

Reincarnated With Three Unique Skills

Chapter 201: 217

Chapter 201: Waiting Surprise?

After their moonlit flight, Aengus and Aria entered the treehouse.

The place was softly illuminated by fireflies and filled with the natural aroma of fresh flowers, creating a tranquil atmosphere.

There was a single bed made from leaves and sturdy branches for comfort. Aengus sat down casually, keeping his Supreme Hunter danger sense on high alert, despite the peace surrounding them.

“Aria, what are you doing over there?” Aengus asked, noticing her fidgeting near the window.

Aria glanced back and replied, “I need to change, Ethan. There are bloodstains, and this awful scent. I feel uncomfortable.” Her face flushed a little with embarrassment.

“Oh... sure. I can give you some privacy. I won't look, I promise. See, I'm closing my eyes now,” Aengus said, covering his eyes, though it didn't mean much considering his extraordinary senses.

Aria, still shy about such things, not as bold as Bella, gathered her courage and offered, “No, Ethan, you don't need to close your eyes. You can look if you want.” Her face was as red as a tomato.

Aengus didn't agree.

“No, it's fine, Aria. We can take our time slowly. We will reach that step in the future, after our marriage, I mean. No need to worry, I can wait. Now, quickly get changed and come here,” Aengus muttered softly.

Aria appreciated his understanding, though she knew she would eventually have to overcome her shyness.

She began to undress, revealing skin that hinted at her natural beauty, her curves subtle but undeniably tempting.

Aengus kept his promise.

He resisted the urge to look, though the rustling of her clothes falling to the ground tested his hardest resolve. The sound was full of tantalising imagination, yet he remained composed.

Though he and Bella had shared intimate moments before, he had never fully seen Bella's complete beauty, let alone Aria's.

But Aengus was determined to give them the respect they deserved, never wanting to rush or force anything. He knew it was just a matter of time and was confident in his ability to wait until the right moment.

After changing into a light blue outfit similar to the one she wore for hunting, Aria approached Aengus.

He opened his eyes as she drew near.

"You can sleep for a while, Aria. I'll stand on guard," Aengus said, standing up and gesturing toward the bed.

But Aria gently grabbed his hand, stopping him.

"Not yet... Give me what I've been waiting for," Aria said, her voice filled with rare boldness.

Aengus raised an eyebrow, smirking slightly. "And what exactly is that?" he teased, knowing full well what she meant.

He enjoyed seeing her break out of her shyness, even if it was only a little. It was the first step, and he wanted to let her grow more comfortable at her own pace.

"Oh, of course... it's a kiss. Give me my kiss," Aria stammered, her voice betraying her nervousness.

Aengus smiled as he wrapped his arms around her, their bodies pressed close together.

"Is it like this?" he murmured, his deep voice soft yet teasing.

Aria, smaller in size compared to him, could feel the heat radiating from his body, her heartbeat quickening as their closeness left only a thin layer of clothing between them.

With a mixture of anticipation and excitement, she wrapped her arms around his back, closing her eyes and tilting her head slightly, inviting him closer. The moment felt intense, filled with emotion and desire.

Aengus looked at her face, closing the distance between their lips.

Aria responded eagerly, feeling the intensity of his love and desire.

As they continued their intimate exchange, something entirely different was happening in the Demon World:

A massive ruined battlefield was strewn with the corpses of tens of thousands of demons. The blood spilled on the ground of the fallen demons was still fresh, suggesting that an intense battle had just ended.

Bella and Aengus stood at the front of the Army of Liberation, which had now grown to more than 40,000. They had just finished accepting another group of demons into their ranks, marking them with Slave Marks, an ability recently acquired by Bella combined with her curse abilities.

She had recently surpassed the Archdemon Rank, reaching the rank of Demon General, though she was still not as powerful as her father.

Aengus's body double had also grown significantly stronger. He would experience a real boost in strength once they merged again.

"Phew, finally. This marks the end of the Red Serpent Deity's temples in this region. Now, only the head temple remains in the capital of Demon Lord Nagaroth's domain," Bella remarked, a sigh of relief escaping her lips.

Aengus glanced at her beside him.

"Bella, we need to leave quickly before they receive the news," Aengus replied cautiously, his eyes scanning the surroundings for any threats.

"Sienna, Sen, go quickly order everyone to store the bodies and make them ready to leave," Aengus turned to the Naganian Siblings in command.

"Yes, My lord." They gave respectful nods and headed ahead relaying the command.

The doppelganger of Aengus had started showing real emotions lately, something that made Bella happy. But she couldn't quite figure out what had caused this sudden change.

"What's wrong?" Aengus asked her puzzled by her strange gaze.

"No, I was just wondering when are you coming back, Hubby? I want to know what changed in you?" She asked suspiciously.

"Didn't I say I had my heart fixed," He said with smile, hiding the truth for now.

Bella was still suspicious.

“So, when are you coming back? I have already prepared my wedding dress already. We need to make babies together, ” She said with a lewd expression.

Aengus answered patiently, “It’s barely been a few days, Bella. Just wait for a few more days. You will get a big surprise once I am back,” He said mysteriously.

He was going to introduce Aria and Bella to each other. Bella might be angry for while, but he was sure she will accept Aria eventually. She was influenced by Polygamy from birth, but she was a little possessive, perhaps it was all woman’s inherent trait.

Bella was amused, “Ohh, let’s see what you have for me..”

Chapter 202: Chapter 202: Preparing For Big Hunt

The next day, early in the morning, a dense fog surrounded them like a wintry morning, though it was not.

Aria opened her eyes and saw Aengus by the window, gazing outside.

He had stood guard the whole night, making Aria feel bad, but it had been his insistence, and she couldn’t refuse.

During the night, they had encountered a few snakes and bird monsters, but Aengus dealt with them easily, not even letting Aria know they were being attacked.

She got up, rubbing her eyes to clear her mind. Smiling, she tiptoed towards him sneakily...

She hugged him from behind, burying her face against his back.

“Ah, Aria, you’re awake,” Aengus said, acting surprised. He had already noticed her sneaky tricks, but he let her do as she wished.

“You have already noticed, haven’t you?” Aria sulked slightly, fluttering her pretty eyebrows as she moved away from his back.

“No.” Aengus replied, shrugging.

“Humph! One day, I’ll catch you off guard once I’m strong enough,” she resolved.

“Okay, I’ll be waiting. Now, go wash your face. There’s some water in the jar, or you can visit the lake nearby, though I doubt it’s clean,” Aengus suggested.

“We need to make a plan for today, so let’s be quick.”

“Okay, let me just wash my face,” Aria said, trying to tie up her hair.

Aengus gently tidied her hair into a single ponytail and patted her back. “Come down when you’re ready. Until then, I’ll check if those two have left.”

“Alright,” Aria nodded in acknowledgment.

“Whoosh…”

Aengus appeared just outside Tina and Ryann’s balcony.

He heard the couple talking inside and knocked on the door.

Ryann quickly opened the door.

“Good morning, Sir.”

Ryann saw Aengus standing outside but wasn’t sure what to say.

Aengus spoke before he could, “We are leaving. You two should leave as well.”

Ryann wasn’t sure if Aengus was speaking out of kindness or impatience, but either way, they had to leave eventually. “Yes, Sir. We’re going. Thank you for the hospitality. We won’t bother you anymore.” Ryann glanced back at Tina, who was also ready to leave.

Aengus gave a slight nod and disappeared from their view, reappearing on the ground almost instantly. The couple exchanged wry smiles.

“If only I had that kind of power, I could protect you and our child, Tina, but alas…”
Ryann smiled bitterly.

“You’re all I need, Ryann. Let’s go. The beasts may still be sleeping. We can take the chance to get out…”

Aria descended gracefully, using aerial vines to reach the ground swiftly. She joined Aengus and watched Tina and Ryann leave calmly from behind. They looked helpless, as if waiting to be devoured if they left.

Aengus silently summoned a three-headed Thunder Wolf, which he had synthesized and bred the previous night. Aria’s brows raised in surprise.

“Aengus, where did this come from? Do you have a summoning skill or class?”

“Yes, something similar,” Aengus replied as he commanded the B-Rank Thunder Wolf to follow the couple and protect them silently.

“I can only do this much for their child.” he muttered in low voice.

It was a small gesture of goodwill from him, and it wasn't difficult. He already knew she was pregnant, which is why he decided to help them yesterday.

Aria's ears perked up at his words.

“Wait, she's pregnant?”

Aengus gave a firm nod, confirming her query.

“I see, but how did you know? Don't tell me you have a skill like Enhanced Vision or something?” Aria asked, her expression exaggerated.

Aengus nodded again, but then immediately realized his mistake.

“Ahh, doesn't that mean you can peek at any woman you see, even under their clothes? That's so perverted!”

Aengus clicked his tongue but remained unfazed.

“Relax, Aria. I would never do such a thing,” he said resolutely. “Besides, it only lets me see vague images, not clear details,” he added, downplaying the ability to avoid making it a big issue.

“Still... it's a big issue, Ethan. You shouldn't use it on any other woman. Never,” Aria said, glaring at him.

“Fine... Now, can we discuss the plan for the hunt today?” Aengus asked, noticing the fog slowly disappearing.

Aria, slightly embarrassed, composed herself.

“Oh, of course. Tell me what plan do you have on your mind?”

Seeing her serious demeanor, Aengus began explaining the plan he devised the previous night.

“We need to lure them using my aura, like we did yesterday. Then, we'll trap them. For that, we need to build a sturdy dome to separate them from the outside. After that, we'll take them out one group at a time,” he said seriously.

Aria grew worried as she listened to his plan of using himself as bait. The previous experience had been anything but pleasant.

Recalling his prowess, she decided to agree but with caution.

“Do you also have an Elemental Manipulation skill? I don’t think I can make such a large dome you’re talking about,” Aria asked, unsure.

“Yes, I have something similar to Earth Manipulation, but much stronger.”

“That’s good, but what if we can’t handle it if too many come?”

Aengus reassured her confidently, “Don’t worry, I can summon more monsters for help like before.”

“Can your Mana reserves last that long?”

“Haha, that’s the last thing you should worry about, Aria. Just take down the ones you can handle. Leave the rest to me,” he said, his confident demeanor easing her mind.

Though it was a risky plan, the potential gains were worth it.

“Before that...” Aengus paused before taking out seven human corpses from his bracelet, their bodies radiating a decaying odor.

“Let’s power you up once again. After this, you should be at least A-Rank.” He grinned, not caring about the corpses in the slightest. There were five C-Ranks and two B-Ranks. Their essence should be enough for the upgrade.

Aria resisted the urge to vomit and prepared herself once again.

She knew it was unavoidable to grow stronger. Her thoughts turned to Aengus, wondering how much he had to endure to gain so much power. Compared to him, her efforts paled in comparison.

But she was determined to help him however she could.

Chapter 203: Chapter 203: Trapped

“Let’s begin,” Aengus said to Aria, who is now an A-Rank powerhouse.

Aria nodded, and the two of them began crafting the circular shaped dome made of tree roots, vines, and hard rock.

Aengus first started by creating the dome’s foundation using rock for the initial layer.

The second layer was completed with Aria's help, making a perfect camouflage that blended seamlessly with the surroundings.

After their combined efforts of an hour, the structure was ready. It stood nearly 100 meters tall and 400 meters in radius. Inside was illuminated by fireflies and other luminescent bugs under Aria's command.

Aria's face show exhaustion while Aengus looked calm and collective.

She watched with fascination. It had been a difficult task, but with Aengus' help, it seemed effortless.

"Alright, this should do for now," Aengus commented, satisfied with the result.

There was a curved entrance designed to control the flow of beasts and monsters, able to be sealed or opened at will.

Aria's mind shifted to another concern. "What about humans, Ethan? What if they come?"

Aengus' response was cold and ruthless. "They will die. What else? Besides, I don't see any humans nearby. But if any come seeking death, there's nothing I can do."

"Oh... okay," Aria replied, slightly taken aback but quickly refocused. "When should we start?" She asked, her excitement growing. She was eager to test out her new skills and increased Nature Control after the synthesis.

"We don't have time to waste. I can start anytime. Are you ready?" Aengus asked as he began to enter the dome.

"Yes, I am," Aria replied, following him through the large entrance.

