

The Witch 801

Chapter 801: The Bicker Between Sisters

As Seventh Dream said, Fourth Dream recovered after a few dozen breaths passed. Her gaze regained clarity as she snapped back to reality.

"How long have I been out?" Fourth Dream immediately asked upon noticing Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream beside her.

However, Vaan's question was heard first, "How do you do, Lady Fourth Dream?"

Fourth Dream was immediately startled as her gaze shifted to Vaan, who was further away from them. The moment it did, she recalled his licentious acts with Aeliana in the past two and a half days.

In that instant, her heart palpitated and started beating abnormally. The rising blood pressure caused her body to heat up once more, seemingly channeling to her face.

A bright red blush soon appeared.

Splurt!

The two blood-stained white cloths plugging Fourth Dream's nosebleed fell out as two arrows of blood sprayed out of her nostrils again.

Fourth Dream collapsed again, feeling hot all over.

"Ah, Fourth Sister!" Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream cried out.

However, Fourth Dream suddenly found some strength and clutched at their silky white robes, holding onto them in her seemingly weakened state.

"I was on shift for two and a half days, my dear sisters... Ninth Dream, you owe me double time... Seventh Dream, you also owe me triple days... That's twelve and a half days. I'll be taking my long break now. Good luck, my dear sisters..." Fourth Dream stated.

As she said that, she seemingly reached her limit and collapsed, pretending to be unconscious to avoid dealing with the aftermath.

At the same time, Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream felt a chill.

Originally, they only needed to rotate every eight hours. Double or triple of that shift was only sixteen and twenty-four hours, respectively. However, their fourth sister did a two-and-a-half-day shift at once.

As such, they ended up with five days and seven and a half days of guard duty to do.

Fourth Dream had toiled hard to make the most of their offer. Now, Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream could only feel regret for giving out such offers.

Nevertheless, it shouldn't be bad since Sir Vaan had finished his private affairs with Lady Aeliana. As such, they shouldn't have to worry about seeing any more obscene acts for the time being.

However, their shifts were very long. Anything could happen during these following two weeks. As such, they could only hope Sir Vaan's libido was quelled for as long as possible.

Unfortunately, it was only wishful thinking on their part.

After Vaan returned to the witch group, he made off with Eniwse, who had already overstayed her break. After all, managing the Shadow Witch Order was a demanding job.

As such, Vaan intended to satisfy her first so she could return to her work sooner.

They quickly found themselves a secluded spot further away from Aeliana's rock chamber before Vaan constructed a new rock chamber for their use.

When Seventh Dream and Ninth Dream saw that, they immediately knew what the two intended to do. Their faces immediately flushed with embarrassment as their heads ran wild with imagination ahead of time.

However, they couldn't give up their guard duty again. After all, the longer they delayed it, the more it would pile up.

"Well then, Seventh Sister, I'll do my shift first. You can look after Fourth Sister or cultivate peacefully," Ninth Dream stated, hoping to get it over and done with.

Sir Vaan had already gone at it for two and a half days straight. Even if he intended to continue, he shouldn't last much longer. As such, she should be able to have an easier time in the later parts of her five-day shift if she endured for a bit – Ninth Dream thought.

However, just as she took a few steps closer to Vaan's new rock chamber, Seventh Dream suddenly grabbed her left shoulder with one hand.

"Wait a moment, Ninth Sister. I have seven and a half days of guard duty to do. Let me go first," Seventh Dream requested.

How could she possibly let Ninth Dream go first when she had the longer shift?

Even if they rotate every twelve hours, she would still have two and a half days of guard duty to do at once. She didn't want to end up like Fourth Dream.

"How can I do that, Seventh Sister? I was originally first, so I should work first. You just take it easy for now, Seventh Sister," Ninth Dream politely argued as she attempted to take another step away.

However, Seventh Sister strengthened her grip, keeping Ninth Dream in place.

"I insist, my good sister," Seventh Dream smiled sweetly yet also seemingly frighteningly.

"Is that so? Why are you so eager, Seventh Sister? If I didn't know any better, I would suspect you are quite excited to peek at Sir Vaan's private affairs," Ninth Dream replied jokingly, hiding her snide remark.

"You are thinking too much, Ninth Sister," Seventh Dream softly chuckled before conceding, "Since you wish to work first so badly, I, as the older sister, won't over it with you."

"This older sister will let you indulge in your peeking hobbies. I can wait twelve hours to take over my shift," Seventh Dream added slyly.

"Eh? I'm not like that, Seventh Sister. You are maliciously questioning my character!" Ninth Dream pouted.

"There's no need to deny it, Ninth Sister. It's normal for a chaste lady to become curious about these lecherous activities once you've been exposed to them. I'm not one to judge what you like and don't like," Seventh Dream teased as she seemingly acted thoughtful and benevolent.

However, it caused Ninth Dream to stamp her feet angrily, "I already said I'm not!"

"Oh, my... Why are you so quick to lose your temper, Ninth Sister? That's a sign that your mental cultivation is lacking. Perhaps you need to meditate and train your mind more, Ninth Dream," Seventh Dream suggested thoughtfully, but her wide grin exposed her ulterior motive.

"Hmph! I don't want to talk to you anymore!" Ninth Dream snorted before storming off in the opposite direction.

She no longer wanted to fight with Seventh Dream over guard duties; she was just too mean.

"Hehehe," Seventh Dream giggled victoriously.

However, Eniwse's sweet moan was shortly sounded from the new rock chamber, causing a deep blush to appear on Seventh Dream's stiffened expression.

'Ah? Why did Lady Eniwse and Sir Vaan forget to cast a noise-isolation spell?' Seventh Dream quickly panicked.

Chapter 802: The Unfortunate Seventh Dream

Seventh Dream's smugness instantly disappeared as Eniwse's sweet moan turned her heart and mind into a jittery mess. Her chaste body subconsciously produced carnal heat as impure thoughts filled her mind.

She didn't expect the sound of Sir Vaan and Lady Eniwse's dual cultivation to be more stimulating than she imagined.

At that moment, she didn't know whether to laugh or cry about her situation. Winning a petty battle against Ninth Dream wasn't necessarily a good thing.

'What should I do? Should I cast a noise-isolation magic for them? But if I do, they will immediately know it's me and suspect I'm secretly watching them... It'll be hard to face them in the future then,' Seventh Dream thought with concern.

"Ahn~! That's the spot, Vaan~!" Eniwse's charming voice sounded again.

A petrifying shock immediately ran through Seventh Dream, sapping away at her strength. She dropped to the ground after her knees felt weak.

'Ah... Why did I fight Ninth Dream over this? Is this what humans normally do every day? I heard their fertility rate is extremely poor, but... this is too much. Mistress, you've certainly given us a difficult task,' Seventh Dream lamented.

...

Meanwhile, within the new rock chamber, Vaan and Eniwse's bare bodies were intertwined and seemingly inseparable in a spooning position.

