

The Witch 931

Chapter 931: Eniwse's Memory

A crimson sea of stars stretched across the endless expanse, high beyond a drunken sky, too dissolute in its infinite gloom of drifting dark clouds that blotted out its grand visage, making it rarely seen and appreciated in all its splendor and beauty.

On the earth far beneath, towering rock mountains covered the vast desolate land, oppressed by darkness, protecting it with their enormous presence and aimed defiant spears at the sad sky with their jagged peaks.

The cold winds howled like screaming banshees as if manifesting the conflict and tension between heaven and earth.

A winged ruler of the skies soared over the suppressed yet proud rocky peaks, revisiting the same familiar and unfamiliar scenes on a seemingly neverending loop.

Eniwse did not know for what reason her consciousness was brought into this world, but she had lost count of how many times she had watched the same scenes unfold on repeat.

In this strange dreamland, she had no control and no body of her own. She could only be a silent spectator and see the world through the eyes of the winged creature – a red dragon that shared some resemblance to her dragonification form.

'Is this a memory of another life?' Eniwse suspected.

Nevertheless, she continued to watch the red dragon soar over the endless mountains, seemingly in search of something hidden in the depths of the darkness.

Eventually, the scene finally changed with a single mighty dragon roar.

The vast mountain peaks trembled, and the screeching winds went eerily silent, seemingly withdrawing all sounds from the region. Only the oppressive darkness of a mountain peak spread and rose as earthen shadows were chipped off like rolling waves and sinking quicksand, revealing the finer details of it.

An angry face was shortly discovered on the colossal mountain as it stood up like an erected stone pillar that could pierce into the heavens.

"Insolent dragon! How dare you trespass on this Lord's territory and disturb his slumber! Your crime will not go unpaid! Leave your life behind this Lord!"

The furious colossal titan grabbed at the red dragon with its enormous hand.

Although the earthen arm moved slowly, it was large enough to cover huge distances in a short time. It caught the red dragon and pinned it to the ground heavily. The earthen surface ruptured instantly, sending out ripples of seismic shock.

However, the red dragon was not found under the colossal titan's palm after it was raised.

Bam!

A strong force suddenly struck the colossal titan's left cheek, staggering its rigid body and knocking it off balance. The colossal titan fell over and slammed into the ground, followed by countless tremors.

"Mountain King, you are a tyrannical and irresponsible ruler! You have poorly governed your land and destroyed many innocent villages in this region! Today, I shall slay you on behalf of justice for the deceased!"

"Audacious! How dare a mere Rank 4 mortal being challenge this Lord! You are overestimating yourself, dragon!"

The battle between a Peak-level Rank 4 Red Dragon and a Low-level Rank 5 Colossal Titan raged on for three days.

Although the Colossal Titan possessed divine strength due to its massive body, it was also very brittle. After being repeatedly chipped away, it was ultimately destroyed by the red dragon.

Even so, it wasn't an easy fight. In fact, it was very tough!

The red dragon stepped on the colossal titan's shattered head and roared to the sky as if to celebrate its hard-earned victory.

Watching up to this point, Eniwse didn't find anything wrong until she felt like her field of vision was suddenly distorted. Moments later, an incomparably thin and sharp water blade flashed across the region without warning.

The dragon's roar was cut short, and Eniwse's field of vision began to rotate 180 degrees while falling to the ground.

Darkness followed shortly after, robbing all of Eniwse's eyesight.

Only the instant pain of decapitation lingered, shaking Eniwse up. She felt like she had experienced it before. The longer she observed the dream world, the more vivid and clear it became to her.

What she was seeing was very likely a piece of memory from her past life as a red dragon. Despite realizing that, she didn't have much of a reaction since the past no longer had anything to do with her.

Only her present life mattered.

Nevertheless, she couldn't help but want to know who instantly decapitated her at the last moment. Alas, the attack had arrived so quickly and without warning that there wasn't much information to work with.

However, there were at least some clues.

Shortly after the decapitation happened, Eniwse remembered hearing the annoyed voice of a woman saying a few things.

"Too noisy."

"Damn pest... I should have tortured it."

"My experimental subject is destroyed now."

...

While waiting in the darkness for the scene to relive itself, Eniwse suddenly noticed the memory fragment did not replay itself from the start again.

"I've regained my body?" Eniwse uttered with surprise.

Having spectated through the eyes of the red dragon for so long, she didn't expect to regain her body and movements.

However, she wasn't alone, as another copy of herself manifested in the darkness. It immediately glared at her, then pounced on her viciously.

"Give me back my body, thief! Someone like you should have never been born! This is my body! My body, I say!"

Eniwse's copy had Eniwse pinned under its body as it viciously pulled on her hair.

Eniwse struggled to break away from her copy but found out she only wielded the strength of an ordinary person, the same as her copy. Yet, it felt like her copy was even stronger than her.

As such, Eniwse was helplessly rooted under her clone as she struggled to fight it off her.

"Give me back my body, thief!"

"What are you talking about?! This is my body! You are the thief who copied my look!"

"Liar, liar, pants on fire! Would a body thief look like this!?"

Eniwse's copy forced Eniwse's head to turn and look at her reflection in a puddle it made appear. However, Eniwse didn't see the face of her regained appearance in the dream world. Instead, it was the decapitated dragon.

"You are a body snatcher! I am the real one!"

"You're wrong! I'm not a thief! This is my body!"

Although the copy's words made Eniwse doubt herself, she still denied its claim. She wanted to believe her body belonged to her.

Even if she was a dragon in her previous life, she was reborn in her current life's body without any prior memories of her past life.

How could there be another soul for the body?

When Eniwse thought up to that point, she began to doubt her copy's existence. It wasn't real. It had to be a mental demon or something!

"You're just a fake! You are not real!" Eniwse wanted to believe.

Chapter 932: Waking Up

Within the world of memories, Eniwse battled with her twin, both physically and verbally. Neither side was willing to back down despite having little to prove their legitimacy to the body.

Eniwse's twin was relentless, but Eniwse was even more stubborn.

Eniwse knew that their physical and verbal fights were inconsequential. The real deciding factor of their victory was the strength of their wills; the one to lose faith in themselves and doubt their origin would be the one to be swallowed by the other party.

A moment of weakness was all it would take to be lost forever.

"You say this is your body, but I bet you don't even know who you are! Nobody knows who you are or if you ever even existed!" Eniwse snapped back at her vengeful twin venomously.

Surprisingly, her words struck her sore spot, causing her to show momentary weakness.

"You're wrong! Of course, I know who I am! I am the soul of this body! I was barely formed with a will before you came and robbed it from me! The life you lived was not your own but what should have been mine!"

"Even the talent you wield belongs to me! You are but a foreign dragon of fire who has died and should have passed on long ago! What are you still clinging to life for?! Don't you know how selfish you are!?"

"Why do you have to take my life away from me? Why, why, why?!"

Although Eniwse's twin showed a moment of weakness, she immediately retaliated with a fiercer argument.

Eniwse was stubborn, but she was still a person with feelings. She tried to deny her twin's existence because she thought it was just a mental demon conjured from the darkness in her heart to test her will.

However, her twin's heartfelt expression of despair and loneliness planted a seed of doubt in her heart. As such, she also started to feel guilt and sympathy.

