

Vampire 1011

Chapter 1011 Giant Girl With Freckles

Semohr was a city in the wilderness. The stone buildings were so towering that they blocked the sun and cast a dark shadow everywhere.

Streets were so wide that a small village could fit in it, and so long that a small city of humans could be instilled there.

Each building, each floor, each street, and each place... they were huge enough to defy common sense.

Giants in plain cotton clothes roamed around these places as if it were the medieval times of Earth and they were the working class.

Mayzin was on Lith's back and sound asleep. No amount of noise was enough to wake her up, and Lith's movements weren't causing her any problems either.

A day had passed by now and five days were remaining for the court trial of Gunther's side.

The clock was ticking and Lith wasn't dilly-dallying but on his way to a certain artifact shop in the city to get things done.

Instructions were given to Gunther and his group and what needs to be done. He was playing his part in this and since the issue was of Giants, the major part would be played by themselves to solve it.

Stopping in front of a run down stone building with a hanging metal sign board that read "Jujuban's Jamaeis"

Jamaeis was a word from the Giants' ancient language which meant something along the lines of sorcery shop.

Walking in, spilled glass bottles containing colorful liquids appeared in Lith's sight. Then, broken wooden floors, tables, and scattered parchments filled his vision while a scent of burning rubber and spices assaulted his nose and throat, making him feel the heat and almost let out a cough.

A stinging sensation then made his eyes twitch and water up.

'What is this place? Why me, with a King Rank physique, going through an adverse reaction like that?'

It was a concerning matter and made Lith's senses heighten up and more alert.

'Ah, fuck—!'

The heightened senses only served to bring him more pain and suffering. It was a bad choice he made.

"Cough! Cough! W-w-who!?"

Walking on the wooden floor brought out creaking sounds and alerted the person inside the shop. And it was good that he had their attention.

"Look down. I'm here."

Lith tried his best to not cough and yelled while looking up. He could now understand how Miwa felt when she looked up to them, physically, not metaphorically.

The counter in the shop was five times the size of Lith. Even if he raised his arms fully, he wouldn't be able to reach the top.

Truly, he was still not getting used to the big sizes of this place.

'Bigger does not always mean better.'

'...Wait. That sounds wrong...'

It was too late to correct himself now.

The person at the shop leaned over their counter and a pair of bright blue eyes with a puffy face covered Lith's vision.

Golden locks fell down from the skies and covered Lith's body. A smell of worn out socks assaulted his nose.

"What the— cough! Cough!"

A fit of coughs took over Lith as the putrid stench made him shudder.

"Ah— sorry! Sorry!"

Perhaps they realized their mistake, the person quickly raised their head up and gave Lith some room to breath.

Then, they began coughing along with Lith.

For a solid two minutes, both parties were doing nothing but cough.

Clutching his head, Lith groaned, "Ugh. What's wrong with this place?"

"Cough... sorry..."

The voice of the person resounded in his ears. Now that he listened to it clearly, it sounded like a woman's.

Turning to look up, he saw a young Giant girl. She was dusty, her hair looked like a bird's nest and her cheeks were red and somewhat puffy.

This is the exact type of girl one could find in a fantasy world's starter village who would either be killed for the protagonist's character development or married off to him and later become a burdened and killed or set a fire to an orphanage for no reason and get killed by the protagonist or be framed for witchcraft and be killed by the village people.

'Wait a second, why am I thinking that she'll be killed?'

'Tch. What's wrong with me?'

Lately, he seemed to be having quite some weird thoughts. Shoving aside those thoughts, he turned to look at the young lady.

She was not ugly, just poor. A textbook example of someone who could shine with just a bit of wealth.

"Dear customer, how may I— cough! Cough! Helopyuwaaaaghhhhh—!"

The girl's coughing turned into aggressive puking. It was good that she had manners and puked into a bucket near her.

Lith frowned, and instead of disgust, he felt concerned for her.

"Are you alright?"

"Yeah. Sorry. Give me just a second, please."

The girl ran towards a backdoor and another series of puking sounds echoed in the room, which were then followed by... bubbling sounds?

"Hmm?"

Clang—! Clang—! Clang—!

The sound of something hitting a metal immediately followed suit. Then, bubbling sounds intensified, which were then replaced by the metal ones, and were repeated again by the bubbling ones.

The burning smell of rubber rose sharply and Lith couldn't help but let out fits of coughing. His nose, throat, and eyes were burning once again. Just what sort of place did he stumble into?

Ten minutes later, the smell vanished. It was as if it was never there.

Lith's eyes didn't hurt anymore and being free from these problems, he took a deep breath of clear air.