As Vaan's lower body movement injected waves of pleasure into Eniwse's delicate flower cave, his hands juggled with her huge melons. At the same time, the occasional teasing with his twirling and soft pinching motions quickly caused the twin peaks to erect from the poor hiding spots.

"Mmm... I don't get why you like such big bundles of inconveniences. They only get in the way and burden me," Eniwse commented as she melted in ecstasy under Vaan's tender care.

"Since they belong to you and you belong to me, why wouldn't I like them? How can I dislike what belongs to me?" Vaan casually replied as he continued to drill her from behind.

"However, you do have a point, Eniwse. Their sizes are abnormally unhealthy for your back and neck. It would help if you reduced them with magic. That way, they won't hinder your daily work."

"I won't always be around to alleviate the stress from your burdened body," Vaan added.

Meanwhile, his hands skilfully shifted to releasing pressure in Eniwse's back and neck, allowing her to feel deep relaxation and comfort.

"I'm afraid if I don't keep it burdened, I will get fewer chances to enjoy this kind of quality treatment and care," Eniwse replied seductively.

"This kind of treatment and care are yours to enjoy always; you only need to ask for it."

"I know. But it's not the same. How can a perfectly fine body feel the same level of comfort and relaxation as a stressed body under treatment? Don't worry, Vaan. This is something I am willing to bear. It's only more meaningful and fulfilling like this after a period of hard work."

Suddenly, Eniwse tightened her flower cave hard in an attempt to cause Vaan to ejaculate early.

As such, Vaan smacked her naughty butt as punishment.

"Are you trying to squeeze me dry, my Lady?" Vaan teased.

"I'm still a woman, and no woman would be completely fine with sharing their man, Vaan," Eniwse chuckled casually and said, "If I can milk you dry so you don't have the energy to please other women, why wouldn't I try it?"

"It's too early to tell who will be milking who dry," Vaan also chuckled, suddenly squeezing her plump rear and ramming his raging dragon deeper into the dragon cave.

"Ahh~!" Eniwse cried euphorically.

"We didn't set up any noise-isolation barrier, so the louder you scream, the more people will hear you, my Lady," Vaan chuckled slyly.

"Then, let them hear and be jealous," Eniwse replied defiantly, unwilling to back down.

"My, we have a feisty one today," Vaan chuckled before smacking her round bottom and seeing them jiggle again. He added, "I don't discriminate when it comes to the size of one's breast, but I do have some bias towards plump rears."

"Oh, and why is that?" Eniwse smiled seductively, knowing she had quite the round and plump rear.

"You know what they said – More cushion for the pushing," Vaan grinned wolfishly, suddenly grabbing her hips and locking her into position.

Eniwse's body shook in that instant as she had a bad premonition.

Rumble...!

Vaan rocked Eniwse's body along with the chamber as his sudden surge of rigorous movements created wave after wave of tremors.

"Ah~! Ahhh~~! Ahh~~!"

Eniwse's uncontrolled moans sounded as Vaan's sudden assault took her by surprise. But even after several minutes, she couldn't hold back her stimulating voice as the flood of pleasure continued to batter her body and mind.

Her body was like a high-quality musical instrument for Vaan to play – How he pressed or thrust it would produce different melodious sounds out of her.

She quickly lost count of how many times she climaxed in a short time, but it was the least of her worries.

With her blissful cries resounding throughout the subterranean space for others to hear like an encore, her face couldn't help but flush with a deep tint of shame and embarrassment.

She shouldn't have played with fire.

Because she said to let others hear them, Vaan precisely did precisely just that. Even so, amid Eniwse's quick-rising feelings of anxiety and fear were thrills and excitement as they heightened her sense of pleasure.

Vaan stripped her of the capacity to worry. He didn't seem to show consideration to anyone else, as his only purpose was to give Eniwse complete satisfaction.

Furthermore, they had chosen quite a secluded location. Thus, not many people could hear Eniwse even though she was loud. Even if they did listen to her, it wouldn't affect them much.

Only the Dreamcatchers who had little exposure to the carnal depravity of humans would be impacted the most.

Unfortunately for Seventh Dream, she had personally secured a front-row seat to the experience and became its biggest victim. The stimulation proved too much for her as two jets of blood sprayed from her nostrils.

'What did I get myself into?' was Seventh Dream's last thought as her head spun dizzily from the accumulated carnal heat within her.

Chapter 803: Seventh Dream's New Knowledge

The three Dreamcatchers' common sense and virtues were slowly corrupted the longer they were exposed to Vaan's daily activities. However, since they were so chaste and innocent, they did not even know how to relieve themselves.

As such, they helplessly allowed the carnal heat to accumulate in their bodies until they fainted with nosebleeds.

Hecate should have known about the depraved side of Pangean Humans, especially in the witch kingdoms. As such, she should have also known what she was sending her Dreamcatchers into by making them follow Vaan.

She might not have made the same choice if he didn't have the Boundless Sea and Sky Aura.

However, since she did, she practically gave Vaan the green card to fool around with her Dreamcatchers, especially when she told him not to bully them too much.

That said, the Dreamcatchers were still Late-stage Rank 6 Divine Beings.

How could Vaan put his hands on them so easily, just because they were at his mercy due to the orders they were given? Wouldn't that be the same as taking advantage of them?

As such, he exposed them to some cultural shock and let them develop their desires.

Suddenly, Vaan separated himself from Eniwse and placed her on a newly formed stone table, which confused her since they were having such a good time.

Why did they suddenly stop?

"My Lady, my memories are suddenly very fuzzy. I don't seem to remember how a woman pleasures herself if she's alone. Can you give me a quick run-in, step by step?" Vaan said after Eniwse gave him a baffled look.

Nevertheless, after she heard his strange request, her lips pursed with amusement. She wasn't sure what he was playing at, but she would naturally play along.

Anyone could have a bad memory except Vaan.

"Sure, let this older sister educate you, little boy, about masturbation," Eniwse said playfully.

Eniwse spread her legs on the stone table and directed Vaan's attention to her flowery cave before proceeding to explain the simple steps of fingering with some key areas to take note of.

"Keeping the feelings bottled up is not healthy for the body. When a woman is frustrated, stressed, or pent-up, rubbing this spot will feel good and help..."

Although Eniwse had never roleplayed like this before, she found it strangely stimulating in its ways as Vaan watched her attentively and admired her body.

It reassured her of her beauty and helped her appreciate it.

"Wow, thanks, big sister. I didn't know a woman's body could be so delicate and complicated at the same time."

"Since you studied so attentively, why don't you come over and show this big sister what you just learned?"

As Eniwse and Vaan continued with their roleplay, Seventh Dream overheard the entirety of the masturbation lesson and became curious about her own body.

Indeed, although she felt a lot of pent-up heat in her body, her flowery cave appeared to experience the most discomfort.

'What did Lady Eniwse say again? Rubbing this area with two fingers will feel...'

"Ah~?!"

Shortly after Seventh Dream blindly rubbed the pink split between her legs, an electrifying sensation ran through her whole, causing it to quiver with pleasure.