"I didn't ask for this, nor was I given a choice in this matter. I'm sorry if you feel wronged, but that's just how it is."

"If you feel sorry for me, then give me back my body! You didn't have a choice then, but you have a choice now! Furthermore, you have already used my body for several decades. It's time you return it to me."

"I do feel sorry for you, but I can't do that. Even if this isn't my body then, it is my body now. My life is also my own, not yours."

Although Eniwse and her twin seemed to have deepened their understanding of each other, they could not see eye to eye. Neither would ever agree to surrender their body.

As such, they could only keep clashing with increasing intensity and violence.

At the same time, the dark world was also changed according to clashing wills. Its endless fog of darkness was swept away by the brilliance of raging flames spewing out from Eniwse's side.

Half of the dream world was instantly transformed into a world of fire.

On the other hand, her twin's side possessed a world of earth. It was an endless stretch of land filled with rocky mountains and steep cliffs.

As the two elemental worlds collided, the rocks pierced through the wall of flames while the fire scorched the earth. In that instance, the world in between became one that was full of scorched mountains and molten lava veins coursing down their towering heights.

Although Eniwse also tried to wield the earth element, nothing happened. Instead, she received her twin's contempt.

"Stupid! Earth is my original talent! Do you think you can still it in my presence?!"

"So that is how it is."

Eniwse quickly understood and didn't feel ashamed. She continued to her twin seriously and calmly. Since the power of earth didn't listen to her, she fully relied on the power of fire.

At the same time, she was wondering why her twin, who she had never known, would confront her now of all times and with so much willpower.

Did the pure mana nourish her?

Eniwse felt like this was the only reasonable explanation for her twin's sudden emergence after her transcendence.

Nevertheless, as Eniwse fought with her twin, it felt like she was fighting her mirror image. Although they were using different elemental powers, their moves, spells, and even defenses were the same.

They were evenly matched and couldn't gain any advantage over the other.

Even though all their powers were just figments of imagination in the dream world, Eniwse started to feel strange as she tried to pull out more power of fire to topple her twin.

More memories of the decapitated dragon flowed into her mind.

More importantly, there weren't any more gloomy scenes of hard-won battles and struggles for improvement. Instead, they were warm memories of a dragon family.

Although her father was strict, there were no ill feelings of hatred or resentment for the tough treatment, only respect and adoration. She was proud to be the daughter of the most talented dragon lord in the clan.

Even her mother was another dragon lord.

As their child, it was only right for her to become as powerful and talented as them so she wouldn't bring them shame and stain their honor.

Suddenly, Eniwse's heart trembled as she realized her dragon parents from the previous life were Lord Narvim and Lady Khaleesi.

She had always wondered why they would show her more care and concern than the rest of Vaan's women. It seemed it was because they had recognized her as their reincarnated child all along.

Eniwse suddenly missed them and had an urge to see them immediately.

However, she couldn't because she was trapped in this dream world, battling another will who desired to take over her body.

Although time probably flowed differently in the dream world, twenty years still passed since she was trapped. Considering both sides were still stubborn in their ways, it was unknown when she would ever get out if the status quo persisted.

Peng!

Eniwse suddenly stopped defending and got struck by an enormous rock pillar shooting her way. She was immediately slammed into the molten ground and buried underneath it.

However, she didn't feel any pain, only a nudge to her mind.

At the same time, Eniwse's twin stopped attacking. She deeply frowned as she watched Eniwse climb from underneath the towering rock pillar.

"Why did you stop fighting?" Eniwse's twin doubted.

"Why must we keep fighting?" Eniwse coolly responded before saying, "While you and I seem to have conflicting opinions, I have come to learn that we share the same tastes."

"Everything I hate, you hate. Everything I like, you like, even my man. You are envious of what I have, as you believe it is rightfully yours. However, you have been mistaken from the start."

"Everything I have is also yours, and everything you have is also mine. Why must we draw a clear line between what is yours and what is mine? We are of one body, so why can't we also be of one mind?"

After Eniwse finished speaking, her twin appeared to be dumbfounded as she froze on the spot. However, she also gained enlightenment after acknowledging her words.

As a result, she felt all her pent-up resentment dissipating from her body like dispersing mists.

"It seems you have figured it all out," Eniwse's twin smiled peacefully as she faded away along with the dream world crumbling.

The solution had never been domination but acceptance and co-existence.

"Let's get along from now on, Big Sister..."

Eniwse heard her twin's last words right before she finally opened her eyes to reality, greeted by two pairs of large, concerned dragon eyes.

Chapter 933: Family Reunion

"Lady Eniwse, how are you feeling? Any discomfort anywhere? If you feel anything wrong with your body, please tell us immediately," Lord Narvim inquired, seemingly more anxious than when Eniwse was unconscious.

At his level, it was far too easy to inspect Eniwse's condition and understand there was nothing wrong with her.

As such, Khaleesi nudged him scoldingly before smiling back at Eniwse.

"You've been sitting in meditation for three days straight after achieving transcendence in your cultivation. Are you feeling famished or thirsty? Should I fetch something for you to eat or drink, Lady Eniwse?" Khalessi asked with care.

Back when Eniwse didn't know the two dragon lords were her past life's parents, she didn't think much about how they respectfully addressed her.

However, now that she knew about it, her heart became stuffy and heavy.

Their respect was far more than she deserved. They were her parents, the two people she looked up to and respected most in her past life. They should not have to treat her like they were beneath her.

Eniwse couldn't imagine how hard it was for her parents to live with the fact that they recognized their child but couldn't be acknowledged for it. The only thing they could do was watch over her.

It must have been a helpless feeling.

"I do feel like a little thirsty," Eniwse admitted with a reminiscing smile as she requested, "Can you make me the Sweet Berry Punch drink? The one you used to make for me all the time when I was growing up?"

"Of course! I'll get to it right away!" Khaleesi happily agreed.

However, just as Khaleesi excitedly took a few steps away, her whole body abruptly stopped like she had just been stunned by lightning. Narvim's body also stiffened on the spot.

Only his eyes blinked a few times before his body trembled along with Khaleesi's.

Khaleesi had never made the kid beverage for Eniwse when she was young in her present life. When they had met in this life, she was already a grown human adult.

As such, she had never been with Eniwse in her childhood years, let alone seen her. It only happened in her previous life.

Khaleesi turned her head back at Eniwse, but not as fast as she had hoped. Her heart trembled with the fear of disappointment.

She didn't want to get her hopes up.

After all, it was extremely rare for those below True Divinity to retain memories of their past life after entering the cycle of reincarnation. As for mortals who have not achieved the divine, it was practically impossible.

However, Eniwse wouldn't have known about the Sweet Berry Punch drink she used to make for her unless she recovered memories of her past life.

When Khaleesi saw Eniwse's face, she noticed her eyes were already reddened.

"You don't want to anymore, Mama?"

With that single question, Khaleesi's heart burst with emotion. She cried with tears of happiness as she broke down before Eniwse.

Narvim stood proud as he kept watch, but silent tears also dripped down his long face, and his shoulder shuddered ever so slightly. As a male dragon, he shouldn't be as sentimental as female dragons. Even so, he couldn't fully contain his emotion.

