

The Witch 731

Chapter 731: Waking of the Progenitors (2)

"Unfortunately, no," the Second Progenitor calmly answered as he passed a jar of blood to the Third Progenitor to quench his thirst. Then, he said, "We were given a chance to redeem our past mistakes."

"Funnily enough, it is also an opportunity for us to feast to our heart's content. However, there's one major obstacle standing between us and this opportunity," the Second Progenitor added.

"Oh?" the Third Progenitor showed interest after delightfully finishing his jar of blood. Then, he demanded, "Tell me more about this opportunity and obstacle, Old Second."

"Later, Old Third. I'll explain when we gather our numbers. Let's go. We still have others to wake up," the Second Progenitor asserted.

"It's not just us?" the Third Progenitor was surprised by the Second Progenitor's words before narrowing his eyes. "The Blood Ancestor allowed this?"

"Not directly, no. However, I am doing what I can to carry out the Blood Ancestor's task. So, he can't fault me for this. More importantly, he is too busy recuperating from his battle with Great Devil Hecate. Thus, he won't be hearing about this until later. Kekeke," the Second Progenitor chuckled nonchalantly.

"The Blood Ancestor is injured from his battle with the Great Devil Hecate? Is this not a golden opportunity to usurp his tyrannical rule and carve out an era for ourselves?" the Third Progenitor uttered with a sharp look.

"Banish the thought from your mind at once, Old Third," the Second Progenitor strictly demanded.

"You are still muddle-headed from your forced sleep and still don't know many things. I don't want to shatter your ambition, but we have been asleep for 700,000 years. Even if the Blood Ancestor is wounded, he is still a Vampire Lord at the tenth stage of the Divine Blood Realm."

"Moreover, that is just his cultivation level. You must understand that 700,000 years is a very long time. We have no idea the height of his law comprehension nor the number of trump cards he has accumulated over this long period."

"However, I can confidently say that if the Blood Ancestor wanted to kill us, it would be far too easy for him," the Second Progenitor solemnly stated.

After the Third Progenitor listened, his head immediately cooled down like he had been splashed with a bucket of cold water.

It was naïve of him to think they stood a chance against the Blood Ancestor after just waking up.

"700,000 years, huh? What a ridiculously long time. Hmph, the Blood Ancestor would have continued letting us sleep forever if he didn't need our power," the Third Progenitor coldly snorted.

His gaze was filled with resentment and hatred.

Nevertheless, after they left, the two Vampire Lords subsequently visited the Cromwell family, Diablo family, Drusilla family, Kyran family, Luther family, Orpheus family, Sanguine family, Tepes family, Vuron family, and Vlad family.

The Fourth Progenitor to the Thirteenth Progenitor all woke up with the same simple method of receiving a drop of divine blood.

Demetrius Diablo the Fifth, Yvonne Drusilla the Sixth, Celeste Kyran the Seventh, Edwin Luther the Eighth, Rosalie Orpheus the Ninth, Aleister Sanguine the Tenth, and Gilbert the Twelfth were all in the second stage of the Divine Blood Realm.

Meanwhile, Donovan Cromwell the Fourth and Hestia Tepes the Eleventh were in the third stage of the Divine Blood Realm.

Lastly, only Marianne Vlad the Thirteenth was in the fourth stage of the Divine Blood Realm. She was the youngest and strongest vampire in the group of revived Vampire Lords.

"Old friends, after 700,000 years of slumber, we have finally reunited with the world of living. Today is a joyous occasion," Caedmon Bathory, the Third Progenitor, announced, seeming happy with their reunion.

However, his expression remained emotionless and cold.

Although the rest of the Vampire Lords were also happy to wake up, they didn't show the slightest hint of emotion either.

It was like a gathering of corpses.

In fact, it wasn't far from the truth. The Vampire Lords had only just awoken from their long slumber. They still needed time and blood energy to restore their bodily functions fully.

"Great, we are all awake. Can I leave now?" Demetrius Diablo, the Fifth Progenitor, asked impatiently with a hoarse throat.

"Not yet," the Second Progenitor asserted, taking a step forward to give the gathered Vampire Lords a hard look. "Since we have finished gathering, I need to explain the reason for your waking."

Shortly after, the Second Progenitor recounted everything he had learned since his own waking. He also warned them of the Blood Ancestor's strength and told them to banish any wild ambitions they had.

"If you don't want to be put back into forced sleep, you better help me complete the task given by the Blood Ancestor," the Second Progenitor firmly said with a hint of threat.

He did not wake up the Vampire Lords for their benefit. He did it for himself. Thus, he would not tolerate them causing trouble for him.

Nevertheless, there was still dissatisfaction among the revived Vampire Lords.

"Hmph! I would rather go back to sleep than help that Old Bastard!" Rosalie Orpheus coldly snorted before resentfully spouting, "What kind of concept is 700,000 years? Just because we were feeling a little thirsty, we were damned to such a long sleep?"

"I will never forgive that Old Bastard! Forget about helping; I can't wait to kill him!" Rosalie Orpheus stated venomously.

"Even if we all feel the same, the reality is that none of us is strong enough to resist the Blood Ancestor as we are now. So, it's better to listen to the Blood Ancestor for now," the Second Progenitor sighed.

"More importantly, if we complete his task, we aren't just helping the Blood Ancestor. We are also helping ourselves. From what I've heard, some exceedingly high-quality blood exists in the Human World."

"So, if we can conquer the Human World, the high-quality blood will belong to us. Don't you want to satisfy your thirst?" the Second Progenitor asked.

The Ninth Progenitor fell silent, and no one spoke up either. They all acknowledged his point. It was never too late to take revenge.

The prerequisite was that they had to obtain the strength to carry it out first.

"Since there is no more opposition, I will give everyone a full day—go home, clean your houses, and recover as much strength as possible. Then, tomorrow, we feast on the Human World."

When the Second Progenitor said that, many pairs of crimson eyes sparkled.

Only a few sunk into deep thoughts.

Chapter 732: Thoughts & Choices

Unlike other vampires, Vampire Lords did not need to consume blood to survive. All vampiric beings in the Divine Blood Realm were capable of self-sustaining through the blood energy derived from their divine blood.

Their divine blood was like nuclear furnaces or the sun, capable of producing vast amounts of energy for a long time. However, this was also under the assumption that they didn't lose or deplete it for various reasons.

Otherwise, they would still need to consume blood or other sources of energy to replenish their divine blood.

In particular, blood was a delicacy to them as it could improve their divine blood.

Thus, even though Vampire Lords didn't need blood to survive, most of them still had bottomless desires to consume blood. After all, it could improve their power and satisfy their tastebuds.

Nevertheless, consuming blood was just one of many ways for the Vampire Lords to improve their power. Moreover, it was the simplest yet crudest way to do so.

Blood cultivation was all about the transformation of blood.

Consuming the blood of other races could speed up the transformation of a vampire's blood. However, it would also introduce impurities into their blood system, affecting their power and control of blood.

The medicinal power of magical plants and natural refinement were the main methods of maintaining blood purity.