The backdoor then opened up and the Giant girl appeared once again. This time, her cheeks were a bit more puffy, but overall, she seemed fine.

A bright radiance sparkled in her clear blue eyes, but when she saw Lith standing on the counter top, panic took over her and she immediately bowed.

"Ah, so sorry for the wait, dear customer. I'm so sorry. Please forgive me."

"It's fine." Lith heaved out a sigh and said. "What even are you doing to have such a weird atmosphere in this place?"

"Ah... well..." The girl fidgeted and twirled her finger in her golden locks, appearing somewhat guilty and embarrassed.

"...I was just trying out one of grandpa's recipes. T-t-that's it!"

Lith blinked and stared at her. His expression stating: 'do you think I'm understanding you?'

"Ah, so sorry!" The girl bowed again and said. "P-p-please tell me what you are here for, dear customer. I will try my best to help you."

Even though Lith was not a Giant, Semohr saw a fair share of foreigners so no one was surprised to see small creatures like Lith around.

Lith thought it was best if he made haste and got out of this place, hence he asked in a hurried tone, "Do you have a thirteen day old poison spirit?"

"Ah... we have a six day old poison spirit at best!" The girl said apologetically. "Poison spirits are too expensive to maintain lately and we are unable to produce anything beyond seven day old ones."

Lith nodded in understanding. "Okay."

"B-b-but... if you want it...you can pay us an advance amount and we can get it prepared for you." The girl tried her best to appease Lith.

It was not everyday that the shop saw customers. She was thus trying her best to make as much money as she could.

Lith shook his head. "I can't wait that long. Anyway, by any chance, do you have a Klaxon Reindeer's Tailbone powder?"

The girl's eyes sparkled brightly, almost blinding Lith. "Yes! Yes! Yes! We have it! How much do you need? One gram? Ten grams? One kilo?"

"Ten..."

The girl's eyes brightened further as she looked at Lith with an expectant look.

"...milligrams."

The expression dimmed, the sparkle vanished, and the girl's face changed into that of remorse and disappointment.

"I'll bring it in a second, please wait." The girl said in the most monotonous voice possible and slowly walked towards the backdoor and went to the back rooms to fetch the powder.

Lith saw her go with an amused look. 'It seems they're really short on money.'

Lith was no saint to go out of his way and help someone, but he also wasn't someone who lacked money. He was thus having thoughts of giving this girl some money.

The girl came back holding a small glass vial. In it was a fine bluish-white powder.

Her face looked like someone who hadn't slept for days. With a complete deadpan smile, the girl said in a monotonous voice again, "Here it is, dear customer."

"How much is this for?"

"Ten silvers."

"Oh..."

It was quite cheap. No wonder she was expecting Lith to buy in bulk. One gram of this powder could get her ten gold coins. No wonder she was so unhappy when the price dropped from ten golds to ten silvers.

'I should've purchased more. No worries, I still have a lot to buy.'

Taking the powder and handing her the coins, Lith asked, "Do you have the recipe for making dragon clavicle yellow grass healing potion?"

As soon as Lith asked that, the girl's eyes widened in shock. Her previous dead expression nowhere to be seen. "E-e-excuse me?"

"What? Do you have it or not?" Lith asked nonchalantly.

"S-s-sir... we don't deal with dragon bones..."

It would be truly scandalous to do something like that and could get them killed by the Dragon authorities.

The healing potion Lith was talking about required a dragon's clavicle as its name stated. Harming a dragon and harvesting their bones to do something like that would not let them go unpunished. The whole race could be implicated if they were ever to be found doing that.

The girl's reaction was exaggerated and Lith could smell something fishy.

To bait her, he took out an amethyst coin and tossed it in his hands.

"I can give this to you if you give me that. Actually, not just one, but a hundred of them."

The girl's eyes followed the path of the coin and she gulped hesitantly. This was really a big amount. If she could have that then...

'No, no, no! What are you even thinking of? We don't deal with that!'

The girl had an internal struggle.

Lith gave her time to think and after two minutes, the girl looked around to see if someone was there or not, then bent down and whispered, "You mustn't tell anyone about this, dear customer, okay?"

"Okay." Lith nodded instantly. He was quite interested to see what she had in store.

The girl then looked around again and sneaked her way into the back rooms again, as if someone was spying on her.

'...And now we wait and then question the lady as to why she has dragon bones. Phew.'

Chapter 1012 Mantis, Cicada, And The Oriole.

The girl came back and brought an old yellow sheepskin parchment with her.

She took a deep breath in front of Lith and said, "Dear customer, you must not share it with anyone."