Did they deserve such happiness? How did such a miracle happen?

"My child! My good child! You have recovered... your memories?" Khaleesi bawled with questions while holding herself back.

If Eniwse's human body weren't so small and fragile, she would have expressed her physical affection.

"Mm," Eniwse nodded, choking on her own emotions.

Khaleesi and Narvim couldn't help but thank the gods for allowing their family to have such a miraculous reunion. They were already content with watching over their daughter and were prepared to do so for the rest of their lives.

Thus, they didn't expect to be blessed with such happiness.

Meanwhile, Eniwse felt that her other half feeling envious of their family reunion. She realized that she did not have any human parents because they became orphans at a young age.

As such, while Eniwse's twin didn't have any parents, Eniwse still had hers from the previous life.

'Have you already forgotten what I said, Little Sister? We are of one mind and body. What is yours is also mine, and what is mine is also yours; they are also your parents.'

'But do they even know about me?'

Eniwse could immediately feel the depression and loneliness in her younger twin's response.

Her younger twin had only been a speck of consciousness that experienced the world through her eyes and actions and had done nothing of her own choosing. As such, it would be weird if anyone knew about her.

'Then, I will introduce you.'

'Wait... I'm not ready.'

Eniwse's decisive choice made her younger twin panicked. However, it was already too late for her to be stopped.

"Mama. Papa. I have someone else to introduce to you. Actually, you still have a younger daughter, who is also my little sister. Alright, I've done my part. Go ahead and say hi."

Narvim and Khaleesi were immediately baffled by Eniwse's strange worlds. However, they soon noticed Eniwse's change of aura to that of extreme timidity and anxiety.

It was as if Eniwse had suddenly become a different, introverted person.

Meanwhile, Eniwse's twin timidly glanced up at Narvim and Khaleesi with dread, guilt, and despair. In the world of dreams, she had tried to back her body, robbing them of their real daughter.

Would they accept her if they knew what she had tried to do?

Khaleesi seemed to have seen through the younger twin's emotional state, and her maternal drive immediately kicked in.

"What should I call you, my child?" Khaleesi asked with a warm gaze.

"I don't have a name..." Eniwse's twin replied in a tiny voice.

Of course, Eniwse should be her name as well.

However, having seen through a part of Eniwse's past life memories, she understood the name 'Eniwse' was something she carried over to the present life through the strings of karma. It couldn't really be considered the original name chosen for her.

That was why she said she didn't have a name. Even if she shared everything with Eniwse, at least their name should be different.

"Then can I name you Esme, my child? It holds the meaning of 'to be loved.' I hope only good things will happen to you from here on out. What do you think? Do you like this name?"

"I like it very much, Ma...ma!"

"Good child."

Esme felt very insecure when she called Eniwse's mother rashly, but Khaleesi immediately reassured her with motherly warmth.

Khaleesi had quickly accepted Esme despite her special circumstances.

It was a happy occasion, and gaining another daughter would only make it joyous, not anything else.

"Mama!"

"Good child."

"Mama!"

...

"You... don't get praised often, do you? Good child, haha..."

Khaleesi was happy, but she couldn't match Esme's increasing enthusiasm. Her expression became increasingly strained and forced.

At the same time, she began looking for a way out of the situation. Her gaze fell on Narvim, who silently stared at them with a foolish smile.

Suddenly, Khaleesi felt the urge to hit him.

Chapter 934: Death's Mystery

Pak!

Narvim suddenly received a resounding smack on the head by Khaleesi. His foolish smile was quickly wiped off his face, replaced by surprise and confusion. He stared at his wife questioningly.

However, she didn't give him a verbal reply. She grunted and signaled with her eyes.

"Ahem, Esme, my child," Narvim coughed before asking, "Can you also call me Papa?"

Narvim tried to be as gentle and warm as possible, but his sudden approach still came off as a pretty strong and intimidating dragon. As such, Esme was frightened into fleeing, switching back out with Eniwse.

"You scared Esme off, Papa," Eniwse stated wryly.

She had never known of Esme's existence until recently. However, Esme had always been watching everything through the lens of her eyes. Thus, although she shared everything she had experienced, Esme still didn't experience them personally.

Esme has always been hiding behind a layer of shield known as Eniwse. As such, now that she had come out into the world herself, she felt vulnerable and timid.

Her years of recess have led her to develop an extremely introverted mindset.

Nevertheless, Narvim felt helpless after hearing Eniwse's statement. It wasn't his intention, but it still happened.

Was he that scary?

Narvim felt a little depressed that he could not get along well with Esme like his wife did. He also wanted to get along with such a cute daughter.

Esme was like the second daughter they always wanted but never had because Eniwse's death was too big of a blow to them that it made their relationship estranged for so many years.

"Right, Papa. There's something I find strange regarding my death," Eniwse suddenly mentioned.

Swoosh!

In an instant, the atmosphere turned heavy and depressive due to Eniwse's topic. It was a sore spot in everyone's heart.

Nevertheless, Eniwse's death was a mysterious that even Narvim couldn't wrap his head around it.

When he had sensed his daughter's diminishing life force, he had rushed over as quickly as he could. Even still, he was too late.

All he found at the scene was his daughter's decapitated body on top of a fallen titan. The environmental devastation suggested a tough battle that ultimately resulted in his daughter's victory.

However, his daughter's decapitation also suggested she died without even being able to put up any resistance. Obviously, she didn't die from mutual destruction with the colossal titan, but something else.

Unfortunately, he could never figure out the culprit. Either the assassin was extremely skilled or extremely powerful. Both were terrifying possibilities.

"What did you find strange, my child?" Narvim asked seriously after calming his nerves.

"I remember that shortly after defeating the Mountain King of the Hundred Shadow Peaks, I was immediately slain by a powerful water spell," Eniwse mentioned with a big frown.

"The spell was far too swift and sharp that I couldn't even sense it until my head was severed from my body. Moreover, it seemed like a very casual attack from my killer. She also possessed a very charming and womanly voice."

"However, as far as I know, I don't remember the Titanfall Territory having any female Divine Beings who were skilled in water magic. Even if we look at Gehenna as a whole, there shouldn't be many, if any, who fit the description, right?" Eniwse doubted.

"This..." Narvim frowned deeply.

Within the nine territories of Gehenna, there were seven widely known Divine Beings, the seven Great Devils. However, under them were even more Divine Beings, though the numbers were never made public.

Even so, most Divine Beings under the rule of the Great Devils usually cultivated the same laws and abilities as the Great Devils. As such, if they were to just look at the Great Devils, then there was indeed none who specialized in water magic.

In other words, Eniwse's killer had a low probability of being someone among their groups.

However, besides the seven Great Devils and the divine groups under them, there were also many unaccounted Divine Beings in Gehenna.

For example, no one knew how many Divine-rank sea monsters were lurking in the depths of the Darksea Abyss Territory. But it was also undeniable that the Darksea Abyss Territory hosted Divine-rank sea monsters.

Since sea monsters all had natural water affinity, did his daughter's killer come from there?

"Oh, right, Papa. I also remembered the person mumbling that I had destroyed her experimental subject."

"The Mountain King of the Hundred Shadow Peaks was someone's experimental subject?"