In that instant, a new world seemed to have opened up to her.

Although Seventh Dream was somewhat apprehensive and doubtful at the start, she quickly found herself intoxicated as she continued to rub herself with increasing intensity.

The pleasant sensation indeed helped her expel the pent-up heat trapped within her body, making her feel more comfortable and relaxed.

"Mmm...!"

Before long, Seventh Dream made a sweet moan as she achieved her first climax.

However, she didn't seem satisfied as she continued to pleasure herself. At the same time, she explored more parts of herself and delved deeper into the foreign world of pleasure.

Only after Seventh Dream climaxed three times did she feel relaxed and free from the pent-up frustration within her body.

However, she did not feel proud of the mess she had created.

'What have I done? Ah, this is so sinful... I have stained myself... I'm not pure anymore,' Seventh Dream lamented, unable to face herself.

Despite her conflicted mind, she figured once she felt pent-up carnal heat again, she would undoubtedly touch herself to feel good. She had only jumped into the rabbit hole of pleasure once, but she was already unable to extricate herself from it.

Several minutes later, Seventh Dream surprisingly no longer felt conflicted. Instead, she felt more free and unfettered.

But at the same time, all traces of her mess had been wiped clean with her divine power. If there was no evidence, it didn't happen.

"Lalala~! Human culture is quite fascinating~!" Seventh Dream commented sweetly while pretending nothing had happened earlier.

However, as Vaan and Eniwse continued their dual cultivation session, Seventh Dream found her carnal heat growing again.

At the same time, she realized something that didn't feel right the first time she relieved herself. Although she managed to pleasure herself, she did not seem to reach the same level of satisfaction as Lady Eniwse.

'Lady Eniwse's voice definitely sounded more blissful and fulfilled than mine... This must be due to Sir Vaan... Ah, I want to know what it feels like to be in Lady Eniwse's shoes too... It must feel even better for her if she is making sounds like that...' Seventh Dream wondered wistfully.

The desire to receive Vaan's affection gradually sprouted in Seventh Dream's heart. She realized she would most willingly accept if Vaan asked her to be his dual cultivation partner.

However, it wouldn't be possible if it were the other way around; she wouldn't have the courage to make such a bold request.

Nevertheless, Seventh Dream was already plenty satisfied with just learning about masturbation.

Although it was a shameful activity and couldn't be seen by others, she had to admit it would enhance her quality of life in her private time. She realized her previous life had been quite dull.

However, now that she had learned masturbation, her life has been enriched a little.

'Is this the opportunity the Mistress told us about?' Seventh Dream wondered.

If Hecate had known what Seventh Dream was thinking, she would have definitely told her how wrong she was.

Chapter 804: Henrietta's Doubt

Great Ratholos Empire, Imperial Capital

Over the past three days, the black pillar region has undergone startling development. To contain it, tall magic-enchanted walls have been erected around it.

At the same time, a new military district was set up right behind those very walls.

Although they had been told the Evernight Territory wouldn't invade the Great Ratholos Empire again, only fools wouldn't try to set up any forms of defensive measures in case things went south with Gehenna.

Nevertheless, 80% of the construction work was completed quickly, thanks to the help of the Red Dragon Clan and Black Rose Empire. Otherwise, they wouldn't have made that much progress, even if they were given another four months.

Whether it was the transportation of materials or the technicality of construction, the convenience of magic made everything much simpler.

Even so, Emperor Varan had to give a lot of credit to the Red Dragon Clan.

For a dragon race boasting superior strength and knowledge, he didn't expect them to be so skillful in human construction. It made him feel ashamed. It seemed like anything humans could do, the dragons could do it better.

Nevertheless, since the black pillar region was mostly settled, Emperor Varan could focus on other matters.

Although the Black Pillar region may have experienced the most destruction, it wasn't the only place in the imperial capital that suffered. Various buildings scattered throughout the city also required repair.

Furthermore, several new districts needed to be built to accommodate the homeless citizens. They could stay in temporary refuge camps and receive disaster relief forever.

It was both a burden on the empire and the citizens.

Resolving all of these matters would take at least six months, minimum. The vampires didn't invade for long, but the extensive damage still set the empire back a substantial amount of time.

Nevertheless, Emperor Varan had seen the convenience of magic. As such, he initiated a meeting with Astoria and Henrietta to discuss some matters.

"Empress Astoria, Queen Henrietta, and Lord Kuvat, you have all been a great help in rebuilding the imperial capital these past few days. For that, I am eternally grateful," Emperor Varan stated.

They were all gathered in the open courtyard outside the Imperial Palace's Great Hall since Kuvat couldn't fit inside.

"You didn't call us here just to say this, right?" Henrietta calmly asked.

"Of course not," Emperor Varan shook his head before mentioning, "In the past, none of our countries could get along due to our biased views and lack of trust. However, we are now united under one person."

"Your point is..."

"I believe it's time to open our borders and trade. We have much to learn from each other, and personally, I would like to hire more witches and wizards to aid this country's development and education," Emperor Varan stated.

"Oh? If this were the past, I definitely wouldn't have believed you could come up with such a proposition, Emperor Varan," Henrietta smiled before saying, "I don't see any reason to refuse. Opening trade routes between our countries will certainly be mutually beneficial."

"However, I do have one doubt about your country's wealth. I wonder if Emperor Varan is willing to enlighten me?" Henrietta mentioned.

"Since we are now on the same side, how can I possibly refuse a simple inquiry? What do you wish to know, Queen Henrietta?" Emperor Varan asked straightforwardly.

"The Great Ratholos Empire is located south of the seven witch kingdoms, further away from Gehenna's entrance. The mana density here is much lower than our witch kingdoms, but your country has a far superior wealth of mana stones," Henrietta mentioned before asking, "Why is that so?"

"It seems you have been quite busy with work and had no time to look deeper, Queen Henrietta," Emperor Varan casually smiled before saying, "Because if you did look, you would have easily found out about it. The source of our mana stones isn't some guarded secret at all."

"The Great Ratholos Empire acquired its wealth of mana stones from the sea. In fact, nearly all of its wealth comes from the Eastern Sea, Lady Henrietta," Kuvat spoke up, adding, "The Eastern Sea is home to an abundance of resources, mana stone deposits being just one of its richer resources."

"But isn't that strange?" Astoria asked, realizing Henrietta's doubt. She added, "Even I find it strange for the Eastern Sea to be so rich in mana stone deposits."

"Why do you both find that strange, Empress Astoria?" Emperor Varan asked with a baffled look.

To him, the Eastern Sea being rich in mana stone deposits was normal.

"Think about it. Before Gehenna's emergence, mana didn't exist in our world. Thus, the rich mana stone deposits in the Eastern Sea shouldn't have existed before that time," Henrietta mentioned.

"However, mana is like air; it's light and more likely to float into the upper sky, where most of the world's mana is gathered. Even if it dropped on water, it should float and not sink to the bottom."

"Despite that, the rich mana stone deposits in your Eastern Sea tell us otherwise," Henrietta stated.