Although every Vampire Lord knew that, most of them still preferred to consume the blood of other living beings in large quantities as it was simple and guaranteed swift power advancement.

However, it was also this self-destructive greed that caused them to be put into forced sleep in the past.

That said, there were a few exceptions among the Vampire Lords who got caught up in the same situation by association despite walking the pure paths.

As such, they were also the ones who hated the Blood Ancestor the most.

The Blood Ancestor didn't put them all into forced sleep to protect the sustainability of the livestock. He schemed against them to monopolize the blood and reign supreme in the Evernight Territory.

"Regardless of how you all feel, I stress these words for the last time – Do not oppose the Blood Ancestor; we are not his opponent. I don't care how you deal with your family when you go home. However, the livestock in the city is off limits," the Second Progenitor reminded.

He trusted the Vampire Lords to value their newfound freedom as much as he did. As such, he didn't try to put too much restriction on them.

It would only displease them and affect his plan of using them to deal with the Demigod-rank human.

Shortly after the Vampire Lords departed, they all went their separate ways.

Some immediately returned to their ancestral home to see their current state, while others checked out the city.

At the same time, those who went to check out the city immediately understood why the Second Progenitor emphasized the words 'do not touch the livestock.' The population of the livestock had grown countless folds compared to the past.

In the past, there were only around several thousand people per city. But now, they numbered in the millions. Furthermore, the city was many times larger.

Although half the city had been destroyed, the Vampire Lord could see how developed it was compared to the past.

Demetrius Diablo the Fifth felt his mouth watering with drool as he stared at the large crowd of busy people on the street. Not only did they wear nice clothes, they were clean, and their body was healthy.

Undoubtedly, their blood was of high quality.

"How do you expect me to resist the temptation when so many delicious lambs are in front of me?" Demetrius Diablo the Fifth muttered hoarsely before suddenly pausing. "Hm?"

Demetrius was immediately dumbfounded to see the city people happily exchanging flasks of blood for goods. There were even those who allowed their blood to be extracted with sophisticated tools if they didn't carry blood bottles.

Seeing blood as currency instead of copper, silver, and gold coins was unbelievable. Moreover, the livestock accepted it as the norm.

It was quite different from the past, where the livestock lived in fear of the vampires.

Demetrius and several other Vampire Lords quickly realized how short-sighted they had been in the past.

"This is incredible..." Edwin Luther the Eighth muttered.

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In another location, Yvonne Drusilla the Sixth, Hestia Tepes the Eleventh, and Marianne Vlad the Thirteenth gathered—or rather, Yvonne and Hestia looked for Marianne privately.

"Old Thirteenth, what did you think of Old Second's words?" Yvonne sought the Thirteenth Progenitor's opinion.

Out of the thirteen Vampire Lords, they respected Marianne Vlad the most.

After all, Marianne Vlad was someone who strictly pursued the pure path. She had never consumed the blood of another living being. Despite that, she was still the strongest within their group.

Although they wanted to be like her, Yvonne and Hestia didn't have the same self-discipline. They tried to follow the pure path but belonged to the impure path as they would give in to their blood-craving occasionally,

If Vaan learned of their aspiring lifestyle, he would have compared their abstinence to men's idea of No-Nut-November from one of his past lives.

"Old Second's words can't be trusted," Marianne Vlad directly stated with a sharp look. "If conquering the Human World was that simple, he would have monopolized it with the Blood Ancestor. It wouldn't be our turn."

"He is just trying to borrow our hands to deal with the obstacles impeding their conquest," Marianne Vlad figured.

"I also thought as much," Hestia Tepes nodded.

After listening to the Thirteenth Progenitor's opinion, she was more confident in her thinking. It was just as she suspected.

Since there were dangers in the Human World, it was impossible for them to spearhead it for the Second Progenitor. They wouldn't allow themselves to be exploited by him.

"Since that is the case, what will you do, Old Thirteenth?" Yvonne asked.

Marianne Vlad silently gazed into the northern distance for a moment before firmly stating, "I will find refuge in Hecate's domain."

"Oh?"

The Sixth Progenitor and Eleventh Progenitor were surprised. However, Marianne's choice also made the most sense upon further thought.

Chapter 733: Thoughts & Choices (2)

Since they didn't intend to risk their lives getting exploited by the Second Progenitor and they didn't want to follow the Blood Ancestor, they didn't have a place in the Evernight Territory.

At the same time, they were too weak to resist the Blood Ancestor. Thus, the only answer was to take refuge in the territory of a Great Devil with power that could rival the Blood Ancestor.

The Sixth Progenitor and Eleventh Progenitor immediately knew what they had to do. They intended to follow the Thirteenth Progenitor to Hecate's territory.

It was a good thing that they had sought out the Thirteenth Progenitor.

"I want to follow you, Old Thirteenth."

"Same here. Take me with you."

After hearing the two female Vampire Lords wanted to accompany her, Marianne immediately felt relieved.

It would have been troublesome if they had revealed her plans to the Second Progenitor and prevented her from leaving the Evernight Territory. However, she was glad to have trusted them.

"That's great. You both know what we need to do. Finish whatever businesses you have within six hours. Then, meet me back here, and we will leave together before the others catch wind of our plans," Marianne instructed.

The Sixth Progenitor and Eleventh Progenitor solemnly nodded.

Shortly after, the trio separated, each leaving in a different direction with the same purpose – to return to their ancestral home.

The biggest factor that allowed the Blood Ancestor to put all twelve Vampire Lords into forced sleep was the betrayal of their direct descendants.

If not for the Blood Ancestor winning their direct descendants over with flowery words and appealing promises, they would not have easily fallen into his hands. After all, at that time, the Blood Ancestor was only in the fourth stage of the Divine Blood Realm, like the Thirteenth Progenitor.

The Blood Ancestor could only rely on underhanded means to simultaneously deal with all the Vampire Lords. He, alone, wouldn't have been a match for all of them otherwise.

As the Thirteenth Progenitor followed her blood connection to her direct descendants, she had already decided to kill them all.

Although Vampires had nearly identical anatomy to humans, they did not procreate in the same way. They did not need to use their reproduction organs to produce offspring; they only needed to share their divine blood with another living being to make them their direct kin.

After all, blood connection was the most important factor; those who did not share their blood were not considered one of their own because they could not be controlled.

Under normal circumstances, it shouldn't have been possible for Vampire Lords to get betrayed by their direct descendants. The thought of betrayal would have never entered their minds, let alone allowed them to act on it.

However, the Blood Ancestor made the impossible possible.

'The Blood Ancestor must have secretly shared his divine blood with my descendants without their knowledge, allowing him to wrestle half of my control over them and granting them free will,' the Thirteenth Progenitor thought.

It was the only method she could think of that would allow her descendants to betray her.

Since the Thirteenth Progenitor could think of that, the other Vampire Lords could also. That was why the Second Progenitor allowed them to go home and do some housecleaning.

However, as the Thirteenth Progenitor drew closer to her home, her blood connections with her direct descendants grew stronger. It allowed her to sense more things.

