

A WARRIOR UNDEFEATABLE /

A Man Like None Other [On-Going]

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Jared didn't answer, his expression tense. If the soldiers inside got wind of their presence, their small team wouldn't stand a chance.

"Jared, if we try to skirt around this place, we'll have to go way out of our way. We could even run into more checkpoints," Eason warned.

The mountain range was right before their eyes. If they were to take a detour now, it would only be a waste of time.

"We don't have a choice," Jared replied. "This isn't a city, it's a full-blown military camp. There must be tens of thousands of soldiers in there."

"Okay, we're definitely taking that detour!"

Both Eason and the Madman broke into a sprint, rushing ahead of him.

To avoid the city, they had no choice but to take a long detour that added a few hundred kilometers to their path. Eventually, another city came into view. It was noticeably smaller, but black-armored soldiers stood guard atop its gates.

Jared and his companions had just gotten within fifty kilometers of it when a large group of soldiers suddenly burst out from within, charging straight in their direction.

"Quick, conceal your aura! Who messed up?" Jared was stunned.

Their concealment had been perfect, those soldiers shouldn't have sensed them.

"It's me..." Bastian said sheepishly. He'd tried suppressing his aura for a long time, but his skill wasn't up to par, and he'd slipped.

Jared sighed, then quickly waved his hand, casting a shield over the group and moving them to a new location.

The soldiers surrounded where they had just been, but found nothing.

"Search! They can't have gone far!" the captain shouted, ordering a full-scale search.

Seizing the opportunity, Jared and the others made a break for the city. As they were sneaking closer, another group of soldiers suddenly emerged, and the two groups came face to face.

Swoosh!

Jared reacted instantly. His Dragonslayer Sword was out in a flash, unleashing waves of sword energy that shredded the soldiers before they could even cry out. Then, internal flames pulsed from his palm, incinerating the bodies into ash.

Too many corpses at the gates would raise immediate suspicion. He had to erase all traces of them.

“Let’s go,” Jared ordered.

They soared over the city, unseen. There were no guards patrolling the skies.

Once past the city, the mountain range finally appeared.

A vast chain of peaks stretched out before them, grander than even Demonica Mountain in the Ethereal Realm.

“Let’s move. Beyond these mountains, there are fewer cities. Once we cross them, we’ll be in other beast races’ domain, and we won’t need to keep hiding,” Jared said with a deep breath.

Building cities atop mountain ranges took immense resources, so even in Winged Tiger City, such cities were few and far between.

They pressed on, flying along the edge of the mountains for nearly five hundred kilometers without seeing another city.

“Jared, can we take a break for a bit? I’m having trouble keeping up,” Bastian panted. Still young, he’d burned through his energy quickly and needed a break.

“All right, everyone rest. Don’t wander off; I’m going to check ahead,” Jared said.

He set up an illusion array, allowing the others to hide within. To anyone passing by, they’d be invisible.

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Once the others were settled, Jared vanished, dashing deeper into the mountain range. With Bastian no longer slowing down, moved like a blur.

Before long, two cities came into view, straddling the mountain range. They spanned its width like twin gates, with only a narrow passage between them.

At the sight of this, Jared's suspicions deepened.

That small city at the top of the range was clearly important, more so than even the main city where Jovan resided. These two cities were clearly there to protect it.

The cities teemed with soldiers. Massive discs were mounted on each gate, though Jared couldn't tell what they were for. The cities' size and strength far surpassed any others they'd encountered. And there was no way around them. Dozens of soldiers patrolled the skies, the security tight as a drum.

After observing for a while, Jared quietly retreated.

"How did it go? Once we get past this, will we reach the other beast races' domain?" Eason asked when Jared returned.

Jared shook his head, his expression grim. "There are two more cities ahead blocking the way. We'll have to pass through them."

"Can't we go around?" Madman asked.

"No... We have to pass through them. If we can't, we'll have to turn back, and we'll definitely run right into whoever's chasing us."

"What are these two cities like? Can we move through them unnoticed?" Eason asked, concerned.