Narvim and Khaleesi were both astonished and startled after receiving the new piece of information. Eniwse's killer seemed even more mysterious and powerful.

Since the unknown killer possessed enough intelligence to conduct experiments, it was unlikely to be a Divine-rank sea monster that had left the Darksea Abyss Territory.

More importantly, the unknown killer was able to conduct secret experiments in the Titanfall Territory.

If Great Devil Helcan had no knowledge of this unknown killer's existence, then the person's power was likely even above the Great Devil's.

Just who was it?

Seeing Narvim and Khaleesi frown in deep thought, Eniwse understood that they didn't have the slightest clue who her killer could be.

"Papa. Mama. I'm thinking about looking for Lord Mephistopheles to help me look into this," Eniwse shockingly announced before commenting, "I wonder if he still remembers me?"

"W-What? That's not just someone you can just find and ask for a favor. Why would you say that?" Khaleesi expressed her shock.

"Eh?" Eniwse looked back at her parents with surprise before saying, "Didn't I mention it before? Lord Mephistopheles and I became friends by chance, though our relationship was more like that of an uncle and a niece..."

It suddenly dawned on them why the Red Dragon Clan migrated to Pangea as soon as its existence connected to Gehenna.

Their Dragon God was a Divine Being who didn't belong to any of the Titan Clans in Helcan's Titanfall Territory. As such, their Red Dragon Clan has always been considered a thorn that could threaten Helcan's authority one day.

They were also oppressed because of that.

Fortunately, they had Mephistopheles's ambiguous favor for several centuries. Thus, their clan was able to thrive somewhat in the Titanfall Territory.

Now that they think about it, the day the clan's vague relationship with Mephistopheles soured was also the day Eniwse's death was known.

Narvim and Khaleesi looked at their daughter a little speechlessly.

How on earth did she befriend one of the mighty rulers of Gehenna?

Chapter 935: Pure Moon Palace's Calamity

On the southwestern border of the Holy Knight Empire, a vast mountain range divided its territory from the ever-reclusive Divine Serpent Empire that wanted nothing to do with the rest of the world.

The vast mountain range was known as the Grand Fog Serpent's Coil.

Due to the heavy mists that covered the Divine Serpent Empire's half of the vast mountain range, no one from the nearby villages on the Holy Knight Empire's side ever ventured into it.

In the past, there used to be brave and adventurous souls who hoped to explore the secrets of the thick mist.

However, since everyone who disappeared beyond the white fog never returned, the Grand Fog Serpent's Coil slowly stopped receiving explorers beyond a certain point altogether.

People would no longer venture past the top of the misty mountain, and no one would ever descend from it.

That had been the case for the last century.

The Village of Mistfall was one of the Holy Knight Empire's many small settlements situated near the foot of the misty mountains. Its source of food and medicine were all foraged from the mountain range's outer regions.

Today, several foragers and hunters ventured into the mountains to collect herbs and hunt wild animals for the day. The cold morning was the same as usual.

As such, none of the villagers expected to encounter any surprises.

"Hm? Big Foot, come over here and take a look at that floaty white thing! Is that a ghost?"

After the bulky villager called Big Foot was called over, he immediately took a look, only to find an unconscious woman in a white dress hanging from one of the tree's branches.

Although her long black hair covered her beautiful face, her quality white dress and fair skin suggested she was a Darkan-Lunaran person. All people of such mixed ethnicity were born beautifully, no matter their familial background.

Big Foot's expression quickly changed after recognizing the person needed help.

"Ghost your head! That's a live person, Squint! Hurry up and call the others over to help me bring her down! She seems to be injured and needs our help!"

Shortly after, several villagers came over with a ladder from the village. They quickly brought the unconscious lady down from the trees and checked on her condition.

Although there were a lot of bruised and cuts, the unconscious lady didn't appear to have any serious injuries. That said, none of them were medical experts, so they weren't confident that she was fine.

After all, there had to be a reason why she was unconscious.

As such, the villagers were very careful. They didn't dare to move her too much and only provided first-aid treatment for her superficial wounds on the surface.

Nevertheless, some men couldn't help but marvel at her beauty after she was slightly patched up.

"What's wrong, Quick Shot? Never seen a beautiful woman before?" Big Foot teased the youngest hunter in the group.

"Nonsense!" Quick Shot's face flushed in anger before he argued, "I've seen plenty of Solaran beauties, but this is a different type of beauty! Still, I wonder where she comes from... She doesn't seem to be around here."

"I don't suppose she came down from the other side of the mountain?" Squint wondered unconfidently while staring at traces of broken branches where they originally found the unconscious lady.

The other villagers followed his gaze and quickly became startled by the same thought they had.

"Oh my god. Did this lady fall all the way down from the sky or something? How can she only be in this state after such a big fall? Those thick branches have all snapped!"

After hearing the female forager's exclamation, Big Foot stared at the unconscious lady in wonder.

What was her seemingly delicate body made of?

Nevertheless, it didn't take long before the unconscious lady woke up under the care of the villagers. She was immediately startled by the strange faces around and panicked.

Several bulky hunters were immediately thrown several meters away when they tried to restrain her and calm her down.

Big Foot himself was tossed over seven meters, shocking him greatly.

How was this the strength of a thin, seemingly malnourished lady? She was simply a female gorilla in human form.

"Young Lady, please calm down! We are not bad people!"

Big Foot quickly explained how they found her and treated her minor wounds before the lady in white eventually calmed down. Everyone else also felt relieved when she relaxed.

They had rarely seen such brute strength coming from a lady as thin as her.

The only people who could match her were physically-enhanced witches or the holy knights of the empire, who were all aura users.

"Young Lady, where are you from? Why were you hanging from the trees?" Big Foot slowly inquired while being time.

They had already sent someone to inform the local authorities, as it was required by law, if they suspected or discovered someone from the mysterious Divine Serpent Empire.

Nevertheless, the lady in white immediately became anxious after Big Foot's questions reminded her why she ended up in such a pitiful state.

"Do you have anyone who can contact Lord Vaan or reach out to the authoritative members of the Black Rose Empire?"

"My sect is trouble! Please, I beg you! Help me find people who can save my fellow sisters! We were on our way to swear our allegiance to Lord Vaan and join the Black Rose Empire when we were suddenly ambushed and separated!"

"Please, I have never begged anyone in my life, but I'm begging you all now. Please save my sect! Save my... sisters...!"

As if the lady in white had exhausted all her strength to plead desperately, she fell unconscious again, leaving everyone else at a loss for what to do until the local authorities arrived.

Nevertheless, when the news reached the Town of Westville, which was over thirty kilometers away from Mistfall Village, they also reached the ears of the Shadow Witch Order.

The Shadow Witch Order was far more efficient than the local authorities of Westville Town.

By the time Westville Town sent out an investigation squad to confirm the news, the Shadow Witch Order had already forwarded the news, branch by branch, all the way to the Holy Capital.

In the Shadow Witch Order's main branch in the Holy Knight Empire, two scrolls of information were immediately prepared. One was to be passed on to headquarters, while the other was for the holy empress of the empire.

Within a mere eight hours, Astoria was made aware of the situation in the southwesternmost region of her empire.

