer.

In the Muivell Kingdom alone, there were only ten people with True Spirit Body. Getting Anna away from the Royal Family alone was already huge. If Noel was revealed to have a True Spirit Body, the power balance would tip.

That was right. In addition to the runes, the Ardagan family might become the top three powerhouses in the entire kingdom. The only thing they lacked was the number of normal soldiers they could have due to the limit imposed on the noble's personal army law.

"..." Qiel's face turned dark. Although she expected that Noel might be able to awaken the True Spirit Body, she was thinking it would be much further into the future. He was indeed talented, but his insane talents only bloomed recently unlike Anna who had shown her brilliance since the beginning.

No, that was probably not important. Even though she was heavily injured, Noel or Dimitri had to die. With that thought in mind, she looped around the ice wall.

All of a sudden, she felt another fluctuation coming from behind the ice wall. Her instinct kicked in as she suddenly saw a little flash coming from behind the ice wall.

Then, a sharp sword wave cut through the ice wall and headed straight to her. This was Noel's Sword Transmutation.

Qiel shouldn't have realized that the wall was actually pretty thin or she would have shot through it. Noel took advantage of this information to launch a sneak attack.

Qiel raised her bow, trying to withstand this attack. However, she had focused her energy on her feet earlier, so she didn't have enough energy to block this attack.

Even if her bow was hard enough, the Sword Transmutation launched her more than thirty meters away. She rolled on the ground a few times and only stopped after her back hit a big, sturdy tree.

"Gah!" Qiel spat a mouthful of blood.

The two Devil Saints were completely stunned. This kind of appearance and power could only be drawn by the True Spirit Body after all.

They had to use their all in order to fight Noel evenly in his previous state, so could they actually do anything when Noel released his True Spirit Body.

The two stopped for a moment, wondering what they should do. If they continued fighting, it was clear they were going to lose. Then, shouldn't they run away?

However, they were about to win. Even Dimitri couldn't do anything after this. Qiel was severely injured, but she still had her True Spirit Body.

Considering Qiel was their brain, it was better to wait until Qiel gave an order. And until she gave one, they had to fight Noel.

The two Devil Saints jumped forth, surrounding Noel from both sides.

"!!!" Qiel coughed a few times, trying to clear her throat so she could shout. But it was too late.

Noel smiled as if everything had gone according to plan.

"Ice Mirror!" Noel used one of his techniques. Normally, the ice mirrors would create a dozen ice planks. But with the True Spirit Body, this ability was amplified and formed more than thirty ice blocks.

"!!!" The Transformation Devil Saint punched the ice blocks in front of him, smashing them into pieces. However, he soon realized that he was actually surrounded by the ice blocks. In an instant, the ice blocks joined together to form a cube, isolating the Transformation Devil Saint.

The Spear Devil Saint was similar. He thrust his spear forward, releasing the fierce energy that created a hole in more than five ice blocks, but it was useless.

Noel used the remaining ice blocks to isolate the Spear Devil Saint.

Both of them knew that they had to go all out in order to escape from this cube. So, they all attacked the ice mirrors with all their strength.

"Haaa!" The Transformation Devil Saint smashed the ice cube while the Spear Devil Saint created another hole to escape.

Among these two, the easiest one to defeat was the Transformation Devil Saint since the Spear Devil Saint couldn't escape easily due to the size of the hole.lights

Ice Lotus!

Noel used yet another technique. Instead of sending the five petals, Noel actually released the entire lotus.

That was right. The moment the Transformation Devil Saint broke free, he was greeted by this giant ice lotus that instantly exploded after getting hit by the residual power of his punch.

"NO!" The Transformation Devil Saint tried to protect himself, but it was too late.

The ice lotus caused an ice explosion, forming a mountain of ice that trapped the Transformation Devil Saint in the middle.

"Master..." Dimitri was completely stunned. He had never thought that he could witness this kind of power from Noel. He had watched him since he was just a baby, and to think that the person he took care of this whole time now had the power to defeat a Devil Saint easily.

Unfortunately, it seemed that Qiel wouldn't allow Noel's plan to succeed. She hurriedly accumulated all the energy she had to kill Noel.

"Behind!" Dimitri wanted to help Noel, but his body refused to move. Even so, he still managed to release a little bit of his energy into his voice so that Noel could hear it.

Noel turned around immediately, waving his hand. "Ice Infusion!"

The moment he touched the arrow, he froze everything, including the spiritual energy in the arrow's trail.

With Qiel's current condition, she shouldn't be able to muster too much of her strength.

"Kh." Qiel gritted her teeth. If this continued, Noel would be able to kill the other Devil Saint before chasing after her. Of course, she knew that Noel didn't have a lot of spiritual energy left, but she still didn't know how much she had left.

What Qiel didn't know was that he only had ten percent left. As he said before, everything was a bluff.

First, he sent Qiel flying so that she couldn't prevent him from killing one of them. And after the defeat of the Transformation Devil Saint, Qiel knew that this campaign was as good as a loss.

She had two options. First, she could ignore her condition and keep fighting. Even if she lost, Noel would definitely suffer as well. The second option was to pull back and preserve anything she still had. Even though they would suffer a massive loss, they could still do something in the future. At the very least, she, the brain of the Supreme Devil Organization, was still alive.

She never thought that Noel would have this trump card.

At first, she was convinced that their victory was nothing but assured as soon as they lured them out. Sadly, no matter how hard she overestimated Noel, Noel just kept surprising her with one thing after another.

Qiel gritted her teeth and shouted, using the last bit of her power to transmit her orders. "All demons! Go rampage and stop them! Laufey, Arvan, we're retreating!"

"!!!" Laufey and the Spear Devil Saint widened their eyes. Laufey saw the power Noel unleash from afar while the Spear Devil Saint thought the order came a bit too late as one of them had fallen.