"It won't be easy to get through them. There are tens of thousands of soldiers inside," Jared said. "All we can hope for is that their communication lines are bad. If we're lucky, we can slip through before they realize who we are."

After all, they were all part of the beast race, so it was only natural for them to come and go through the city gates frequently. Still, Jared was worried that Jovan might've already sent word about them. If that were the case, they'd be recognized the moment they showed their faces.

"Let's give it a shot, but be ready for a fight!" Eason nodded in agreement, and the four of them made their way toward the two cities.

As they approached, they saw rows of soldiers standing tall atop the gates, each one exuding a stern presence and an icy aura. Jared took a deep breath and headed straight for the gate.

"Hold it right there!" A squad of soldiers stopped them abruptly, the captain's voice cold. "Where are you coming from?"

"We came from the main city. Just hoping to meet some friends," Jared answered smoothly.

As spoke, casually pulled out a bag of celestial coins, hoping to grease the wheels with a bribe.

That trick had always worked in the mundane world. But the moment the coins appeared, the captain's face darkened, his brows knitting together.

"Who are you people? Surround them!"

Whoosh!

In an instant, Jared and the others were encircled by soldiers. Jared was caught off guard, not quite sure what the captain had misunderstood.

Was the bribe too small?

"You think I'm short, changing you? No worries, I've got more. Here, take this, and split It with your squad..."

He offered another bag of celestial coins. But the captain's face twisted in fury.

"Are you trying to insult me? You're definitely not from Winged Tiger City. Who are you really?" The captain drew his weapon without hesitation.

"Jared, that's not how the beast race does things! You're basically slapping in the face." Even Madman was momentarily stunned by Jared's move.

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Hearing Madman's words, Jared felt a little embarrassed. He hadn't realized how different things were in the celestial realm.

In the mundane world, a gift could smooth over nearly anything. Refusing one was practically unheard of.

"All right, all right, if you don't want it, fine. No need to blow up over it..." Jared tucked the celestial coins away.

"Talk! Who are you people? One more lie, and I won't hold back," the captain barked.

Around them, the soldiers' auras shifted, each one unsheathing weapons, ready for a fight. The air was thick with murderous intent.

Jared and his companions suddenly found themselves the focus of hostile stares. One wrong word and they'd be torn apart.

Feeling the rising threat, both Madman and Eason tensed up, their auras surging in preparation. Bastian was visibly shaken, his face pale as clung tightly behind Madman.

Oddly enough, Jared wasn't panicking. If they were still being questioned, it meant their identities hadn't been exposed yet. If word had already reached this city, the soldiers would've acted without hesitation. They still had a chance. If worst came to worst, they'd just skip this city altogether.

He glanced around. Soldiers had them completely boxed in. Every one of them was alert and ready to strike.

The squad captain was watching Jared closely, face like stone.

"It's a misunderstanding. Just hear me out..." Jared spoke quickly, trying to reason with the captain while simultaneously scratching something into the ground with his foot, so subtly that no one noticed.

"Talk! Who are you?!" the captain demanded again, his tone frigid.

"All right, truth is, we're not from Winged Tiger City. We just heard the place was thriving and figured we'd move here."

Jared was grasping at straws, hoping to stall with half-truths.

"You expect me to believe that? If you're going to move to Winged Tiger City, you could've just stayed in the main city. What were you doing up in the mountains?"

"Of course, we wanted to check out the main city, but come on, look at us. We've even got a kid with us. No way Lord Jovan would've accepted us. So we thought we'd settle in some quiet little town, take on local identities, and keep a low profile..."

"That way, we wouldn't draw any unwanted attention. We found out about this Winged Tiger City territory up in the mountains, and figured we'd find shelter here," Jared explained.

It was all fabricated, of course, just a ruse to buy time. Meanwhile, Jared kept drawing on the ground, carving a strange rune little by little.

"You take me for a fool? You really think I'll fall for such crap?" The captain was seething now.