She sensed that her current direct descendants were far from 700,000 years old. In fact, they were all under 50,000 years of age. In other words, they weren't the same Royal Vampires who betrayed her back then.

Most likely, they had all perished after the Blood Ancestor finished using them. However, he allowed her bloodline to continue in other beings he had chosen.

After realizing that, the Thirteenth Progenitor's killing intent didn't lessen in the slightest.

Her divine blood had been passed on to children she did not acknowledge and accept. Furthermore, they also shared the Blood Ancestor's divine blood, making them parents of the same children.

The Thirteenth Progenitor was absolutely repulsed by the idea of sharing the same children as the Blood Ancestor.

As such, she had to wipe clean the impure bloodline and retrieve her divine blood. That would also allow her to recover and enhance her strength in the shortest time possible.

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Meanwhile, Melchior Albatroz led the second army into the crimson light domain on Gehenna's end with an ugly expression. He didn't expect the Blood Ancestor to wake up this old progenitor of his.

However, since it already happened, it also implied he would have to live under constant fear, not knowing when the Second Progenitor would kill him.

He could only hope the Second Progenitor wouldn't do something so foolish that would displease the Blood Ancestor.

'Dammit! I've just ascended to the Divine Blood Realm. Yet, before I could enjoy the glory of being a Divine Being, I have to live under the shadows of another!' Melchior silently cursed.

From within the crimson light domain, Melchior glanced at the situation outside on Pangea's end, and his expression immediately darkened.

The second army wouldn't be able to advance with the black tornado of flying creatures in the way. Moreover, he didn't dare to challenge it either. Melchior could tell who was controlling it from within.

'Dammit! Am I going to be barred from entry before sending the second army to the other side as well?!' Melchior cursed.

'Why must I risk my life against such an abnormal opponent? No, why is this Demigod-rank human so fricken strong? Why can't he be an inferior livestock like other humans? Why must he get in my way?'

"Why is nothing going the way I want?!" Melchior gritted his teeth indignantly.

"Lord Melchior, the path ahead is blocked by a powerful bat formation. What should we do?" a Pureblood Vampire inquired.

"What else is there to do? Since the bats are working against us, they deserve to die! Kill them all and clear a path!" Melchior barked with a ruthless glint, adding, "Even if we have to wipe out the entire bat race, we must complete our mission!"

"U-Understood!"

The Pureblood Vampire was appalled by the decision, but he still complied with complete obedience. His gaze quickly turned cold and fierce.

"The bats have turned against us for the humans! Do not hesitate to slay them all! Death to the traitorous bats!"

"Kill—!!!"

Chapter 734: Understanding

Shortly after the kill order was given, the second vampire army immediately assaulted the black tornado of flying creatures with blood and shadow spells.

However, the powerful wind wall easily deflected everything the Halflings and True Vampires sent. As for Pseudo Vampires, they were such inferior beings that they did not have any abilities.

They could only ram into the wind wall with their bare bodies and get torn to shreds. Their corrupted blood and rotting flesh scattered everywhere.

Only the spells of the higher-ranking Pureblood Vampires managed to breach the wind wall. Even so, the opening only lasted a moment before it was sealed as the wind wall restored itself.

The bats weren't strong, but they were surprisingly swift. Furthermore, despite being creatures of darkness, they had high affinities with sound and wind.

As such, when they flew in such a coordinated, large-scale movement with great momentum, the generated wind currents allowed them to fly even faster! The flying formation became so powerful that it was self-destructive!

The bats and other flying creatures couldn't stop it. If they fell out of the formation, their own wind wall would tear them to shreds.

But at the same time, as the exhaustion of extended high-intensity flight seeped in, dozens of weaker bats started breaking formation and dying in the violent winds.

However, as the second vampire army launched its attacks on the flying formation in great numbers, the wind wall's power diminished bit by bit.

Seeing their attacks deliver little results, the Pureblood Vampires collectively concentrated their firepower to punch a big hole through the wind wall.

Without any surprise, the concentrated firepower of several dozen Pureblood Vampires blew open a large opening in the wind wall, almost throwing the entire flying formation out of coordination.

At the same time, hundreds of Pseudo Vampires blindly poured inside—only to be ripped to shreds by the second, third, and fourth layers of chaotic winds.

Their corrupted blood and rotting flesh scattered inside the violent wind current and splattered countless flying creatures. Although the black bats had some resistance, the same couldn't be said for the others.

Whether they were crows, falcons, eagles, or even wyverns, they all started falling sick after their bodies were contaminated and the corruption invaded their systems through their orifices.

Swoosh!

An ill wyvern fell out of the formation, but it wasn't torn to bits due to its sturdy, scaled body. Instead, it was thrown by powerful wind currents and crashed into the second vampire army.

Dozens of Pseudo Vampires were easily crushed to death before hundreds, thousands more flooded the area, drowning the wyvern in their numbers. Within mere moments, the ill wyvern was reduced to a dry carcass devoid of blood and with little flesh and scales left intact.

Vaan foresaw what would happen to the flying creatures in the formation if he continued using them to resist the fierce assault from the second vampire army—they would eventually be wiped out.

Although conserving his energy for the big fights was good, sending all the flying creatures to their deaths was also bad.

It was not good karma.

Furthermore, it was hard to say if his Boundless Sea and Sky Aura would be affected if he caused the death of so many sky creatures.

The Boundless Sea and Sky Aura had incredibly untapped potential. It would be a big loss if he crippled his new power before he could properly explore all of its potential.

Vaan concentrated his Boundless Sea and Sky Aura into a tiny wisp and sent it spiraling into the upper sky, guiding the flying creatures out of the flying formation as they chased after it.

Shortly after the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura vanished, the flying creatures appeared confused and at a loss for what to do. But moments later, they dispersed in all directions, trying to get away from each other.

The surviving wyverns returned to their clan members while the crows, falcons, and eagles flew back to their nests. They did not try to hunt each other. It was as if they had a tacit understanding and acknowledgment as they remembered flying together in the formation.

As for the bats, they lingered for a while longer, silently gazing in Vaan's direction. Afterward, they surprisingly flew back to Gehenna instead of continuing their human hunt.

Vaan's eyes flickered thoughtfully.

The Boundless Sea and Sky Aura had the power to control all sea and sky life forms. However, he discovered that it could also be used to cultivate the intelligence of sea and sky life forms.

'Interesting...' Vaan thought.

As he floated in the sky, his gaze soon landed on Melchior's figure hiding in the rear of the second vampire army inside the crimson light domain.

He could see the person had become a Divine Being despite being a Half-step Divine Being when they met previously. He also sensed Fergus's aura on the person's body.

After piecing the clues together, Vaan vaguely understood the situation – The vampires' power could be inherited.

However, such inheritance was probably unique to the vampires.

More importantly, Vaan was interested in Melchior's fearful yet unwilling expression. He could tell the person didn't want to face him, but he was forced to command the second vampire army.

The second vampire army numbered over a hundred thousand.

Although Pseudo Vampires comprised most of the number, there were at least two thousand Pureblood Vampires, a hundred of which were all Transcendent-level beings.