"Do you think you can leave as you please?" Anna raised her sword, trying to step in.

However, the Superior Tiger Demon suddenly roared. It sacrificed its front right foot so that it could blow Howard away.

"Kh!" Howard gritted his teeth, looking at the tiger as it moved toward Anna.

Roar!

The tiger came in Anna's way, causing her to block its attack instead of chasing Laufey.

In the meantime, Noel hurriedly positioned himself to stop Laufey instead of the Spear Devil Saint. Laufey was worth more than the Spear Devil Saint due to his True Spirit Body, so killing him here would weaken the Supreme Devil Organization even further.

However, the Spear Devil Saint stood between them while saying, "Laufey. Go! The old hag's condition is severe."

"I know." Laufey nodded and sped up. The Spear Devil Saint planned to sacrifice himself to stop Noel. The rest of the demons also became frenzied, starting to overwhelm the soldiers.

Seeing the situation caused Howard to step in as commander so that their formation didn't collapse. However, he might abandon this post depending on Noel's order.

Noel was forced to choose between sacrificing a lot of things to deal huge damage to the organization or not sacrificing anything but still killing two Devil Saints.

In the end, Noel announced his decision. "Don't chase after them. Don't let any more soldiers die here! We will clean up this battlefield and return to our city."

Chapter 996 Relieving the City (1)

"Don't chase after them. Don't let any more soldiers die here! We will clean up this battlefield and return to our city." Noel gave an instruction while waving his sword at the Spear Devil Saint.

The latter thrust his spear, causing a ripple in the air. However, the temperature dropped so dramatically that his spear was gradually covered in ice.

This was just a normal Spiritual Cold Control that had been enhanced by the True Spirit Body. The spiritual energy around the spear gradually froze as well, causing him to be unable to release his power.

Noel then struck this spear with his Sword Transmutation, but instead of the Ever Changing Emotion Sword Style, he actually combined this attack with the Ice Infusion.

The Sword Transmutation turned into an ice sword strike.

"Kh." The Spear Devil Saint was being pushed back. At the same time, the sword strike caused the ground to be covered in a thick layer of ice. If he wasn't careful, he might slip.

Still, even though he could maintain his True Spirit Body much longer than this, he didn't have enough spiritual energy to release his abilities. If he was not careful, he would end up spending all the spiritual energy away.

However, it seemed that both of them knew what to do in this situation. Yes, both of them.

Noel waved his hand, trying to release another ability.

The Spear Devil Saint hurriedly raised his spear to protect himself. However, this was actually a bait. He suddenly felt a presence coming at high speed.

The Spear Devil Saint hurriedly turned around, but he was still one step away. The red-colored lightning flashed in the corner of his eyes before his vision turned upside down, looking at his own headless body.

Yes. The one coming for him was Anna. She stopped next to Noel while asking, "What are we going to do now? Chase them?"

Although she was curious about the True Spirit Body, it was better to focus on the matter at hand first. She had come here after killing the Superior Demon, so she was quite exhausted.

"How much spiritual energy do you have left?" Noel asked.

"About thirty percent. How about you?"

"Five to ten percent."

"So, we're not going to chase after them?" Anna thought that they had the advantage of having two True Spirit Body users, while Qiel was heavily injured. However, it didn't change the fact that Qiel's True Spirit Body hadn't worn off.

Hence, Noel shook his head. "No. If we chase after them, we'll have a lot of casualties here. Use five percent of your power to kill all the demons here. Do it within three minutes. We still need to head to another place."

"Another place?" Anna furrowed her eyebrows.

"Yeah. I got a mission from Ardagan about solving the hidden danger of the city."

"Hidden danger?" Anna had heard about the power of the system. It seemed that there was another thing lurking around. Was it the yellow flower? Was it the demon tree? Or was it something else?

Since the system had given him that kind of mission, Anna stopped talking and turned around. While going, she said, "One minute is enough."

Noel smiled. Although he wanted to do it as well, he didn't have a lot of energy left. He had to conserve it to resolve the hidden danger or at least bluff his way out of it.

In the meantime, he checked on the missions he got earlier.

[Mission: Kill the Two Devil Saints.]

[Description: Show the newbie Devil Saints the strength of Noel Ardagan.]

[Reward: 2 Special Ardagan Sword Techniques.]

He had completed one of the missions, so he immediately retrieved the rewards, wondering what they were.

[You've acquired Three Purity Swords.]

[You've acquired Divine Slash.]

"!!!" Noel felt something different from the sudden influx of information. Normally, it would just be knowledge, mostly words or images of the forms.

However, this time, he saw a scene.

In that scene, the person was swinging his sword in front of a lake. Whenever he swung the sword down, the water in the lake split into two.

"This is..." Noel sucked a cold breath. "The image from the Divine Slash! This is actually the sword technique that my ancestor used to split a mountain in half. Even with the system, it doesn't really allow me to reach mastery.

"It's not just about the form of spiritual energy control... The technique actually takes into account the movement of the muscle and other things. It's already beyond the scope of the system. That's why Ardagan showed me that scene." Noel didn't expect that there would be something that the system couldn't give me a mastery of.

Now that he thought about it, considering it a 'Divine' technique was probably justified. The Sword Transmutation looked similar, but their essence was different.

Meanwhile, the Three Purity Sword excelled in fast movement which allowed him to produce three slashes in a single movement. The system didn't show him the scene like the one with the Divine Slash, but it was clear that this technique was extremely high level. He could even incorporate three different emotions at once with this technique, making it unpredictable.

While he was resting, he realized that Anna was about to be done.

Since there were no more Superior Demons, Howard could go all out and trim down the enemies. Grandell and the others also showed unprecedented growth.

But more importantly, Anna completely obliterated the enemy.