With a sweep of his arm, shouted, "Men, seize them! Let the city lord question them himself!"

The moment the command left his lips, the surrounding soldiers burst into action.

Seeing how things were spiraling, Jared gave a subtle signal to Madman and Eason.

If it came down to it, they'd have to fight. They couldn't afford to be dragged in front of Jovan. That would mean certain exposure.

But before the soldiers could strike, an overwhelming and authoritative aura rolled in from within the city. Then, from the inner streets, a colossal tiger strolled out calmly.

Atop it sat a young man dressed in grey. He was strikingly handsome, with a commanding presence, and his eyes looked like they didn't care about anyone or anything.

The moment appeared, all the soldiers dropped to one knee in reverence.

"Greetings, Prince Thorley..." The captain lowered his head, not daring to make eye contact.

"What's going on? Why is the gate in chaos?" the young man asked coolly.

"A few outsiders, not from Winged Tiger City, tried to force their way in. I was just about to take them to the city lord for questioning!" the captain explained.

The young man's eyes flicked toward Jared.

Jared looked back calmly, though noticed the young man's expression tighten.

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Jared instantly realized something was off, this young man didn't carry the aura of the beast race. Madman and Eason noticed too, surprise clear on their faces. The aura gave off was human.

A human was right here In the beast race's region. And not just any human, one with high status.

Could it be that Jovan had already allied with the human race?

"They're just a few nobodies. Why bother interrogating them? Just kill them..." the young man said coldly, as if ending their lives was as easy as swatting flies.

"Understood!" The captain didn't hesitate. "Kill them!"

As the soldiers closed in, ready to attack, a flash of white light suddenly burst from beneath Jared and the others' feet. The soldiers' vision went white, and in the next moment, Jared and his group were gone.

Despite being fully surrounded, they had vanished right in front of everyone.

The captain's face turned pitch-black. He expanded his spiritual sense, but couldn't detect any trace of them.

"Find them! Search the entire area!" roared in fury. His pride had taken a major blow.

The young man, however, furrowed his brows, finally showing a flicker of surprise. He stepped over to the spot where Jared had been, eyes scanning the ground.

"No need to search..." muttered, studying the runes Jared had carved. "They used a Teleportation Array. Who would've thought someone so unassuming was actually an array master? He set this up right under our noses, and we didn't notice a thing..."

The young man looked intrigued now.

The captain came over and glanced at the runes. "Prince Thorley, this kind of short-range Teleportation Array doesn't cover much ground. They must have another one nearby. If we move quickly, we might still catch them."

"Then go. Bring back alive. Someone with his skill could be a valuable asset," the young man ordered.

"As you command!" The captain rallied his troops, sending thousands out in search of Jared and his group.

Meanwhile, Jared and the others had already returned to their earlier resting spot. Jared had planned ahead and set up a temporary Teleportation Array there, just in case. It paid off, without it, they'd be prisoners by now.

"Jared, you actually prepped a Teleportation Array ahead of time? You really thought this through!" Madman said, genuinely impressed.

But Eason was still frowning.

"How is there a human in Winged Tiger City?" asked. "And not just any human. He seems important."

"Could Winged Tiger City have joined forces with the human race?" Jared asked in disbelief.

"No way. The human race is the weakest in level one. Jovan wouldn't be foolish enough to ally with them," Eason replied, shaking his head.

"Let's not dwell on that. We need to figure out how we're getting out of here," Madman cut in.

"It looks like we've got nowhere left to fall back to," Jared said grimly, scanning the area with his heightened senses.

He could clearly detect thousands of soldiers sweeping the terrain in an all-out search. There was no way they could turn back now, and Jared was convinced that Jovan himself was commanding the pursuit.

At that moment, and his companions felt completely cornered, like a mouse in a trap.

"Jared, I'll go draw them away. Use the chance to get out of here. If we stay together, none of us will make it out!" Eason said to Jared.

"No need to be that pessimistic," Jared responded. "There might still be another way..."

"What other way could there possibly be?" Eason asked, his expression full of disbelief.