"Indeed, mana is more likely to float if it lands on water. But suppose it was submerged from the start. In that case, sinking becomes reasonable," Astoria chimed, adding, "However, wouldn't that also imply Gehenna's mana is being injected into the sea directly?"

"You suspect there's another dimensional crack connected to Gehenna in the Eastern Sea?" Emperor Varan casually asked, unsurprised, before nodding, "Indeed, that should be the case, though we have never confirmed its exact location."

"You see, the Eastern Sea isn't exactly a place we can freely explore. In fact, I could argue the sea is far more dangerous than the Perilous Lands on the continent."

"However, I'm more concerned about the power that has been connecting Gehenna and Pangea," Emperor Varan added.

"What do you mean, Emperor Varan?" Henrietta asked curiously.

"The dimensional crack in the northern land is connected to another land, and the one hidden in the Eastern Sea should also be connected to another sea. If that weren't the case, the Boundless Sea would have been drained long ago. However, isn't this too coincidental?" Emperor Varan mentioned.

"Even Great Devil Abaddon required long years of preparation and a huge sacrifice before he established a connection between Gehenna and Pangea, and even then, it's not on the same scale as the dimensional crack north of your seven witch kingdoms."

"Doesn't that suggest the power that created those large dimensional cracks is even greater than the Great Devils?" Emperor Varan raised an alarming question.

However, Kuvat suddenly chuckled without any concern.

Chapter 805: The Shortcut

"Did I say something funny, Lord Kuvat?" Emperor Varan asked with surprise.

Although it was rude to laugh at him after he was speaking seriously, he didn't find it offensive. Instead, he only felt relief. After all, if Lord Kuvat wasn't concerned about it, then it probably wasn't something to be worried about.

In other words, he most likely raised a false alarm.

"As a matter of fact, you did, Emperor Varan," Kuvat continued to chuckle before saying, "That power you fear is not dangerous. It's not a secret within my Red Dragon Clan, either. If you want, I can explain it to you."

"Please," Emperor Varan pleaded.

Shortly after, Kuvat recounted the common knowledge of Chaos and its eternal growth with every passing chaos cycle.

Indeed, a higher being with power far beyond the Great Devils existed. However, that alone shouldn't be regarded as a great threat. Just because many things in Chaos could kill them didn't mean they would.

Even if they did, they could do nothing about it since they were too insignificant.

So why fret over it?

"So the Great Devils are only considered among the bottommost ranks of Chaos? The world is truly vast..." Emperor Varan's lips twitched.

"That is just how it is. Don't let the truth of reality burden you, Emperor Varan. Compared to the long history of Chaos, your lineage of the human race is very young. So, there's no need to look down on yourself," Kuvat said.

"Alright," Emperor Varan nodded before changing the topic, "It's been a few days since Lord Vaan left. When will he return? I'm not sure what his plans are for this country..."

"The Supreme Leader currently has businesses on the moon, Emperor Varan," Kuvat replied.

"He has left me in charge of supervising the cooperation between the Great Ratholos Empire and the Holy Knight Empire or the seven witch kingdoms and making sure they proceed smoothly."

"You may have submitted to our Supreme Leader, but you haven't lost your sovereignty. The Great Ratholos Empire is still yours to govern as you see fit," Kuvat stated.

Emperor Varan was immediately surprised.

He originally thought Vaan would make major changes after taking control of the Great Ratholos Empire.

However, he was wrong.

Nothing changed except that his country could get along with the Holy Knight Empire and the seven witch kingdoms of the north.

Distrust, conflicting ideologies, and discriminatory views have always been the root of the problem preventing the Great Ratholos Empire from getting along with other countries.

But now that it had been forced under a single entity, it was as if all its restrictions had been uplifted.

Even if the Great Ratholos Empire didn't agree with the religious beliefs of the Holy Knight Empire or the discriminatory views of the seven witch kingdoms, it would no longer prevent them from working together for mutual benefit.

They no longer had a reason to fear the other party backstabbing them or plotting traps to sabotage their country's interests because they were now on the same side.

There was someone to ensure their fairness.

Emperor Varan still found it hard to believe his Great Ratholos Empire could enjoy such a blessing despite submitting to desperate circumstances.

It seemed the Overlord Prophecy was not unfounded.

The overlord could unite the continent with absolute strength, but it wouldn't be absolutely united without charisma.

Because Lord Vaan had the heart of the people with him, the countries under his rule would most definitely stand strong together and not fall apart so easily. So long as their faith in him remained strong, their unity would not crumble.

The Black Mountain was the country's national treasure. But now, it has become the symbol of the people's belief in the Battle God. No one would forget the black pillar that halted the vampires' invasion.

Nevertheless, Emperor Varan was so caught up in his thoughts that he almost missed an important detail in Kuvat's words.

After pausing for a moment, Emperor Varan apologized, "I'm sorry, Lord Kuvat. Did you say Lord Vaan has business on the moon?"

"That's right," Kuvat nodded and said, "We are building a base on the moon to utilize the pure mana source the Supreme Leader discovered there. In the near future, everyone will have a chance to stand on the moon and enjoy its benefits."

Emperor Varan's jaw dropped.

He already knew the Red Dragon Clan's new Dragon God was someone amazing and overflowing with talent. However, even after he gave the person high expectations, the person would still find ways to exceed them.

"What is this pure mana source, Lord Kuvat? What's so special or different about it?" Emperor Varan quickly asked with interest after noticing Kuvat's particular emphasis on it."

"The pure mana source is..." Kuvat patiently explained the benefits of pure mana and how it differed from regular mana.

Pure mana didn't just allow men to cultivate magic; even witches and dragons would benefit from cultivating with it, ranging from increased progress to overcoming bottlenecks.

It was beneficial to all life and had far-reaching applications.

After Emperor Varan finished learning about pure mana, he was immediately shocked and confused.

"I don't understand, Lord Kuvat. Why is such an amazing discovery being made public? It will attract countless greed and troubles," Emperor Varan mentioned.

"Indeed, that would be the case," Kuvat acknowledged before calmly replying, "But at the Supreme Leader's current level of strength, would he fear the greed and troubles it would attract?"

"In fact, the Supreme Leader is looking forward to the greed and troubles it will bring. This move will undoubtedly speed up the process of uniting the continent," Kuvat added.

"Will it, though? I don't want to sound pessimistic, but too big of a wave will capsize the ship," Emperor Varan shared his opinion on the matter.

"I understand your concern, Emperor Varan. However, our Supreme Leader's wisdom isn't something you can measure with your understanding," Kuvat coolly stated before saying, "Our Supreme Leader doesn't care how many troublemakers there are; he only cares who they are."

"This bold move will undoubtedly draw them out of hiding and let us learn about our enemies. You have already personally experienced how terrible it is once a hidden ticking-time bomb finally erupts," Kuvat stated.

Emperor Varan's expression turned somber as he nodded. He finally realized how brilliant the move was.