Vaan's powerful sense extended beyond the crimson light domain and seeped into Gehenna as he pried the situation. He could see the vampires had far more than just the first two armies.

However, he didn't understand why they divided their forces to invade the imperial capital like this. Under Great Devil Abaddon's lead, their full force would easily steamroll the Great Ratholos Empire.

Despite such a clear advantage in number and strength, they chose to drag out the war, which would greatly increase their casualties.

Furthermore, Great Devil Abaddon had yet to make an appearance.

Evidently, something big must have happened to Great Devil Abaddon that caused him to delay his descent despite scheming to do so for hundreds of years.

Although Vaan didn't know the exact details, he had a good guess.

Several points didn't make sense, leading to Gehenna's descent if it only involved a single Great Devil. That said, he wanted to avoid drawing conclusions until more was known.

In any case, Great Devil Abaddon's delayed descent was a good thing for Pangea. He could use this information to his advantage.

'I'll let you live for now,' Vaan amusingly conveyed his intent to Melchior in the distance with a glance before retreating from the area.

At the same time, the other side seemed to have received his intent and trembled.

Chapter 735: Piaro's Vulgarly

'What the hell was that? Was that damn human taunting me?' Melchior thought as he clenched his fist venomously.

He already hated his situation plenty enough. He did not need to be humiliated by being looked down on by the human as well.

"Advance!" Melchior barked.

Following Melchior's order, the commanding Pureblood Vampires led the lower-rank vampires beneath.

"The bat formation is no more! Everyone, forward! We will join up with the first army and advance together!" a Pureblood Vampire voiced, his crimson eyes glimmering with intensity.

Invisible strands of mental power spread out and seeped into the minds of the lower-rank vampires, prompting them to obey him.

The Pseudo-Vampires and Halflings in the vanguard immediately issued shrill cries and hisses before charging ahead.

However, Red Wyvern Ancestor suddenly descended from the sky with a heavy drop, splitting the ground apart and blocking their advancement.

"Who will be my opponent?!" the Red Wyvern Ancestor roared, full of vigor and fighting spirit. He swept his gaze through the ranks of vampires in the second army as he searched for a worthy foe.

He had already been through a few tough fights, but they were enough to satisfy him. His Demigod-rank self craved more battles.

Only worthy opponents could help him acclimate his new realm of power faster.

However, the Red Wyvern Ancestor's intimidating Demigod-rank presence forced the Halflings, True Vampires, and Pureblood Vampires to halt their steps.

Only the unintelligent Pseudo-Vampires continued to charge mindlessly without understanding the vast gap in their abilities.

Swoosh!

With a single disdainful swipe, the Red Wyvern Ancestor slaughtered hundreds of Pseudo-Vampires in an instant. Bits of rotting flesh and corrupted blood flew everywhere.

The Red Wyvern Ancestor also caught some on his claws, causing him to frown.

He intended to study the contaminating stain, but his attention was quickly stolen by a super excited red dragon landing some distance away with a resounding boom.

"Awoo!! The last vampire group is no fun! I hope this new group puts up a better fight for this Daddy! Come! Entertain this Daddy! Awoo!!" Piaro howled excitedly in the human tongue, using a few unfamiliar terms he had picked up from human warriors.

'Is that a... dog or a dragon...?' the Red Wyvern Ancestor wondered.

He was completely dumbfounded as he stared at Piaro with shock and disbelief. His respectful image of true dragons was shattered by this abnormal thing.

Unfortunately, the Red Wyvern Ancestor had yet to witness the worst of Piaro's vulgar words as the latter soon dived into the second vampire army alone.

"Awoo!! Fight me, blood-suckers! If you can't beat this Daddy, don't think about going any further!"

"Hm? What kind of sissy move are you trying to pull? Are you trying to tickle this Daddy?"

"What! You call that punch?! Did you forget to eat? Do you even lift? Even my great-grandmother hits harder than you!"

"Fuck! Trying to bite me?! Scram for this Daddy! This Daddy has no time to waste on you little sucky-suckies!"

"Awoo!! Is there no worthy opponent for this Daddy?! Ptui! Ptui! Not a single true warrior among you! You should all go home and practice for beauty contests instead!

Your faces are whiter than my butt cheeks!"

Piaro's insulting provocation continued sounding with great volume amid the Pseudo-Vampires, Halflings, and True Vampires who surrounded him.

Each line was earth-shaking and rang like thunder in the Red Wyvern Ancestor's ears.

The fragments of the dragon image he tried to piece together were further shattered into many more fragments, ground into powder, and then obliterated into oblivion.

'Ah... this is a sin. The Venerable Dragon has been corrupted by humans,' the Red Wyvern Ancestor sadly lamented.

Nevertheless, regardless of whether Piaro's insults and provocations made sense, no one could deny their effectiveness. With several lines, he attracted the hostility of the entire army.

Every vampire was livid with endless fury. Their outrage could be heard throughout the crimson light domain.

They had never heard such humiliating insults in their lives.

It was as if they had listened to the cursed texts of the most heretical and unholy god – It was so grating that their ears bled, and they coughed up blood from anger.

"Argh!!! I can't take it anymore! Kill him! Kill that bastard dragon right now!" a Pureblood Vampire thundered furiously.

"Which accursed hole did this wild dog-dragon crawl out from?! Who does he think he is?! How dare he compare my elegant and beautiful face to... that!"

"Silence that unholy creature at once! This abomination is too dangerous to be left alive! Don't let its unholiness smear the dignity and pride of vampires any longer!"

Rumble...!

The ground trembled as several ten thousand vampires swarmed at Piaro with fire in their eyes.

"Bahahaha! Finally showing some energy and spirit, you half-dead wankers! How marvelous! How exciting! Come! This Daddy will take you all on!" Piaro roared in anticipation.

In the sky, Pakgu and Sephira observed the situation. They had arrived for some time but chose to wait for Piaro to finish his show.

However, seeing Piaro being swarmed by the vampire army, Sephira wanted to fly to his aid.

"Wait! Let him cook," Pakgu stopped her as he watched on with attentive interest.

Sephira was immediately speechless.

Even she couldn't stand listening to Piaro's wild curses, let alone the vampires. She didn't expect Pakgu to be fascinated by them.

She only hoped Pakgu wouldn't become like Piaro. That was not how a proud dragon should act.

Alas, although she thought that way, she was also aware that there would be inevitable changes among the dragons as they interacted with humans and experienced their diverse cultures.

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Meanwhile, in another battle with the first vampire army, Old General's vulgar words dominated the battlefield.

"Hahahaha! Are you trying to kill this Granddaddy with your stench?! Your breath reeks of your ancestor's piss! Do you even brush?!"

"Watch out for my fist!" Old General warned, leaping into a crowd of True Vampires as he swung his left fist arm like a watermill.

However, he punched out with his right aura-enhanced fist, sending several heads flying with the shockwave.

"Bahahaha! Wrong fist, Dumbass!" Old General guffawed as he continued crushing low-rank vampires with brute strength.

Chapter 736: Search Order

After Vaan had left the battlefield, he signaled the idle dragons to fill the gap and take on the second vampire army.