"Die!" Anna roared while swinging her sword. Every time she swung her blade, a few demons died. Coupled with her speed, a minute should allow her to kill more than five hundred demons.

Howard also used that momentum to push back the demons, exterminating them.

It took them two minutes to kill every single demon in the area.

And Noel immediately gathered Anna, Howard, and Grandell.

"How is our side?" Noel asked.

Grandell reported, "I don't have the exact number, but there are approximately 30-40 casualties, mostly on normal soldiers. A lot are injured, but there should be no threat to their lives."

"What shall we do now, my lord?" Howard asked.

Noel thought for a moment. "Can the soldiers still fight?"

"Only half of the original numbers can still fight." Howard nodded. The other half was either dead or gravely injured, so this should be a reasonable number.

"Anna. You will come with me and observe the situation from outside."

"We're going to ambush them from behind?" Anna raised her eyebrows. Although this method was good, they needed a large number to mess up the demon army.

In fact, Howard and Grandell expected them to flank them from behind. However, it seemed that their lord had a different opinion.

"No. Howard and Grandell will lead the group back to the city through the underground tunnel. Send the soldiers who can still fight onto the wall and coordinate with Duke Briton. Anna and I have to do something else."

"Understood." Grandell and Howard bowed their heads, acknowledging the order. They immediately turned around and assembled the soldiers. Some brought the deceased, some helped the injured, while the rest protected the entire group.

Noel was sad to see a lot of people dying. After all, he only has return a few hundred soldiers currently. Having lost close to ten percent of it was a significant loss.

But if they managed to survive this attack, they could get a total of three thousand soldiers according to the law.

So, they had to endure the last part of the battle.

Just like Qiel predicted, having a night battle would be dangerous even for Noel. The demons had better eyesight during the night, but Noel had prepared another thing for this.

In that case, there was only one thing he needed to do, which was solve the hidden danger.

While watching the soldiers returning, Anna asked, "What is this hidden danger the system is talking about?"

"I'm not sure. The system doesn't disclose anything to me, but this should be enough of a hint for us to know that the battle is not over yet."

"So, what are we going to do? Shouldn't we go back to the city with the soldiers to find that hidden danger?"

"No. Even if you attack the inner side of the city, they still need demons to do so. I don't think they will send any people inside."

"To avoid being found out?"

"Yeah. In that case, the Water Lord can still step forward to handle them while Aurelia is releasing all her strength to keep the rest of the demons away. The kids and Rose are there too. So, sending the rest of the soldiers back to the city should be enough. Our only problem is how they are considered a hidden danger."

"!!!" Anna picked up the hint and gasped. "So, you're assuming that the hidden danger is coming from the outside?"

"Not necessarily. They might have hidden these demons under our noses, but in the end, they need a human to control them, right? They have to go outside to avoid getting caught."

"Oh! We don't know the method yet, but we should be sure that they are outside. Or at least, wait until everything is finished and leave. That's why we will go around to observe the battlefield from afar."

"There you have it." Noel nodded.

"Let's go then. I will loop around the east and take the longer path since I have more energy than you. We'll meet in the south."

Noel agreed with a smile.

...

While they were discussing it, things had progressed rapidly the moment Anna led the army out of the city.

"What is going on? How can they suddenly appear inside the city? Do we have a traitor?" Duke Briton dropped his jaw in panic, looking at the city instead of the battlefield. He could see several clouds of dust that signified the rampaging demons. However, the barrier was still intact, which made no sense.

Chapter 997 Relieving the City (2)

?A moment ago.

Duke Briton looked at the battlefield while getting a report from Aerton.

"Duke Briton. The progress on all sides is smooth. We should be able to withstand their attacks until the Lord returns."

"Good." Duke Briton nodded with a solemn expression. "In fact, just keeping Qiel away is already good, but to think that they would bring all the humans and one Superior Demon away... I guess they are that desperate to bring down an important person from our side."

"I believe we should send reinforcement to them." Aerton was worried that their lord would be injured.

However, Duke Briton didn't think this was necessary. All of them were powerful individuals. Although he didn't know about all the trump cards Noel had been hiding the whole time, he knew that he wouldn't go without any preparation.

That was why he only needed to take care of the remaining attackers this time.

However, this was the time for something unexpected to happen.

Roar!

Roar!

A series of roars echoed in their ears. Normally, they would just ignore this because no one could breach their defense.

But this time was different. Duke Briton couldn't help but turn around as the sound actually originated from the city. "This is..."

"!!!" Aerton followed Duke Briton, who was pushing away the soldiers while making his way to the other side of the wall, seeing a cloud of dust on three sides.

"What?!" Duke Briton dropped his jaw. "Demons have breached the city? How?"

Although their size made it hard to spot them, he was sure that at least thirty demons had entered the city. They were even located in three different directions.

Clara turned around to check what was going on, but the Superior Demon Crocodile slammed her with its tail, preventing her from doing anything.

"Big Sister Clara!" Erica, who had been stationed at the bottom of the wall, panicked. They had eliminated all the demons here except for that one Superior Demon, so they wondered what they should do.

"Sword Dancer Kids, Go to the south! There seem to be demons emerging from there. The reserve soldiers will go to the west! Hurry up!" Clara shouted, barely blocking the attack with her strings. "I will keep this demon here."

"Y-yes!" Erica didn't know what was going on, but she hurriedly ordered the other kids to move toward the south. The other soldiers followed suit.

"Duke Briton. A few have made their moves." Aerton pointed at Erica and the soldiers.

Duke Briton's expression darkened. "This is not how the battle is supposed to progress. The fact that there are demons suddenly appearing out of nowhere means there should be a cause. Is there a traitor? But we should have found them... Is it another plan from their strategist?"

"Duke Briton! We need your orders. The kids appear to be going to the south while the soldiers are going to take the west side. The east side has no one there!"