"Someone from the Divine Serpent Empire?" Astoria muttered with astonishment before bright eyes were quickly replaced with decisiveness.

'I need to make this trip personally!' she decided.

Pangea was currently in the process of unification under Vaan's rule. However, little was known about the Divine Serpent Empire and no contact had been made until now.

As such, Astoria figured that if she could interrogate the person found in Mistfall Village, it would be a big step forward in learning more about the Divine Serpent Empire.

Astoria immediately traveled to the Mistfall Village with the help of a red dragon's spatial magic.

At the same time, the palace was left in chaos due to her abrupt and spontaneous departure.

Chapter 936: Pure Moon Palace's Calamity (2)

Of course, Astoria had informed her attendant where she was going and what she would be doing before she left.

However, that didn't stop her attendant and the rest of the palace servants from panicking. None of them were mentally prepared for her sudden departure when there were still so many matters that required her presence.

That said, in such cases, they would normally just notify everyone that all scheduled matters involving the holy empress had been postponed until further notice.

...

Astoria descended from the dragon's back and landed inside the Mistfall Village, attracting a few startled gazes from the surroundings. She immediately singled out the closest bystander with an authoritative look.

"Where is she?" Astoria questioned.

The male villager doubtfully glanced at Astoria's luxurious golden garment, which was decorated with the emblem of a sword and shield within a white sun.

"Um..." the male villager hesitated for a moment before asking, "May I ask who you are?"

"Astoria von Braveheart," Astoria coolly answered.

"Oh, so you are Astoria von..." the male villager took a moment to register Astoria's answer before his face paled. He exclaimed, "B-Braveheart...!"

The male villager almost passed out in fright upon realizing Astoria's identity. Despite recognizing her imperial garment, it still didn't cross his mind that she was the holy empress of their great empire.

After all, why would the holy empress visit their backwater village in the far corner of the empire?

"The outsider lady your village found. Where is she?" Astoria asked again.

"Please forgive this Lowly Peasant for delaying your great matter, Your Imperial Majesty! I have seen the Sun God's Representative!" the male villager immediately dropped to his knees and kowtowed with respect before saying, "I will lead you to her right away!"

A few minutes later, Astoria was led to the local physician's hut, where the foreigner was kept and cared for.

She immediately dismissed everyone from the hut, even the local physician. Only the unconscious foreigner and her were left inside.

Although Astoria didn't normally practice healing magic, she wielded light magic, which had healing properties. It wasn't as powerful as wood magic or life magic, but it could still boost the body's natural regenerative abilities.

Within minutes, the unconscious Darkan-Lunaran lady woke up under Astoria's light healing spell.

"Who are you? Where do you come from? And why are you here?" Astoria immediately fired away her questions.

She already had a rough understanding of the patient's situation, so her attitude towards the patient was somewhat acceptable.

"Are you the Holy Empress of the Holy Knight Empire?" the Darkan-Lunaran lady's eyes lit up excitedly before pleading, "Please save my sect, Your Majesty! I beg of you!"

"I'll consider it, but not now. You need to answer my questions if you want me to understand you and your sect's situation. You are not helping me or yourself by acting like this," Astoria coolly replied.

Her indifferent attitude to the Darkan-Lunaran lady's pleading was like a splash of cold water; it woke her up.

Just because her sect wanted to join the Black Rose Empire, it didn't mean the Holy Knight Empire was obligated to help it, especially if it involved another country. After all, it had only expressed the intent to join and hadn't actually joined.

Her sect had not offered the UN anything or contributed to its cause. Furthermore, there didn't seem to be any benefits for the UN to help out her sect, only troubles.

It might sound cruel and coldhearted, but that was the reality of the situation.

"I am Sue, one of the Nine Moon Fairies of the Pure Moon Palace, Your Majesty. You might not know, but our Pure Moon Palace is one of the four major forces in the Divine Serpent Empire," Ninth Fairy Sue quickly introduced herself and her sect.

"Two weeks ago, our Palace Mistress expressed her intention to move our sect to the Black Rose Empire and have us swear our allegiance to Lord Vaan after hearing about the Heavenreacher and moon colonization."

"Just a week ago, our sect finished the final preparations to move. Unfortunately, we were suddenly ambushed on the road and got separated in the mountains. In order to let me escape and seek help, my fellow sisters joined forces to fend off our pursuers."

"Please, I beg of you, Your Majesty! Please save my sisters. They must be stranded in the mountains, waiting for help to come!" Ninth Fairy Sue desperately pleaded without the slightest concern for her image.

However, Astoria didn't readily agree.

Even with Ninth Fairy Sue's quick introduction, she still knew nearly nothing about the Pure Moon Palace's strength and their enemies.

The Divine Serpent Empire was too reclusive and mysterious for her to make any hasty judgments. After all, it concerned the lives who sought help and those who wished to help.

If the rescue force weren't strong enough, she would be sending them to die. Such a mistake would become a burden on her mind and heart.

"How strong is your Pure Moon Palace? What about the strength of your attackers? Do you know who they are?" Astoria seriously inquired.

"Our Pure Moon Palace is one of the four major forces, so we represent one of the strongest powers in the Divine Serpent Empire," Ninth Fairy Sue said proudly before sighing, "However, this is mostly credited to our Palace Mistress, a Void Realm expert."

"She is what you would call a Transcendent Witch. However, our Palace Mistress can only use ice spells. As for the Nine Moon Fairies that are just below the Palace Mistress, we are all Peak-stage Heaven Ascension Realm experts, or Peak-stage High Witches, if you prefer to call."

"Void Realm represents the highest level of cultivation in the Divine Serpent Empire. Every Void Realm expert is capable of representing a major force if they start a sect. That is to say, the Martial Saint Hall, Medicine King Sect, Heavenly Sword Manor, and the Evermore Imperial Family all have Void Realm experts."

"Our attackers were most likely the people from the Evermore Imperial Family or the three other major forces under their order. Only they would have the power to suppress our Pure Moon Palace once they join forces," Ninth Fairy Sue stated.

Although she did her best to explain the Divine Serpent Empire's strengths, she couldn't hide the anxiousness in her voice.

"I'm interested in hearing more about your Divine Serpent Empire's cultivation system, but I guess that will have to wait. I have decided to save your Pure Moon Palace on behalf of the United Nations," Astoria acknowledged.

Since the Divine Serpent Empire didn't have any Demigod-level experts, saving the Pure Moon Palace might not be as difficult as she had imagined.

"Thank you, Your Majesty!" Ninth Fairy Sue wept gratefully.

Chapter 937: Pure Moon Palace's Calamity (3)

Grand Misty Serpent's Coil, Snowy Peaks

Due to the grand mist formation covering the entire Divine Serpent Empire, the snowy peaks of the mountains in the Grand Misty Serpent's Coils were particularly cold and windy.

The strong blizzards created poor visibility, making it easy for inexperienced people to lose their direction and get lost. All traces of living beings were also easily covered in seconds, making it difficult to be tracked.

Thanks to the Pure Moon Palace's familiarity with the cold terrains, the members of the Pure Moon Palace were able to evade and lose their pursuers after the initial confrontation.

