

Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure #Chapter 851 Rund Forest - Read Shota's Isekai NTR Adventure Chapter 851 Rund Forest

Chapter 851 Rund Forest

The fact that these two were here was a sign that there was a dark crystal near here.

Well, the increased monster activity in the surrounding area was already a sign that there was a dark crystal around here. However, it wasn't as if it was a certain thing since I had no idea what the range of effect the dark crystals had.

Seeing that there were two were here, it meant that the dark crystal was almost certainly here.

It meant that they must have been the ones that had brought the dark crystal here.

They might have even been the ones that had placed the other dark crystals all across our kingdom.

In that case, it would seem logical to capture them and then have them bring us to the various dark crystals that they planted. However, that wasn't what I did, I just chose to ignore the two of them in the end.

Even when they stood up and walked out, I didn't do a thing.

I just let them leave without telling anyone about them, but it wasn't as if no one had noticed the strange way that I was looking at those two. There was someone who had been looking at me the entire time and had noticed the way that I looked at them.

Once those two left, that person said, "Should we go after them?"

I was surprised by this question.

When I turned to look at the person who asked it, I wasn't surprised that it was this person who asked it.

After all, I knew that this person was obsessed with me, or else they never would have become my wife.

It was Cecilia who had come along with us to drink that had asked this question.

Though her real intention for coming along to drink was...to keep an eye on me.

So it wasn't strange that she noticed the strange way that I looked at those two.

Looking at her for a bit, I said with a shake of my head, "It's not time yet. Just let them go free for a bit, they'll still hang around the area and lead us to the ones that we want to meet."

Cecilia narrowed her eyes to look at me, but she nodded in agreement in the end.

She understood what I was planning to do with these two, so she accepted what I said.

There was nothing else that happened that night and soon we quickly turned in since we still had to head to the area of increased monster activity the next morning.

When we set off the next morning, the mood of the group was completely different from before.

There was more of a relaxed feeling to the group before this, but now...everyone had serious looks on their faces. It was as if they were prepared to fight to the death as they headed forth to their destination.

But that was the determination that they should have when facing this situation.

After all, there was no telling what would happen with the monsters.

If they were surrounded by the monsters, it was even more likely that they would die.

So going with the determination to die was a good thing.

The area where the increased monster activity was happening was naturally surrounded by soldiers already. They were the first line of defense if there was anything that happened, so they naturally cared very much about their jobs.

When they saw us approach, they immediately came forward to stop us and ask what we were doing here.

However, it wasn't as if they would be able to stop us.

We were here on behalf of the two most important people in the kingdom, we were here in my name and the prime minister's. So the moment that we showed them our papers, they immediately opened up the barricades to let us pass.

Even though they had curious looks on their faces, they didn't ask a single thing because they knew that they weren't in a position to ask anything.

They just had to follow the orders that came from above.

After passing through the blockade, we headed towards the Rund Forest where the increased monster activity was coming from. Even before reaching the edges of the forest, we could see the signs of monsters wandering around.

It seemed that there were more monsters, but they still hadn't left the bounds of the forest yet.

The monsters weren't complete fools after all.

They knew that the moment that they left the forest, they would be hunted down by the humans.

Until the monster wave came, they wouldn't leave the forest where they would be vulnerable. If they went out with a monster wave, then it would be much safer since there were plenty of monsters to work together with.

However, the fact that the monsters were at the edge made it clear that there were far more monsters and they were much more active in this area.

It was only a matter of time before there were enough for a wave.

We didn't head right into the forest when we arrived, but rather Scar came looking for me to ask, "What do we do now?"

Even though on paper, Scar was the leader of the group, I was the real leader.

After all, I was the one that gathered everyone to come to this place and I should be the only one that knew how to find the things that we were looking for.

Though if one had to ask me...I didn't really know how to find the dark crystals.

My plan was to scout the area until we found it, but it seemed that this was too dangerous of a plan with how many monsters were wandering around.

As I was trying to figure out what to do, I suddenly noticed something.

I looked carefully at one of the trees and noticed...there was this familiar feeling coming from it.

It was the same feeling that came from the mysterious duo back in town.

It seemed that there were signs of demon energy coming from it.

852 Follow the trail

I had to look twice to make sure that this was indeed the demon energy that I felt before, but I was sure that this was the demon energy that I had felt from the duo.

It seemed that this was the trail that they had left behind when they had come to this forest before.

As for why they had come to this forest before...well there was only one reason.

It was to put the dark crystal that was currently causing the increased monster activity.

That meant that as long as I followed the trail of demon energy that was left behind, I should be able to find the dark crystal.

The only thing was I could see that the demon energy trail was leading deep into the forest.

I didn't know what the range of the dark crystal was, but it definitely wouldn't be small. That meant that if we were to follow this trail into the forest, there was no doubt that we would be heading deep into the forest.

If we headed deep into the forest, it was very likely that we would be surrounded by the monsters that were wandering around.

In that case, all I would be doing is putting us in danger...

Still, there was no other way than this.

If we wanted to take care of the monsters that were wandering around, this was the only way to take care of them.

Taking a deep breath, I said, "Follow me."