Duke Briton bit his lips. "Tell the flying squad to go to the center of the city and inform that Spirit Master to help the kids. After that, they will go to the east side. The soldiers are to spread their ranks. The buildings can be destroyed, but the lives of the people are important right now."

"Yes, sir." Aerton hurriedly left his side.

Duke Briton looked around, wondering if there was a traitor. How could the demons appear? Was it due to the underground channel? No. The underground channel had been taken care of.

Even the demon tree Anna fought earlier had been stopped by Andreas. He had also flooded the area to gain a terrain advantage even though his True Spirit Body had worn off.

Duke Briton had to find this problem or the hidden dangers might cause trouble.

"What is their purpose? The people? The buildings? Or..." Duke Briton just thought of something so ridiculous that he thought the Supreme Devil Organization was insane.

"Don't tell me, they are aiming for the Saintess?"

No one wanted to harm the saintess, especially with the current strength and reputation the Moon Temple had.

However, this made the saintess even more vulnerable. Because they were assured that the Supreme Devil Organization wouldn't attack the saintess, they didn't put any protection around the saintess.

What if Noel had another enemy? What if that enemy didn't care about the saintess or the Moon Temple? They could simply blame everything on the Supreme Devil Organization after all.

When that thought appeared, Duke Briton's face became pale. If the saintess was attacked and the barrier was undone, nothing would stop all those demons from flooding the city.

...

The saintess was still focusing on her barrier. As someone who maintained the barrier, she obviously could feel the area around the barrier, including the new commotion.

"This is not looking good." Layla muttered.

Suddenly, a fluctuation of energy occurred near her. On the one hand, it didn't seem to be anything resembling that of a human. On the other hand, she heard a couple of roars around her.

It was clear that the demons had appeared around her. She didn't know why but this fluctuation of energy should be the cause. Unfortunately, she couldn't see anything or she would have known the reason.

Even so, she still sensed the enemy's intention. If they killed her, the barriers that protected the city would disappear.

That was why this strategy was not bad. But the Supreme Devil Organization shouldn't do something like this.

"It seems that his worry is necessary." Layla smiled. When the demons were about to reach her, a spherical barrier appeared, completely isolating her from the outside.

Bang!

The demons tried to attack the barrier, but none of them managed to scratch the barrier. In fact, one of these demons was actually a Peak Level Demon. It charged its paw with spiritual energy and struck the barrier with all its strength.

Yet, it was still unsuccessful.

Bam! The door of the church was opened as Rose's voice echoed inside. "Saintess!"

Layla didn't respond, but it was clear that she was safe.

Without hesitation, Rose rushed toward the saintess. While she wasn't good at fighting, she should be able to fight against a Peak Level Demon.

All of a sudden, Rose's appearance turned into a stone golem as she swept the demons with her hard right arm.

The demons were confused for a bit but immediately dodged it. However, they ended up hitting each other mid-air, causing them to fall down.

After that, Rose tried to push the Peak Level Demon from the saintess to protect her.

"Go away!" The Peak Level Demon leaped toward Rose, not scared of her illusion. The Peak Level Demon smacked the golem with its paw, blowing Rose away.

"Kh." Rose gritted her teeth but stood back up. No matter what, the saintess couldn't be distracted.

The enemy was indeed clever. They first caused the disruption in three directions, forcing them to split their force. After that, they launched a sneak attack on the saintess as a finishing blow.

However, this also meant that there was a time for them to react. When the Peak Level Demon was about to reach Rose, a few explosive balls fell down.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The series of explosions blasted the Peak Level Demon, even though it also damaged the temple.

"Lady Rose, Duke Briton wants you to help the kids in the south."

"Unable. I have to ensure the safety of the saintess first. If the barrier is down, there won't be anything to stop the demon." Rose shook her head.

The saintess was obviously fine. Even though Noel left the saintess alone, there was no way Paladin Aurelia, with her character, would be convinced to leave her side during the siege. That was why he set up a few things to ensure the safety of the saintess, which was the rune.

Noel had actually used the Spiritual Barrier Rune, the Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune, and a Superior Demon's blood to craft all this. In other words, the strength of the barrier that protected the saintess was much stronger than the ones in the wall.

Only by using all this did he manage to convince Aurelia to get stationed far away from the saintess.

Still, Rose didn't know anything about this. In fact, there were only four people who knew about this in the entire city: Noel, Anna, Aurelia, and the saintess herself.

Even if Noel had carefully checked everyone's affection, information was still the most important thing during a battle. He was controlling the information that he wished to spread. This was actually the reason why Duke Briton called Noel a genius of warfare and someone who was capable of fighting him on equal terms.

And the saintess was safe due to his effort.

Still, the flying squad and Rose didn't know about it. That was why Rose ordered, "Kill all the demons here first. After that, the flying squad will split into two to assist the children and Lady Milfa."

The flying squad members looked at each other. It appeared they had no choice.

"Understood!"

Duke Briton was watching everything from the top of the wall. Although he didn't know what actually happened, he could still see the destruction as a sign of their action.

The demons on Milfa's side were hindering Milfa's action. Fortunately, his flood still made the terrain hard to penetrate, so Milfa could still hold back a little bit to handle the demons that appeared on her side.

But it wouldn't last long. And one more important thing happened. All of a sudden, a huge ice crystal erupted behind the enemy's rank. It was outside the barrier, but due to the size of the crystal, it was easily visible from afar.

Chapter 998 Relieving the City (3)

Noel was crossing the woods while thinking, 'If there is an enemy hiding around, this place should be perfect. At first, I thought that Milfa's side would be the perfect place, but because of Duke Briton's power, it's not a perfect place to hide.

'At the same time, there is nothing but a barren plain on the south. In other words, if someone is going to hide, it's going to be on the west side between the city and the river.'