Once inside, Aengus moved to the furthest point, opposite the entrance, positioning himself for the ambush. Aria scanned the ceiling, preparing to unleash sharp branches that would stretch across from the top like deadly spears. Her plan was deadly: once anything stepped into her domain, nothing would leave alive.

She positioned herself to the right of Aengus, ensuring she wouldn't interfere with his destructive attacks. Both stood ready, their eyes gleaming with the anticipation of the coming hunt.

Aengus swiftly unleashed the aura of the Origin Tree within him, which stored and facilitated Origin Mana. Other Seekers had similar trees inside them, but Aengus's tree looked completely different. It was vibrant, with branches like stars for leaves.

It had grown to the size of a small tree due to the recent harvest and was hungry for more.

The tantalizing aura of such pure and potent energy slowly spread from within, like an invisible invitation to greater power.

Howl!

Awooo...

The nearby beasts and monsters' eyes turned red as they began galloping in large numbers, some even fighting among themselves outside. This created a small problem—if they fought each other, who would come inside?

Noticing this, Aengus increased the intensity of his aura, and their infighting ceased abruptly. They quickly began to fall into the trap, one by one.

“Roar!”

“Rumble!”

Aria watched as the beasts and monsters swarmed in like ants through the entrance. Some were big, some small, and some as large as 50 meters, almost touching the ceiling. Their footsteps shook the earth, their eyes predatory as they focused on Aengus.

Aria and Aengus waited for the cage to be filled. Only then would the real massacre begin.

“Roar!”

By this point, some of the beasts attempted to reach Aengus, but Aria acted instantly, piercing their bodies, creating a gory mess.

“Ethan, I think it's enough!” Aria shouted as she decapitated more beasts with her dagger.

By now, nearly three thousand beasts filled the cage to the brim.

Aengus gave her a nod and ceased spreading his Origin Aura. He then closed the gate to finish off the creatures first.

Stepping forward, Aengus activated his Omni-Devour skill and began to consume the beasts.

“Buzz...Buzz...”

The beasts, still at low C and B-Ranks, were easy prey for him to devour.

Realizing they were trapped, the beasts let out agonizing screams. They hadn't expected to be hunted this way—always the hunters, now turned into helpless prey.

“Crackle, Crackle!”

Boom!

Desperate, the beasts attacked Aengus with everything they had—thunder, fire, and their massive bodies, hoping to crush him into meat paste.

But Aengus stood unfazed, absorbing their energies, his power growing with each devoured beast.

[Strength +1, Agility +1.5, Defense +1]

[Origin Mana +200]

[You have acquired a new active skill: Skull-Crusher Ape Transformation (C)]

[You have....]

Notifications flashed continuously before his eyes, but he decided to ignore them for now. The number of skills in his arsenal had increased over 20, making him even more versatile. Some skills were assimilated to enhance sub-levels of same skill, while others waited to be synthesized later.

His Origin Mana had surpassed 50,000 points and was still rising.

Aengus' lips curved into an involuntary smile. He was pleased with the results; it wouldn't be long before he reached S-Rank.

He kept an eye on Aria from time to time, ensuring she remained safe.

Aria's performance was incredible. She dominated her battles like a battle queen, with only flashes of her dagger visible as she constantly moved among the foes. Sharp spears of wood rained down from the ceiling under her command, further thinning out their numbers. She could have summoned lightning for aid as well, if not for the limitations of being inside the dome.

Aengus was impressed. Her every movement was a sight to behold.

Shifting his gaze to the A-Rank massive wild wyverns, Aengus became serious. These creatures could resist the suction of his Devour ability to some extent, making things tougher with their aerial maneuvers. They were elemental wyverns, lesser bloodlines of dragons.

He hadn't expected to find wyverns in the forest as well.

Undeterred, he retrieved Aegis from his Spatial Bracelet and unsheathed it. As the wyverns attacked with their elemental abilities, opening their maws wide, Aengus appeared atop their backs and slashed down with full force, severing their necks one by one.

"Screech!"

The others tried to escape, but their doom was evident.

Void Venom Blade Tempest

Sharp copies of Aegis Blade materialized from the void and pierced the wyverns' bodies, silencing their screeches and signaling the end of the battle.

Chapter 204: Chapter 204: Skill Synthesis; Upgrade

After the first wave was over, Aengus began to devour the five Elemental Wyverns, leaving remaining two for Aria.

[Strength +3, Agility +2, Defense + 3]

[Origin Mana +700]

.....

[You have acquired Wyvern's Bloodline]

[You have acquired Fire Manipulation (A)]

[You have acquired Wind Manipulation (A)]

[You have acquired Water Manipulation (A)]

—

[Name: Aengus Degaro]

[Age: 18]

[Title: Dragon Slayer]

[Race: Human-Demon-Dragon-Seeker]

[Level: 45]

[Occupation: Supreme Leader of Liberation Army]

[Class: None]

[Bloodline Lineage: Seeker (Royal), Beelzebub (Partial-Royal), Death Leviathan (Half-Noble), Fire Dragon (Noble), Wyvern (Elite)]

[Special Trait: Greater Spatial Teleporter]

[Soul: ZERO]

[Laws: Space, Water]

Physical Stats: >

[Strength: 5100]

[Agility: 5200]

[Defense: 5230]

[Origin Mana: 67,000 / 78000]

[Attribute points: 15]

<Skills:>

– [Active: Blazing Overlord Dragon -5 (A+), Void Venom Blade Tempest -2 (A), Wind Manipulation (A), Wyvern Transformation (A), Water Manipulation (A), Fire Manipulation (A), All-Seeing Sovereign -12 (B), Elemental Graviton Surge -10 (B), Elite Human Transformation -26 (B), Thunder Summoning (B), Space Claws -14(C), Space Warp -26 (C), Fire Breath (C), Infernal Roar (C), Blazing Fury (C), Infernal Lion's Claws (C), Infernal Lion Transformation (C), Thunder Step (C), Thunder Storm (C), Blight Aura (C), Frostbound Claws (C), Sonic Roar (C), Ravenous Maw (C), Corrosive Spit (C), Skull-Crusher Ape Transformation (C), Stone Carapace (D).....]

– [Passive: Heart Of Chaos (S), Supreme Hunter (A), Phoenix Resurgence (B), Water Breathing (C)]

[Special Skills: Monster Breeding (Level- 7)]

[Demonic Abilities:

– Peak: Hellfire Leviathan Of Death

– Intermediate: Darkness King's Authority, Corrupting Aura, Web Of Despair, Nightmare Web

– Basic: Puppet Strings, Shadow Walk, Eye Of Curse, Undead Regeneration, Summon Hell-Spirits

[Unique Skills: Appraisal (Basic), Nullified Mental Attacks (Rare), Rapid Cast (Rare), Omni-Devour (Ultimate), Universal Synthesis (Ultimate)]

The list of skills had become quite long, but his soul and body hadn't experienced any discomfort yet. Still, he needed to synthesize them quickly before proceeding to the next wave.

Before that, he called Aria to synthesize her with the remaining two Wyverns' bodies.

He carefully checked her condition to see if she could handle it. To his surprise, her body was in much better shape than he expected. His vision couldn't pierce through to reveal the reason, but he suspected her body held unknown secrets.

After the synthesization was complete, Aria radiated with power, her presence intensifying even further.

"Hehe... I'm much stronger now, Ethan. I can take down A-Ranks with ease. And it's all thanks to you," she smiled, looking at him with earnestly.

She refrained from saying thanks because of his earlier warning that they were now family. But she couldn't hide her gratitude from his gaze.

"No, Aria. You have earned this. You fought incredibly well. You're a true hunter. I am just someone with these extraordinary abilities. I'm nothing compared to your diligence and practice really," he responded, humbly acknowledging her strength.

Aria looked both happy and concerned at the same time.

"Don't underestimate yourself, Ethan. I'm sure you've been through a lot to gain this power. Without hard work, courage, and will, this wouldn't have been possible."

Aengus appreciated her words and the affection in her voice.

“Thanks, Aria. That means a lot to me.”

Aria was displeased.

“What thanks? Did you forget your own words, Ethan? We’re a family, and family always supports each other,” she reminded him sternly.

Aengus stared at her beautiful face in a daze. Her heartfelt words touched him deeply.

“Yes, we are... Miss Silvermoon,” he mumbled, before turning to the rest of the corpses. They’re the ones that Aria had Killed—numbering in a few hundreds.

“Do you want to merge with them, Aria?” Aengus asked, fixing his gaze ahead.

“No, I’m fine for now. I need some time to adjust. You can use them as you wish,” Aria replied, looking a little tired.

“Alright then.” Aengus, with swift movements, quickly sent the near-death ones to the Monster Breeding Space to turn them into his legion—close to a hundred. The rest he devoured using Omni-Devour. Although they didn’t increase his stats much as they were just C and B ranks, the total was enough to feel the effect as his power rose.

Once the battlefield cleared, Aengus went and sat beside Aria under a tree.

“Aria, take a moment for yourself. I’m going to power up my skills to confront more foes,” he muttered softly as he looked at his skills to merge.

“Will you be fine this time? Don’t do something crazy like the last time. I was worried to death,” Aria asked, her concern clear.

“No, I will be fine... This time it will be a simple.”

“Oh, that’s good then. I’m here for you. Do as you wish. Nothing can harm you as long as I’m here,” she said confidently.

Aengus closed his eyes, focusing on the skills suitable for synthesis.

[Elemental Wyvern Transformation (A) + Infernal Lion Transformation (C) + Skull-Crusher Ape Transformation (C) + Ironhide Boar Transformation (B)]

[Your skills evolved to: Primordial Beast King (A+)]

[Description:

The Primordial Beast King skill allows the user to gain the ability to transform into any kind of beast as long as they obtain the creature's blood or DNA sample. These forms will be assimilated into the skill and can be used anytime.

It also allows the user to combine all beast forms into a formidable hybrid form. This hybrid form grants the user immense physical strength, resilience, enhanced senses, and the ability to utilize devastating combat techniques derived from each creature's innate abilities.]

[Space Claws (C) + Infernal Lion's Claws (C) + Frostbound Claws (C)]

Your skills evolved to: Void Frostbite Claws (B)

Description:

The Void Frostbite Claws skill grants the user claws imbued with both the chilling power of frost and the instant attack through the void. These claws can freeze enemies on contact while allowing the user to bypass defenses with spatial distortion, making them effective in both offense and evasion.

[Wind Manipulation (A) + Water Manipulation (A) + Fire Manipulation (A) + Elemental Graviton Surge]

[Your Skills evolved to: Chaos Manipulation (S)]

[Chaos Manipulation (7 Elements)]

Description:

Combined with Heart Of Chaos, Chaos Manipulation is a legendary skill that grants the user the ability to manipulate and control the chaotic forces of 7 elements—fire, water, earth, air, light, darkness, and even Gravity—simultaneously. This skill allows the user to harness the unpredictable and volatile nature of elemental chaos, bending it to their will for offensive, defensive, and strategic purposes.

Chapter 205: Chapter 205: S-Rank Skills

[Thunder Summoning (B) + Thunder Storm (C) + Thunder Step (C) + Sonic Roar (C)]

Your skills evolved to: Thunderstorm Summoner (A)

Description: The Thunderstorm Summoner skill allows the user to call forth a massive, violent thunderstorm, enveloping the battlefield in chaos and destruction. The storm serves as both an offensive and defensive tool, empowering the user's lightning-based

abilities and disrupting enemies with torrential rain, thunder, and frequent lightning strikes while increasing the user's speed close to lightning.

[Fire Breath (C) + Infernal Roar (C) + Blazing Fury (C) + Blight Aura (C)]

Inferno Warlord's Rage (B)

Description: The Inferno Warlord's Rage skill fuses fiery breath, fearsome roars, and an aura of decay and destruction, transforming the user into a devastating force of Blazing Fire on the battlefield. This skill enhances the user's raw combat prowess by 500 %.

[Ravenous Maw (C) + Corrosive Spit (C) + Stone Carapace (D)]

Ravenous Stonebeast (B)

Description: The Ravenous Stonebeast skill fuses destructive abilities with resilient defense, transforming the user into a relentless predator that combines hunger with durable stone-like armor. This ability grants the user powerful offensive and defensive traits, allowing them to wear down enemies while withstanding considerable damage.