The others were all surprised when they heard me say this, but they quickly reacted when they saw me walking towards the forest. They didn't waste any time in pulling out their weapons as we approached the monsters that were there.

The monsters that were wandering around the edge of the forest were goblins.

These were the lowest tier of monsters that there could be, but that didn't mean that they should be looked down on. After all, goblins were monsters that were stronger than normal humans.

They were even stronger than normal soldiers in the army.

So these were monsters that needed several soldiers working together to take down.

However, these elite guards that came with me quickly showed why they were known as elite guards of the kingdom.

The goblins were surprised to see humans approaching them, but they didn't panic as they pulled out their weapons. They didn't think that they would lose in a fight against the humans after all. That was the confidence, or rather the lack of intelligence that these goblins had that made them feel that they would win. Even though it was clear by the aura that these elite guards released that they weren't to be looked down on.

It only took a single moment for the fight to be over.

The goblins didn't stand a chance against these elite guards.

The goblins had been prepared to clash with these elite guards, but then the elite guards suddenly disappeared. When they reappeared, they were in front of the various goblins with their weapons coming down.

The goblins just weren't able to react at all as the weapons cut through their necks.

Their throats were slit before they realized what even happened.

As for how these weapons slit the throats of these goblins, that was because all of them were special rune infused weapons made of mithril. As for where they came from...naturally it was the dwarves from my territory who forged them.

Even before I became the king, I had already been cooperating with the prime minister to provide weapons to the royal family. Those weapons that had been forged and sent went to these royal guards, as well as Shadow Garden.

Those were the weapons that were currently in the hands of the ones that came with me.

That was how they easily cut through the thick hides of the goblins.

Once all of the goblins were taken care of, we were able to easily make our way through the forest.

I was the only one that was able to see the demonic energy in the first place, so the only thing that the people around me could do was clear the area around us. Though when it came to the monsters, they at least had some awareness when it came to life and death.

They could smell the blood of their comrades and could see the corpses that were around them, so they eventually stopped coming at us.

While the guards were fighting, I had been looking around carefully for the traces of demonic energy attached to the trees around us. Luckily, it didn't seem like the distance between the demonic energy trail left on the tree was that far. So I was able to see each of the trees marked by the demonic energy in the distance.

Like this, we headed deeper and deeper into the forest.

Luckily for us, it didn't seem like there were any stronger monsters that appeared.

The entire time, the only thing that we seemed to encounter were goblins.

These weren't evolved goblins, but rather the lowest of low goblins that could have been found anywhere.

It was as if there weren't any high level goblins in this forest at all.

This should have been good news, but I couldn't help feeling that there was something wrong with this...

After all, just a wave of goblins alone wouldn't be that threatening...

Well, they would be threatening to a normal kingdom, but it wasn't as threatening to a kingdom that had wyverns.

It felt like there was something missing here.

But there was no time to think too much about it.

Right now, the most important thing was to find the dark crystal and destroy it before anything else happened. As long as the dark crystal was destroyed, the monsters should stop gathering and slowly disperse on their own.

So I followed the trail until we reached what seemed to be a clearing, but looking carefully...I could see that this clearing was made from trees being cut down.

This was the place.

I completely forgot what I was going to say...

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853 That was easy

There were no other tracks of demonic energy to follow once we made our way to this clearing.

At the very least, I knew that the dark crystal would be in this place.

It was just that I didn't know exactly where it was.

With the royal guards clearing out the goblins in the surrounding area, it wasn't a problem for us to clear out this clearing for us to search.

It was just that there was quite a bit of ground for us to cover and there was no telling when another monster would arrive.

The only thing that we could do was just search this place by digging in the different parts of the clearing.

Only by searching this entire area would we be able to find the dark crystal that was hiding somewhere here.

Of course, it wasn't as if everyone was able to search during this time. After all, we were still in the middle of the forest that was filled with monsters wandering around.

Half of us had to form a blockade on the edges of the forest while half of us dug in the clearing for the dark crystal.

It didn't take us long to find the dark crystal like this.

During this time, there weren't even any goblins that came to attack us.

It was as if they had learned from the mistakes and didn't dare attack us even though we were causing such a large commotion.

We could see the goblins even going out of their way to avoid the area that we were digging in. It was almost as if they were afraid to have anything to do with us with the way that they avoided us.

So we were able to dig without any interruptions.

The digging went smoothly, it just took a while before we were able to find the dark crystal since it was buried quite deep into the ground. We hadn't been digging deep enough at first, but we were eventually able to find it.

The next problem was...

"What do we do with this thing?" Scar asked me.

Of course, it wasn't as if he asked me this as soon as they found the dark crystal.

Rather, they had already tried many different things to destroy this dark crystal.

However, they weren't able to make a dent on the dark crystal no matter how they tried attacking it. It was as if it was made out of the hardest material ever as they couldn't make a single dent, even with the powerful weapons that they had.

Those mithril rune engraved weapons snapped when they were used in an attempt to destroy the dark crystal.

So there was no other choice but to turn to me.

I hadn't been paying attention since I had been looking at the goblins that were gathered at the edge of the clearing. They were watching us play around with the dark crystal, as if they wanted to take this thing for themselves.