He, too, did not wish for a second incident like the Sacred Tirtha's large-scale sacrifice to occur again, not to his Great Ratholos Empire, not to any other human country.

Such a tragedy shouldn't be allowed to repeat itself.

Chapter 806: Dangers of the Sea

Due to his growing interest, Emperor Varan continued to ask Kuvat questions about the moon base and pure mana. As such, he also learned about the Heavenreacher Project and the Space Station Project.

"I'm starting to wonder how Lord Vaan's mind works. It's already unbelievable that he came up with all these ideas, but... to realize them as well... How many people could do this?" Emperor Varan commented.

He had been the leader of a generation for many years. Standing above the masses and ruling over them was what he had always done. He was never beneath anyone, only above them.

However, learning about Vaan's ongoing projects made Emperor Varan thoroughly impressed.

Emperor Varan never thought there would be a day where he would willingly lower himself and serve another person above him. However, Vaan was fully qualified and deserving of all his respect and loyalty.

Only under Vaan's leadership would the human race of Pangea be ushered into a golden age of development.

Traversing among the stars was only a dream, but there was actually someone who could make it happen.

Emperor Varan couldn't help but look forward to the future miracles Vaan would show him as he followed his leadership.

"Shall we continue to discuss business, Emperor Varan?" Astoria suggested with some impatience.

"My apologies, Empress Astoria. Let us do that. It wasn't my intention to be sidetracked," Emperor Varan smiled ruefully.

Shortly after, Emperor Varan, Astoria, and Henrietta began to negotiate.

Emperor Varan wished to buy knowledgeable magic teachers from both the Holy Knight Empire and the Black Rose Empire to develop the Great Ratholos Empire's magic education.

However, Astoria and Henrietta outright refused him even if he offered them a high price. Their people weren't goods to be sold off like slaves.

At most, Emperor Varan could hire their services, which he reluctantly agreed to after taking a step back.

Nevertheless, Emperor Varan soon discovered he would need to invest a tremendous amount of mana stones to develop his country's magic faculty to an acceptable standard.

Furthermore, there was bound to be a severe shortage of healing potions due to the complete annihilation of the Sacred Tirtha.

The loss of so many Shamans and Witch Doctors struck his country hard.

After doing some rough calculations, Emperor Varan realized his country's current production of mana stone wasn't enough to support everything unless he made some sacrifices to the martial faculty.

Emperor Varan found himself conflicted.

"If you are short of mana stones, how about selling us the right to enter your country and use a section of your sea region, Emperor Varan? We will send people to procure the mana stones ourselves and pay taxes if necessary," Astoria suggested.

Since the Great Ratholos Empire's Eastern Sea was so rich in mana stone deposits, she was naturally interested in securing a few for the Holy Knight Empire.

It would certainly boost their development.

Alas, Emperor Varan couldn't help but smile wryly at her suggestion. He shortly replied, "That's quite the difficult spot you've put me in, Empress Astoria."

"Oh? Could it be that you don't wish to sell the rights to us, Emperor Varan?" Astoria asked.

"That is not the case, Empress Astoria," Emperor Varan sighed before saying, "If your people are willing to pay the taxes, I would naturally be more than happy to permit it, no matter how many people you send to mine the mana stones."

"However, as I've said previously, the Eastern Sea's deepsea region is very treacherous. Even Transcendent-level Body Refiners could perish easily in its waters. As such, you will only be sending your people to their deaths and suffering losses if I were to allow it."

"After all, your people don't even train in Body Refinement. It'll be very difficult for them to survive the deepsea region's dangers with aura and magic alone," Emperor Varan added.

"Why don't you tell us more about the dangers of the deep sea, Emperor Varan?" Henrietta asked.

"You should already know about water pressure, so I won't bother explaining its danger in the deep sea," Emperor Varan stated before saying, "The biggest dangers of the deep sea come from the sea monsters that dwell in that dark world."

"Not only are they strong and aggressive, they are also numerous and massive. The weakest sea monsters are generally found around the Transcendent rank, and the strongest ones we have encountered to date are believed to be Demigods."

"There may even be stronger sea monsters out there in the deep sea," Emperor Varan added.

"Transcendents are the weakest, and the strongest are Demigods? Furthermore, there may be even stronger sea monsters?" Astoria repeated with astonishment.

The strength of sea life far exceeded her expectations. It made her wonder how they grew to be so strong.

"That's right," Emperor Varan nodded and said, "I know what you are wondering, but you will not believe me if I told you – These sea monsters aren't just strong; they were born at least that strong."

"Is there a difference between the sea monsters you mentioned and the Sea Serpent Clan?" Henrietta suddenly asked with a frown.

"Is there a difference? Of course, there's a difference, Queen Henrietta. There's a big difference!" Emperor Varan felt a little speechless by the question, but he still patiently explained, "The Sea Serpent Clan is a sentient race of sea beasts from the Inner Sea. On the other hand, the sea monsters are non-sentient beings from the Outer Sea."

"Furthermore, sea beasts aren't born as strong as the sea monsters, nor are they comparable in size. We can at least tame or reason with sea beasts if we expend the effort."

"Sea monsters only rely on their most primal instincts to survive. If you encounter one, you can only kill it or flee," Emperor Varan sighed.

After Astoria and Henrietta heard that much, they were even more astonished.

The Boundless Sea's Inner Sea was the region of non-toxic seawater surrounding the continent.

Everything else beyond that was considered the Outer Sea, a boundless sea region of toxic water capable of killing all life. As such, the Outer Sea was also known as the Dead Sea.

It was their first time hearing there could be life in such a godforsaken place.

Chapter 807: Skywhale Overlord

As everyone learned more about the strength of the sea from Emperor Varan, they became more astounded over time.

"Unexpectedly, the strength of the sea was actually so frightening... It's good they can't come onto land," Astoria commented with slight relief.

Just the water pressure of the deep sea alone made most of Pangea's ocean depths unreachable. Now, she learned even more terrifying creatures lurking in it.

Alas, Emperor Varan smiled helplessly before saying, "I wouldn't be so sure about it, Empress Astoria."

"Could it be that sea monsters can survive on land?" Astoria asked with astonishment.

"I don't know about that. The Outer Sea has always been uncharted territory, Empress Astoria," Emperor Varan calmly shook his head before replying, "However, even though we are incapable of exploring it, we can still see part of it from a distance."

"Among the shadows of terrifying sea monsters that we have seen in the Outer Sea, one of them flies in the sky. Moreover, its mass is absolutely monstrous, spanning an estimated length of ten kilometers."

"Its strength is most definitely at the Demigod rank or even beyond. Presently, we haven't confirmed its exact species. However, we have labeled it as the Skywhale Overlord due to his distinct whale-like cry," Emperor Varan mentioned.

Even if the toxic seawater didn't stop them from venturing into the Outer Sea, the Skywhale Overlord's existence alone was enough reason to prevent anyone from ever trying to intrude into its territory.

"T-Ten kilometers in length..." Henrietta and Astoria uttered with stunned looks.