.....

Aengus was happy with the result, but he wanted more S-Rank skills. That's why he began synthesizing: Hellfire Leviathan of Death (Peak) + Blazing Overlord Dragon (A+). He waited for the expected pain to arrive as he started synthesizing the two.

[Your skill and demonic ability evolved into a new skill: Abyssal Blazing Dragon (S)]

(AN: We are categorizing them as skills for easy understanding)

Description: The Abyssal Blazing Dragon skill represents the pinnacle of draconic power, merging the devastating might of the Hellfire Leviathan of Death with the fierce ferocity of the Blazing Overlord Dragon. It grants control over death and the crimson fire of destruction. In this form, the user's raw stats increase by 70 times.

Size: Height 700m, Width 1,500m

Origin Mana Consumption: 200 per second.

Next were all the demonic abilities, both Intermediate and Basic.

[Darkness King's Authority + Corrupting Aura + Web of Despair + Nightmare Web + Puppet Strings + Shadow Walk + Eye of Curse + Undead Regeneration + Summon Hell-Spirits]

Your abilities evolved into: Shadow Monarch's Dominion (Peak)

Description: A terrifying and all-encompassing mastery of darkness, fear, and corruption, allowing the user to command shadows, manipulate minds, and dominate hellish spirits. This ability also grants instant health regeneration even after receiving severe injuries.

Skills:

[Active: Seven Elements Chaos Manipulation (S), Abyssal Blazing Dragon (S), Primordial Beast King (A+), Void Venom Blade Tempest -2 (A), All-Seeing Sovereign -12 (B), Elite Human Transformation -26 (B), Inferno Warlord's Rage (B), Ravenous Stonebeast (B), Space Warp -26 (C)]

[Passive: Heart of Chaos (S), Supreme Hunter (A), Phoenix Resurgence (B), Water Breathing (C)]

[Special Skills: Monster Breeding (Level-7)]

[Demonic Abilities:

Peak: Shadow Monarch's Dominion

[Unique Skills: Appraisal (Basic), Nullified Mental Attacks (Rare), Rapid Cast (Rare), Omni-Devour (Ultimate), Universal Synthesis (Ultimate)]

After gaining another S-Rank skill and a peak ability, Aengus opened his eyes. The first thing he saw was Aria's figure in front of him, full of tension and concern.

Sensing his movements, Aria came closer.

"How did it go? What new skills did you get?" she asked, curiosity in her voice. His faint, pulsing aura made it clear they must be incredibly powerful.

"Why don't you take a look at your shadow, Aria?" Aengus smirked and glanced at her shadow under the luminescent light, using Shadow Monarch's Dominion to make it disappear.

Aria seemed confused for a moment, then looked down at her feet.

"Huh? Where did my shadow go?" She looked at Aengus, already guessing the culprit.

“Is this your doing? That’s incredible! What else can you do with it?” Her green eyes glinted with fascination.

Aengus quickly commanded the shadow to return to its rightful place.

“I can use any enemy’s shadow to strike them from a certain range. That’s not all—I’ve gained S-Rank skills. I’m now officially an S-Rank, but far more powerful than the usual ones,” he said with confidence.

Aria seemed genuinely happy. “Oh, does that mean we don’t need to fear S-Ranks anymore?”

“Yes, we don’t need to fear S-Rank powerhouses anymore.”

“If that’s the case, I’m really eager to see how powerful you are,” Aria smiled and leaned closer, offering a light kiss on his cheek.

Aengus returned the gesture, kissing her flawless face, which had healed completely from earlier scratches.

“Now, are you ready for the next wave?”

Aria moved back and replied, “Yes, I am ready,” her dagger poised for another bout of carnage.

Suddenly, Aengus’ attention turned to her holy dagger, which had become rusty, its sharpness compromised due to the recent battles.

“Aria, wait, give me your dagger for a second,” he asked, and she turned back.

“What’s wrong?”

Aengus slowly held her dagger, feeling it warm to the touch as he examined it carefully. It was a B-Rank dagger.

“I will help you fix and upgrade it. Do you want it?”

Aria looked slightly reluctant. “Ethan, I have no problem with the upgrade, just make sure it remains the same. It was a gift from my father.”

Just looking into her eyes, it was clear how much attachment she had to it.

“No problem, Aria. I understand. Everything will stay the same, I promise”

Aengus took out his sword as well. It was time to upgrade Aegis too. He also retrieved some rare metals for the enhancement, including Adamantium, Mythril, Orichalcum, Bloodsteel ingots, and a few lower-rank holy swords.

Aria also took a few rare metals from her space rings.

With all those gathered, another fascinating synthesis began.

Aria watched as his blade and her dagger were upgraded.

Aengus stopped only when they had upgraded to S-Rank weapons because lack of good materials to upgrade them further.

He checked their stats and felt satisfied with the results.

They shared a blood connection and were sentient.

Aegis was happy to have gained a new friend.

“Thank you, Master,” Aegis and the dagger expressed their gratitude, surprising Aria as she realized she could now hear their mental communications clearly.

Seeing her puzzled expression, Aengus explained, “Now you can communicate with your dagger now, Aria. It has become a sentient weapon. Perhaps you should give it a new name as well,” he advised.

Aria quickly understood and replied, “That’s incredible! But I forgot to tell you, it already has a name. Its name is Nia; it’s the last name of my mother.”

“Oh, I’m sorry about your loss,” Aengus consoled her, hugging her lightly.

Aria, hiding her pain, squeezed the new S-Rank dagger, feeling its newfound power.

“Let’s start...Nia,” she whispered calmly, prepared to unleash her rage.

Chapter 206: Chapter 206: Aria’s New Power

As they cleared the second wave, they realized that only low-level beasts were now being drawn to them. These beasts had abilities similar to those of the previous wave, which cancelled Aengus’s plan to stack new skills. While he managed to acquire a few new skills, the rest were simply assimilated into his existing skills.

In terms of stats, his gains were minimal. With his stats exceeding 5,500 points, the low-level beasts barely offered any substantial stats, only adding in decimal amounts.

It also became evident that these beasts possessed a certain level of intelligence. Recognizing the danger ahead, they stopped falling into his trap as he had initially hoped. It was almost as if they had been warned beforehand.

After synthesizing Aria with some additional beasts, Aengus sent 300 more near-death creatures to the Monster Breeding Space.

With a glint of determination, Aengus began planning his next steps. He had gained some additional knowledge from Manas about this forest; there were still mythical creatures hidden somewhere deep within. The thought of hunting them brought him exhilaration.

“Aria, it looks like we need to head deeper. They’ve become alert and cunning—or perhaps they received orders from their superiors.”

Aria, noticing his grin, felt a sense of unease but asked, “What’s the new plan? Are you planning to go after their leaders now?”

“Yes. I think they’re more intelligent and definitely of higher ranks.” He reassured her with a confident grin. “No need to worry, Aria. I can handle them. If I could, I’d devour this whole forest slowly—if only there weren’t humans around.”

“Ah, I nearly forgot! If you’re worried about the humans, I can now send them a message to withdraw from the forest. My control over nature has increased significantly after all your help. My command of consciousness can now connect to every tree and plant nearby. If I try harder, I might be able to connect with all the plants and unintelligent creatures as well,” she informed him, excited to offer him some real help.

Aengus was intrigued by the news.

“That’s great news, Aria! Quickly send them a warning to leave the forest immediately. If they don’t leave even after hearing it, they’ll have to bear the consequences themselves.”

“Alright, let me focus,” Aria said before touching a nearby tree, intending to connect with every plant in the ecosystem.

Aengus’s eyes were deeply fixed on Aria as she transformed into her Nature Goddess mode. Her hair turned glowing white, and her entire body radiated a pure aura. Her hands glowed with green as she finally connected with the plants.

Aria guided her consciousness through the plants far and wide, starting from outside the dome, then at the edges in all directions, then heading slowly toward the middle. She also connected with some unintelligent creatures. But it was getting increasingly difficult, but she forced herself, pushing beyond her limits.

Aengus's brows furrowed as he saw Aria's forehead covered with sweat. It was clear she was pushing herself too hard, just for his sake.

But he didn't want her hard work to be wasted or for her to get discouraged, so he held his breath, trusting her completely. He didn't have any way to help her either; he was simply helpless in this regard. It had been a long time since he had felt such helplessness.

"I know you can do it, Aria. I trust you," he whispered beside her ear, just when she needed it, just as she had done to cheer him up before.

Hearing his words, Aria suddenly felt a surge of confidence and more nature power coursing through her, as if a dam had just been broken loose.

With increased ferocity, her consciousness spread almost everywhere like a web.

She spotted humans as well as some terrifying, mythical evolved beasts, making her mind shake for a moment.

The mythical beasts felt a foreign sensation of being observed, but they couldn't discern what it was or where it came from.

Ignoring the mythical beasts, she targeted the humans, though she did make a mental map marking their locations to inform Aengus if needed.

Her warning spread to the humans, clear and loud.

"Serious Warning to the humans! Very soon this forest will not be safe for no one. Those who want to stay alive, leave the forest at this instant. Otherwise, you won't have enough time to escape later. Don't take this lightly. You don't want to disappear from the face of the earth. Think about your family and friends. And you won't hear the same warning twice. Next time, you will only see chaos. Goodbye!"

Her words, carried by the plants, trees, and unintelligent small creatures, reverberated throughout the forest, reaching the ears of the humans and some shrewd beasts. Her voice was heavenly and resonant, making some humans realize the seriousness of the sudden warning.

"Darling, did you hear that? We should leave immediately."

"Yes, let's go, baby. I'm getting goosebumps already."

—

"Guys, hurry! Something bad is about to happen. Even Mother Nature is warning us to stay safe!"

“Haha, Oliver, you’re such a fool! There’s no ‘Mother Nature.’ Someone probably caught wind of some incredible treasures here, so they’re telling everyone to leave so they can grab everything for themselves.”

“Stop reminding me of their nonsense, and let’s find those treasures quickly.”

—

More than half took the warning seriously, leaving the forest, while others, clouded by greed, decided to stay, unknowingly sealing their fate. The wheels of destiny began to turn.

—

(AN: For those wondering why humans are hunting in the forest instead of dungeons, it’s because the dungeons are only for beginners, ranging from Rank F to D.)

—

At the heart of Darkwood Forest, a massive, mythical fox-like creature with seven tails stood alert, its fur shimmering with a dark, ethereal glow. It seemed to speak to the mountain range towering before it, spanning over two kilometers in length and rising four kilometers high. Despite its own imposing presence, the fox showed a clear sense of fear and reverence toward the mountain.

“My Lord, it appears the humans are up to something cunning once again,” the fox said cautiously. “They’re evacuating the weaker ones for some reason.”

To any observer, it would be baffling—what force could demand such respect from a beast of this caliber? And just what kind of presence lay hidden within that mountain?

Chapter 207: Chapter 207: Devouring Dark Dragon
Hum, hum, hum!

Suddenly, the mountain range trembled, and the earth shook violently.

Then, one of the smaller mountains came to life, shaking off soil, plants, and smaller beasts as it began to rise.

The seven-tailed fox watched in awe and reverence as the figure’s head was revealed to the world after so long. It was shaped like a snake’s head, towering nearly 1.7 kilometers above the fox.

“GO, TELL EVERYONE TO BE PREPARED—TO DIE OR TO KILL. THE FATED PROPHECY IS NEAR. BUT WE WILL NOT GIVE UP, NOT WHILE I AM STILL ALIVE.”

The unfathomable creature spoke in a deep, soul-penetrating voice.

“Yes, my lord. Thank you for your guidance!” The fox spoke respectfully, but there are some tears forming under its eyes. Knowing what the prophecy was about, it was only natural.

Just as Aria’s consciousness reached their location, she froze, her heart racing at the sight of the colossal creature piercing through the forest, dwarfing the sky.

She tried to listen to their conversation further, but a blinding, pale white light flashed, followed by a thunderous snort from the towering beast. Aria realized too late that she’d been discovered. Sensing imminent danger, she tried to retreat swiftly, but the pale light spread outward almost instantly.