Noel contemplated. The enemy this time was actually able to ambush the city.

From the looks of the city, it seemed that they managed to sneak inside. He doubted the cause was a human since it wouldn't be good to leave behind any hints.

In other words, there should be another party observing from a distance, and this group was the culprit for all the commotion.

In Noel's mind, an image of a person who was capable of doing something like this appeared.

There weren't a lot of people that could sneak inside the city, let alone bring all these beasts. If there was a person like that, he was either the one working with the darkness or actually appearing out of nowhere.

If it was the former, Dimitri should have known them. If it was the latter, there was only one person.

She had the ability to create a portal and teleport from one place to another, so it wouldn't be weird for her to create a portal and drag all the demons inside.

With how Anna described their endings in their previous lives, Noel had taken this possibility into account.

And it seemed that he was right.

When he was crossing the woods, his Demon Hunter Medal actually picked up the presence of the demon. It was already weird for the demons to hide inside the woods while the rest were fighting on the front lines, let alone the fact that he felt more and more demons. Their numbers should be in the hundreds.

Without hesitation, Noel turned around and looked into this.

Instead of the demons, he was looking for a person. Though, it didn't take too long for him to find her, considering she had to be in the center of this mass so that she could teleport all of them inside the city.

Roar!

Roar!

Roar!

The demons seemed to notice Noel, but it was too late. Noel's speed was much faster in his True Spirit Body.

He jumped into the air while waving down his left hand.

Ice Lotus.

"!!!" The woman waved her scythe, creating a small vortex in front of the lotus.

Boom!

The ice lotus exploded, freezing not only the vortex but also the demons around it. The ice lotus turned into a giant ice crystal that was easily visible from afar.

'That form... True Spirit Body?' The woman frowned. There was only one thought in her mind: escape. Without hesitation, she swung her scythe to create another portal for her to leave.

"Do you think you can get away, Void Arbiter?!" Noel roared while waving his sword. The Sword Transmutation flew straight toward her, but a lot of beasts suddenly came into the way to block this attack with their bodies.

As Noel expected, the culprit was Josephine. However, he was surprised that Josephine chose to escape immediately instead of killing him here.

But he noticed one reason why it was best to immediately leave.

"There is no evidence." The Void Arbiter slipped into the portal and disappeared.

"..." Noel gritted his teeth. He was the only one who saw Josephine here, so even if he claimed Josephine was helping the Supreme Devil Organization, there was no proof. He could claim that she was the only one who was capable of doing this, but he still needed certain proof.

In other words, Josephine had prepared for this. In fact, she might have been waiting until the Supreme Devil Organization lured them out before making her move. It was lucky that Noel was actually fast enough to return. If not, the city would have been flooded by the demons.

However, Noel could see another problem in the future.

From that short meeting alone, he could see two facts. First, he got to see her with the Affection Medal.

Name: Josephine Lelaine

Affection: 100 (Hate)

Description: She will kill you if she has the chance.

Her affection had changed drastically since the time he met her in the palace. Back then, he hadn't revealed his trick and Anna hadn't shown her true affiliation, so Josephine was still rather friendly. Even her hatred was only 20 points.

But after realizing that she had been played this whole time, Josephine's affection changed as she turned into their nemesis.

This led to the second fact. As their archenemy, Josephine had to die. But could they actually kill Josephine?

Talking about her power alone, there was no one capable of stopping her from teleporting away. That was why her power was actually the most troublesome compared to other Arbiters.

If they wanted to kill Josephine, they had to create a trap that could actually bind her in a single space and take away her teleportation ability.

And with how Josephine controlled the demons, it was clear that she was affiliated with the Supreme Devil Organization.

Back then, Noel caused a commotion by providing an unlimited amount of water. His purpose was to sow discord between her and the Third Prince.

However, it seemed that his action made Josephine join the Supreme Devil Organization. The Third Prince was still connected to the organization, so there was a possibility that the misunderstandings had been solved.

But with this, the situation had just become more complicated. With Josephine's ability, the organization would become much more flexible in its operations. Qiel hadn't died and Laufey would still come back.

Those three and Alexander would definitely make the organization much stronger.

It seemed that even if they won this war, it was still not enough to crush the Supreme Devil Organization.

Unfortunately, he couldn't think much because he had to take care of these demons.

"Ice Burst!"

The cold mist spread, freezing anyone that came into contact with it. The demons charged at him, only to be frozen midway. Some attacked from a distance, but their attack also got frozen.

In the end, the demons had no choice but to run away from him.

That was when Anna appeared. It took her only one minute to loop around the city and reach his position.

"Noel!" Anna shouted while blasting the demons with her blood lightning.

Noel pointed at the demons. "Kill as many as possible and flank the demons from behind. After that, we will retreat to the city."

"Alright." Anna was worried about him, but the war wasn't over yet. So, she had to focus on the demons first.

Noel panted a few times, thinking, 'Maybe I should show my exhausted state to force her to attack me? This is getting annoying. Even though the only thing we need to do left is clean up the battlefield, it feels like we don't win.'

"What should we do now? Although I want to help, I don't have much energy left. I should conserve some strength to create a path back to the city." Noel let out a long sigh.

Even though most of what happened on the battlefield was within his calculation, it seemed that it was impossible to predict everything.

"Maybe I should have focused on killing Qiel... Without their brain, it should be pretty hard to function. Then again, Laufey is still kicking, so I don't think we have much luck stopping them." Noel shook his head helplessly.

No matter how hard he thought about it, there was no action that allowed them to get a complete victory. They should feel satisfied with this.

It took Anna several minutes to return.

"I have dealt a lot of damage on their side. It seems that Duke Briton is also directing the flying squad there." Anna reported while looking around to ensure that no one dared to launch a sneak attack.

"How is the city?"