But the guards that were at the edge of the clearing were enough to scare the goblins away.

I didn't have any idea what this dark crystal was, but it was clear that there was something about it that attracted these monsters.

Since Scar and the others weren't able to do anything about it, I went over to the dark crystal to take a look at it.

Though in reality, it wasn't as if I knew anything about dealing with this thing.

I had no idea what this dark crystal even was since it had never really appeared in the game before other than in the lore texts, so I really didn't know what this thing really was.

But the moment that I went over, I found that there was an attraction from my finger.

I looked down at the ring on my finger and then looked at the dark crystal.

I had already guessed that I would need to use this ring to deal with these dark crystals before, but I didn't know if that guess was correct. Now that there was this attraction from the ring, it seemed like that guess was indeed correct.

Only...how was I supposed to use the ring?

After thinking for a bit, I waved my hand at Scar and the others to say, "Move out of the way for a bit."

Scar and the others looked at me with a confused look when they heard this, but they still moved out of the way in the end.

Though they didn't move that far since they wanted to stay close just in case anything happened. They wanted to remain at a distance where they would be able to help if something did happen.

Scar and the others still had worried looks, but they waited to see what happened in the end.

14:56

I walked up in front of the dark crystal and just raised my hand.

I didn't know what to expect from doing this, but I found that there was this dark energy that suddenly came out of the crystal.

When this happened, Scar and the others were about to move forward as if they were going to protect me, but I raised my hand to stop them.

I gave them a look as if everything was alright before turning back to look at the crystal that was turning less and less dark as the dark energy was being drained out of it.

Scar and the others still had worried looks, but they waited to see what happened in the end.

After draining all of the darkness out of the crystal, the attraction from the ring on my finger disappeared.

It seemed that whatever had been attracting the ring had disappeared from the crystal.

At the same time, the goblins that had been around us reacted.

After a moment of pause, the goblins all wandered off in different directions as if what had been attracting them before had disappeared without a trace.

It seemed that by draining the dark energy out of the crystal, it had stopped whatever was attracting the monsters...

That was easy...

It was too easy...

I couldn't help feeling worried because of it.

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854 Feels off

Seeing the goblins scatter, the ones that formed the blockade around this clearing turned back to look at us.

They didn't come over right away since there was still the chance that we would be attacked by the goblins, but they could tell that something had changed.

Scar and the others just looked at me with a strange look, but they didn't say anything as if they were waiting for me to say something.

It was just that I was lost in my thoughts about how easy this was...

So it was Scar that broke the silence first by coming forward to tap me on the shoulder before asking, "What's wrong? Are you alright?"

I was pulled out of my thoughts when I heard this.

I turned to look at him with that worried look on his face and to look at Cecilia who was with the others who also looked at me with a worried look. The only reason that she didn't come over like Scar did was because Scar was in charge of everyone, while she was just a soldier right now.

She couldn't just break order because of her personal feelings and put everyone in danger.

I shook my head and said, "There's nothing wrong."

Scar raised a brow when he heard this before turning to look at the crystal to say, "What do we do about this now?"

I looked at the crystal as well for a bit before saying, "Bring it back with us and see what we can learn from it. It's something that the demons were using to incite the monsters, so it should be worth studying."

Scar slightly knitted his brows when he heard this as he said, "Are you sure that it's safe?"

I hesitated for a few seconds, but I gave a nod in the end as I said, "I've already taken care of it. It should be safe now."

Scar once again raised a brow, but he didn't say anything as he picked up the crystal.

The crystal wasn't that big, so it was quite easy for him to pick up and put away.

Once we were done with the crystal, there was nothing left for us here.

It wasn't as if we wanted to stay in this place that was filled with monsters any longer, so we quickly left this place.

It was a very easy trip through the forest since most of the goblins had scattered to who knows where. The path that we had cleared before was still clear, so it was easy for us to return to the edge of the forest.

However, the work wasn't done with just that.

With my authority, it was easy to get the soldiers to do what I wanted, but I didn't want to cause a commotion by revealing that I was here.

So Scar was the one that did most of the work.

It wasn't a problem since he had the decree that had both mine and the prime minister's signature.

The soldiers moved closer to the forest and completely surrounded it, but the blockade that they formed wasn't one that was completely closed. There were gaps all along the blockade, as if they wanted to let things through.

That was because...that was what I wanted.

We had no idea just how many monsters were gathered in the forest, but I could guess that there wasn't a small amount based on what we had seen. At the same time, there was the chance that there were high level monsters that were also there.

Even if we had destroyed the source of what was causing those monsters to gather, it wasn't as if they would just disappear.

The monsters that had been gathered and spawned because of the dark crystal would eventually scatter.

If we just let them scatter without regulating it, then it would be chaos for the villages that were around the area. We couldn't just let them trickle into the villages and cause damage there.

So we had to contain the spread of the monsters as they left the forest.

That was the point of this blockade.

If there were a few goblins that came out of the forest, we would just let them pass.

A few goblins were not a problem for the villages since there were adventurers who would be able to deal with them. If there was a large group of goblins that came out of the forest, that was when we stepped in to take them down.