"There are tens of thousands of soldiers searching for us right now. But if we blend into their ranks and hide our auras properly, there's a good chance they won't even notice us," Jared said.

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"Boss, but all these soldiers are wearing armor. We're not!" Madman said.

"No problem. You guys just wait here for me!"

After Jared finished speaking, vanished into thin air instantly.

When Jared returned, surprisingly had four sets of armor in his possession, likely stripped off from the bodies of fallen soldiers.

"Hurry up and put on the armor. I've taken care of the four soldier corpses. They won't be discovered anytime soon."

As Jared spoke, began to don his armor.

Swiftly, the four individuals donned their armor, effectively concealing their aura.

With that, they could freely move about without arousing any suspicion.

At that moment, a squad of soldiers approached.

The captain of the soldiers turned to Jared and his three companions and asked them, "Have you four found anything?"

"We haven't found anything!" Jared said.

"How peculiar... Did those four really just vanish?" The captain was filled with confusion.

"Let's search elsewhere! We might just find what we're looking for!"

After Jared finished speaking, intended to leave with Madman and the others.

"Stop searching. Let's head back to the city. Those four couldn't have escaped this area," the captain uttered.

Upon hearing that, Jared instantly felt a touch of helplessness. Nevertheless, had no choice but to blend into the crowd and follow the captain back to the city.

Seeing the return of the captain of the soldiers, the young man asked, "Did you find them?"

The captain reported cautiously, "Prince Thorley, it's as if those people have simply vanished. We have searched every corner of the area, but there's no trace of them, not even the faintest hint of their aura."

"What a bunch of good-for-nothings! We'll send out more people to search tomorrow. They couldn't have left this area," the young man responded coldly

"Understood!" the captain of the soldiers responded, his voice trembling with nervousness.

The young man turned to leave, but the captain caught up with him, saying, "Prince Thorley, there are people of unknown identity lurking around. For your safety, it's best to have someone accompany you!"

Once the captain of the soldiers finished speaking, gestured toward Jared and his team of soldiers, saying, "Your team is to ensure the safety of Prince Thorley. Should face even the slightest danger, none of you will survive!"

The young man didn't refuse. Accompanied by Jared and dozens of soldiers, they casually strolled down the city's main street.

On the streets, everyone who saw that young man immediately halted in their tracks and fell to their knees, performing a ritual of respect. Yet, the young man wore an expression of icy arrogance, not even sparing a glance at the people kneeling by his side.

Upon seeing the situation, Madman whispered, "Who exactly is this guy? How can he be so impressive? Everyone seems to be bowing down to him!"

"The level one human race isn't even this impressive. Could this young man possibly be from level three?" Eason was also puzzled, wondering about the identity of the young man who had the entire city of beast race willingly kneeling in adoration.

"That's enough. Everyone, stop talking..." Jared cautioned.

They were not yet safe, and if they were discovered, it would spell trouble.

After he had spoken, Jared stared intently at the young man, his heart filled with confusion at that moment.

As he gazed upon the young man before him, a sense of familiarity washed over him. However, couldn't quite place where he had seen before.

"Buddy, Prince Thorley is so arrogant! He didn't even spare a glance at all those people kneeling before him!" Jared found a soldier and began to engage in a conversation.

“Hush!” The soldier gasped in shock. “Are you courting death, daring to speak of Prince Thorley like that? Let me tell you something. Prince Thorley is a man from Celestial Palace. The fact that even deigns to look at us is a sign of his regard for us.”

Upon hearing that, Jared was instantly stunned. He had not anticipated that the young man was actually from Celestial Palace.

No wonder he’s strutting around so confidently! It turns out he’s one of the celestials. Even though they’re clearly from the human race, they portray their bloodline as something noble...

The celestials really know how to show off. Now, I understand why Winged Tiger City fears a single human. It turns out it’s someone from Celestial Palace!

Buzz!

Suddenly, it seemed as if Jared remembered something, and his eyes were once again fixated on the young man.