"There are a lot of commotions, but Howard seems to have returned and taken care of the situation. They should be suppressing the enemies right now." Anna sighed. "What happened here?"

"Your former teacher was here."

"Josephine? Did she create a portal to send those demons inside?"

"Yeah. I couldn't get any proof as she immediately left the moment we met."

"She is the best at running away." Anna clicked her tongue, fully knowing Josephine's capability as she had been following her in her previous life.

"Do you have any idea on how to catch her?" Noel asked.

Anna shook her head helplessly. That power of hers was simply too overpowered for escaping.

"It seems that we have to find a new method to trap her in the near future. And after this battle is over, I'm afraid that the organization and the royal family will join hands to crush us. This might possibly be the reason why in our previous lives, I started a rebellion."

"An arbiter joining the organization... The connection between the royal family and the organization as well as the Third Prince. I see..." Anna closed her eyes for a moment.

"Well, even if we want to discuss this matter, we have to defeat the demons first. Let's go back to the city wall. I will create a path for us while you release your remaining strength to kill the last demon tree. Without Qiel, I'm sure they will still launch another attack once it gets dark."

"So, we will break their plan first."

"Yeah."

Noel and Anna looked at the city, ready to settle the battle.

Chapter 999 Relieving The City (4)

The Water Lord furrowed his eyebrows while controlling the elemental.

"What is going on... What is that ice?" The Water Lord noticed Noel's ice crystals but even if he wanted to check them, he couldn't move from his position.

"The situation is stable right now. Should I go to check on the situation? But the city is still under attack. I don't know what's going on inside the city, but it's clear that the demons somehow make their way in."

The Water Lord was assessing the situation carefully. Unfortunately, no matter how hard he thought, he couldn't connect anything. How could he even think of the possibility of the Void Arbiter interfering with the war?

The Water Lord was waiting for the order so that he could go to a different spot, either to suppress the demons inside the city or check the ice crystal.

However, the order never came.

"What's going on with the high command? Are they blind? Can't they see the situation within the city?"
The Water Lord gritted his teeth.

To his surprise, he suddenly heard cheers erupting in a few parts of the city.

"Ooohh!"

The kind of cheers definitely were not the work of a single person. There should be at least a hundred or so.

The Water Lord didn't know that Howard had actually come back to reinforce the inner city.

But his shock didn't end there. Just two minutes after that cheer, lightning sparked from the woods behind the demons.

In an instant, a figure appeared behind the snail, slashing the snail into two, including its shell.

The snail shrieked, but soon the sound died down.

"Anna Stargaze?" The Water Lord sucked a cold breath. She actually appeared out of nowhere and struck down a Superior Demon.

However, Anna didn't bother to look at him. Instead, her eyes were locked onto the serpent that he had been stopping this whole time.

"Her goal is..." The Water Lord hurriedly controlled the water elemental to hug the snake, covering it with water. "Go, Anna Stargaze!"

Unfortunately, Anna had unleashed all the energy that she had charged into her blade. In the end, she could only form a spear in her hand and toss it to the serpent.

Shaa! The serpent spat out the poison to melt the attack. Sadly for the serpent, the lightning spear pierced through, losing half of its power.

The moment the lightning spear touched the water, it instantly spread to the surrounding area.

Shaaa! The serpent was electrocuted. It felt like the inside was being reduced to ashes. At the same time, the water elemental that held him down also shattered due to Anna's power.

"Huu..." The Water Lord panted a few times. If he didn't release his power at the last second, he would be injured as well. Still, the consumption of summoning another elemental was extremely great. Yet, the last attack didn't kill the snake.

It was struggling with the excruciating pain, but it hadn't died yet. So, the Water Lord hurriedly summoned another water elemental to kill this serpent.

Unfortunately, Anna had to go back to the woods to regroup with Noel.

The Water Lord didn't understand what was going on, but he tried to kill the serpent as this was his only chance.

What he didn't know was that Noel and Anna would come out of the woods together.

"That's..." The Water Lord looked at Noel's figures. Just like Anna, it seemed that he had transformed.
"True Spirit Body?!"

"Water Lord!" Noel pointed at the snake.

The Water Lord realized what Noel wanted. That was right. They had to kill this serpent.

Because of the sneak attack earlier, Anna's remaining energy was only enough for one more strike. But Noel had told her to kill the Demon Tree. In other words, Noel would be the one killing this serpent.

Although he didn't know the arrangements, it was clear that Noel intended to kill the serpent.

So, the Water Lord used the water elemental body to swallow the snake.

"Explode!" Noel shouted.

The Water Lord instinctively trusted Noel's judgment and caused the water to explode, splattering it everywhere.

After that, Noel waved his hand. "Frozen Domain!"

A thick layer of ice instantly covered the ground and spread in all directions. When it touched the demons' feet, it spread up and froze the entire body. The water coming from the elemental made it even easier for Noel to freeze them.

The Superior Demon Snake as well as a hundred demons were frozen in an instant as the west battlefield had turned into an icy plain.

Even the barrier that the saintess made was frozen a little bit.

Noel was thankful for his assistance, but with this, he didn't have any more spiritual energy left in his body. His transformation was being undone.

Just like Dimitri said, he definitely felt his spirit veins were broken due to the intense burden of the True Spirit Body.

But that didn't matter. As expected of Duke Briton, he instantly recognized the power and sent forth the flying squads. They released all the explosive balls they had to cover Noel.

As soon as they reached a certain range, Anna jumped onto the top of the wall.lights

"Woah?!" The soldiers were startled, but Anna said, "This is your lord. Hurry up and protect him!"

The soldiers hurriedly regained their composure as one of the officers commanded, "Form a protective barrier and make sure not a single demon can enter. We have to escort our Lord back!"

"Sorry for letting you do this." Noel apologized in a low tone to Anna. Even after fighting for so long, Anna still had one more important role left.