At the same time, if there were any higher ranked variants that came out, we also dealt with those...or at least that would have been the case if there were any higher ranked variants.

It was just goblins in the end.

Even after two days, there were only goblins that trickled out of the forest and the amount of goblins coming out was starting to decrease. It was as if there weren't any goblins that were left in the forest.

In the end, it wasn't as if we could stay here forever...so we had to leave this matter to the soldiers.

At the same time, I had Scar put up a request at the local adventurer's guild to see if they could find any higher ranked variants in the forest.

There was the possibility that they might have formed a base in the forest and weren't planning on leaving.

If we just let them be, it would be a danger to the people of the surrounding area.

So we had to turn to the adventurers to take care of this.

As I had Scar do all of this, he couldn't help asking, "Why are you being so cautious? It doesn't feel like there's a need to do all of this."

I didn't look at him, I just looked at the forest in front of us with knitted brows as I said, "It just feels like something is off..."

He looked at me with one raised brow, but he didn't say anything in the end.

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855 Who could have done this?

Since we had taken care of the dark crystal in this place, there was no reason for us to hang here any longer.

There were still other parts of the country that had increased monster activity after all.

These were all places that needed us to take care of, so there was no time to waste.

The sooner that we took care of those dark crystals, the sooner that this matter would be over.

Even if there were suspicious figures that were making their way through our kingdom on behalf of the demons, that was second to the matter of the dark crystals. Before the dark crystals were taken care of, there was nothing more important than them.

So I headed off with Scar and the others.

We had plenty of information since I was still in contact with the prime minister during all of this through the shadows. They had their own private method of contacting the prime minister in the capital even though we were this far away from the capital.

I was able to receive information in real time from the capital and immediately decide what was the best place to go.

With that information, the next stop was already set.

"Let's go." I said to Scar in a determined voice.

Scar nodded in agreement before getting the rest of the men to follow.

...

"What is this? Who could have done this?"

A voice rang out through the clearing in this forest.

This was a clearing that was in the center of the forest that had several holes dug in it.

Standing at the edge of the clearing were two cloaked figures that looked on at the clearing filled with holes with shocked looks on their faces. At the same time, they looked very confused since they had no idea what had happened here.

Before either of them could say anything else, there was a voice that said...

"What are you two doing here? This isn't your territory."

The two cloaked figures turned around to see two more cloaked figures walking into the clearing.

Seeing the two of them, the two cloaked figures that had been there looked at them with bitter looks on their faces as they pointed at the clearing behind them.

The two cloaked figures that had just arrived looked past the two of them to see what they were pointing at. The moment that they saw the situation in the clearing, they had shocked looks on their faces.

"What happened here?" The two of them asked at the same time.

The two who were standing there just had the same bitter looks on their faces as they didn't respond.

How were they supposed to respond?

They didn't know what was happening either, they just felt the flow of demonic energy changing and came to check this place. After a long moment of silence, there were two more cloaked figures that suddenly walked in.

Seeing the four that were already standing there, these two had surprised looks on their faces before asking, "What are you all doing here?"

They looked at the two who arrived first and asked, "This isn't your jurisdiction, you shouldn't be here."

The two who arrived first looked at these two and said, "The same to you."

The two who just arrived didn't say anything as they looked at the clearing and asked, "What happened here?"

There was no response that came after they asked this.

The same bitter looks appeared on the faces of the four that had been here before they arrived.

It seemed like no one seemed to understand what had happened.

So instead, the two who just arrived asked, "What about the artifact? Where is it?"

The four that had been there before suddenly realized this and went to look for the dark crystal that should have been in this place. They didn't really have to look for it since they already knew where it should have been.

They were the ones to bury it in this place in the first place.

When they arrived at the spot, they found that the dark crystal was gone as they had expected.

"Just where did it go?" The two who were in charge of this area started searching around the area for the dark crystal. The other four just remained where the dark crystal should have been as if they were checking something.

After a while, they stopped the two of them from searching and called them back to say, "Look carefully at the area."

The two who were in charge of this area were confused at first, but then they noticed what the four of them were talking about.

They realized that this place seemed to have been cleaned of the dark energy that should have been coming from the dark crystal. After all, even if the dark crystal disappeared, it wasn't as if the dark energy that came from it was that easy to clean up.

Even if the dark crystal had been removed, there should have been traces of the dark energy here.

However, there wasn't a single trace of that dark energy.

It was as if whatever had removed the dark crystal had completely drained the dark energy that should have been in this place.

But how could someone have done that?

The dark energy of that dark crystal was not something that most normal demons could deal with.

After a long moment of silence, they came to one conclusion...

Whatever had taken the dark crystal had found a way to purify the dark energy that came from the dark crystal.

"Is there anything that can do something like that?"

One of the cloaked figures asked, but none of the other cloaked figures responded.

After all, they didn't know the answer to that question.

This seemed like something that was impossible in their books, so they really didn't know what to say in response to this.

It was at the time that another two cloaked figures suddenly walked into the clearing.

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DXHaseoXD

856 The last one

When the two of them appeared, the same thing as before happened where they questioned what happened here.

They received the same answer as everyone else who came before them, which was no answer at all.

After all, there was nothing that they could say in response to this.