In an instant, the surrounding 1-kilometer radius turned to stone petrified, leaving unmoving, lifeless statues in its wake. The light reached Aria’s consciousness, following her retreating presence with relentless speed.

“HUMAN GIRL, TELL HIM WE’RE READY!” The warning reached Aria’s senses, but she was deeply tensed to heed its declaration.

“Ba-dum, ba-dum!”

Aria struggled to breathe, her chest rising and falling heavily.

Aengus, seeing this, grew worried.

“Aria, what’s wrong? Stay with me,” he urged.

Aria couldn’t respond; her eyes remained closed, her focus slipping away.

Examining her, Aengus’s heart sank as he noticed her feet slowly turning to stone.

Manas’s warning rang out, “Master, it’s a petrification curse, and a deadly one at that. Quickly, use your Chaos energy to suppress it!”

Taking the advice seriously, Aengus immediately enveloped Aria’s body in his Elemental Chaos energy, creating a state of equilibrium. The chaos particles of light began to purify the curse, while other elements strengthened her physique.

Aengus’s nerves were tight, but he remained controlled as he formed a protective shield around her.

“Manas, Tell me the way to cure it completely.”

“Master, it can only be cured by the original caster. You need to find him quick!” Mana reminded the urgency of the situation.

Aengus clenched his fist, his nails digging into his palm.

After a while, Aria opened her eyes, feeling a strange heaviness in her body.

She found herself in his lap and managed a small smile.

“I don’t want to die yet, Ethan. I still want to see you shine... and become your bride,” she whispered weakly, feeling as if the door to death was near.

Aengus, hiding his inner turmoil, forced a gentle smile.

“Of course, you won’t, Aria. You do want to become my first bride, right? So stay with me and give me a little more time.”

Aria smiled weakly, “I know you can do it, Ethan. I’ll wait. Just be careful.. A giant creature is in the middle..”

Aengus nodded, picked her in his arms and stood up, his aura turning wild and chaotic, spreading through the forest, making even the low ranks tremble in fear. They understood the signal: doom was coming, and it would be remembered by the whole world in times to come.

Though his heart was full of rage, he remained rational, prioritizing Aria’s safety. With the uncertainty of the forest’s future and an inevitable, devastating battle ahead, he knew he needed to act swiftly.

He marked their location and used his special trait, Greater Space Teleporter, to open a portal, transporting Aria to General Leon’s house. Gently placing her on a bed, he smiled.

“Don’t fall asleep, Aria... I’ll be right back.”

His expression turned cold as he returned through the portal, leaving Aria gazing at his back. Soon, her eyelids grew heavy, but she forced herself to stay awake, trusting him wholeheartedly.

General Leon’s house was completely empty, so no one noticed the faint spatial fluctuations of their movements.

—

Aengus reappeared at the same place they had left.

Abyssal Blazing Dragon!

“Buzz... Buzz...”

In an instant, Aengus transformed into his Dark Dragon form, reaching 700 meters in height and 1,500 meters in width.

His hellish crimson wings spanned nearly the same size as his height.

With his mere presence, the surrounding environment burned and decayed.

“Whoosh!”

“Rumble!”

With a single thrust of his wings, he soared into the sky, leaving ashes and a terrifying, scorching windstorm below.

“R O A R!”

High above the forest, under the darkening sky, Aengus unleashed a powerful dragon roar that resonated through the forest. The sheer impact of the Chaos-infused energy shattered the sound barrier, leaving destruction in its path.

It was a declaration of challenge, promising utter annihilation. On one side stood Aengus; on the other, the entire forest.

Aengus hovered in place, then opened his massive maw wide, intending to devour the forest to increase his strength in preparation for the deadly battle ahead. He knew his enemy was powerful, likely SS rank, so he would need every ounce of strength he could gather.

In his dragon form, Omni-Devour became even more powerful and potent.

“Whoosh!”

Buzz... Buzz!

An intense black hole formed within his mouth, swallowing everything caught in its inescapable suction force.

“Rumble!”

Beasts, birds, air, light, trees, soil, insects, and even humans—all were pulled in, unable to escape his grasp. Everything was consumed in horror and desperation, turning into energy particles inside him, which greatly boosted his power.

[Strength +7, Agility +6, Defense +8]

[Strength +5, Agility +4, Defense +6]

...

[Origin Mana +400]

[Origin Mana +600]

...

His mana was being used and replenished continuously, creating an endless cycle, though any side effects hadn't yet appeared—not so soon, at least.

As for skills, he chose only the higher-ranking, powerful ones and extremely useful lower-rank skills..

Chapter 208: Chapter 208: One Vs Nine

“For God’s sake, Lucas, I told you we should leave... But now, we’re all doomed.”

“This is actual Hell!”

The humans who stayed trembled in fear as they gazed upon the massive dragon in the sky. The sight was nothing short of catastrophic.

They began to run alongside some smaller beasts, but they, too, were swallowed.

With Devouring still active, Aengus flew from place to place, shifting locations after each round of Devouring until nothing was left.

His stats crossed the 6,500 mark, and low ranks were becoming almost useless at this point.

Sticking to his initial plan, he pulled the lower ranks, ranging from F to C Rank, into his Dimensional Space using hundreds of invisible strings each second.

On the other hand, his legion had quickly surpassed the 20,000 mark in numbers, making a formidable power to be unleashed.

While his Devouring continued, targeting higher-rank beasts and occasionally humans caught in the crossfire, he selectively absorbed skills best suited for himself from thousands of duplicate abilities gathered from the beasts.

—

[You have acquired a new skill: Phantom Mirage (B)]

[You have acquired a new skill: Hurricane Gale (B)]

[You have acquired a new skill: Ghostly Steps (C)]

[You have acquired a new skill: Aqua Serpent's Vortex (B)]

[You have acquired a new skill: Ice Breath (A)]

[You have acquired a new skill: Arctic Bear's Glacial Shield (B)]

—

Within just a few minutes, nearly one percent of the Darkwood Forest had been wiped from existence. Considering it's size of millions of square kms, it was a significant proportion.

If left unchecked for even an hour, there would be no one capable of stopping him.

But, as is often the case, everything don't go that easily as you wish.

Aengus could feel a multitude of powerful presences closing in. The rumbling of the earth and the shift in the wind from their overwhelming power told him all he needed to know.

Still, Aengus didn't halt his actions. He was like a relentless leech, swallowing everything in his path.

In no time, another percentage of the forest was gone, and his stats had crossed an average of 7,500.

Every fiber of his being pulsed with raw power, which only continued to surge.

—

"Rumble! Rumble!"

"Screech!"

Before Aengus could inflict further devastation, he suddenly found himself surrounded by nine massive mythical creatures. They were nearly comparable to his size and appeared even stronger than S-Rank beasts.

Using his Appraisal ability, Aengus confirmed his suspicions; they were the legendary nine mythical creatures he had heard about.

The first to arrive was the massive seven-tailed fox, renowned for its incredible speed. Following closely was the Thunder Griffin, its hawk-like eyes scanning the surroundings with sharp precision. Next came the kirin, a magnificent creature that combined features of a deer, dragon, and horse, radiating an otherworldly aura.

Then, there was Fenrir, the monstrous wolf, whose presence alone sent chills through the air. The Frost Bear from the north lumbered forward, its thick fur shimmering with icy power, while the Flaming Tiger flickered with flames, a living embodiment of fire and ferocity.

The nine-headed hydra Serpent slithered ominously, each head hissing and snapping with a hunger for battle. The Ancient mammoth stomped onto the scene, its sheer size a testament to its long history. Lastly, arriving slowly and with an unyielding presence was the Earth Turtle, famed for its impenetrable defense.

Together, they formed an imposing alliance, their collective gaze locked onto Aengus's Dragon form, ready to tear him apart.

Aengus paused his Omni-Devour skill and fixed his gaze on them.

“Swoosh!”

In the next moment, the seven-tailed fox attacked, using its tails as sharp as deadly spears.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Aengus remained unfazed as he allowed the strikes to hit his tough dragon body, having assessed their strengths and weaknesses. It felt barely an itch.

His gleaming ashen-black scales seemed indestructible, with all 7,500 of his defense boosted by his dragon form, resulting in raw physical prowess that reached into the hundreds of thousands. He was overpowered among them all in terms of raw power.

However, their combined might and tactics could prove troublesome.

All the mythical creatures, including the fox, were astonished, but they expected as much.

“Awooooo!”

“Haha... just as the Beast Lord said, you’re truly a menace... Human!” Fenrir spoke first, laughing at the absurdity of the situation.

“Screech! I can’t believe he is human. Truly terrifying,” the Thunder Griffin added fearfully.

“Roar! it’s a mystery what his true identity is. Human? Dragon? Or perhaps... a demon?”

Understanding their language thanks to Manas’ implementing the beast language on him, Aengus opened his mouth and spoke:

“Stop trying to buy time, all of you. Your intentions are easy to read.” His voice was thick and imposing, resonating like that of a true dragon.

“Tell me, who placed the curse on her? Was it you? Or your Beast Lord? Who... Is... It?”

He fired off his questions relentlessly, his gaze piercing.

The nine mythical creatures narrowed their eyes, caught off guard by his perceptiveness. They hadn’t expected him to be so clever.

They were truly buying time for their Beast Lord to arrive, but he was preoccupied with something important, causing a delay.

Now, with his awareness, every passing second will be increasingly difficult to manage.

“Hiss, hiss! We don’t know what you’re talking about. Who is this ‘her’ you speak of?” the Nine-Headed Hydra hissed, feigning ignorance. They knew better than to further enrage an already furious dragon.

“Hmph!” Aengus snorted, his nostrils flaring.

“Fine. I will lift that curse by killing every creature in this forest. You’ll all pay for trying to harm my beloved,” he declared with fierce resolve.

“How! How arrogant! We’re not here just for show, human. We’ll kill you first, even if it costs us our lives,” the ancient Mammoth, towering like a mountain, bellowed, its voice filled with hatred and unyielding determination to defend their home.

The Fox and the other eight mythical creatures exchanged glances, reaching a silent agreement.

“Whoosh!”

“Roar!”

“Screech, screech!”

“Hiss...”

Each creature activated its unique abilities and lunged at Aengus’ Abyssal Blazing Dragon form. Their intention clear: Kill or buy time.

Can Aengus defeat them all? Or is something even more dangerous waiting on the horizon, threatening to be his downfall

Chapter 209: Chapter 209: True Monstrosity

As soon as they charged at the Abyssal Blazing Dragon, the earth trembled, and thunder rumbled, signaling the start of a terrifying battle.

The Seven-Tailed Fox unleashed its deadly fox flames, while the Ancient Mammoth struck with a powerful stomp, shaking the ground. The Thunder Griffin attacked with a destructive thunder strike, its claws slicing at lightning speed. The Nine-Headed Hydra released a noxious venomous breath, while Fenrir lunged forward, claws and fangs gleaming with deadly intent. Kirin attempted to boost the allies’ power and weaken Aengus, but its efforts were futile.

Freeze... Crack, crackle!

The Frost Bear tried to freeze Aengus solid with its absolute ice ability, but the ice shattered, repelled by the intense heat of his Crimson Hellfire.

The Flaming Tiger prepared to pounce, but Aengus was already moving, his Dragon eyes filled with killing intent.

Aengus flapped his massive wings, dodging attacks with astonishing speed. Although he was nearly invulnerable, he took no chances. In an instant, he used a space warp to appear directly above the Ancient Mammoth, whose colossal leg was poised to stomp him.

The Ancient Mammoth’s instincts screamed danger. Looking up, his weary, gray eyes widened as he saw the fierce Dark Dragon already descending above him. Aengus’s

deadly claws, infused with chaotic energy, were streaking toward him, radiating raw power.

For the Ancient Mammoth, time seemed to slow. He could feel each beat of his heart pounding as he stared up at his inevitable fate, the glint of Aengus's claws reflecting in his eyes.

“Dong!”

An unexpected interference came just in time. The Earth Turtle, who had been silent until now, made his move. His massive shell collided with Aengus' claws, creating a devastating impact.

“BOOM!”

The turtle was smashed into the ground, face-first, taking damage to its sturdy shell. It was a marvel it could withstand such force—one capable of obliterating the toughest material.

But Aengus was only getting started.