"Don't worry. I will be with you soon." Anna smiled as she jumped to the top of the wall near Andreas.
"Andreas!"

Andreas was confused about why he was being called, but when he turned around, he saw Anna charging her power into her sword.

In that instant, Andreas switched his stance.

He had been cutting the soul of this tree to the point where there were only six roots left that the tree could use.

Since Anna was here to deliver a killing blow, there was only one thing to do.

"My grandfather is the one teaching me this, but I guess it's a perfect time to use it." Andreas smiled.
"Timeless Soul."

When the six roots tried to impale him, Andreas disappeared or more accurately split into six.

The demon tree was dumbfounded by the souls, but that one second of hesitation allowed the six souls to slash the six roots, incapacitating it.

With the roots falling to the ground, Anna leaped from the wall at lightning speed.

The demon tree tried to move its branches, but it was too late. Anna had reached the tree and drawn her blade.

"Raging Thunder Slash."

With a single draw of her blade, the lightning was unleashed like a bolt of natural lightning. It was fast and destructive, splitting the tree into two. The lightning even started a fire on the bottom of the tree which soon spread to the entire body.

"Haa... Ha..." Anna panted a few times. She had exhausted all her energy as her transformation was undone.

"With this, the battle should tip in our favor. They have lost all the Devil Saints and a lot of Superior Demons." Anna smirked.

This should be enough to kill the enemy, but all of a sudden, the tree moved once again just like the other demons.

"!!!" Anna raised her head, seeing that the branches continued expanding and turning toward her as if they were ready to impale her.

As if expecting this, Andreas appeared next to the tree and cut the yellow flower that sprouted the moment the demon tree was defeated.

"I hope that you are more careful than this," said Andreas while holding the flower that he cut earlier. After that, he carried Anna and jumped back to the top of the wall as if nothing important had happened.

"Is that the flower controlling the demons?" Anna asked.

"Yeah. I'm going to study a bit of its soul later. I should be able to get some useful information whether for myself or the Ardagan Family." Andreas nodded while lowering Anna. "I don't have to carry you all the way, right?"

"It's fine. Just leave me here. I believe that the situation is going to tip over right now."

"In that case..." Andreas looked down, wondering what he should do next.

After seeing three Superior Demons die under Anna and Noel's ambushes, Duke Briton hurriedly shouted, "Tell the Gem Lord that he doesn't need to hold back anymore. It's time to flatten

—"

Before he finished his words, Noel's voice echoed in his ears. "No. Not yet. The enemies are still fighting with all their might. We have to let them continue to gather more data. Besides, I'm sure that they are waiting until dark. I also have prepared something for them, which is a perfect time to test it."

"What? Shouldn't we strike while the iron is hot?" Duke Briton asked.

"No. The enemy is most likely trying to learn our battlefield. I am not sure, but there should be a demon that is currently in training to become a commander like Qiel. That's why we have to do this."

"So, the demon learns a weird thing, thinking it's a normal thing?"

"Yeah."

"But that's just your speculation." Duke Briton couldn't believe it, considering it was simply too absurd.

However, Noel shook his head. "I have been fighting the demons and the Supreme Devil Organization ever since I joined the Demon Banner Army. In the Muivell Kingdom, I know their behavior better than you, Duke Briton."

Duke Briton fell silent for a moment before shouting, "Maintain the attrition warfare. We'll reduce their number as much as possible. Tell the Water Lord to recover his stamina and Paladin Aurelia to take over the entire west side."

However, there was actually another surprise for Noel.

In just an hour after his return, he would receive a notification from Ardagan regarding his mission.

[Mission: Kill Sniper Devil Saint (Complete)]

[Description: Kill Qiel, the brain of the Supreme Devil Organization.]

[Reward: An Advanced Rune (One Category of Choice).]

Chapter 1000 Relieving The City (4)

[Mission: Kill Sniper Devil Saint (Complete)]

[Description: Kill Qiel, the brain of the Supreme Devil Organization.]

[Reward: An Advanced Rune (One Category of Choice).]

"Huh?" Noel raised his eyebrows, looking at the mission. 'Huh? Qiel died? What happened? Did she lose too much blood?'

Noel felt something was amiss. On the one hand, there was indeed a possibility that she died that way. On the other hand, they weren't pursuing her, so they should be able to stop somewhere and close the wounds.

"What's wrong?" Anna asked, noticing Noel's change of expression.

"This..." Noel fell silent for a moment before whispering the truth. "Qiel died just now. The mission confirmed it, so it must be true."

"Wha—mmmph!" Anna was shocked, but Noel hurriedly covered her mouth to not show it. Although it was joyous news, they couldn't really declare it. What was the proof? People would simply become suspicious of them.

Anna's expression turned solemn. "Are you sure about this?"

"The system has never been wrong this whole time, so I believe that's the case. It's just that I don't know the process."

Anna looked down, falling into deep thought. After a moment, she whispered, "Maybe your parents made their move."

Noel frowned. He didn't think it was possible. After all, if they made their move, they would have to fight Laufey and Qiel. If just a single one of them survived, the consequences would be fatal.

Anna continued, "They still have three Spirit Grandmasters like the former captain, Raven, and the ghost, Silvester. Don't you think it's possible? Besides, Qiel is severely injured and with this timing, the True Spirit Body should have worn off. So she shouldn't be able to fight that much.

"Laufey is the same. Although he is not injured, the Spirit Veins are broken due to the side effects of the True Spirit Body. So, don't you think it's possible to kill them?"

Noel still didn't believe this was enough. The risk was simply too big. Even if they didn't make a move, Qiel's condition should be enough to render her useless in a fight.

If they disclosed their existence, the royal family would definitely unleash everything they had to defeat them. In the worst case scenario, the Transcendence Experts from the royal family and the organization would join hands to destroy their Ardagan Family.