They didn't know anything about this in the first place.

"We can't just remain passive like this." One of the first two cloaked figures that showed up in the clearing suddenly said this.

The others all looked at this cloaked figure with strange looks, as if they were wondering what they were talking about.

Seeing everyone else looking at them, they said, "We have to gather and protect the artifacts. It's clear that there is someone targeting them, so we have to get ahead of them."

"Targeting them? Is there something that you're not telling us?"

That cloaked figure revealed a bitter look and looked at their partner as if they were hesitating to say something.

When the other cloaked figures saw this, it was as if they figured something out.

"Something already happened to your artifact?"

There was a moment of silence before that cloaked figure and their partner gave a slow nod.

Seeing this, the other cloaked figures didn't condemn them or say anything about this. Instead, they deeply knitted their brows as if they were thinking about this before one of them said...

"We need to gather everyone if we're going to do this. It isn't just our problem alone, this is everyone's problem at this rate..."

The other cloaked figures had heavy looks on their faces, but they eventually nodded in agreement. They knew that what this cloaked figure had said was correct, so they couldn't hesitate on this matter.

...

"This will be the last one." Scar suddenly said from beside me.

I had been looking out the window of the carriage as we traveled along the road.

When he said this, I turned to look at him and gave a casual nod as if I didn't really seem to care.

Scar raised a brow when he saw this, but he didn't say anything in the end.

This was one of the crystals that we had obtained after clearing out the area of increased monster activity.

It wasn't just Scar who had been looking at it, it was also Cecilia and Shaka who were in the carriage with us who had been examining the crystal as well.

There were broken weapons that were scattered on the floor of the carriage.

These were the results of them testing this crystal.

They had been trying to break it with different weapons, but they hadn't been able to do anything to it. It was as if this crystal just wouldn't break no matter what kind of weapons they used.

It wasn't as if the weapons that they used were bad weapons.

These were the special mithril rune engraved weapons that I had gotten for them.

There was only one thing that Cecilia hadn't tried yet and that was the dildo bat.

That was the line that I drew since I didn't want to actually break the crystal.

There was no doubt that this crystal wasn't a normal thing and there should be a use for it in the future, so it wasn't as if I wanted to destroy it.

While it wasn't certain that the dildo bat would be able to break it with its 50% penetration effect, I wasn't willing to take this risk. Not to mention...I was certain that Cecilia would ask for The Penetrator once she saw that the normal dildo bat didn't work.

This wasn't something that I could let her do, so I had to stop her

As such, there was nothing that they could do with this crystal and they were still looking carefully at it now.

Though they were looking at it carefully like this, it wasn't as if they could find anything wrong with it.

So it was just a futile effort looking at it like this.

Still, it made them feel better, which was why I didn't stop them.

After thinking for a bit, I raised my hand for the carriage to stop.

The other three in the carriage looked at me with a surprised look, but I didn't say anything as I moved to get out of the carriage. While I was doing this, I waved my hand at Scar for him to follow me.

The other two looked like they wanted to follow, but they understood that I only wanted Scar to come with me.

The other guards that were outside were surprised to see me stop all of a sudden and they also wanted to follow me and Scar, but I stopped them in the end.

Once Scar and I were aside, I said to him who had a confused look on his face, "This is the last one, we need to come up with a plan."

Scar looked even more confused when he heard this.

He looked at me in silence for a few seconds before asking, "What do you mean by that? Everything has been going smoothly, there's no need for us to do anything."

I shook my head in response.

It was true that everything had been going smoothly in taking care of the various dark crystals that were around the country, but this made me feel that something was off.

After all, it had been too easy that it didn't seem like it was right.

It felt like there was something building up behind the scenes, which was why I wanted to make preparations.

I could see Scar looking at me as if he thought that I was overthinking this.

This was the way that he looked at me whenever I said that this was too easy.

However, I didn't mind it as I said, "All you have to do is..."

I laid out my plan to him in detail.

When he was done listening, Scar gave a sigh as he said, "Alright, but this will turn out to be a waste of time."

I gave a nod without saying anything.

As long as we did this, I would at least feel much more relieved.

Whether something happened or not.

Completely forgot to post this.

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857 It paid off

The forest that we arrived in was called the Wynshall Woods.

This was a forest that was in the north of the kingdom, a place that was considered quite remote, which was why this was the final location that we came to.

This was the furthest place from our starting position in the capital after all, so this was the last place that we arrived in.

Before this, we had already cleared out most of the places that had increased monster activity and stuck around to make sure that the monsters didn't swarm the surrounding villages.

The funny thing was that each of these places was also in a forest.

It seemed that it was just natural for monsters to gather in a forest, or was it because the ones that planted these dark crystals just chose to put them in a forest?

Maybe there was something special about forests that helped monsters gather more easily?

Perhaps it was because of the cover that the trees gave them that made it easier for them to gather? Because it made them feel safe?

Regardless of what the reason was, it was a fact that all of the dark crystals had been placed in forests and that was where we got rid of them all.

I sucked out all of the dark energy from the dark crystals and then took them away.

Now we had a collection of ten different crystals that didn't seem like they would be able to do anything.