“You think you can stop me with this?” he declared coldly. “Say your last words. None of you can stop me.”

His massive body hovered above, suddenly glowing with a seven-colored light, like a rainbow. Knowing time was of the essence, he aimed to finish them quickly.

He gathered intense, chaotic energy from seven elements within his maw, prepared to obliterate anything in his path.

“Roar!” Aengus bellowed, shaking the sky as he unleashed nine Chaos Breath attacks simultaneously.

Before the Fox and the others could react, they saw multicolored beams of destructive energy racing toward them, each one targeting a creature with relentless speed. Attempts to dodge were futile; the beams seemed to have a will of their own, following each target.

With the threat closing in, their hearts raced. In desperation, they relied on the Earth Turtle and Ancient Mammoth's defensive abilities, while the Kirin boosted their magical power, hoping to have even the slightest chance of survival.

The Earth Turtle and Ancient Mammoth looked fierce, their expressions twisted into grim, almost suicidal grins. The Mammoth raised its two curved tusks toward the sky, channeling magical energy to form barriers, while the Earth Turtle's shell glowed with a mystical light, bracing for the devastating impact.

An instant later, the nine Chaos beams collided with them, followed by a blinding flash of white light at the point of destruction.

“BOOOOM!”

“Rumble!”

“Buzz... Buzz!”

One after another, nine deadly shockwaves spread out for kilometers, flattening and obliterating everything in their path. Humans and beasts alike nearby were reduced to ashes, leaving nothing but scorched earth.

As the dust settled, Aengus hovered in the air, unharmed, while the nine mythical creatures looked grim. The Earth Turtle and Ancient Mammoth bore the worst injuries, chaotic energy churning within them, bringing them close to death.

The others were in dire condition as well—burns, gaseous wounds, and severed limbs marked their once-proud forms. It was the most miserable state they had ever been in.

The Kirin, using its mystical abilities, attempted to restore its companions' health, but Aengus did not allow it. He slammed down, crushing the Kirin's head, shattering its antlers.

The other creatures' eyes widened, their faces pale with horror as they watched the Kirin get devoured by Aengus, further boosting his strength.

[You have obtained a new active skill: Sacred Kirin's Healing (S)]

[Sacred Kirin's Healing: This skill can be used to restore individuals on the brink of death to full health.]

[You have obtained a new skill: Sacred Kirin's Blessing (S)]

[Sacred Kirin's Blessing: This skill can boost allies' strength fivefold across a large area for 30 minutes.]

[You have obtained a new active skill: Symbol of Good Fortune (S); This skill allows the user to increase their luck tenfold for 15 minutes once per day, applicable to both allies and the user.]

[Strength +130, Agility +134, Defense +133]

[Origin Mana +5000]

As Aengus reaped his rewards, the other creatures were in despair. They knew this could happen and had prepared to die, but it was still agonizing to accept.

“Beast Lord, we need your presence!” one of them roared in desperation.

Just when Aengus was about to swallow the Earth Turtle and Ancient Mammoth, a massive earthquake shook the continent as if something being awakened after ages.

Aengus narrowed his eyes, sensing a formidable presence making itself known—a new challenger.

But Aengus remained focused on the urgent task at hand.

“Whoosh!”

He swiftly devoured the Earth Turtle and Ancient Mammoth whole, feeling his strength surge and gaining powerful S-Rank defensive skills in the process.

The remaining six creatures watched helplessly, their bodies already weakened and infused with low amount of Chaos particles, leaving them vulnerable and filled with dread.

“HOW DARE YOU!”

A thunderous roar echoed through the skies, triggering even more violent earthquakes. The mythical creatures’ eyes filled with renewed hope as they turned toward the centre of the forest and the towering mountain range there.

Aengus followed their gaze and saw something astonishing: the mountain range, already several kilometers high, began to rise further, nearly doubling in size. The entire range shifted and pulsed with a life of its own, as if awakening from an ancient slumber.

The true battle was just beginning.

Chapter 210: Chapter 210: God-beast Basilisk
[Appraisal]

[God-beast Basilisk]

[Level: 151]

[Rank: SS]

[Abilities:

1. Ancient Petrifying Curse Eyes
2. World Corrosive Venom.
3. Reflective Scales
4. Dimension Slip
5. Blessing Of Beast God
6. Apocalypse Awakening.

Aengus examined the colossal creature thoroughly, determined to secure the victory he desperately needed. He didn't care about its SS Rank; his only focus was to kill and save Aria.

The creature, taking the form of a mountain range, was none other than the legendary God-beast Basilisk.

Towering over three times his Dragon form and piercing through the clouds, it possessed a massive, snake-like head with ancient, abominable eyes and a crown-like crest atop its head. Its lizard-like body was covered in shimmering scales, rising and falling like slopes across its mountainous form.

Aengus avoided looking directly into the Basilisk's eyes, recalling the legend: anyone who meets its gaze is instantly turned to stone.

He decided to rely on his other extraordinary senses for the battle.

“WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?”

“What?”

Bam!

Aengus was suddenly caught off guard as the Basilisk appeared nearby, crossing hundreds of kilometers in an instant.

He was slammed into the ground like a ragdoll, and even in his dragon form, he couldn't resist the blow.

Boom!

Where Aengus landed, a deep volcanic crater formed from the impact.

He lay among the debris, feeling a wave of dizziness. When he glanced down at the gaseous wounds on his tough dragon body, his eyes widened in surprise.

The raw strength of the Basilisk was terrifying. He couldn't match it head-on, not even for a single blow. Its venom was also beginning to corrupt his body from within.

Aengus instantly activated all his healing skills—Phoenix Resurgence, Healing Power of Light, Kirin's Healing—recovering from the serious injuries within seconds.

The God-beast Basilisk narrowed its serpentine eyes at his swift recovery and slashed down once more with its massive claws.

Aengus reacted quickly, using Earth Turtle Shell's defensive skill just in time.

Crack, crack!

To Aengus's shock, the shell shattered instantly, and the Basilisk's claws raked across his dragon body, leaving a deep five-claw wound.

Though he couldn't see the Basilisk's face clearly, he could feel its sense of superiority, relentlessly beating him down.

Aengus quickly formed a plan to defeat it. He realized this must be the Beast Lord they had mentioned—the source of Aria's suffering. This creature had to be eliminated to save her.

He knew he wasn't a match for it now, but that didn't mean he'd remain so forever.

"You'll regret this..." Aengus muttered in terrifying calm voice as he recovered his health once again.

Aengus had already obtained one of the Basilisk's scales, analyzing it to prepare for Basilisk transformation using Primordial Beast King.

But he knew that while this would grant him the Basilisk's abilities, it wouldn't grant him the creature's raw power. His original plan didn't involve transforming into a Basilisk; instead, he stuck to his original intent: Devour. Devour it all.

The Basilisk was puzzled by his audacity. Even on the brink of death, Aengus had the nerve to talk big.

"Human, I have never regretted anything," it said coldly. "As for the prophecy given to me by the Beast God, I will prove it wrong. There will be no you, and no destruction of our home."

With that, its aura grew even more venomous.

In the next moment, the Basilisk opened its massive maw, ready to release its World Corrosive Venom to finish Aengus off completely.

But Aengus, anticipating the attack, used Space Warp to escape its range just in time.

A moment later, the Basilisk released the venom, only to find that the dragon had already vanished, stoking its fury.

The corrosive venom began melting everything in its path—soil, rocks, even microorganisms in the air disintegrated, leaving nothing but grazed, lifeless ground in its wake.

The remaining mythical creatures quickly dragged themselves away from the corrosive venom spreading like wildfire.

The Basilisk, now enraged, used its Dimension Slip ability to chase Aengus in a cat-and-mouse game.

Aengus forced himself to stay calm and wisely used Space Laws to blend into the spatial fabric, becoming invisible and confusing the Basilisk. Although it possessed Dimension Slip, it lacked the keen perception of space and dimensions that Aengus had, making it impossible for the Basilisk to track his position.

Taking advantage of this moment, Aengus caught his breath and silently guided himself through the spatial layers, moving away from the Beast Lord to buy himself some time.

He traveled hundreds of kilometers in the direction from which the Basilisk had come. Revealing himself once more in his dragon form, he began devouring everything he could find.

Only a few seconds later, the Basilisk sensed his presence. Enraged, it used Dimension Slip to rush toward him, intending to stop him before he could consume the entire forest.

“I will skin you alive, human!” The Basilisk’s roar echoed as it appeared in front of Aengus.

Aengus responded by launching an attack filled with Chaos Energy to counter the Basilisk’s instant Petrifying Curse and World Corrosive Venom.

Seeing his opponent grow stronger with every resource consumed, the Basilisk seethed with fury. It realized that if it allowed Aengus to devour any more resources, defeating him would become increasingly difficult, and it might even become the prey instead. It was a terrifying possibility that couldn’t be ignored.

The God-beast Basilisk paused momentarily, activating yet another powerful ability.

The sky darkened as red clouds gathered, echoing with the thunderous roar of impending strikes.

“Dong!”

From the heavens, a pillar of red light descended, bathing the Basilisk in its intense glow. Its strength surged, and its aura grew so oppressive that it seemed as if it could shatter the very boundaries of space.

Realizing the danger, Aengus tried to escape, but the Basilisk’s firm grip closed around one of his wings before he could flee.

With brutal force, the Basilisk tore his Dragon wings as if it were paper. Yet, Aengus showed no reaction, refusing to look directly into the Basilisk’s petrifying eyes. Struggling, he managed to break free from its grasp.

Aengus crashed to the ground, losing his balance with one wing torn away.

Chapter 211: Chapter 211: Obtaining A God Weapon

Aengus quickly activated Symbol of Good Fortune, increasing his luck tenfold. He hoped this boost would grant him a better chance at survival.

With his wing now fully recovered, he vanished into space using Space Law.

The Basilisk, its eyes blazing with berserk fury, missed him by just a moment. It scanned the vast forest, trying to detect his presence through scent, but failed this time.

Aengus, cautious and intent on remaining hidden, cloaked himself with Invisible Cloak (Darkness trait) using Chaos Energy.

He reappeared at the furthest possible distance from the Basilisk, hundreds of kilometers away, moving silently.

There, hovering invisibly in the sky, Aengus spotted hordes of A and B-Rank beasts gathered in their thousands—likely evacuated to this area for safety.

He grinned and focused deeply, first attempting to replicate the Barrier of Ruination to swallow them silently. However, the complexity of that barrier proved to be more challenging than anything he’d faced before.

Instead, he successfully created a simpler isolation barrier, covering a 5-kilometer radius.

—
[New Skill Acquired: Chaos Isolation Barrier (A)]

Chaos Isolation Barrier: Using Chaos Energy as a source, this barrier isolates a 5-kilometer radius, making it appear like an illusion to the outside. Once activated, it lasts for 10 minutes and can be used repeatedly. Mana Consumption: 500.

Aengus revealed a predatory smile as his massive dragon form suddenly became visible within the isolation barrier, showing no signs of worry.

“Howl!”

The beasts below were terrified, frozen in fear as they gazed up at the fearsome, predatory dragon towering over them. Panic erupted as they tried desperately to flee, only to find themselves trapped in what felt like an endless illusion with no escape.

Aengus wasted no time, knowing that each second was critical.

“Buzz...”

He activated Omni-Devour once more, consuming the beasts at an astonishing rate, swallowing dozens per second. His stats began to skyrocket, and he selectively absorbed powerful skills from the creatures he devoured.

[You have acquired a new skill: Lightning Roc’s Skybreaker Dive (A) – Drops from above with a lightning-charged impact, creating a shockwave.

[You have acquired a new skill: Tempest Tiger’s Lightning Veil (B) – Cloaks the user in electricity, shocking enemies upon contact.

[You have acquired a new skill: Golden Wyvern’s Scales (A) – Temporarily coats the user in gold armor, reflecting a portion of incoming damage.

[Strength +8, Agility +7, Defense +9]

[Origin Mana +300]

[Strength...]

...

Just as the first barrier was about to disappear, Aengus finished devouring all the beasts within the 5 km radius.

His stats had risen to terrifying levels:

[Strength: 9,300]

[Agility: 9,400]

[Defense: 9,540]

[Origin Mana: 140,000/150,000]

He felt the immense power coursing through his veins and muscles, ready to be unleashed. Although his strength had nearly doubled, he knew it still wasn't enough to defeat the Basilisk.