Lith tilted his head.

"Is this the recipe? Did you not bring a dragon clavicle?"

"Huh?" The girl let out a dumbfounded expression. "How could I bring a dragon clavicle? They are not legal or available for purchase."

"Oh." Lith was surprised. 'It seems I was expecting too much. But...'

Lith squinted his eyes and looked at the girl, as if staring right into her soul and made her shudder, not taking the scroll from her yet.

"Why were you hesitant to give it to me before if you didn't have the dragon clavicle?"

"Eh?" The girl froze on her spot and a drop of sweat trickled down her forehead.

Lith raised his eyebrow and waited for her to answer him.

A second later.

"W, well... this recipe... this recipe..." the girl fidgeted and twirled her finger in her golden locks.

Lith didn't cut her off and waited for her to answer.

After a few more seconds of nervous fiddling, the girl heaved out a sigh and said, "Actually, my hesitation came from handing this recipe out to you. My grandfather would be really angry if he saw this was sold out. Our shop is already on the verge of closing down and if someone were to know we sold this recipe, it would be disastrous."

"If you know all of this, why are you still taking a risk and selling it?"

"Sigh... there's no choice." The girl bit her lips. Her expression seemed like she had eaten something bitter.

She turned to look in a certain direction, which was a 'small' window at the side walls and said softly, "My aunt's sick and to cure her, we're trying our best to amass money. Even after selling most of the things, we are a bit short on it."

A tear threatened to leak out of her eyes, but she wiped it and said, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to trouble you. If you'd like this recipe, please take it."

The location of this place was given to Lith by his aunt.

There was a to-do list made and one of the things was visiting this place. That's it. There was nothing else mentioned.

Maybe Lith had to see through what this girl was going through and help her? Was this what his aunt had in mind for him?

Lith looked to the side and saw his sleeping aunt's face. There was a concealment on her so that others didn't pay attention to him or her. The Giant girl had thus not noticed her yet.

A second had passed since Lith had these thoughts. He turned to her and asked with a neutral gaze, "If I may... can you tell me what happened to your aunt?"

The girl's lips quivered and she wondered whether she should be saying this or not.

Perhaps she hadn't talked to anybody in a long while and wanted to vent or perhaps she was just trying to look for answers, the girl decided to tell him what the problem was.

"It's so bizarre... I don't know how something like this can happen..."

This time around, the girl couldn't keep her tears contained and they gushed out of her eyes like an open dam.

"...My aunt... she... she has to watch her child die every single year and..."

The girl tried to control her sobs and speak clearly, but the information was jumbled. However, it didn't take Lith time to piece everything together and figure out what the situation was.

As he came to understand it, his expression turned grave.

'How— you know what... that's not even the main thing I want to know. I just want to know... why... why would someone do something so cruel?'

The Giant girl's mother had died when giving birth to her. Ever since then, she had been taken care of by her aunt, whom the girl looked up to as a mother figure.

A decade ago, tragedy had struck her family when they were out mining for some ores and gathering magic cores of monster beasts in the dungeons nearby Semohr.

Some trouble occurred in the dungeon that led to the beasts going berserk.

The girl was asked to run by her aunt and her aunt's husband, however something hit her head and she passed out.

Before passing out, she saw a glimpse of her aunt's husband getting his chest pierced by something sharp and a pair of sharp red eyes.

When the girl woke up, she found herself lying down underneath a tree near the dungeon's entrance. Her father and grandfather were by her side.

Flashbacks of her uncle dying surfaced the girl and she worriedly asked her father and grandfather what had happened.

The two's eyes were hollow, their gaze lifeless, and it seemed like they hadn't slept for many days in a row.

The two were unable to answer the girl and noticing this, she panicked and let out a flurry of questions, asking whether her aunt and uncle were okay or not.

Giant authorities eventually walked out of the dungeon's entrance and asked the girl's family to have a look inside.

They immediately rushed inside and to their horror, found a Giant lady with a gentle demeanor chained in an open hall. There was a barrier around her which did not allow anyone near her.

The girl, her father, her grandfather... everyone tried to break it and rescue her aunt, but it was to no avail.

A day passed with them trying their best, but there was no improvement.

However, looking back at her aunt, the girl's eyes widened when she noticed vines coming out of her aunt's body.

They wrapped around her at a visible pace and in four days, only her face was visible.

Out of her head, a sapling sprouted. Out of her legs, roots emerged, and in a week, a tree grew in her place. Had there not been her face which was visible, nobody would've found this tree as abnormal.

The girl cried out in grief. Her father, grandfather were not doing any better.