If he had left without any arrangements to prevent the second vampire army's advancement, Berucha's hot-headed martial group would have faced the risk of complete annihilation.

After all, they had advanced so far into the ranks of the first vampire army.

Although they fought bravely and dominated the battlefield with their martial prowess, they lacked the discipline and coordination of a military. They had put themselves in a situation where retreat wasn't an option.

Once the second vampire army connected with the first vampire army, they would be completely cut off and overwhelmed.

Vaan didn't want to lose such an interesting and devoted group of followers. They had both value and potential. Furthermore, he could feel their faith. It would be a pity to lose them.

"Supreme Leader!"

Kuvat quickly greeted Vaan with reverence upon his arrival at the imperial army's high command location.

At the same time, Emperor Varan saw the close-up detail of Vaan's young appearance, and his heart shook for various reasons.

Truly too young!

Emperor Varan took a deep breath before carefully asking, "How should I address you, Sir? Should I call you Venerable Dragon God, Lord Vaan, or Sir Pendragon?"

He felt conflicted calling such a young man sir, but there was no other way around. The other party's status was too special.

"You can call me whatever you feel comfortable with, Emperor Varan. It is just something to refer to me. There's no need to put such importance on them," Vaan casually said.

Emperor Varan's lips twitched.

Perhaps only someone like Vaan could disregard titles with such nonchalance. However, he couldn't do the same. He had to maintain etiquette and respect.

Otherwise, his image would suffer, and he would displease those who looked up to Vaan.

"Then... I will address you as Venerable Dragon God," Emperor Varan decided out of consideration for Kuvat, who was nearby.

Nevertheless, he also felt weird in his heart, considering a human was being called the Dragon God and getting worshipped by the dragons.

Perhaps the Dragon God was capable of assuming human form?

'Yes, that must be it. I shouldn't be deceived by his outer appearance. His true self should be that of an old dragon...' Emperor Varan silently told himself, seemingly convinced it was the case.

As he thought that, he felt better about himself.

"Venerable Dragon God, you have the most authority and insight in this war. What do you think of our odds? Do we stand a chance?" Emperor Varan seriously inquired.

Although he had sworn to submit in return for help, he wasn't confident Vaan and the Red Dragon Clan could save his empire. After all, a Great Devil was involved.

Vaan's power seemed incredible, but the Great Devil's authority had always been regarded as absolute.

"For some unknown reason, Abaddon is temporarily unable to participate in this war. Thus, we do, indeed, have a good chance of winning if we can end it early," Vaan calmly stated.

"Abaddon is temporarily unable to participate?" Emperor Varan was pleasantly surprised before he wondered, "What is delaying him?"

"That remains unclear. However, I am willing to bet it involved Hecate," Vaan replied.

"Hecate?" Emperor Varan's gaze quickly flashed with realization before he uttered, "Right, that would make sense. The Sacred Tirtha's people were secret worshippers of Hecate. However, they were all sacrificed in Abaddon's scheme."

"Hecate wouldn't be happy with that upon finding out and must have gone to cause trouble for Abaddon," Emperor Varan guessed.

Vaan only needed to mention one point, and Emperor Varan figured out the rest. They had all the clues. They only needed to put it together to grasp the picture. Even so, it was only an educated guess at best.

They couldn't prove it until they learned more about the situation on Gehenna's side.

"Based on this information, we can infer that the seven Great Devils don't necessarily all get along with each other. If we want to secure a higher chance of victory, we must pull Hecate to our side," Vaan said.

Emperor Varan immediately frowned.

In order to defeat a Great Devil, they had to work with a Great Devil. While it sounded simple, gaining a Great Devil's cooperation was uncharted territory. It had never been done before.

Even if they could succeed, it was hard to tell what kind of price they would have to pay for Hecate's cooperation.

More importantly, Emperor Varan didn't even know where to start. It was impossible to contact Hecate.

Gehenna was a vast realm. The Great Devils and countless demons wouldn't just let them waltz through their territories free of trouble. The whole trip to Hecate's domain would be riddled with danger.

Furthermore, even if they succeeded in gaining Hecate's cooperation, there was no telling if she would stab them in the back.

The idea itself was a gamble.

However, the Venerable Dragon God wouldn't have brought up this topic if he didn't have an idea with a degree of confidence or guarantee, would he?

"How do we do that, Venerable Dragon God?" Emperor Varan inquired earnestly.

"I need you to mobilize all the spare manpower you can muster as the emperor to find a person – Galen's wife. Even if you have to turn the Great Ratholos Empire upside down, you must find Hecate's Devil's Contractor," Vaan stated, adding, "Look beyond your borders if you have to. I will also mobilize my forces to search outside your empire."

"Galen's wife? Hecate's Devil's Contractor...?"

Kuvat and Emperor Varan were stunned before they stared at Vaan with doubt and confusion.

"Why do you want me to look for Galen's wife? Galen should be Hecate's Devil's Contractor... He was a Double Contractor of Hecate and Abaddon..." Emperor Varan frowned in confusion.

"And I have already killed him..." Kuvat added with a blank look.

"Galen was Hecate's Devil's Contractor at some point, yes. But no more. That is why he turned to Abaddon and entered into a contract with him. He was abandoned by Hecate first," Vaan explained.

"Even if that is true, how can you be so sure Galen's wife is Hecate's current Devil's Contractor, Venerable Dragon God?"

Chapter 737: Gathering of Forces

In the Great Ratholos Empire, the Delarosa Household was one of the most prominent families. And yet, not many of its important figures were recorded in history. In particular, little was known about Galen and his daughter, Laetitia.

Only recently was one discovered to be a Devil's Contractor, and the other was the founder of a Great Devil-worshipping cult.

Since those two had such significant secret identities, what about Galen's wife, who didn't seem to exist on paper?

The person completely disappeared from all records and didn't seem to exist in the first place. If not for information confirming the blood-related father-daughter status of Galen and Laetitia, one would doubt Galen had a wife.

Besides this single flaw, there were no other traces of Galen's wife. She didn't seem to exist, but she truly did.

Perhaps erasing one's existence was necessary to become Hecate's Devil's Contractor.

Or maybe being Hecate's Devil's Contractor required erasing one's existence to carry out special missions – For example, establishing another Hecate-worshipping cult in another country.

After Vaan explained all this to Emperor Varan, the latter appeared thunderstruck.

It was said that Galen's wife died early due to poor health. Emperor Varan had never looked further into the matter. He didn't think there would be many records of a dead person from long ago, either.

However, after listening to Vaan, he realized the grave error in his assumption.

No one would be interested in recording about a dead person from hundreds of years ago. However, Galen's wife wasn't just anyone; she was also a member of the prominent Delarosa Household.

Furthermore, her husband was the supreme elder of the Delarosa Household, and her daughter was the founder of the Sacred Tirtha. Even if she were of ordinary birth and talents, people would be interested in looking her up or recording her history.

She should have been famous just by association.

However, all her records were erased, and even her traces couldn't be found. More importantly, some strange forces prompted Emperor Varan to glaze over such a person.