Besides the legend of the continent being the body of Golden Dragon Pangea, they had never heard of or seen any other life form of such sheer enormity.

Of course, the Skywhale Overlord was nothing compared to Golden Dragon Pangea. However, it was still an absolute behemoth of a being, even if its estimated size wasn't accurate.

'Demigod-rank life forms generally don't exceed a thousand meters in size,' Emphyrean Scarletsea said to Henrietta.

'However, this Skywhale Overlord is estimated to be ten kilometers long. Even if the estimation is off, this is not the size of a Demigod-rank life form. That Skywhale Overlord is most definitely at the Divine rank.'

'Moreover, it is higher up in the Divine rank at the very least,' Empyrean Scarletsea added seriously.

'It's actually that strong, Master?' Henrietta was shocked.

However, Empyrean Scarletsea quickly corrected her, 'No, it's not that strong; it's AT LEAST that strong.'

'Even if that Skywhale Overlord has no spiritual wisdom and doesn't know how to cultivate, just being of that size alone makes it at least a Late-stage Divine Being. This is because the composition must be at this level at the very least to support it. If it is sentient, then its strength is likely even beyond that.'

'However, apart from some special lineages and mythical beast races, most life forms that could grow to such sizes are generally non-sentient beings incapable of developing spiritual wisdom,' Empyrean Scarletsea explained.

'I see...' Henrietta quickly understood but still felt surprised nonetheless.

Nevertheless, she suddenly thought of something after learning the relationship between size and strength.

"Hold on. If the Skywhale Overlord is that big, then how big are the Transcendent-rank sea monsters usually?" Henrietta asked with a startled look.

"Transcendent-rank sea monsters are generally thirty meters to a hundred meters big. Some are even as big as two hundred meters long. As for anything bigger, it has never been hunted before, so it's hard to say," Emperor Varan stated.

"I see..." Henrietta nodded with understanding.

Fortunately, Transcendent-rank sea monsters were within the expected range and weren't greatly underestimated like the Skywhale Overlord.

However, that was also to be expected.

After all, Emperor Varan had never hunted Demigod-rank sea monsters or above. Thus, it was impossible to understand just how strong the Skywhale Overlord was.

Furthermore, its shadows were only seen from afar, making it more difficult to gauge its strength, let alone with limited knowledge.

"For your information, Transcendent-rank sea monster meat is an absolute delicacy. Not only does it taste great, but it also improves our physique. Its blood and organs are also great for brewing potent potions, and its bones are priceless materials for crafting Rank 5 equipment, weapons, and various tools," Emperor Varan mentioned.

"You're trying quite hard to strike a sale, Emperor Varan," Henrietta said with amusement.

"It doesn't hurt to try," Emperor Varan smiled wryly.

"Well, I didn't say you failed," Henrietta smiled back before admitting, "I am indeed in buying Transcendent-rank sea monster carcasses from you, Emperor Varan. It is hard not to be after how much you have told us about sea monsters."

"However, simply buying Transcendent-rank sea monster meat and materials from you would be quite costly in the long term. Thus, I propose a joint venture in hunting these sea monsters and splitting the profits."

"Although you won't be able to monopolize the sales and price if we do this, I believe the sharp increase in hunting will benefit your country either way. What do you think, Emperor Varan?" Henrietta proposed.

"I can't say I'm not interested. However, we have to discuss this in detail," Emperor Varan replied.

It was hard to determine how much the Black Rose Empire and Holy Knight Empire could help his Great Ratholos Empire in hunting the sea monsters.

If they could only provide support in the hunting, he naturally needed to negotiate a bigger share on his end. Otherwise, he would be suffering a loss, considering his warriors would be taking on greater risks.

On the other hand, if they could pull their weight in the hunt, then he wouldn't mind a more equal split of the profits.

"Naturally," Henrietta nodded.

While Henrietta and Emperor Varan were discussing business, Astoria had other thoughts on her mind.

After contemplating for a while, she mentioned, "Emperor Varan, you mentioned these sea monsters come from the Outer Sea, which is also known as the Dead Sea. I don't understand how these creatures could survive in such a toxic environment."

"Furthermore, how can its meat be safe for consumption? There must be some side effects to it, no?" Astoria added.

Chapter 808: Give And Take

"My Great Ratholos Empire has hunted and eaten these sea monsters for centuries. I can assure you that they are quite safe to eat, Empress Astoria. Moreover, they provide plenty of health benefits as well," Emperor Varan replied before adding, "But of course, we do make adequate preparations to ensure that stays the case."

"I, myself, have dissected countless sea monsters during my active hunting days, so I'm quite knowledgeable about sea monsters. You see, these sea monsters, regardless of their species, all have a special organ for storing all the toxins in their bodies."

"As long as this toxin-storing organ is carefully removed without spillage, the sea monster's inner layer of meat will be safe to consume as is. The outer meat, on the other hand, requires a strict cleansing and cooking process before it reaches our safe standards for consumption."

"If you are not reassured, I can show our usual procedure for prepping the sea monsters before we discuss this business further," Emperor Varan suggested.

"Alright, let's do that, but later," Henrietta nodded before seriously mentioning, "Besides trading and cooperation, there's something else we should also discuss, Emperor Varan."

"Oh?" Emperor Varan was mildly surprised for a moment. But after seeing Henrietta's solemn expression, his mood also shifted.

"You want to discuss potential joint strategies to guard our countries against the movements of other countries, Queen Henrietta?"

"So you are aware of the issue, Emperor Varan. That's right," Henrietta nodded before saying, "When Great Devil Abaddon completed his ritual and plunged your imperial capital into chaos with his vampiric forces, only our Black Rose Empire and Holy Knight Empire mobilized our armies to aid your country."

"On the other hand, the Divine League and Nine Kingdoms Alliance, the closest countries to your Great Ratholos Empire, did nothing but strengthen their borders and cut off trade routes, according to the Red Dragon Clan's scout reports in the past three days."

"By now, the rest of the world has learned of Great Devil Abaddon's descent and that we were the only countries to come to your aid. They will subconsciously lump us together even if they don't know about your recently sworn allegiance to Lord Vaan."

"I don't think I need to stress what this entails, right?" Henrietta asked.

"Right," Emperor Varan calmly nodded and said, "The combined territory and military might of two empires and seven witch kingdoms would be quite alarming to the other countries."

"It isn't farfetched to say that our unified alliance occupies the entire northern continent. I'm afraid the Divine League or the Nine Kingdoms Alliance wouldn't like this."

"Thus, there's a high possibility of them either seeking to expand their own alliances to match ours or secretly act to sabotage our relationship and break up our alliance," Emperor Varan speculated.

"I'm glad you know the situation well, Emperor Varan," Henrietta seemingly praised him before continuing, "It won't be easy for the Divine League and the Nine Kingdoms Alliance to expand their influence just because they want to. On the other hand, plotting against your Great Ratholos Empire would be simpler."

"So, for everyone's benefit, let us hope that you don't stumble and fall for their trickery, then start blaming us for other people's schemes," Henrietta coolly stated.