However, that was also the limit of their abilities since their enemies caught them unprepared; they could not fully escape their predicament.

There were far too many enemies outside, and far more were arriving with each passing moment. The Pure Moon Palace's enemies didn't plan to rest until they were all slaughtered.

Palace Mistress Celestia was fortunate enough to lead most of her sect members into a large icy cave and seal the entrance in ice and snow to cover its existence.

However, she had also been jointly attacked by five other Void Realm experts and suffered serious injuries beforehand. As such, even though she had been hiding in the cave with her sect members for the past week, her condition did not improve but deteriorated instead.

Pfft—!

Palace Mistress Celestia suddenly coughed up a mouthful of icy-cold blood, which instantly froze upon contact with the cold ground.

"Palace Mistress!"

The surviving Moon Fairies and sect disciples all cried out in alarm, shock, and concern. The closest members quickly offered their hands for support.

However, Palace Mistress Celestia refused their help despite being on the verge of collapsing.

"I'm alright. Don't worry about me, and just conserve your energy. Otherwise, you won't be able to last until help comes," Palace Mistress Celestia stated.

Unfortunately, her words did not offer her sect members any comfort. In fact, their mental states took an extra blow and dropped into the pits of despair and gloom.

"Will help really come? Who can help us? Who even knows we are here?" Third Fairy Ella asked pessimistically.

"You can't say that, Ella," Second Fairy Levia admonished before mentioning, "Don't forget that we did our best to create an opening for our youngest to escape the encirclement."

"Sue will definitely return with help. We just need to hold on until that time comes," Second Fairy Levia hoped as she tried to convince herself that it was true.

"And how much longer will that be, Levia?" Third Fairy Ella retorted with a question before saying, "With each passing day, our enemies outside are growing in numbers while our lives are slowly dimming in this cave."

"Without any food, we won't be able to last another month, even if we can produce water. More importantly, our Palace Mistress requires urgent medical care and medicine, or she won't last another few days."

"We don't even know if our youngest managed to escape the heavy encirclement in the end. It's already been a week since then, and we haven't heard anything," Third Fairy Ella stated.

Rather than clinging to life pathetically, it was probably better to make peace with their death. At the very least, they wouldn't be disappointed if help never came.

There couldn't be any disappointment if there were no expectations.

Palace Mistress Celestia glanced at the few hundred sect members remaining and sighed sadly. She didn't know if the rest of her sect members found safe refuge like they did, but their situation was unlikely any better, only worse.

"I have let you all down. If it weren't for my wish to return to the birthplace of our ancestors, our sect wouldn't have fallen into this state," Palace Mistress Celestia sighed sadly, burdened with guilt and remorse.

Perhaps before they all starved to death, their enemies outside would find them first. After all, there were only so many places to search on the snowy peaks.

"You can't be blamed for what happened, Palace Mistress! We have all agreed to move to the Black Rose Empire with you! We all wanted to return to the birthplace of our ancestors as well!" Sixth Fairy Darla defended.

"That's right, Palace Mistress!" Seventh Fairy Lula chimed in and said, "The fault lies with the Evermore Imperial Family! Who knew that they could be so ruthless? They actually teamed up with the three major forces to destroy us!"

"If I can survive this ordeal, I will definitely repay this debt of grievance a hundredfold once I acquire the power to do so!" Seventh Fairy Lula stated venomously with her fist clenched.

No one would believe such an innocent and pure-looking lady could reveal such malice if they didn't see it with their own eyes.

"The Evermore Imperial Family's ruthlessness is one thing, but their decisiveness is far more frightening," Fourth Fairy Charity frowned.

"To be able to mobilize the forces of the Martial Saint Hall, Medicine King Sect, and Heavenly Sword Manor and lay an ambush on the mountains beforehand, the Evermore Imperial Family would have required a lot of preparation time."

"I'm afraid the Evermore Imperial Family had already decided to eliminate us on the same day that the news of the Heavenreacher reached our empire," Fourth Fairy Clarity speculated.

The other Moon Fairies and sect disciples were immediately startled by Fourth Fairy Clarity's speculation.

"Does that mean the Evermore Imperial Family planned to eliminate our sect regardless of whether we intended to leave or not?"

"The Evermore Imperial Family wouldn't have planned such a large-scale operation for nothing. Even before they could find out about our sect's intention to migrate, they were already prepared to annihilate us."

"That means the Palace Mistress had actually saved us. Had we stayed in the sect, we would have faced certain death."

In a short time, Palace Mistress Celestia's position in the hearts of the sect members was raised to a new peak. They held profound respect for her leadership and wisdom.

Unfortunately, their moment of delight was short-lived.

The sudden impact on the sealed entrance was like a sledgehammer slamming into their hearts, shattering their hopes.

Bam!

"They've found us!" Palace Mistress Celestia's long eyelashes trembled.

Chapter 938: Pure Moon Palace's Calamity (4)

The hearts of every surviving member of the Pure Moon Palace trembled when the impact outside the sealed entrance shook the entire icy cave. Their short-lived joy was crushed by despair.

Boom! Boom!

The entire icy large shook several more times. Some were more intense than others, while some were also more distant.

Several Moon Fairies gritted their teeth with determination as they immediately headed to the sealed entrance to reinforce it. Even if the enemies found them, they did not plan to sit still and wait for their deaths; they had to struggle until the end.

Only through such struggles would they even find a glimmer of hope.

Nevertheless, Palace Mistress Celestia's expression changed greatly after the third tremor. She immediately stopped her Moon Fairies from reinforcing the sealed entrance with their ice magic.

"Wait! Don't use your spirit energy to reinforce the entrance. The enemy hasn't found us yet!" Palace Mistress Celestia alerted.

Second Fairy Ella and Third Fairy Levia immediately froze in their tracks. Shortly after, they looked back at their Palace Mistress with doubt and uncertainty.

"Are you sure, Palace Mistress?" they asked.

"Not completely," Palace Mistress Celestia admitted before saying, "However, if they did find our location, they would have concentrated their attacks on the sealed entrance, not target multiple different locations."

"I think they are just trying to shake up the mountain to lure us out. If you mobilize your spirit energy to reinforce the sealed entrance with ice magic, the enemy might sense it and discover our actual location."

"Even if they can't sense, we are on the very edge of the Divine Serpent Fog Formation. Your ice spells might not work, and you will only waste your spirit energy," Palace Mistress Celestia explained before throwing a fit of violent coughs.

The nearby disciples immediately supported her and rubbed her back in an attempt to soothe her aggravated symptoms. Only after she had calmed down did they continue their discussion.

"But didn't you use ice magic to seal the entrance just fine, Palace Mistress?" Seventh Fairy Lula asked with doubt.

"That's because I am a Void Realm expert, and the rest of you aren't yet. Your powers aren't strong enough to resist the spirit dissipation," Palace Mistress Celestia answered.

"The devouring spirit vortex formed from shattering the spirit core to enter the Void Realm is like a powerful spirit energy gathering formation. It is my spirit domain; spirit energy within it cannot be robbed by external forces."

"That is also why no one ever leaves the Divine Serpent Empire. Their spiritual arts are useless outside the Divine Serpent Fog Formation unless they are in the Void Realm," Palace Mistress Celestia explained.