Without delay, he silently slipped through space and targeted another massive horde of thousands. Using Shadow Monarch's Dominion, he commanded the beasts to remain silent as he cast the barrier once again.

Once more, the devouring continued.

He could hear the faint, frustrated roars of the Basilisk, but he ignored them completely, focusing solely on gaining more strength.

Once his stats crossed the 12,000 threshold, he felt almost invincible. Every cell in his body pulsed with vibrant power, his muscles condensed and fortified. Confidence surged as he realized he was nearing the Basilisk's power level.

Just as he was about to begin another devouring session, something unexpected happened.

"Shua, shua, shua..."

He heard the rustling of winds and the sound of something slicing through the air at incredible speed.

"Crack, shatter!"

In an instant, the Isolation Barrier shattered, leaving him completely exposed. Not only that, but an ancient, metal rod-like weapon was continuing its path toward Aengus, aimed to smash him. It was nearly 1,000 meters long and incredibly thick.

Aengus realized the impact of the incoming weapon would be devastating, so he quickly moved away at high speed to dodge it, only to find that it was following him relentlessly, as if glued to his trail.

"Roar!"

In the distance, he spotted the Basilisk advancing as well.

Deciding to deal with the weapon first, Aengus used Appraisal and discovered it was a God-Weapon—immensely powerful and nearly indestructible.

[Appraisal]

[Beast God's Scepter]

[Description: A God Weapon crafted by the Beast God]

[Rank: SSS (God)]

[Abilities:

1. Shape shifter
2. Absolute Command Throw
3. Arcane Annihilation Throw
4. Divine Boost.

The idea of a head-on clash was dismissed immediately.

[Primordial Beast King]

“Rumble!”

He transformed into a form identical to the Basilisk, hoping this would stop the weapon's relentless pursuit. Now, at a similar size to the Beast Lord, he towered into the clouds, darkening the sky. The beasts below appeared like ants, insignificant beneath his immense presence.

To his surprise, the God-Weapon really ceased its relentless pursuit after his transformation.

“What in the heavens...?”

The God-beast Basilisk, along with the other Mythical Creatures, stared in shock at Aengus, whose transformation now mirrored the Beast Lord perfectly.

“Human, what did you do?” The Beast Lord Basilisk demanded, approaching him.

Aengus smirked. “What else? I copied you and your abilities.”

Though he had only replicated the Basilisk's innate abilities and not the full power of the Beast God's Blessing, his transformation seemed enough to create confusion.

"Copy a God-beast? Is that even possible?" The Basilisk's incredulous voice resonated through the battlefield.

"Come back!" The Beast Lord shouted, summoning the God-Weapon with urgency, sensing a deepening threat. As the weapon hesitated to return to his grip, he moved to retrieve it, but he was too late.

"Come here!" Aengus commanded, snatching the weapon in his Basilisk form.

The moment he held the weapon, an immense surge of energy flooded through him, amplifying his power several times over. He gripped the weapon with both massive hands and struck it against the ground with full force.

"BOOOOM!"

"RUMBLE!!"

A massive volcanic eruption erupted from the impact, sending shockwaves that tore through the ground, followed by a powerful earthquake that resonated across Solis. The explosion spanned kilometers, hurling the Beast Lord Basilisk far into the distance and scorching the Mythical Creatures beyond recognition as they were flung away by the blast.

Chapter 212: Chapter 212: God-Slayer Aegis

The Beast Lord had made only one grave mistake: throwing his gifted God-Weapon in an attempt to find Aengus. That decision had failed spectacularly, and now he would pay a painful price.

In his Basilisk form, wielding the God-Grade weapon, Aengus felt almost invincible as divine essence flowed through him, boosting his stats many times over and providing an endless reservoir of mana.

The Beast Lord's towering body lay on the ground, his eyes hollow with disbelief at the absurdity of the situation. The God-Weapon, which was supposed to obey only him, was now, ironically, in the hands of his fated enemy.

He quickly stood up, only to see his own towering carbon copy grinning sinisterly above him.

"Bang!"

Before he could blink, Aengus smashed the Beast God's Scepter down on his head, drawing blood. Stars clouded his vision as blood flowed from his nose and mouth.

"Bang, bang, bang, bang!"

He had no time to breathe as more ruthless blows landed on his body, shattering each bone slowly.

"I told you, you'd regret this!" Aengus mocked, his relentless assault continuing with full force.

"Roar!"

"Abominable human!"

The Beast Lord released an enraged roar and activated the Beast God's Blessing as a last resort.

"Dong!"

Once again, a red pillar of light descended from the sky, granting him a boost in power and health.

But Aengus was one step ahead.

"You think I'd let you do that again?" Aengus sneered, dragging the Beast Lord and interrupting his power boost.

As the Beast Lord lay on the ground, his heart sank as he looked at the reddish sky with faint stars above, while Aengus looked down at him, fearlessly continuing his assault.

The Beast Lord's anger grew over time, and his last-ditch, life-saving ability was slowly activating. Aengus knew he still couldn't underestimate the Beast Lord, who possessed his ultimate life-saving ability: Apocalypse Awakening, which would activate when he was near death.

"Roar!"

With a thunderous roar, the Beast Lord rose, his health mystically recovering.

He launched an attack on Aengus with ferocity, his eyes blood-red.

But, to the Beast Lord's bafflement, Aengus had already retreated far away, taking the weapon with him.

The Beast Lord looked into the distance, seeing Aengus moving swiftly and devouring everything in his path, adding to his frustration.

With little time before his power boost wore off, the Beast Lord chased Aengus like a desperate creature.

Aengus looked back and smirked, knowing victory was already in his grasp.

He increased his speed, devouring the forest as he went, further boosting his strength.

Thus, their comical chase began, leaving the Darkwood Forest in ruins.

Humans who were far away looked on with incredulity.

“Oh my God, where did these two come from? Either of them could flatten our kingdom with ease!”

Their voices were full of awe and caution as they retreated further from the forest, intending to continue their escape before the devouring creature swallowed the forest whole.

The Darkwood Forest, once a sanctuary for beasts and monsters and a prime hunting ground for humans, was now slowly disappearing from the face of the earth.

5%, 7%, 12%, 20%, 30%...

Over a third of the forest was gone, and Aengus's aura spread outward, overwhelming the forest and extending into the nearby two kingdoms.

Some Transcendentals grew alert, feeling the overpowering aura suppressing their own, much like an elephant might suppress an ant.

The Beast Lord's power boost faded, and he looked up at the darkened sky, as though all hope was lost.

“To think, I still couldn't prevent the destruction of my homeland. His Eminence, the Beast God, was right... I should have listened to his words and left this forest when I had the chance,” the Beast Lord sighed in defeat.

Aengus wasted no more time. He killed the Beast Lord with a single slap, his power now far greater than the Beast Lord's. He was capable of defeating SS Ranks with his raw physical strength alone.

Opening his mouth, Aengus then quickly devoured the massive body of the God-Beast Basilisk.

[Strength +1000, Agility +1000, Defense +1100]

[Origin Mana +10,000]

[You have acquired new skills: Ancient Petrifying Curse Eyes (SS), Dimension Slip (S), Reflective Scales (SS), World Corrosive Venom (SS), Apocalypse Awakening (SS)]

By this point, his stats had crossed 19,000, and he had gained four SS-Ranked skills, marking him as an official SS-Ranked powerhouse. For most, reaching this level would be an unattainable dream, but for Aengus, it was simply a matter of resources and effort.

As he was about to leave to check on Aria, his gaze fell on the God-Weapon with a thoughtful expression. He wasn't sure if it would remain with him once he returned to his human form.

Unable to let go of such a powerful weapon, he considered synthesizing it with his Judgment Blade, Aegis.

Taking out the tiny blade in his massive paw, Aengus began the synthesis process, erasing the Beast God's ownership mark from the scepter using Universal Synthesis.

"Hehehe.. Thank you, master. I will serve you with all my might," Aegis declared.

Aegis sounded like a child thrilled at the chance to gain more power to help his master.

"I expect nothing less from you," Aengus responded, focusing on merging the God-Weapon into Aegis and granting it full control of the final product.

After a while the Synthesization was completed succesful.

—

[Appraisal]

[God-slayer Aegis]

[Grade: SSS]

[Base Attack Power: 10,000]

[Durability: 12,000]

Special Abilities:>

1. Divine Retribution
2. Holy Purge
3. Judgment Strike:
4. Shape shifter; Able to change any size or form, including its weight and power.
5. Absolute Command Throw; Can hunt down anyone, wherever they hidden might be.
6. Arcane Annihilation Throw; Single Anihilation Energy attack.
7. Divine Boost; Increases user's Base stats upto 5 times, even in their transformed form.

—

With that done, Aengus quickly returned to his High Human form.

He looked at the God-Slayer blade and stored it in his personal spatial inventory, created using Space Law, allowing him access to it anytime from anywhere. His current space bracelet wasn't capable of holding a God-Weapon inside, as even its suppressed aura would have been enough to shatter the spatial storage function.

Aengus took one last glance, finding the surviving mythical creatures nowhere in sight. They have long fled, taking the chance, or perhaps they were turned to ashes.

He shook his head and stepped through the portal.

Chapter 213: Chapter 213: Family History

Aengus appeared in Aria's room, and saw her completely fine.

He sighed in relief as he approached Aria from behind as she gazed at the moon through the window.

Sensing his presence, Aria turned around, a huge smile spreading across her face.

Hugging her lightly, Aengus asked, "Were you worried?"

Aria answered meekly, "Yes, a little. Did you win? And at what cost?"

"Yes, of course. But it cost one-third of the forest," Aengus answered slowly.

Aria's eyes were kind. "Are you feeling guilty, Aengus?"

Aengus pulled back and shook his head. "No, because I know these sacrifices were necessary for the greater good and for the peace of this world."

"Yes, Ethan. You've done only what was necessary. There's no need to think of right or wrong," Aria said, her warm hand reassuring him.

Aengus nodded, but his expression grew serious.

"Aria, I've recovered all my memories..." he paused.

Aria smiled at the news. "That's good, Ethan. But... why do you look worried?"

Aengus looked straight into her eyes. "Aria, I might disappear from this world at any moment, and I still don't know how to bring you with me. You might need to wait here until I can come back for you."

Aria's face drained of color. "Is there no other way? And... do you know how long I might have to wait?"

"No, I don't know yet," Aengus replied, leaning against the window wall. "But don't worry about the time. I'll return as soon as possible. Nevertheless, I won't leave until I complete my goal and try my hardest to find way out for you all."

Aria wasn't completely reassured, but she forced a smile for his sake, knowing he had just endured a difficult battle. He rarely took any time to rest, so she refrained from asking for anything more.

"I know you can do it, Ethan. Why don't you take a break? You must be exhausted from all that fighting. I can only imagine how tough it must have been. Why not tell me the story of your battle while you relax?" she suggested with a gentle smile.

Aengus nodded. "Ah, yes, but don't you want to visit your father's house?"

"No, not today. It's already dark. Let's go tomorrow," Aria replied, settling on one side of the bed and leaving the other side open for him.

"Okay," Aengus agreed, quickly changing into comfortable sleepwear to rest and recover from his mental fatigue.

He was careful not to release his suppressed aura carelessly; otherwise, it could have already harmed Aria.

He lay down, resting his head on the pillow, and recounted the events in a calm tone, as if everything had been easy. He knew that if Aria understood the extent of his suffering,

she would feel guilty. But Aengus brushed off the pain—because the gains were worth it.

He was now a Transcendental, and only a few could now stand against him.

Aria sensed he was downplaying the risks involved in attaining Transcendental Rank, but she didn't press him further. Instead, she silently clenched her fist in frustration, yet she was also happy about his promotion to the Transcendental Rank.

—

The next day, they had planned to visit Aria's father and relatives, but that changed with unexpected news.

The guards at the General's residence informed them that the Araknis Kingdom was now engaged in a civil war against Emperor Kairos.

This development completely altered their plans.

"What should we do?" Aria asked Aengus as they walked out of the General's residence.

Aengus thought for a moment before responding, "Let's head to the battlefield. It's time to repay what General Leon has done for us."