Emperor Varan didn't realize it before, but once he did, he couldn't help but feel alarmed. It felt like he had been hypnotized to forget everything about such a person and treat them as if they had never existed.

"If Galen's wife is truly Hecate's Devil's Contractor, and she went to establish more devil-worshipping cults for Hecate in other countries, why do you want my people to look for her in the empire, Venerable Dragon God?" Emperor Varan doubted, but he couldn't help but respect Vaan's analytical ability.

After learning Galen was Hecate's Devil's Contractor, most people wouldn't even think Hecate had another one. After all, throughout history, a new Devil's Contractor was only made after the death of the previous one.

However, everyone forgot one simple truth – If humans could break their contracts with the Great Devils, Great Devils could also end their contracts with humans.

Furthermore, as the ones who established the contracts, the Great Devils were most likely to face no penalties for breaking their contracts.

"Such a big event has happened in the imperial capital. Wouldn't Galen's wife feel concern for her family?" Vaan casually mentioned.

"There's a chance she will return to check if she hears of the situation. If she does, your people will be looking for her. Our odds of finding her will increase if we are searching everywhere."

"Once we secure her, we will have a channel to communicate with Hecate. Of course, since we are trying to gain Hecate's cooperation, you must instruct your people to treat her with care if they find her," Vaan continued.

"That goes with saying, Venerable Dragon God," Emperor Varan acknowledged with a nod before suddenly frowning, "However, if I want to mobilize such a large force to search for Galen's wife, I may not have enough people for the war effort here..."

"You don't have to worry about that. My people and I will handle the fighting here with the current army and warriors. You can just focus on the search, Emperor Varan," Vaan stated.

"But... I'm afraid this many will not be enough—"

Emperor Varan's concerns were quickly interrupted as Vaan asked, "Since you are willing to submit with your empire in return for my help in tiding your empire through this crisis, you shouldn't be picky with my means, yes?"

"Of course not," Emperor Varan answered before doubting, "But... What are you going to do, Venerable Dragon God?"

"You will see," Vaan coolly replied.

Shortly after, he contacted Chaezi, who had returned from her mission. He instructed her to signal the dragon lords to begin their mass spatial deployment of troops.

Several minutes later, huge portals began appearing a short kilometer away from the rear of the imperial army. Their sudden appearances immediately alarmed the imperial soldiers and shocked the nearby spectators.

Moments later, battle witches and holy knights marched out in large numbers with coordinated discipline. Thousands turned into tens of thousands, and tens of thousands soon became hundreds of thousands.

In a few minutes, the empty streets of several districts were quickly filled with battle witches and holy knights.

This sight further shocked and alarmed everyone.

Henrietta and Astoria led their respective armies towards the rear of the imperial army before stopping some distance away.

"W-Who are you people?! Where did you all come from?!" an imperial captain barked warily with his guard up.

The imperial soldiers also formed two strong rows of defense in their rear with their weapons drawn.

"The Black Rose Army is here to support!"

"The Holy Knight Army is here to support!"

Boom!

As the imperial soldiers heard Henrietta and Astoria's announcement, it was like an explosion had gone off in their heads.

How did the Black Rose Kingdom and the Holy Knight Empire manage to bring several hundred thousand troops into the heart of their empire so easily?!

The emergence of the two armies generated countless looks of disbelief and horror.

However, that wasn't the end of the reinforcements.

Several large portals soon appeared in the sky before Dragon Lord Astarot emerged with several dozen senior dragons.

"The Red Dragon Clan is also here to support!" Lord Astarot announced.

Emperor Varan: "..."

Chapter 738: Grandmother & Grandson

After the Great Ratholos Army learned the Black Rose Army, Holy Knight Army, and the Red Dragon Clan came to aid them in their war against Abaddon's vampires, they immediately felt surprised and elated.

But at the same time, they were also absolutely shocked in their heart. This was especially so for Emperor Varan.

With such a powerful lineup like the Black Rose Kingdom, Holy Knight Empire, and Red Dragon Clan, they were practically unstoppable on Pangea. No country would be able to survive their unified attack.

After all, if such a powerful force could drop into the middle of any capital city, the targeted country would fall before it could even muster its strength to resist.

Emperor Varan could foresee the future of Vaan uniting Pangea. It was inevitable, given such an unstoppable method of deployment. Only the Freedom Federation stood a slight chance of resisting the three forces.

After all, besides the Freedom Federation, there weren't any other groups wealthy and magically advanced enough to build a country-wide space-interference array to disable spatial magic.

Constructing such a large magic array would cost an astronomical amount of wealth. Then, there was also the cost of maintaining it.

Unless a country had access to unlimited energy, no country on Pangea could currently support it.

As such, if the other rulers of Pangea were wise, they would voluntarily submit. That way, they could at least guarantee some benefits in the unified world. After all, the status of submitted and subjugated nations was vastly different.

'A continental war might happen in the near future, but the unification of Pangea is inevitable if the Dragon God doesn't fall here,' Emperor Varan thought.

Suddenly, he felt relieved that he wouldn't have to make any difficult choices in that potential future. After all, he had promised to be under the Dragon God's rule; he was already standing on the strongest side.

"Make way for the Black Rose Army and Holy Knight Army!"

After Emperor Varan gave the order, the imperial soldiers quickly shuffled aside. They created a clear, wide path for the Black Rose Army and Holy Knight Army to pass through in seconds.

"Greetings, Emperor Varan. I hope you don't mind my army trespassing in your country," Henrietta politely said, seemingly mindful of the matter but didn't actually care.

"This appearance and aura..." Emperor Varan studied Henrietta for a moment before waving his hand in humble disagreement, "No, no, it's not trespassing at all. You are too polite, Black Rose."

"I am grateful you can be here in our time of need," Emperor Varan sincerely added, subtly noting Henrietta's slightly trembling body.

He figured that even the Black Rose Transcendent Witch could be afraid. Even so, she still came to fight. How admirable of her.

Emperor Varan couldn't help but feel some respect for Henrietta.

However, only Henrietta knew the exact reason why she was trembling. After she acknowledged Emperor Varan, she quickly led her troops away in a hurry. She was trying to avoid someone to maintain her dignity and image.

Vaan could not help but feel amused. In his eyes, she was fleeing like a frightened kitten.

Meanwhile, Victoria did not follow Henrietta to the front lines. She remained behind, staring at Vaan's figure as she engraved his image in her mind.

After comparing him to her memory of her fourth daughter, Vivienne Caelestis, she found a strong resemblance. In fact, she didn't need to compare them. She felt fond of the person the moment she saw him.

As such, she was certain that Vaan was Vivienne's son and her grandson.

Victoria couldn't help but tear up as she recalled the difficulty of searching for him for eighteen years, only to see his fire of life extinguished. Fortunately, her grandson was still alive.

Although she didn't understand why her grandson's fire of life died out, she could only attribute it to an expiry date. After all, it was Vivienne's Soul Lamp, not her grandson's.

Vivienne was Victoria's favorite child and pride. Thus, by extension, Vaan also received some of Victoria's love.