"I'm of the same thought as Henrietta," Astoria chimed.

Emperor Varan smiled ruefully before replying, "You both seem quite sure I will fall for their schemes and start blaming you two, Queen Henrietta and Empress Astoria."

"What can I say? Your country practically has zero defenses against magic. If the Divine League or the Nine Kingdoms Alliance are adept in magic, it would be quite easy to mislead your people and create tension between our countries," Henrietta nonchalantly shrugged.

Emperor Varan smiled even more ruefully before saying, "Isn't that why I am seeking magic scholars and teachers from your countries to develop our magic faculty in a bid to catch up?"

"I didn't deny your efforts towards that working direction, Emperor Varan," Henrietta shook her head and said, "I'm simply saying that it will take time to realize that."

"Were you planning to leave your country in such a magic-vulnerable state until your defense against magic espionage and sabotage caught up to standard?"

"You mean..."

"My Black Rose Army is available for hire if you also need battle witches to guard your borders and cities, Emperor Varan," Henrietta casually mentioned.

In that instant, Emperor Varan immediately understood Henrietta's intention and didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

The suggestion itself wasn't a bad idea. After all, national security was quite important in ensuring the country's stability from exterior threats. However, Emperor Varan already had too many things on his plate.

He wasn't sure where he would find the funds to support them all.

"Mana stones aren't the only thing we are interested in, Emperor Varan. We are not that greedy for your country's mana stones. We are also interested in your country's body-refining methods and martial arts knowledge," Astoria mentioned.

"If we can learn your country's body-refining methods and martial arts knowledge, both my Holy Knight Empire and Henrietta's Black Rose Empire will benefit from it. Thus, if you are willing to trade, we can exchange mana stones for them."

"This should provide you with additional funds to invest in other areas you found short. What do you think of this, Emperor Varan?" Astoria asked shortly after.

Emperor Varan wore a thoughtful look.

Although it didn't seem like a good idea to sell his country's body-refining methods and martial arts knowledge to other countries, that was in the past.

Now that they were on the same side, it was good to exchange what they had in excess and take what they needed. It was a give-and-take relationship; there was no loss and only gains.

More importantly, it was true that his country needed additional security in magical forces. His country would be at the mercy of the Divine League and the Nine Kingdoms Alliance if they had secretly developed advanced magic units.

Furthermore, the Divine League and Nine Kingdoms Alliance weren't the only concerns.

With the shift in power dynamics, the Freedom Federation and other forces might also act to restore the balance.

Chapter 809: Eastern Wind Kingdom's Turmoil

Among the nine kingdoms of the Nine Kingdoms Alliance, the Eastern Wind Kingdom occupied the northeasternmost region, sharing its borders with the Great Ratholos Empire's southeastern region and the Eastern Sea.

However, despite possessing direct access to the Eastern Sea, like the Great Ratholos Empire, it was far inferior in terms of power. In fact, it was the weakest of the nine kingdoms within the alliance.

Its strongest expert was only a Low-level Rank 4 warrior.

Nevertheless, this shouldn't be surprising, given it was a direct neighbor of the holy land of body refining. Losing its potential talents to the Great Ratholos Empire all year round was to be expected.

That said, it didn't necessarily imply the Eastern Wind Kingdom permanently lost its talents to the Great Ratholos Empire. Some of them would return to their home after making progress in their training and assume high positions in the kingdom.

Even so, it was undeniable that most talents were outside the kingdom most of the time. Thus, the kingdom couldn't utilize its true strength to gain more speaking rights and influence within the alliance.

It could only be looked down on and ostracized by the other kingdoms in the alliance.

After all, the Blackseal Kingdom in the eastern part of the alliance and the Goldwater Kingdom in the southeastern part were also coastal kingdoms. But unlike the Eastern Wind Kingdom, they had High-level Rank 4 warriors.

Even the rest of the non-coastal kingdoms in the alliance had at least one Mid-level Rank 4 warrior.

As such, the Eastern Wind Kingdom was quite lacking in that aspect.

In the distant past, its capital city, Eastwind City, was a flourishing and beautiful city of white stone and silver metal, and the refreshing sea breeze of the Eastern Sea used to pump energy into it.

Although Eastwind City was still a beautiful coastal city, much of its past glamor was gone, and only its shell was retained. Due to poor maintenance, cracks filled its building walls, and pungent fish stench pervaded its chaotic and dirty streets.

Despite being the capital city of the Eastern Wind Kingdom, even its order was difficult to maintain due to the frequent crimes and chaos committed by the powerful crime syndicates naturally attracted to it due to its weak stability and profitable market.

In front of these powerful crime syndicates, royal authority was a joke that only existed in name.

The Winston Royal Family was helpless against them due to their limited power.

Every morning, officials would gather inside the Eastwind Palace's Great Hall for their regular meeting and report.

At that moment, King Herman Winston sat on his throne with a listless expression. He listened to the ongoing discussion without any particular focus or attention.

The topics and reports have mostly been the same for the past three days.

"The alliance is pressuring us to find out the current situation within the Great Ratholos Empire again," the minister of foreign affairs mentioned gloomily.

"Again? Why are they only pressuring us? The Ironblood Kingdom and Great Tristar Kingdom also share their borders with the Great Ratholos Empire. The alliance should also pressure them! Why only us?!" the minister of defense barked with frustration.

"We've already been over this more than once, Minister Dudley! No one can get news from the Great Ratholos Empire since we've all sealed off all routes to and from there! However, we still have access via the sea; that's why the alliance is pinning its hopes on our kingdom to acquire the news," the minister of trade stated.

"Acquire news from the Great Ratholos Empire via the sea?" Minister Dudley snickered with derision, replying, "Easier said than done. Who doesn't know the ports and ships are all controlled by crime gangs?"

"Those damn parasites are constantly leeching off our kingdom's wealth," the minister of internal affairs cursed grudgingly, saying, "If not for them, would our kingdom become so weak that our allies have the chance to bully us?"

"These crime gangs have been ongoing problems for a long while. The alliance is purposely making things difficult for us!" the minister of internal affairs added.

"Hmph!" Minister Dudley coldly snorted and said, "Of course, they are purposely making things for us, Minister Hector! Those damn criminals are most likely agents planted by the other kingdoms in the alliance!"

"Where else would you find such powerful warriors? It was a mistake for our kingdom to become part of the Nine Kingdoms Alliance. We haven't gained any real benefits from this alliance, but we have been exploited and suppressed plenty!"

"If our kingdom is bound to be swallowed by other countries, we are better off getting swallowed by the Great Ratholos Empire than this group of two-faced bastards!" Minister Dudley cursed.

"Impudent! How dare you spout such treasonous words in His Majesty's presence, Minister Dudley?" Minister Hector angrily rebuked, saying, "More importantly, we don't even know the situation inside the Great Ratholos Empire!"

"For all we know, there might not even be a Great Ratholos Empire in the coming days! His Majesty is wise for making our kingdom a part of the Nine Kingdoms Alliance."