"And what exactly are you planning to do?" Aria asked, wanting to know his intentions.

"To make you an Empress," Aengus replied slyly.

"What! Me? An Empress?" Aria was stunned, finding it both exciting and unrealistic.

"You plan to overthrow Emperor Kairos with just yourself? I heard he has multiple Transcententials on his side, including himself," she added seriously.

"Not alone, of course. We'll need General Leon's help, as well as others. I just need to prove that I'm strong enough to rally the necessary allies—and those who don't agree will be removed from this world," he said, his tone almost indifferent.

Aria observed his confident demeanor, which eased her nerves. She was determined to contribute to this endeavor—a new order was essential to restore peace and prosperity.

Aengus quickly summoned a wyvern from his legions, ordering it to fly them both to the battlefield.

As they traveled, Aria's curiosity grew about his origins in the Primal Realm.

"Ethan, if you remember all your memories, could you tell me your father's and mother's names? It's just curiosity, but I'd love to know more about your family," she asked.

Aengus's face twitched, recalling old, painful memories. But he answered calmly, "Our family name is Degaro. Everyone born into it carries the Law of Darkness—everyone except me. They have countless descendants due to their long lifespans, and I was one of the main family descendants without the Darkness Law. That's why I was despised and chastised by everyone, including my grandfather and father."

"My father is Augustus Degaro, a very proud and self-centered man. He deemed me useless after discovering I had no talent, despite being his first child out of three. He gave all of his love to my younger brother and sister. I can't completely blame him, knowing the truth of the world, but that doesn't mean I'm not upset. Only my mother, Eleanora, was always on my side. She's a kind and warm lady who shielded me from storms, treating all her children equally."

Aria listened intently, feeling a pang of sympathy in her heart. She couldn't imagine the weight of such isolation and rejection.

"Well, at least you have a younger brother and sister. They do treat you kindly, right?"

Aengus nodded, the bitterness in his eyes softening slightly.

"My relationship with them is pretty normal. Even if they sometimes act offensively, I forgive them, because they're still young and easily influenced by others."

Chapter 214: Chapter 214: Plan Changed

Just as they finished chatting, they reached the camp of the Araknis Kingdom's troops, where millions of soldiers were stationed.

"Whoosh..."

Aengus commanded the Wyvern to land, but suddenly, a volley of deadly arrows was fired at them from the troops below.

The arrows didn't come close to reaching the Wyvern, stopped mid-air by an invisible force controlled by Aengus.

They landed without issue, drawing the attention of the surrounding troops.

"Hey, who are you? What business do you have here?" a burly-looking man asked, smoke curling from the cigar in his hand.

As soon as Aengus and Aria dismounted, several weapons were aimed at them.

Aengus wasn't offended by the guards' caution, understanding it was their duty. He replied calmly, "We're here to join the war, soldiers. Be at ease, we know General Leon. Can you show me the way to him, Captain Bill?" He addressed the Burly man, acting natural.

The burly man looked slightly stunned. "You know me?" he asked, pausing his smoking.

"Well, yes. But that's not important, Captain. Do you know where General Leon is? Can you take us to him?" Aengus pressed on.

He had already scanned the area with his All-Seeing Eyes but still couldn't locate certain individuals protected by high-level security measures. And he didn't want to take the risk of prying either.

"Oh, you want to join our army? Haha... welcome, welcome!" Captain Bill smiled broadly, welcoming the duo with open arms.

"Let me guide you there, but I can't guarantee they'll meet with you, comrades. Don't be disappointed if they don't," he said, thinking they wanted to meet General Leon like many other admirers.

Aengus and Aria didn't argue. They silently followed Captain Bill's bulky frame, observing the vast military camps spread out around them.

"Captain Bill, what are your chances of winning against the Imperial forces?" Aengus asked, maintaining his composure.

Captain Bill laughed confidently. "Of course we'll win. We have our three Guardians with us, comrades. There's no need to worry—victory will be ours."

Though Captain Bill said this for assurance, Aengus could detect a mix of helplessness and uncertainty beneath his bravado.

"Ehh! Aria, Ethan, you're here to join the war as well?"

Their pace was suddenly interrupted by a female warrior in shining white armor, looking valiant and full of energy.

"Hehe, Princess Delilah, you seem quite energetic yourself," Aria commented with a smile.

"Your Highness!" Captain Bill, slightly stunned, bowed respectfully.

It was indeed Princess Delilah, accompanied by a few of her guards.

She acknowledged Capital Bill with a nod, and smiled at Aria.

“Haha, don’t tease me now, Aria. My father didn’t want me joining the war, but I was insistent. So, he gave me his best armor. It’s an S+ Rank—really expensive,” Delilah added with a grin.

“By the way, when did you two get back? I went looking for you, but the General told me you were on a special mission. Did you complete it successfully? Ethan, why are you so quiet?” she asked, turning to Aengus.

Aengus furrowed his brows at the sudden closeness with the Royal Princess. Either way, he didn’t enjoy engaging in long conversations and preferred to keep things short and precise.

“Yes, we completed it. Now we would like to meet with General Leon. Is he nearby?” he inquired.

Princess Delilah didn’t mind his bluntness, but her guards clearly looked displeased. They were about to speak up when she raised her hand, signaling them to hold back.

Aria stepped in, “Don’t mind him, Delilah. He just doesn’t like talking much.”

“Hahaha, I figured that out the first time we met. I’m fine... just a princess of a sinking kingdom, after all,” Princess Delilah replied with a bitter smile.

“Oh, is the situation that dire? Don’t worry, Delilah. Aengus and I will help you achieve victory and teach that foolish Emperor a lesson,” Aria said with growing determination.

Princess Delilah laughed again, though with a hint of doubt. “Thank you, Aria.”

She didn’t fully believe it at all.

How could two B-Ranks make a difference among giants? She was unaware that they had now reached A and SS Ranks, respectively.

“Follow me, Aria, Ethan. I’ll take you to find General Leon. Captain Bill, you may go now.”

“Thank you, Princess!” Captain Bill gave one last glance at Aria and Aengus, surprised by their familiarity with Princess Delilah. He hadn’t expected the pair to converse with Princess Delilah with so much familiarity.

Princess Delilah led the way with Aria by her side, while Aengus trailed behind, keeping a vigilant eye on their surroundings.

“Delilah, have you seen Drake and Yona around here?” Aria asked with a hint of worry.

“Oh, yes! I saw your brother and attendant with the troops earlier. They seemed just fine,” Delilah reassured her.

Aria sighed in relief. “Thank goodness. I wouldn’t know how to face my uncle if anything happened to him. But I also don’t want to hold him back from growing.”

Delilah gave her a sympathetic look. “That’s something we all have to face, Aria. My brother...”

As the two shared a moment of understanding, Aengus tuned out their conversation, focusing instead on assessing the camp. His sharp eyes scanned the area, calculating the sheer scale of the forces around them.

The camp was massive, with over ten millions troops, spanning ranks from D to S—a truly terrifying scale. His own Legion was still capped at around 25,000, far smaller in comparison.

Quietly, he decided that after the war, he’d retrieve the Ancient Dwarves, return to Darkwood Forest and increase his forces by turning the remaining beasts into part of his Legion—if only they still stay there.

As they reached a big special Tent, they saw General Leon, General Felix, and General Martin coming out of it.

They were following someone important at the front.

It was the King and Two Royal Princes, including the Crown Prince. Prince Mikail wasn’t one of them.

Upon spotting them Princess Delilah quickly composed her like a valiant warrior.

“Look Aria, Ethan, The Generals coming out and my Royal father and brothers as well.” Delilah informed.

Aria and Aengus gazed at them calmly.

General Leon quickly raised his eyebrows in surprise as he noticed Their presence.

Chapter 215: Chapter 215: Joining the Army

General Leon’s eyes squinted, unable to gauge Ethan’s level anymore, as did General Felix. This could mean only one thing: either Ethan had reached their level or had acquired a mystical skill to conceal it.

“A blessed morning to you, Royal father, and to the Royal brothers,” Delilah greeted with a graceful curtsy, while Aria and Aengus gave a slight bow, acknowledging their presence.

General Leon and Aengus exchanged glances, engaging in a silent conversation.

The king, Milphomor Araknis—a shrewd old man, dressed in Royal attire, a crown over his head and a magical staff on his hand—quickly noticed their interaction and grew curious about their relationship.

“What are you doing, Delilah?” Crown Prince Malcolm spoke to his sister. “Who allowed you to come here? This is a real battlefield where you could die at any moment,” he reminded her in a stern but gentle tone.

“No one told me to come, Royal Brother. I came of my own volition to contribute to defending our kingdom. I don’t need anyone’s permission for that,” Delilah retorted.

“Let her be, Malcolm. She has my permission,” the King interjected, stopping his son from pressing the matter further.

“But why, Father? She could be killed,” Crown Prince Malcolm asked, struggling to understand his father’s reasoning.

The King’s expression remained steady. “Why not? Let her be herself... Forget it. This king is more interested in these two young fellows.”

The King’s wise gaze shifted to Aria and Aengus, especially to Aengus, whose presence was almost mystical, as if he was there yet not fully present. It felt as if he was suppressing mountains of strength within him.

“Leon, who might these two young people be?” the King inquired.

General Leon responded calmly, “Your Majesty, do you remember I mentioned meeting a talented young man in Arcadia City? This is him—his name is Ethan. And this is Aria, from the Silvermoon assassin family, for whom I had requested special medicine.”

The King nodded in understanding. “Ah, yes... now that you mention it, I do recall your request. But I must have forgotten with everything else going on. Did they receive the medicine?”

“We are fine now, Your Highness. Thank you for your help,” Aria replied politely, masking her slight displeasure with a graceful composure.

Aengus wasn’t as polite as Aria, feeling this conversation was a waste of time.

“General Leon, we’d like to repay the favor you showed us by joining this war,” he stated bluntly, his tone leaving no room for argument.

Though he had plans to eventually seize the Emperor’s throne, he knew he needed time to display his strength and capabilities—and he would achieve that in the upcoming battles.

General Leon wasn’t the least bit offended. Instead, he welcomed Aengus’s confidence.

“Haha, you look much more confident now, Ethan. Your mission must have been successful, I assume. Tell me your current rank so we can place you in an appropriate command.”

Leaning over, he whispered to the King, advising him not to mind Aengus’s attitude and explaining that Aengus came from a different place and was not obligated to contribute, but was helping out of a sense of responsibility.

The King nodded and awaited Aengus’s response.

Aengus glanced at Aria, deciding to state a rank lower, as revealing too much didn’t seem wise.

“I am now an S-Rank, and Aria is A-Rank, General. We’d prefer not to be separated, thank you,” Aengus replied swiftly, not concerned about their secretive whispers.

“Ah?”

General Leon and General Felix raised their eyebrows in surprise, clearly impressed by Aengus and Aria’s ranks despite their youth. The others also seemed impressed, admiring their evident talent.

Leon and Felix exchanged glances, filled with incredulity.

The King noticed their astonishment, making him curious as to what could make his two mighty generals lose their composure. Was it their first time seeing such talent? Clearly not. So, what was it?

“What’s with the surprise, Leon, Felix? Haha, why don’t you share with your King as well?” the King asked with a lighthearted tone.

Princess Delilah, already aware of what such a sudden rise in rank meant, stared wide-eyed. Their rapid growth in strength was nothing short of astonishing.

Faithful to the throne, General Leon leaned closer and shared Aengus’s impressive growth and potential.

Listening to Leon's words, King Araknis felt as though he were hearing a fairy tale. In all his long years of rule, he had never seen or heard anyone rise in rank so quickly.

Earlier, the King had thought Aengus was simply talented, like a few other exceptional individuals. But this... this was monstrous, a level of talent that shattered common sense.

General Martin, a man with a commanding presence and dark complexion, observed the exchange with suspicion.

"Felix, what are you all whispering about?" he inquired.

General Felix chuckled lightly and shared the revelation with him, leaving the Crown Prince and two others still in the dark.

As the "secret" made circulated, everyone now looked at Aengus and Aria with expressions of disbelief and awe.

Remaining calm, Aengus held Aria's hand firmly in a gesture of reassurance. He had already evaluated everyone, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of those present, including even the three formidable Transcendentals.