As such, when Vaan felt the unconditional love in Victoria's emotional gaze, a strange sense of foreign yet familiarity welled up inside him. He was sure he had never seen this person before, yet he received such a feeling from her.

Moreover, she looked at him with unconditional love, which implied she knew him. He was even someone dear to her, as it appeared.

After contemplating for a bit, he quickly arrived at an answer – She was someone from the Great House of Caelestis. Furthermore, she was even the second head, Victoria Caelestis, his maternal grandmother.

He had known about this for some time with the help of the Red Dragon Clan and their magic. However, he had never actively sought them out.

Perhaps he was afraid of some things. Thus, he avoided meeting his family.

Nevertheless, Vaan never expected his maternal grandmother to find him first. And upon their first meeting, long-forgotten feelings of familial love and sadness resurfaced in his heart.

Vaan didn't expect Victoria's gentle and warm gaze to reveal such hidden feelings inside him.

It made him realize he was still human. Even if his mind became incomparably powerful, someone who was originally sentimental like him would never be able to discard some feelings.

In all his simulations, he least expected himself to react this way.

In this dog-eat-dog world, every move he made for survival had to be calculated, and every love he earned to increase its chances was conditional. Only his birth parent's love would have been unconditional if they were alive.

However, the reality was that he had been an orphan from the day he awakened in this world. He had no memories of his parents from his last life either. Furthermore, the memories of his parents from the endless reincarnations only made his heart colder.

He originally believed there wasn't a single person who could give him unconditional love.

And yet, there turned out to be someone who did – his maternal grandmother.

He had never done anything for her or her family, and they were meeting for the first time. They may be bound by blood, but they were also no different from strangers.

For her to look at him with such unconditional love was not logical.

However, Vaan also had to admit that there were some things that couldn't be reasoned with logic.

Vaan and Victoria just stared at each other in silence.

Victoria obviously recognized Vaan but did not approach him to confirm their familial ties. She did not dare to. Despite the unconditional love in her gaze, there was also the fear of rejection.

Vaan realized Victoria was afraid that he was unwilling to recognize her as his maternal grandmother. After all, she was not there for him at his lowest. And yet, she appeared when he reached his peak.

Suddenly, he felt a tear drop run down his cheek. He felt it with a touch and was startled.

When was the last time he had shed a tear?

Chapter 739: Victoria's Approval

Vaan couldn't help but sigh.

He didn't know if it was the hormones of his twenty-year-old body or other factors that made him feel such vulnerability and weakness and shed tears.

However, he understood there were some existing forces of nature that he couldn't overcome, nor was he willing to.

"Grandmother," Vaan softly uttered.

Victoria's body shuddered like a bolt of lightning had just struck her. She stared at Vaan in amazement, doubt, and anticipation.

"You are willing to... acknowledge me?" Victoria carefully asked, feeling hopeful yet still afraid of disappointment.

However, Vaan confirmed with a nod.

Overwhelming joy flooded Victoria's heart, prompting her to laugh heartily with happy tears, "Hahaha! My good grandson, let Grandmother have a good look at you!"

Victoria quickly approached Vaan and patted him on the shoulders with great enthusiasm. Then, she carefully studied him from different angles, searching for potential scars with a little apprehension.

Although she wanted a deeper inspection of Vaan's body for scars, she was also aware it was inappropriate, not to mention the time and place.

"Good! You're strong and healthy. That's all I can ask for!" Victoria exclaimed, satisfied with what she had seen. Pride filled her eyes but was soon replaced with more tears before she sighed, "You must have gone through unimaginable suffering to reach this point..."

Vaan simply smiled lightly, neither admitting nor denying. He merely observed his maternal grandmother's genuine care and concern and enjoyed the feeling.

Meanwhile, Emperor Varan gawked at their reunion with disbelief.

'Grandmother... and grandson... Is she an ancient dragon ancestor in human form? Or... is the Dragon God truly a human?' Emperor briefly wondered, but he already knew the answer deep inside his heart.

In fact, the truth had been evident from the start. After all, the Dragon God's vital energy was still young and flourishing, evidence of his young age.

However, he ignored this point and evaded reality altogether due to the truth being so unbelievable.

Unfortunately, no matter how unbelievable the truth was, it was also undeniable and unchanging. The Dragon God was truly a monstrous young man with envious talent and growth.

"Pardon the intrusion, Emperor Varan. I will also be going ahead," Astoria suddenly said.

She was happy and excited to meet Vaan. However, she also didn't expect to meet his grandmother. Furthermore, it was even someone she knew! Her heart and mind were not ready for such a meeting!

As such, Astoria immediately thought of fleeing to the battlefield to distract her mind.

Normal people would flee from the battlefield instead of towards it. Although Astoria was not a normal person, she was certainly a nervous wreck at that moment.

"You are...!"

Emperor Varan had been completely distracted by Henrietta and Vaan's reunion with his maternal grandmother. Now that he had a good look at Astoria, he couldn't help but feel shocked.

As the current emperor of the Great Ratholos Empire and a member of the Armstrong family, he was privy to the history of the Blessed Golden Dragon Tribe.

Naturally, he would also know about the legend of the Golden Dragon Bloodline.

Although much of the Golden Dragon Aura had been withdrawn inside Astoria's body, Emperor Varan still caught a whiff of it as Astoria passed him.

'Such a strong Golden Dragon Aura...! Did she awaken the legendary bloodline of the tribe?' Emperor Varan silently wondered with complete astonishment.

His gaze remained fixed on Astoria's departing back for a while.

Suddenly, Emperor Varan realized a problem.

If his Armstrong family honored the oath of their ancestors to follow the Awakener of the Golden Dragon Bloodline, it could conflict with his promise to submit to the Dragon God.

After all, how can one's loyalty be split?

Nevertheless, the Golden Dragon Bloodline was something he could only confirm later with the person in question. After all, the person had already left without sparing him a glance.

'Sigh, troubled times bring out all types of amazing figures,' Emperor Varan lamented.

Meanwhile, Aeliana and Eniwse boldly made their way to Vaan's side. Unlike Henrietta and Astoria, they had nothing to fear.

Going through a painful experience like the berserk transformation would make most things seem like nothing. As such, instead of shying away, they were eager to earn the acknowledgment of the one Vaan recognized as his grandmother.

"My Lord."

"Vaan."

After the two greeted Vaan intimately, Victoria immediately started evaluating them with her gaze. She had noticed their approach earlier but wasn't sure of their relationship.

"These two are..." Victoria turned to Vaan for answers.

"They are my women, Grandmother," Vaan openly admitted before introducing them. "Eniwse. Aeliana. This is my maternal grandmother, Victoria Caelestis."

"Hello, grandmother-in-law," the two ladies paid their respects to Victoria with their best smiles and attitude, hoping to leave behind good impressions.

Victoria couldn't help but nod with a smile, which appeared slightly forced for a brief moment as she had a sudden realization.

It had come to her attention that her grandson was already fully aware of her identity. In other words, he had learned about his family background. However, he never reached out to them.

Victoria couldn't help but shudder a little as she wondered, 'If I didn't find out he was still alive and went to look for him, would he never acknowledge his family?'