Though there was one special thing that all of these crystals had in common.

Hard...they were incredibly hard.

No matter what we tried to do with these crystals, we just weren't able to find a single way to damage them. We weren't even able to find a way to leave a mark on these crystals.

That was how hard they were.

We had no choice but to leave these crystals alone in hopes that we would be able to find another way to use them in the future.

As for this Wynshall Woods, the monsters that were here were a pack of orcs.

Orcs, the typical enemy one might think of when they think of a monster enemy in a RPG game.

Naturally they also existed in this world that was based on a game.

However, orcs weren't that simple in this game since the game that this world was based on was a H-game.

They were uglier and they had a certain something down there that stuck out quite a bit. It was something that would make some men cross their legs with looks of shame on their faces, but it didn't do that for me.

I even heard Cecilia say, "Is that really all that there is? He's bigger."

The people that I knew looked at me with strange looks when they heard what Cecilia said and I just pretended that I didn't notice them. Though it would be a lie to say that I wasn't a bit proud because of what she said.

It was easy for us to take down these orcs and make our way to the clearing in the center of this forest.

Then in no time at all, we were able to locate the dark crystal that was in this clearing.

It was just that when I was about to take care of this dark crystal...

"Swish!"

"Clink!"

When I turned around, I saw that Shaka was standing there behind me with a sword raised.

On the ground near me was an arrow that was sticking out of the ground.

As soon as this arrow was fired, everyone immediately pulled out their weapons.

It was as if they had already been expecting this.

That was because...we had been expecting this.

This was what I had Scar get ready since this was our last stop.

I knew that someone would be trying to stop us since they hadn't done anything the entire time, but I didn't know what would happen.

That was why there were only half of us that came into this clearing.

The rest of us were actually hiding in the surrounding area and had been waiting for something to happen.

The moment that Shaka blocked the arrow, there were sounds of weapons clashing that came from the trees around us. It seemed like whoever had fired the arrow at me was being attacked by the ones that we had left in the forest.

Though there was a part of me that wanted to complain.

Couldn't they have stopped whoever it was that fired that arrow from shooting it in the first place?

I just buried that complaint and gave a nod to Shaka before heading into the forest with them.

We followed the sounds that were slowly disappearing and soon found where they had been fighting.

However, it seemed that the fight was already over.

There were marks on the ground and arrows scattered all over, but the sounds had completely disappeared. In the center of this place, the elite guards had completely surrounded a group of cloaked figures. There were broken weapons that were scattered on the ground around these cloaked figures, but it seemed that most of them used bows as their main weapons.

As for the weapons that the elite guards used...there wasn't a single scratch on them.

These were dwarven made mithril weapons that had been engraved in runes, they weren't things that were that easy to destroy.

Though...the crystals had been able to destroy them.

That was just because the crystals were especially hard.

When Scar saw us come over, he made sure that the cloaked figures were all watched by two elite guards each so that they wouldn't be able to do anything. It was only then that he came over to me and gave a salute, as if showing the cloaked figures that I was in charge here.

Looking at the cloaked figures on the ground, I thought to myself, "It really paid off to be prepared. It seemed that I wasn't just being paranoid."

When someone from a place doesn't even know the history of that place...

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DXHaseoXD

858 Dark elves

Since we had caught them, it didn't make sense not to question them.

But before questioning them, there was something that had to be done first.

"Take off their hoods."

The elite guards nodded in agreement when they received this order and they went to take the hoods off these cloaked figures.

When their appearances were revealed, I couldn't help being a bit surprised.

I wasn't the only one that was surprised by their appearances, but it was clear that the others were more surprised than I was.

After all, they had never seen this kind of appearance before.

Sharp ears, that was the one defining feature that these cloaked people had, but that wasn't the only defining feature.

They also had dark skin that was completely different from the other race that had sharp ears like them.

Dark elves, these people were dark elves.

I had thought that they would be a bunch of demons that had snuck into our kingdom, but that didn't seem to be the case. It was no wonder there were a bunch of bows that were destroyed on the ground.

Dark elves used bows just like elves did.

It certainly was surprising seeing the dark elves since I never thought that the demons would actually send the dark elves to take care of their business. But if one thought about it carefully, sending the dark elves was the better choice.

After all, it was easier for dark elves to move through human society than it was for demons.

When cloaked, dark elves would at least seem like humans since they had figures that were like human figures.

Demons had much different features than humans, so it was hard for them to blend in even if they cloaked themselves. There were only a few demons that would seem similar enough to humans that they would be able to blend in with cloaks.

So dark elves were the better choice in this matter.

As for what the dark elves were...

Well, they were another race that existed in this world, but it was better to call them corrupted elves than dark elves.

In the beginning, these dark elves had been normal elves that lived the normal elven life.

But in the past, during the wars between the different races, these elves were captured by the demons. Or rather, it was the ancestors of these elves that were captured by the demons.

The demons had only wanted to see if they could experiment on these elves to find their weakness, but it turned out that they created an entirely different race in the end. That was because they experimented on the elves with demonic energy.

The dark elves were a race that came from elves corrupted by demonic energy.

No one expected the elves to absorb the demonic energy that was used on them and then turn into dark elves.