The King seemed pleased for some reason.

"So, we have another rising Transcendental joining our army. I personally thank you, young man. And you as well, young lady," he said, expressing his gratitude to Aria too.

"Please look after my daughter, Delilah, both of you. We'll reward you handsomely," he added, making it clear that, despite giving her the freedom to fight, he was still worried for Delilah as she was only a C-Rank.

Aengus showed little interest in the reward, but Aria gave a respectful nod and smiled at Delilah.

Delilah, feeling a hint of jealousy, didn't say anything but looked at Aria with a mixture of admiration and envy. How had she grown so strong so quickly? And as for Aengus, he seemed almost mystical, as though he was becoming more powerful with each moment.

"Leon, assign this young man a capable squad to lead, while we meet with the commanders and the Marshal," the King suggested.

"As you command, Your Majesty!" General Leon bowed slightly.

With that, the King departed, followed by the princes and generals, who each gave Aengus and Aria a warm welcome before leaving.

Now, only Aria, Aengus, General Leon, and Delilah were left standing.

Chapter 216: Chapter 216: Military Ranks

“Follow me, you three. I’ll have all of you settled with the rest of your friends,” General Leon said, leading the way.

Aengus and the two girls followed closely behind. Aria and Aengus moved with agility and speed, while Delilah’s armor made a light clanking sound as she moved.

—

“Get him, Sable!”

“You can do it, Drake!”

“Drake doesn’t stand a chance! Sable has lightning skills; he’ll win for sure!”

“So what? Our boy Drake has the Assassin’s Movement skill. They’re evenly matched!”

Near one of the camps, a duel was underway between two young soldiers, with Drake as one of the participants. However, he was struggling in open combat against his opponent, who had the advantage with lightning skills that made him faster. Drake was more skilled in surprise attacks and speed, but in this case, his opponent had the upper hand.

It was a friendly duel between two captains’ teams, offering a bit of entertainment during these challenging times.

Despite the friendly nature of the competition, Yona looked a little worried from the sidelines, cheering him on from time to time.

The two captains locked eyes fiercely, almost as if engaged in a silent duel of wills. Dressed in two-star military uniforms, they stood tall and dutiful, each refusing to back down.

Gradually, the victor emerged: the young man with lightning skills. His victory was hard-fought and narrow, but undeniable.

Drake, slightly out of breath, accepted his defeat calmly. The two competitors bowed respectfully and rejoined their respective teams.

“Haha... Now, Captain Dior, hand over those 200 silver coins!” The winning captain, a light-skinned man, laughed in triumph.

Captain Dior grumbled, “Fine, here you go. But don’t think I’ll forget this bet.”

The victorious captain grinned broadly as he pocketed the coins. “Good on you, Captain Dior. We need more people like you around so I can keep winning these easy coins, haha!”

“I’m sorry to let you down, Captain,” Drake said, approaching with an apologetic expression.

Captain Dior, a humble, middle-aged man, gave him a reassuring smile. “Don’t worry about it, Drake. Everyone loses sometimes; it’s all part of the game.”

Before they could continue their conversation, a sudden commotion erupted among the troops and knights nearby. Both men looked toward the source and were instantly taken aback—General Leon had arrived.

“Hey, the Ice Guardian himself is here! Let’s go greet him!”

“Wow, General Leon is as handsome as ever!” a few of the female soldiers whispered, eyes shining.

“Look, Princess Delilah is with him!”

“Yeah, but who are those two with them?” someone asked.

“Must be General Leon’s personal recruits. Let’s get closer.”

Hundreds of soldiers from both teams moved forward, gathering with excitement and murmurs.

Yona’s eyes lit up when she spotted Aria and Aengus, who carried themselves with a powerful, confident aura.

“Drake! Your sister and brother-in-law are here,” Yona exclaimed, nudging him. “Let’s go meet them. I’m sure they came to see us.”

Drake looked over, his spirits lifting at the sight of his sister and Ethan approaching.

“G-General, good day. What brings you here so suddenly? If you had just called, we would have visited you personally,” Captain Dior stammered, bowing respectfully alongside the other captain.

“Call your commander in charge, Captains. I have something important to discuss,” General Leon replied, his tone calm but urgent.

“Of course, General. Please wait here.” The two captains hurried off, and murmurs started to ripple through the gathering soldiers.

Meanwhile, Yona and Drake joined Aria and Aengus, their faces lighting up at the reunion.

“Ethan, did you finish your mission?” Yona asked in a low, curious voice.

Aengus gave a small nod, while Aria replied with a smile, though there was a hint of bitterness in her tone. “Yes, Yona, we finished it, and it’s all thanks to me.”

“Oh, did you get stronger, Sister Aria?” Drake asked, his eyes wide with excitement.

Aria chuckled, touched by her cousin’s enthusiasm. “Yes, Drake. I’m now A-Rank, and you wouldn’t believe what Ethan has achieved.”

Yona and Drake’s curiosity piqued. “How powerful is he now?” Drake asked, and Yona leaned in eagerly.

Aria smiled, careful not to reveal too much. “He’s now an S-Rank, much stronger than me. We’re here to join the war and help as much as we can.”

Her words left Yona and Drake speechless. They could barely comprehend the rapid rise in rank. “That’s amazing, Sister! But how did you two manage to grow so powerful so quickly?” Drake couldn’t resist asking, inspired to become stronger himself.

Aria’s expression softened, and she chose her words carefully. “It involved an extremely risky, exhausting hunt, Drake. I’m afraid it’s not something you and Yona could try safely.”

“Ohh, is that so?”

Yona and Drake exchanged glances, impressed and a bit of disappointed.

“Don’t feel discouraged, Drake and Yona,” Aria said gently. “I’m sure you two will grow strong one day, just like us. Just be patient.” She felt a pang of sadness seeing their disappointed faces, but she couldn’t risk revealing Ethan’s secret. Aria decided she’d ask Aengus to help them grow stronger when they had some time alone. For now, encouragement was all she could offer.

Their conversation halted as the two captains returned, accompanied by another figure. General Leon and Aengus turned their attention to the newcomer—a bearded, middle-aged man in a uniform bearing three stars.

From his recent discussions with General Leon about military ranks, Aengus now understood the significance of the stars:

1 Star – Foot Soldiers/Marksman

2 Stars – Squad Captains

3 Stars – Squadron Leaders/Commanders

4 Stars – The Marshal

5 Stars – Generals

In this hierarchy, all knights and regular soldiers were bound to obey their superiors without question.

The commander, a man of high stature with command over hundreds of squad leaders, near fifty thousand soldiers—arrived before them swiftly.

He placed a hand over his chest and bowed at a respectful ninety-degree angle before General Leon.

General Leon acknowledged the gesture and signaled him to stand upright.

“It’s good to see you here, General. How may I be of assistance?” the commander asked, his tone respectful and attentive.

Chapter 217: Chapter 217: Securing Future Ally

“Commander Zain, I would like to introduce you to someone. This is Zero, an S-Ranker,” General Leon introduced Aengus by his chosen alias. Though surprised, General Leon accepted the request calmly—after all, the name didn’t change the person, and that was all that mattered.

“Hello, Commamder! It’s nice to meet you!” Aengus said respectfully.

“An S-Rank?”

Commander Zain looked Aengus up and down, assessing his physique and confirming the General’s words as truth.

“Such a fine, healthy young man—and an S-Rank at such a young age. I’m impressed. What would you like me to do for him, General?” Commander Zain asked, clearly impressed. Being an S-Rank himself, he found it shocking that someone so young had achieved the rank so quickly. He had no doubt in General Leon’s claim, nor in his own expert eyes.

“What? That guy is already an S-Rank?”

“That’s impossible! He’s so young!”

“Yeah, it’s hard to believe. But if General Leon says it, it must be true.”

The soldiers, both young and old, murmured in shock at the news.

“Silence!”

The captains ordered firmly, restoring order.

As the crowd quieted, General Leon spoke up, “Assign him as a Squad Leader, Commander Zain. There’s no need for formalities.”

Commander Zain hesitated, unsure. “Are you certain, General? With his power, he could easily take my position.”

He felt it almost disrespectful to place someone of such strength in charge of a mere squad.

Aengus spoke up with calm assurance, “It’s fine, Commander. You’ve earned your position through years of service. I wouldn’t feel right taking it from you so suddenly.”

General Leon nodded in agreement. “Yes, he’s young and needs time to grow into larger responsibilities. Let him begin at a more manageable level.”

Though Aengus was more experienced than they assumed, he chose not to correct their perception. He knew time would reveal his true capabilities.

“Understood, General,” Commander Zain replied seriously. “I’ll assign him to a capable squad.”

Pleased, General Leon turned to Aengus and Aria. “Very well, I’ll take my leave. Serve the kingdom with pride and treat it as your homeland. Ethan, Aria and the others are now under your care.”

He then addressed Princess Delilah, “You have the choice to join them or serve under your brother’s command. There’s no shame in stepping back.”

Princess Delilah met his gaze with determination. "Thank you, General. But, I'm committed to this."

General Leon nodded approvingly. "Good. You truly honor your royal status, Princess. My best wishes are with you."

Aengus gave a small nod and went ahead to see General Leon off alongside Commander Zain.

As they moved, General Leon glanced Aengus beside him, still couldn't figure out his true motives or aspirations.

"So, what are your goals if we win this war, Ethan?" General Leon asked gently.

Aengus, testing the waters, replied, "Say General, If I told you I want to restore peace and absolute order to this world, would you support me?"

Both Commander Zain and General Leon raised their eyebrows. Surprised by the audacity of the boy's courage.

"That's a mighty big dream, boy," Commander Zain said, sounding doubtful.

But Aengus focused on General Leon's reaction.

At first, Leon seemed taken aback, but soon a smile crossed his face. He extended his hand, gripping Aengus's firmly.

"If you can defeat me, you'll have my support," General Leon challenged, inviting him to a contest of raw physical strength. It was unclear if he wanted to test Aengus's resolve or perhaps secretly hoped to witness a miracle.

Aengus smiled back. "Don't go back on your word, General."

With that, Aengus accepted the challenge, his muscles swelling as he readied himself. Though he was unsure just how powerful a Transcendental truly was, he maintained tight control over his strength to avoid unintentionally hurting Leon.

Commander Zain watched, almost certain of General Leon's victory. The gap in strength between S-Rank and SS-Rank was vast, after all. But he couldn't help but admire the young man's courage to take on such a powerful figure.

As the contest began, both men appeared calm, their grips firm but not overly strained. However, as time passed, it became clear that the struggle was taking a toll on General Leon, while Aengus remained completely composed.

Commander Zain's initial surprise turned to outright disbelief. His eyes widened as he watched the subtle signs of strain on General Leon's face: his hand reddening, veins bulging under the strain, and a barely noticeable twitch in his expression.

Aengus, noticing Leon's discomfort, slowly tightened his grip, his expression remaining serene.

General Leon's ears flushed with embarrassment as he fought against the seemingly immovable force of Aengus's grip. Realizing the young S-Rank possessed strength far beyond anything he had anticipated, General Leon's confidence faltered.

He hadn't expected an S-Rank to possess such monstrous strength — strength that could easily rival, if not surpass, that of a Transcendental.

Finally, unable to maintain his pride any longer, General Leon exhaled, pulling back his hand in a subtle retreat. He quickly concealed his red hand and looked at Aengus with an expression that was a mix of admiration and incomprehension.

"Amazing," Commander Zain muttered to himself, his voice mixed with awe and respect.

"I can't believe you've become so strong, Ethan!" General Leon exclaimed, his face lighting up with smile.

"And, I'll keep my promise. When you're ready, I'll support your goal. But the Araknis Kingdom must remain intact, even if you establish a new rule. That's my only condition.

I, too, wish for changes in this world. It has become a place of bloodshed, sorrow, and where peace is now a luxury. I hope you can accomplish what I failed to achieve." General Leon said with a smile as he patted Aengus's shoulder.

Aengus returned the smile, pleased by his support. "You won't have to wait long, General. And I promise, your Kingdom will remain as it is."

"Then, I'll be waiting eagerly to see you shine in tomorrow's battle."

With that, General Leon took his leave, leaving Commander Zain speechless at their exchange.