In truth, Victoria had been mistaken about one thing – Vaan did not acknowledge the Great House of Caelestis; he had only acknowledged her and her alone. For all he cared, the rest of the family members were still complete strangers to him.

Things could have played out very differently if she had not shown Vaan her unconditional love. Nevertheless, Victoria wasn't aware of any of this.

After receiving respect from Aeliana and Eniwse, Victoria didn't hold back her praises for them.

"Hahaha, good child. This one is good. Although she looks youthful, she also seems very obedient. You won't have to worry about her not listening to you," Victoria said to Vaan about Aeliana.

"Oh, this one is even better." Victoria's gaze landed on Eniwse's oversized chest before she said, "Her body is plump and voluptuous. She is definitely very fertile and will give birth to healthy babies. I like her very much."

Victoria gave Vaan her thumb of approval.

Originally, Aeliana was happy and smug about the praise she received. However, it disappeared after she heard Eniwse's praises.

She couldn't help but feel defeated as she compared her small chest with Eniwse's.

'Bigger isn't always better!' Aeliana silently cried, feeling injustice.

Although she could enlarge her chest with magic, she was too proud to resort to such methods. It would only make her feel fake.

Furthermore, she believed unnatural beauty wasn't true beauty.

Meanwhile, Eniwse couldn't help but blush with embarrassment after receiving Victoria's overwhelming praises and sign of approval.

The fertility rate of witches had always been so abysmally low that she never had any expectations for pregnancy. However, after listening to Victoria's words, she started expecting a little.

How good would it be if she could give birth to Vaan's child?

Eniwse shyly glanced at Vaan.

Thanks to Victoria's auspicious words, there was a slight chance that she would have some priority in sharing Vaan's bed.

Chapter 740: Competitive Spirit

After receiving Vaan's acknowledgment, Victoria's mood was at an all-time peak. To Victoria, nothing was more important than her grandson's recognition.

As such, she was very open-minded and accepted everything about her grandson.

She would still find it acceptable even if he had another twenty women. After all, her grandson was such an impressive person. Having more than one woman was normal.

Most powerful rulers, regardless of gender, were bound to have multiple partners, whether to ensure the stability of strong families through marriage or continuing their lineage. They had many reasons and benefits to having multiple partners.

Of course, there were also rulers like Henrietta...

'Oh shit!' Victoria's happy smile froze as she remembered Henrietta.

Henrietta was a proud and powerful woman who had never been in a relationship. Trying to hook up Henrietta with her grandson was already a difficult task.

Wouldn't the task become even more difficult if her grandson had many women?

As Victoria pondered for a solution, she felt a headache from thinking too hard. She had no idea how she could bring these two people together.

'Do I have to drug them? No, no, no, that wouldn't work...' Victoria quickly shook her head, dismissing the idea.

In any case, she could not reject any woman her grandson had already chosen. She already owed him a whole childhood. It was impossible for her to make any demands for his life.

...

Meanwhile, shortly after the Black Rose Army, Holy Knight Army, and Dragon Lord Astarot's group joined the war, the vampire armies fell into a complete disadvantage.

The vampire's magic advantage over the Great Ratholos Empire's warriors was removed after the dragons and battle witches joined the battlefield. They provided sky and rear support while the Great Ratholos warriors and holy knights fought in the vanguard.

In an instant, the difference in strength between the Great Ratholos Army and the Holy Knight Army became clear. The Great Ratholos Army wielded superior physical strength and martial prowess.

However, the Holy Knight Army wasn't necessarily inferior to the Great Ratholos Army either. What it lacked in strength, it made up for it in equipment.

With their high-quality armor and weapons, the holy knights stood equal to the Great Ratholos warriors.

Furthermore, the holy knights also had higher aura cultivation. This allowed them to use more advanced aura arts.

"Holy Knights, show our Great Ratholos friends the might and valor of our Holy Knight Army! Slay those blood-suckers for me!" a holy commander roared with a surging fighting spirit after Astoria signaled the attack.

In an instant, the Holy Knight Army's morale peaked. The holy knights charged onto the battlefield with a coordinated formation and demonstrated overwhelming fighting spirits.

Not a single holy knight wanted to lose to the Great Ratholos Army's warriors.

The rivalry between the Holy Knight Empire and the Great Ratholos Empire had existed for hundreds of years. Even if they changed rulers, the competition between their great nations would not just disappear.

Each side wanted to prove their superiority.

Nevertheless, the Holy Knight Army's high momentum was like an infectious disease. After witnessing it, the Great Ratholos Army's own fighting spirit was ignited.

"Look at the white monkeys prance about in their pretty armor. They think themselves strong while they hide behind their sheets of metal. However, we know true strength comes from overcoming trials and hardships!"

"Although I am interested in playing their game, it would be too shameful if our Great Ratholos Army kills less than the Holy Knight Army. So, get out there and kill a hundred blood-suckers each for me!"

"Not a single one less, you hear me?! Show our friends from the Holy Knight Army what true warriors are made of!"

Following the roar of a Great Ratholos commander, the Great Ratholos warriors' blood boiled into action.

...

Meanwhile, the Black Rose Army had a different focus.

"Now is the time to show off the results of our training to the Supreme Commander and prove our worth! Don't you dare disgrace me, battle witches! Show them the fearsome power of our spells!" a commanding battle witch shouted excitedly.

Shortly after, the battle witches in the Black Rose Army started exercising the mana circulation method, revving up their magical power.

Half of the army blocked incoming spells, while the other half followed Henrietta to attack. With Henrietta leading the assault, she easily dominated the battlefield with her superior magic.

Her black fire reduced crowded areas into wastelands devoid of thousands of vampiric lives.

Halfling, True Vampire, Pureblood Vampire...

It didn't matter what they were; all became black powder before Henrietta's nefarious and destructive black fire. Even Transcendents disappeared when the black fire swept the battlefield.

Just when some people thought it was unwise for a powerful Transcendent Witch like Henrietta to waste her mana on weaklings and not conserve her power for stronger foes, a sea of mana suddenly poured into the area from Gehenna.

"This is...!"

Countless people were shocked to see the mana drawn into Henrietta's petite body, and her mana reserve was replenished in mere seconds.

A genuine witch from Chaos would never have a mana shortage.

"So, this is the power of a Transcendent Witch?" a senior warrior uttered with disbelief.

He suddenly realized why no country had ever invaded the witch kingdoms before. It wasn't just because they didn't want to deal with Gehenna; the Transcendent Witches near the mana sources were disaster-level threats.

Lord Astarot's group appeared to have been forgotten as they remained inconspicuous in the sky. The dragons mostly observed the situation from above and provided air support when needed.

Although they posed the greatest threat to the vampires, they still had it easy due to their unreachable position.

Most low-ranking vampires couldn't fly.

On the other hand, the high-ranking ones didn't want to be the target of concentrated fire by sticking out from the crowd. After all, it was easier to focus on a lone vampire commander in the sky than to find one in a sea of vampires.

'So, this is the air superiority the Supreme Leader once mentioned...' Lord Astarot thought as he looked down on the vampires.