Because of this, the demons didn't know what to do with them...

There were a few dark elves that escaped and returned to their homeland with the other elves, but they found that they weren't welcome there. The dark elves that had escaped were seen as corrupted by the other elves, so they weren't welcome back in the elven homeland.

The elves were afraid of the demonic energy that the dark elves now possessed.

Since they were at war with the demons and hated things like the demons in the first place, it wasn't as if they would accept anything that was corrupted by the demons.

As such, there was no place for the dark elves to go.

In the end, the dark elves had no choice but to return to the demons.

The ones that didn't escape were used as slaves at first, but soon the demons found the uses of the dark elves.

The demon society was one where those with power would rise, so the dark elves created a place for themselves with their strength. They rose up from being considered slaves and were now considered a subrace of demons.

Or at least that was the backstory that they had in the game.

In reality, dark elves were just added because that was one of the tropes of the fantasy world and there was no way that an H-game wouldn't have dark elves in it.

There were scenes with the dark elves, but they were difficult to get since the dark elves worked with the demons that were considered the enemies of the main races.

Of course, I was a man who had gotten those scenes since I was someone who had completed everything there was to do in the game.

After a long silence, I asked the dark elves, "Why did you do this?"

It was the most basic question that I could have asked, but we did have to start somewhere.

At the very least, I wanted to see if I could get the dark elves to talk.

And as expected, they didn't say a single thing.

The dark elves did look at me with narrowed eyes as if they were judging me. They looked at me as if they recognized that I was the one that was in charge here, but there was no missing the trace of disdain that was in their eyes.

It seemed that they recognized that I wasn't that strong in the first place.

In fact, I was most likely the weakest person that was here.

In a society that was dominated by those that were strong like the demons, it wouldn't be strange that they would look down on me since I was weak.

Scar also noticed this, so he swung his sword down onto the ground and said, "Listen here, you only have two choices right now. You can either answer our questions, or you can be buried where you buried that dark crystal of yours."

The dark elves turned to look at him, but it didn't seem like there were any traces of fear in their eyes.

It almost seemed like they had accepted death.

I can't aim when I'm tired...

859 Drastic measures

It was either that Scar wasn't threatening enough or they had already prepared themselves for death when they came on this mission.

And it seemed like it was the latter.

After all, it wasn't as if Scar was that kind of a person.

The face that he had was definitely not one that could put children to sleep. It was more likely that children would burst out into tears if they saw the face that he had.

So he was definitely a person that could put pressure on whoever he said this to.

The fact that they weren't afraid must mean that they had already prepared for death.

But were the dark elves that loyal?

No, I knew for a fact that the dark elves were not that loyal and they were nothing more than hired mercenaries for the demons. They only cared about their own race after being cast away by the elves, so it wasn't as if they cared about the demons.

If it wasn't for the fact that the demon's territory was the only place that they could live after being corrupted by the demonic energy, they wouldn't have even interacted with the demons at all.

So there was no way that the elves would be so loyal that they would give up their lives just to remain silent.

That meant that there had to be another reason...

Seeing that they didn't respond, Scar had one of the elite guards bring one of the dark elves over.

He had the elite guard push the dark elf onto his knees and then he brought his sword up to the neck of the dark elf. He held this sword over the neck of the dark elf, as if he was about to decapitate him.

Then looking at the rest of the dark elves, Scar said, "If you don't talk, we'll start executing you one by one."

Once again, none of the dark elves said a thing.

Even the dark elf who had a sword at his neck didn't say a single thing.

He just looked down with a firm and calm look as if he had already accepted his death.

Scar deeply knitted his brows when he saw this.

He was someone who had worked in this kind of business for a long time, so it could be said that he was someone with experience and a good eye for people. He knew what kind of things would break a person easily and what kind people wouldn't break.

These elves were the kind of people that wouldn't break.

It was clear that there was something that they held faith in that allowed them to keep their silence. He had no idea what that thing was, but he knew that it was strong enough that he couldn't break them no matter what kind of torture he used.

But it was too late for him to back down now or else he would lose all authority that he had over these dark elves. So the only thing that he could do now was go through with the threat that he made.

The sword started moving down on the neck of the dark elf and there was red that could be seen.

The dark elf finally showed a trace of emotion on his face when he felt this, but there was only a slight wince of pain that resulted from the sword cutting into his neck. Other than that, it didn't seem like there was any other reaction from the dark elf.

"Stop."

Before Scar could finish cutting the dark elf's head off, I suddenly spoke.

He looked at me with a surprised look, but there was what seemed to be a trace of relief in his eyes that appeared as well.

As if he was glad that I had stopped him from killing the dark elf.

However, it wasn't as if I had stopped him from killing the dark elf because I noticed the bind that he was in. Rather, I stopped him because I knew that it was pointless, so there was something else that I wanted to try.

In the game, there was a system where one could capture enemies, but the system for torturing the enemies was different from what we were doing now...

Because the game was a H-game, there was a specific way to torture enemies to get information from them.

It was the kind of torture that might seem inhumane, but it was very effective.

If this world was based on the game world, then this method would have the same efficacy. The only problem was how everyone would look at me when it was all over.