Spirit energy cultivators under the Void Realm could only use spirit energy to fortify their bodies outside the Divine Serpent Empire.

Without their spiritual arts, they wouldn't be as powerful.

Nevertheless, after the remaining survivors of the Pure Moon Palace listened to Palace Mistress Celestia, their understanding of the Void Realm deepened.

At the same time, the Moon Fairies, who were all Peak-stage Heaven Ascension Realm experts, felt like their cultivation path to the Void Realm became clearer. That said, no one dared to take the last step.

After all, shattering the spirit core to enter the Void Realm had a ninety percent chance of failure when ill-prepared. Every spirit energy cultivator who had ever failed to form the devouring spirit vortex in their spirit sea would die from the energy outburst.

As such, the Moon Fairies were smart enough not to charge into the Void Realm blindly.

Their Palace Mistress had also advised them not to rely on chance but on a solid foundation to achieve success.

"If we can survive this calamity and obtain the chance to cultivate on the moon, I hope none of you will rush to enter the Void Realm," Palace Mistress Celestia sincerely said to the Moon Fairies, arousing their curiosity.

"Why is that, Palace Mistress?" First Fairy Marina asked.

"Because I hope you all can take a different path from me—one that is safer but also much more difficult," Palace Mistress Celestia said with a sentimental look.

"There is another way to enter the Void Realm? The Moon Fairies were astonished.

However, Palace Mistress Celestia shook her head, replying, "Not the Void Realm."

"It is said that spirit energy cultivation is divided into two paths—the way of heaven and the way of defying heaven. To shatter the spirit core and enter the Void Realm is the way of defying heaven."

"You can also think of this act of defiance as the cultivator's message, saying—since the heavens do not provide enough spirit energy for the cultivator to conform with the will of heaven, the cultivator will take from the heavens to form a heaven that would conform with their will instead."

"It is said that all Void Realm experts who reach the divine way through this path will all form independent worlds in their divine sea," Palace Mistress Celestia explained.

As the Moon Fairies and sect disciples listened to her, they were all intrigued by the level above the Void Realm. It was also a good distraction from the tremors outside the cave.

To them, having an independent world in the divine sea didn't sound so bad. That was like carrying a portable Pangea. They could store anything and cultivate anything inside.

Its convenience was far too many.

"I know what you are all thinking. True, having an independent world is very useful. However, you are forgetting the danger that comes with it. Since it's an act against the heavens, the heavens will try to smite you with Divine Damnation," Palace Mistress Celestia said seriously.

The world did not know the fear of the Divine Damnation since it had never experienced it. Even she had only heard about it from her maternal grandmother.

However, her maternal grandmother was the wisest person she knew when she was still around.

As such, all her teachings and warnings were taken to heart.

The Divine Damnation was unimaginably scary, especially since Void Realm experts weren't as powerful as they used to be in ancient times.

"Then... What is the way of heaven, Palace Mistress?" Eighth Fairy Pumpkin asked curiously.

Chapter 939: Pure Moon Palace's Calamity (5)

Although Palace Mistress Celestia was patiently explaining the peculiarities of the latter stages of spirit energy cultivation to distract her sect members, she had also been paying attention to the cave tremors.

The situation outside was just as she had expected—their enemies didn't know where they were; they were just leveling the place indiscriminately in their search.

Fortunately, she had sealed the entrance in a very thick wall of ice. It didn't look much different from the walls of the icy mountain itself. As such, they were still quite safe for the moment, though time was still running out.

Nevertheless, as the Palace Mistress of the Pure Moon Palace, she had to stay strong and couldn't show her weakness. Otherwise, her sect members would also fall into despair and commit unpredictable actions.

"The spirit energy cultivation's way of heaven... I don't know. No one in our era has ever successfully walked down this path," Palace Mistress Celestia answered honestly before saying, "I can only give you the spirit verse left behind by our predecessors."

"Gather the spirit, condense the sea, form the seed, refine the core, cultivate the sprout, grow the divine tree, and thou shall walk the heavenly way," Palace Mistress Celestia recited.

The Moon Fairies and sect disciples all listened seriously. After they absorbed the information, they couldn't help but gasp with astonishment.

Vague and brief as it was, the spirit verse recited by their Palace Mistress contained profound truth.

Each part appeared to be directly related to the realms of spirit energy cultivation—Spirit Gathering, Energy Condensation, Revolving Core, Heaven Ascension, and Void were the phases before the Divine realm.

However, the fifth part—cultivate the sprout, was different and did not match the steps required to enter the Void realm.

It didn't require shattering the spirit core but cultivating the sprout.

"Huh? The spirit verse seems to suggest the spirit core of Heaven Ascension realm experts can be germinated like the seed of a plant... How is that even possible?"

"How is it not possible? Logically thinking, it should indeed be possible. After all, the spirit energy we cultivate mostly comes from plants; it is the essence of plants and life itself."

"But... if that is the case, how come no one has ever achieved it before? Doesn't that mean the way of heaven is that much harder than the way of defying heaven? Does that even make sense? Shouldn't it be the other way around?"

The Moon Fairies and sect disciples began to doubt the heavenly laws of the universe. They started to question whether they were purposely designed to go against the heavens.

However, they had all forgotten one simple truth – the world's spirit dissipation was not a natural process.

"I believe the reason no one has ever successfully cultivated the "sprout" is due to the excessive demand for spirit energy. We have to stuff the spirit core with so much spirit energy that it overflows on its own and through an artificially induced explosion," Palace Mistress Celestia calmly shared her insights.

"Our world is so lacking in spirit energy that it wasn't feasible for anyone to reach that stage. After all, the only reason we even have spirit energy to cultivate is all thanks to the Divine Serpent Fog Formation. Otherwise, the spirit energy would have long dissipated."

"Even so, the amount of spirit energy readily available to us is hardly enough for everyone in the empire to cultivate, let alone indulge in," Palace Mistress Celestia stated.

After everyone understood that point, they all realized the importance of cultivating on the moon.

In that place, spirit dissipation most likely didn't exist.

Boom!!

The icy cave suddenly shook violently again.

However, the impact was far stronger than the previous ones. It compromised the icy cave's structural integrity as ice shards fell from the ceiling and shattered like glass.

Everyone was shocked as they ducked for cover.

Some sect disciples wanted to block the falling shards with ice magic, but their spells either failed or lacked power due to the dissipation of spirit energy. As such, they suffered casualties under the impaling barrage.

Fortunately, no one died, even though some weaker sect disciples suffered serious injuries.

At the same time, it was too late for Palace Mistress Celestia to warn them not to use their spirit energy. Furthermore, they weren't in a position where they could refrain from it either.

"No—!!! At this rate, we will either be buried alive or crushed to death before our enemies find us, Palace Mistress."

"No, our location has already been exposed after those spells were used."

Just as Palace Mistress Celestia said, the Void realm experts outside the cave had already detected their sudden usage of spirit energy.

Boom! Boom!

More violent impacts shook the icy cave. The repeated attacks had become concentrated on their location and no longer random.

Evidently, the enemy had no intention of entering the cave. They planned to kill everyone inside by collapsing the entire cave.

"Everyone, gather over here and channel me your spirit energy!" Palace Mistress Celestia cried.