He didn't believe that Oscar would help them in this matter. That was why he still thought there must be something else.

"This is weird. Did I miss something else?" Noel tilted his head in confusion. There was one thing that looked a bit weird. He had a mission to kill the Devil Saints, but Laufey wasn't on the list. It was probably because Anna was his opponent, but was that the only case?

'Maybe the missions are the limit. And the system is only targeting the people who are most likely to die.'

Noel sighed, thinking, 'Anyway, she's dead. I should be happy for now. After all, they have Josephine now. If Qiel and Josephine join hands, it's going to be a disaster, so I should be grateful to know that she dies.'

"By the way, are we still going to participate in this battle?" Anna asked.

"No. This battle is going to be over in about an hour. As soon as the night falls, we'll eliminate them."

"So, we'll unleash the remaining two runes hidden in our walls?"

"Yeah. Even though you can't fight right now, can you go to Layla? Just make sure that her condition is okay."

"Alright." Anna nodded.

...

Northwest of Lounstein.

"Ha.... Ha..." Qiel panted a few times. It was really hard to maintain this state, especially with her current injury. "Have we gotten to a safe place yet? I have to close my wounds first or I would die from blood loss."

Laufey looked into Qiel's eyes, which seemed to have become empty. It seemed that she had lost so much blood that her focus was close to none. If this continued, she would definitely die.

"I don't think they are chasing after us." Laufey looked back as if trying to sense their pursuer.

Qiel nodded. She dropped to the ground and took a seat. "Laufey. I need your help. Share your blood a little bit with me so that I can recover enough to continue our journey. We have to return to the base and bring this news.

"Alright." Laufey pointed his palm toward her before cutting his fingers so that the blood would flow out and gradually flow to Qiel's wounds.

Qiel's complexion became much better due to his aid.

While waiting, Laufey asked, "What should we report this time? We have lost two Devil Saints in this war. Meanwhile, we fail to kill a single enemy or even heavily injure them."

"No. That's fine. You were dispatched to gather the demons, so you didn't know what was going on at the base. We got a new person who would become a new Devil Saint. Although she couldn't openly show herself for the time being, her power would definitely be beneficial for us."

"A new person?"

"Void Arbiter, Josephine."

"That space woman?" Laufey frowned.

"Yeah. That's why we have to return and start a new plan. With her help, we should be able to dispatch our people in a more organized manner."

"..." Laufey thought for a moment and nodded his head. "That's indeed good. However, you should know that they will grow rapidly after this battle, right?"

"Indeed. I have a plan to hinder that movement. Besides, their main enemy will be the Royal Family right now. So, we can increase our force in the meantime."

Laufey scratched the back of his head. "To think that you would have thought this far..."

"I have to. I know very well how strong they are now. Even before the battle, I made the assumption that we wouldn't be able to win, so I prepared for all this. Although I would have a 17:31

hard time using my power after this injury,
everything from the darkness."

"The Supreme Devil also hasn't made his move yet. And if we Ardagan? Or is this what you're planning to do, Qiel?"

"Yeah. With this, they are able to prove that they are much stronger than anyone else. Even without outside help, the Ardagan Family has four Spirit Grandmasters, with three of them having True Spirit Body. The people will definitely fear them, especially the royal family."

"But do you really think that Noel Ardagan..." Laufey paused. Even he didn't expect that Noel Ardagan would have a True Spirit Body.

Qiel shook her head. "He is as talented as Anna, so it shouldn't be weird to have that. However, he will definitely become too strong for the kingdom to handle, so his strength will end up being the trigger of the next war."

"What do you mean?"

"Haven't you seen his True Spirit Body? What element does it have?"

"Ice... Ice?!" Laufey gasped.

"That's right." Qiel sighed. "If you compare the power between his ice and fire elements, you will realize that the fire element is much stronger than his ice. In other words, he is still hiding one more trump card."

"The Fire Spirit's True Spirit Body." Laufey squinted his eyes.

"There you have it. With that trump card, the power balance within the kingdom will be tipped over. In addition to the Gem Lord, I'm afraid that the Tower Association will split up. And the Ardagan Family will become the new top three power, 17:31

replacing the Tower Association. With that,

royal family will leave them alone?"

Laufey closed his eyes, understanding what was going to happen to the Ardagan Family. It seemed that they wouldn't have time to attack them. The Greenwood Kingdom and the Zaecuria Kingdom would definitely make their move to prevent the Muivell Kingdom. And the Atracaeca Kingdom will become one of the keys to this war.

"That's why—" Qiel suddenly stopped before raising her head.

"What's—" Laufey wanted to ask, but Qiel immediately put her finger in front of her lips, gesturing for him to be quiet. They were within the forest, so Qiel's senses would definitely pick something up.

Qiel said, "This is bad. There is another force coming to us right now. We have to go."

Qiel stood up, ready to escape once more. She didn't know what was going on, but this other party was beyond her imagination.

Her eyes were looking at the horizon as she saw two men coming toward them. "That's..."

The first one was a muscular man wearing armor. His eyes looked rather gloomy and exhausted, but his hand remained on his sword handle as if he were ready to wield it at any moment.

The second one was rather hard to see even though he was there. It was like his entire existence was blurry.

"Isn't that... the Ardagan Family's Silvester and Raven? If I'm not mistaken, they are the remnants of the previous Ardagan Family. But shouldn't Noel have absorbed them... Now that I think about it, they disappeared after that execution.

clues regarding their existence. Don't tell me..." Qiel gasped, realizing something.

In that instant, a sharp pain jolted her brain.

"What?" Qiel looked down, finding a blood sword piercing her heart. She couldn't help but look at the one who stabbed her from behind. "Laufey... You..."

Laufey's expression was cold as he said, "Fifteen years... It's truly been a long time."