Or rather, the one that I was the most worried about was Cecilia.

Once I stopped Scar, I gave a nod to him as if telling him to follow me before turning around to walk away.

The elite guards looked at me with confused looks, but they didn't move from their position of watching over the guards.

The only other one that came over was Cecilia because I had also given her a look.

Once we had moved to the side, I looked at Scar and said, "I want to use some drastic measures."

Scar and Cecilia were surprised to hear this since this was the last thing that they expected me to say.

They had been expecting me to say that we should find another way or we should use the crystals to force them to speak, but they never expected me to mention drastic measures.

Even if they didn't know what these 'drastic measures' were, they could see from the look on my face that they wouldn't be normal.

After a long silence, Scar said with a sigh, "You don't really have to tell us anything, you can just do what you want."

I didn't say anything as I kept looking at Cecilia.

Scar had a bitter smile on his face when he saw this, but he didn't say anything as he waited to see what Cecilia would say.

Cecilia was surprised to see me looking at her like this.

She couldn't even imagine what these drastic measures were that I would look at her like this, but in the end...

She just gave a simple nod.

I gave a nod as well before turning back to face the dark elves.

Wizards are really useless at level 1...

860 A couple

When we came back, the way that we walked over was completely different from before.

This time, I was clearly the one that was in charge and Scar and Cecilia were just following behind me.

It wasn't just the dark elves that were surprised to see this, even the elite guards were surprised since they didn't think that I would take charge in this matter.

In their minds, I was more of a person that plotted from behind rather than someone that took action.

That didn't mean that they looked down on Zwein because they knew all of the things that he had accomplished. They knew that he wasn't someone who was simply a person that plotted behind people's backs.

So they were confused that he was actually taking charge now.

As for the dark elves, they quickly hid their surprised looks and revealed the same neutral looks as before.

They were acting as if there was nothing that could move them.

However, I didn't care at all as I walked over to where the dark elves were.

I looked at the dark elf that was still bleeding and then took out some bandages from my Storage Ring. After taking out the bandages, I moved over to where the dark elf was and started helping him dress that wound.

It wasn't that bad since Scar had been holding back, but it looked quite bad with all of the blood that came out.

The dark elf looked at me with a strange look when I did this.

I could tell from the way that he looked at me that if he could move, there was no doubt that he would have tried to grab my neck or restrained me in some other way. It was just too bad for him that the elite guards beside him had a firm grasp on him so that he couldn't move.

I didn't say a single thing even when seeing the way that the dark elf looked at me. I just calmly kept dressing the wound of the dark elf, as if I didn't even see him staring at me like this.

When I was done, I looked at the dark elf with a smile and patted him on the shoulder before getting up.

The other dark elves also looked at me with strange looks when they saw me looking at them with a smile on my face. However, it was clear by the way that they were looking at me that they wouldn't be fooled by anything that I did.

It was as if they didn't care what I did for them.

I didn't care about that as I said to them with a smile on my face, "As you can see, as long as you're willing to cooperate, we can get along. I don't really want to hurt you, I just want a bit of information from you."

The dark elves didn't show any reactions when they heard this.

There were even traces of disdain that they didn't mean to show, which was just how much they looked down on me at this moment.

But I didn't care about any of that as I looked at them with the same smile on my face.

After a moment of silence, I gave a nod to the elite guards beside me and said, "Take him back with the others."

They raised a brow to look at me, but they still followed my orders and brought this dark elf back.

Even then, none of them reacted as if this didn't mean anything to them.

Once again, I didn't care at all.

I didn't even spare a glance for the dark elf that I had patched up as I looked at the other dark elves who all had blank looks on their faces.

I didn't care about them as my eyes swept over them.

I didn't mind that they were looking at me like this.

12:57

I even revealed a smile when I saw them looking at me like this.

My eyes only stopped when they came to a pair of dark elves that were sitting there.

The two dark elves seemed to sense the gaze that I was casting on them and they looked right back at me. It didn't seem like they had any expressions on their faces, but I could see that there was this tenseness that was on their faces.

After all, the two of them had no idea why I was looking at them like this.

After staring at them for a bit, I said, "Now, I'll have to show you what happens if you cross my bad side."

With a snap of my finger, I said, "Bring these two forward."

The elite guards were confused as well as to why I cared this much about these two dark elves, but they still brought them forward when I gave this order.

They brought the two dark elves so that they were in front of me, then they forced the two of them onto their knees so that they were kneeling in front of me.

I didn't say anything as the elite guards did this as I just kept looking at the two of them.

After a bit of silence, I said, "The two of you are a couple, right?"

Both of them looked up at me and when the elite guards were about to stop them, I raised a hand to stop the elite guards. I wanted these two to look at me.

I could see that they were looking at me with a confused look as if they didn't understand why I was asking this.

I didn't mind that they were looking at me like this.

I even revealed a smile when I saw them looking at me like this.

I had been observing the dark elves the entire time that Scar had been intimidating them, so I had seen a few things between them.

One specific thing that I noticed was the relationship between these two elves.

They were closer to each other than to the others, showing that they weren't just closer physically, but also mentally.

It was clear that they were a couple.

But they are useful once they get a few levels.