"Our situation might be bad, but at least we aren't facing the terror of a Great Devil right now!" Minister Hector stated.

"Hmph!" Minister Dudley snorted contemptuously before coldly asking, "After the Great Ratholos Empire falls, where do you think Great Devil Abaddon's vampiric forces will rear their ugly heads, Minister Hector?"

"If we had actively sent support to the Great Ratholos Empire at the first possible moment, we wouldn't be blind to the situation as we are now!" Minister Dudley barked.

"Are you even hearing yourself, Minister Dudley? Send support to the Great Ratholos Empire? Against Great Devil Abaddon? Are you joking?" the minister of foreign affairs made snide remarks.

"Our kingdom is the weakest within the alliance. Forget whether it is possible to stop a Great Devil's descent; we would only be sending our troops to die! Even worse, their deaths might even strengthen Great Devil Abaddon and his minions!"

"In that case, the Great Ratholos Empire won't even feel grateful for our 'support.' They might even condemn us!" the minister of foreign affairs stated cynically.

"It's already far too late for that anyway. What's the point of mentioning that now?" King Herman sighed as he spoke for the first time.

Chapter 810: Young Master Punta

"Since that is the case, let us discuss something we can change, Your Majesty. The Nine Kingdoms Alliance is no different from a cage. Our kingdom's development has been crippled by people we consider allies. This cannot go on any further, Your Majesty," Minister Dudley spoke.

"So what do you propose, Minister Dudley?" King Herman inquired.

"Remove the blockade and send people to the Great Ratholos Empire to scout for information, Your Majesty. No matter what, we must understand its current situation," Minister Dudley stated.

"A Great Devil's descent threatens more than just a single country; the whole world is at stake. We can't cower behind the safety of our walls forever. We must send support to the Great Ratholos Empire and restore our image. It is better late than never."

"Only by doing this will we have a chance to break away from the Nine Kingdoms Alliance, Your Majesty," Minister Dudley said.

"While I don't agree with sending our troops to the Great Ratholos Empire, I do agree with Minister Dudley on the part where we have to break away from the Nine Kingdoms Alliance, Your Majesty," the minister of external affairs voiced.

"The longer we stay with the Nine Kingdoms Alliance, the longer they drain our kingdom's vitality. Instead of waiting for our deaths, I would much rather fight with honor alongside the Great Ratholos Empire."

"The way that we are now cannot be considered living. It's about time we take a stand for ourselves, Your Majesty," the minister of external affairs stated.

King Herman sighed before saying, "While the words sound pretty, realizing them is much more difficult."

"The moment we lift the blockade and send troops to support the Great Ratholos Empire, the Nine Kingdoms Alliance might send out their elites to besiege our kingdom for acting out against the collective interests of the alliance."

"We all know the other kingdoms in the alliance want to swallow our kingdom to bolster their influence and might. However, none of them have done so because of our obedience."

"The moment we defy the alliance may very well be our kingdom's end. We need help, but no one can help us. We are completely isolated," Kingdom Herman sighed sadly.

He felt like he had let down his ancestors for leading his kingdom to ruin. Perhaps he wasn't a qualified ruler.

Nevertheless, no one knew that the Red Dragon Clan's scouts had been eavesdropping on their morning meeting for the past two days. It was only a matter of time before the information reached Kuvat's ears and beyond.

...

Moon's Core, New Colony

There have been many changes since Vaan brought the witches and dragons to the new ancient colony to rebuild and cultivate.

Although the ancient colony's life support system was far from completion, a small area suitable for crop cultivation and accommodating life was prepared. The dragons have been using it as an air resupply station while High Witches studied and monitored the effects of their crop cultivations.

On the fourth day of their arrival, Ophelia overcame her bottleneck and stepped into Transcendence, becoming the eighth Transcendent Witch in Pangea.

However, Ophelia did not celebrate her breakthrough and simply requested to return to Pangea. To her, reaching Transcendent rank wasn't something worth celebrating.

Vaan naturally agreed and sent her back with Aeliana and Eniwse after they stabilized their cultivations at the Peak-stage High Witch and Late-stage High Witch ranks, respectively.

Afterward, Vaan took another batch of battle witches and students to the moon colony.

Once the moon colony's life support system was fully functional, it would be time to take a batch of men to the otherworldly subterranean region for research.

...

Meanwhile, shortly after Aeliana returned to Sunpeak City, she discovered it had recently experienced a surge in visitors.

Due to Sunpeak City's swift-rising reputation, it usually attracted all kinds of people from the seven witch kingdoms, be they travelers, merchants, or nobles.

However, the surge of visitors in the past few days was not limited to the seven witch kingdoms. They also came from the Holy Knight Empire and the Great Ratholos Empire. Among them were even many young masters and young misses from reputable noble families.

"So this is Sunpeak City, the current center of attention in the Black Rose Empire. It doesn't seem all that special... Ah, I miss the food from home already," commented a young master from the Great Ratholos Empire while eating from a chicken skewer.

In his honest opinion, Sunpeak City only looked nice. In terms of food quality, it was far too lacking compared to any coastal city in his home country.

"Well, at least the women here are all gorgeous and pleasing to the eye," the young master added, licking his lips.

"Young Master Punta, please show some restraint. We are in another country," the young master's guard politely reminded.

However, Young Master Punta ignored the friendly reminder.

On the contrary, Young Master Punta boldly inspected the witches on the busy street before his lewd gaze settled on one who appeared to stand out from the mass due to her extraordinary aura, which was absent in the other witches.

Seeing the person looking around as she walked down the street by herself, Young Master Punta immediately assumed it was her first time visiting Sunpeak City.

"Since no one is trying to befriend such an extraordinary lady, I will be the first to do so."

Young Master Punta confidently strode forward and intercepted the person's path. At the same time, the person's pleasant herbal scent drifted past his nose and heightened his interest.

"Hello, Beautiful. Are you by yourself? It's also my first time visiting this city. Do you mind if I join you?" Young Master Punta asked as his subtle lewd gaze subconsciously roamed the lady's fair body.

Aeliana immediately frowned before barking coldly, "Scram! Before I decide to gorge out your eyes and feed them to the crows!"

Young Master Punta was immediately stunned.

At the same time, an invisible strong force pushed him away, causing him to stumble to the ground and make a fool of himself. His guard also drew his sword defensively with alarm.

Countless people glanced over and couldn't help but gloat. Young Master Punta quickly felt humiliated and enraged.

"You! How dare you push me! Do you know who my father is?!" Young Master Punta shouted resentfully.

Aeliana paused with narrowed eyes before coldly asking, "Why? Your mother never told you?"

"..."

Young Master Punta's mind quickly went blank, feeling speechless and dumbfounded by the unexpected reply.

Meanwhile, the guard gripped his sword, breaking out in cold sweats as he overheard some of the bystanders' remarks.

"Someone is actually looking for trouble in front of Lady Aeliana... I don't know if this person is bold or just courting death..."

"You don't say..."