A huge ice barrier was quickly conjured to protect everyone and hold up the weakening ceiling.

At the same time, spirit energy was continuously channeled into Palace Mistress Celestia's injured body as she used it to reinforce the ice barrier. Unfortunately, the streams of spirit energy also greatly strained her body and aggravated her poor condition.

Pfft!

Palace Mistress Celestia spat out another mouthful of icy blood as strength left her battered body. Even so, she refused to fall unconscious. She bit her tongue until it bled and used the pain to regain mental clarity.

She resisted the urge to sleep with her sheer will.

"Palace Mistress, you can't use so much spirit energy. Your body won't be able to last..."

"Even if I can't, I have to! Otherwise, we will all die!"

Tears streamed down the face of every sect disciple and Moon Fairy as they helplessly channeled spirit energy into their Palace Mistress and watched her life slip away bit by bit.

What did they do to deserve this?

Throughout their whole lives, they had been ostracized and mistreated by the rest of the Divine Serpent Empire. When they finally decided to leave after seeing hope of a better home elsewhere, they were immediately plunged into this terrible situation.

How could life be so unfair?

...

Chapter 940: Confrontation

Outside the mountain cave, a dashing Darkan Void realm expert, garbed in luxurious black silk with a green snake pattern, arrived at the scene with a cold expression.

"Is it here?"

"Yes, Your Majesty! The Pure Moon Palace's people are hiding inside of the hidden mountain cave."

The Void realm expert stared at the snowy mountain as the Void realm experts of the Martial Saint Hall, Medicine King Sect, and Heavenly Sword Manor bombarded it with spiritual attacks.

Surprisingly, the mountain suffered far less damage than imagined.

After all, the concentrated attacks of more than ten Void realm experts were more than enough to level multiple ordinary mountains. It was clear that the mountain peaks of Grand Misty Serpent's Coil were far sturdier than normal.

However, any knowledgeable cultivator from the Divine Serpent Empire wouldn't find this surprising.

The snowy mountains of the Grand Misty Serpent's Coil made up a part of the boundary of the Divine Serpent Fog Formation. It trapped all the fog and spirit energy within the Divine Serpent Empire, never allowing them to escape.

As such, the snowy mountains of the Grand Misty Serpent's Coil became denser under the effects of spirit energy ramming into it all year round.

After thousands of years of spirit energy washing, the mountain had become rather close to divine-grade material.

Nevertheless, despite being part of the pillars supporting the Divine Serpent Fog Formation, Emperor Carpus Evermore was not concerned about the extensive damage to the mountain peak.

Even if the entire upper half of the mountain were leveled, it would not affect the Divine Serpent Fog Formation.

However, it was a different story if the entire mountain disappeared. Although it wouldn't destroy the Divine Serpent Fog Formation, it would still weaken it.

"Continue the attacks. I wanted them completely crushed under the weight of the mountain. Since Pure Moon Palace has chosen their graves here, it would be impolite not to fulfill their wish."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

As the ten Void realm experts from the three major forces continued their onslaught, the weaker cultivators hunted for stragglers elsewhere.

...

Meanwhile, the sky above the snowy mountains was slowly being filled with the large aerial figures of red dragons.

For the rescue mission, Astoria did not hesitate to participate personally. She also summoned the aid of twenty Transcendent-rank dragons from the Red Dragon Clan. Even the seventh dragon lord, Kemun, had joined.

With the strength of a Mid-stage Demigod accompanying her, she believed the rescue mission would succeed no matter how strong the Divine Serpent Empire was. It couldn't be stronger than her lineup.

Nevertheless, Astoria and the dragons were surprised when they studied the power demonstrated by the Void realm experts below.

"What kind of spells are they using? They are like magic but not magic and aura but not aura either... Wait, is that spirit energy? How can they have so much spirit energy here?" Kemun exclaimed.

"Lord Kemun, we figure that out later. Saving people is more important," Astoria stated.

She could tell that the situation did not look good on the Pure Moon Palace's side.

Although she had not seen a single member of the Pure Moon Palace below, she could guess they were all hiding inside a mountain cave based on their opponents' actions.

As such, if they waited too long and the mountain cave collapsed, even retrieving their corpses would be difficult.

"Right," Kemun nodded.

In the next moment, his dragon pupils flickered with a strong fighting spirit.

Being cooped up in the Red Dragon Clan, working like a slave day in and day out all the time, had seriously drained the colors out of his world. He needed some action and excitement to enrich his life.

'Little Brat, time to work.'

'Hisss!'

Right after Kemun communicated his thoughts to his fire spirit, it hissed at him in displeasure. Even now, they did not get along despite being in a contract.

That said, the fire spirit still followed his orders.

The fire spirit's flames quickly wrapped around Kemun's body, transforming him into a true tyrant of fire. All his fire-related abilities, spells, and properties were temporarily enhanced under such a state.

Naturally, his fiery state easily attracted the attention of the surprised people in the mountains below.

The brilliance of his flaming body was hard to miss in the sky.

Meanwhile, the other Transcendent-rank red dragons also glanced at their seventh dragon lord with surprise, not expecting Kemun to use such a move from the start.

If Kemun personally acted first, would they even get a chance at some action?

Ever since they had advanced to the Transcendent rank, they had yet to find a worthy foe to test the extent of their draconic might.

"Ahem, Lord Kemun. We are here to save people, not start a..."

Before Astoria could finish her word, Kemun had already descended from the sky and landed on top of the damaged mountain. His overwhelming presence immediately forced the surrounding Void realm experts to retreat some distances.

"Hahaha, who will be my opponent? You can all come at me if you want," Kemun laughed boisterously.

Emperor Carpus stared at Kemun with gloom. He looked up at the group of Transcendent-rank dragons in the sky, and his gaze turned even gloomier.

"Your Excellency, you are trespassing on the territory of my Divine Serpent Empire. Please withdraw your forces," Emperor Carpus stated gravely.

"This..." Kemun paused slightly and glanced around. Shortly after, he looked back and said shamelessly, "I don't see the name of your Divine Serpent Empire written anywhere on this mountain. How do I know it's your mountain and not mine?"

Emperor Carpus's expression immediately turned ugly. Shameless people were hard to reason with, let alone a shameless dragon.

"This is a private matter between the Divine Serpent Empire and the Pure Moon Palace! It doesn't concern you! Please leave, Your Excellency! Otherwise, I will be forced to make you!" Emperor Carpus threatened.

During this short exchange, Astoria and the Transcendent-rank red dragons had also descended on the mountain. Their arrival put tremendous pressure on the Void realm experts of the Martial Saint Hall, Medicine King Sect, and Heavenly Sword Manor.

After all, they may have been mobilized on Emperor Carpus's imperial order, but that didn't mean they were willing to die for him.

They were all selfish people with their own ambitions.

"Actually, this does concern us," Astoria interjected, saying, "The Pure Moon Palace has expressed its intention to join the UN, and the UN has accepted. That makes the Pure Moon Palace one of us."

"As such, what you are doing to the Pure Moon Palace is, in fact, an act of aggression against the UN. If you want to use force, we will respond in kind," Astoria stated.

"What did you say!?" Emperor Carpus glared at Astoria hatefully.