They did whatever they could to shatter the barrier once again to rescue the lady, but failed.

A year later, the vitality of the tree spread around the hall. They could feel it even from outside the barrier.

This vitality...

Its aura was similar to the blessing of Mother Helvia, who was a goddess that brought out harvest and fertility.

A month later, the Giant authorities met them again.

They told them that the beasts in the dungeon were going quite berserk, so they would be restricting the place. If they wanted a permit inside, they would need to sign documents and pay a big sum and whatnot.

While they were at it, they also mentioned in passing about the pitiful lady contained in the barrier.

She was said to have been cursed by Mother Helvia for her improper conduct.

"Her... my aunt... improper conduct?" The freckled girl's eyes hollowed out at this point of narration.

"Don't fuck with me—!"

A wave of madness surfaced her eyes as she punched the shelf behind her.

"How can she have an improper conduct!? How her of all people!?"

BAM! BAM! BAM!

A hole formed in the wall behind her and the shop shook from her powerful punches.

Lith looked at her with a hint of sadness. He couldn't relate to her, but he could at least sympathize.

He let her vent and didn't disturb her.

After calming down somewhat, she continued with gritted teeth, "...We were mad! Really, really, mad! How can Mother Helvia curse someone so pure and gentle? My aunt was an angel. She wouldn't even hurt an ant, yet how could she be someone who would be cursed for improper conduct? It was beyond me and my family..."

Connecting the dots, Lith could somehow make out a few things.

Either these guys were being framed unjustly because someone wanted to see their downfall, or they were just swept up in a political or religious conflict between the goddess Helvia and Seia.

If the girl could answer a few questions of his, Lith would get a better idea, but for now, he let her vent.

"...And ever since then... we've been trying to amass money to hire someone powerful who could break the curse. Till now, we've sold all our assets and gotten the rights to enter the dungeon, but the future... the future..."

The girl bit her lips till blood oozed out of it.

"...It looks very bleak."

'Yeah, it indeed is.'

Lith couldn't deny this possibility. They were doomed from the get-go when someone powerful placed their eyes on them.

'However...'

'...Now it's me and my aunt who has their eyes on this girl and her family.'

The saying: 'The Mantis stalks the cicada unaware of the oriole behind.' was what was happening right now.

Lith didn't know how his aunt found out about the tragedy of this girl, but she might've probably felt pity for her and wanted to help her.

Or maybe there were some other hidden motives, but in any case, Lith had to solve her problems.

He didn't know whether it would help him stop the infighting of Giants or help them be under his aunt, but he had to do this.

'It's good that I provided Gunther instructions.'

He looked at the girl and waited until she had calmed down.

Once he found out she did, he folded his arms and asked her calmly, "Do you want help?"

It didn't register the girl's mind and she stared at him blankly.

Shaking his head, Lith flicked his finger and sent a streak of Lightning at the girl's forehead, stunning her body and making her jump in fright.

"Aaah!"

She took a step back and looked at Lith with knitted brows.

Shaking his head again, Lith said, "It's not going to be easy to convince you..."

He then cracked his knuckles. "...But it's not like I'm inexperienced and handling some damsels in distress for the first time."

"W-w-what are you—"

Before the girl could say anything, Lith appeared before her and sent a palm chop at her neck, knocking her unconscious.

Her body didn't fall on the ground with a thud, instead it hovered in mid air.

"Let's get going."

SNAP—!

Chapter 1013 Lucas's Encounter With Lith

[Warning: 'That' being is in close proximity.]

[Encounter with said entity can result in death.]

Lucas yawned and lay down atop a tree, ignoring the system's warning.

It was just warning him and not doing anything else. This meant that the system was unsure of what the outcome would be and was looking forward to what would happen.

If Lucas could curse the system, he would've done so already. But this accursed bastard could read his thoughts and hence he kept his thought process limited to his subconscious where the system couldn't intrude.

It took a lot of effort to learn the skill of keeping thoughts limited to the subconscious. His thoughts slipped many times and were read by the system, but while training, he would use absurd thoughts and confuse the system.

The absurdity was so high that at one point, the system thought he had gone mad and gave him a potion. That was an expensive and rare one as it made him feel refreshed and cleansed his body of any impurities and fatigue.

Lucas didn't feel that alive for many years and was glad that he could outsmart the system for once.

'He should be here any minute...'

Lucas placed a hat on his face and actively tried to sleep on the tree's branch which was by a dungeon's entrance. Faking it was not an option as the entity he was about to face could easily make it out.

A few minutes later, he was in deep sleep and the system turned silent as well.

.....

In a bustling Inn of a rich neighborhood in Semohr, two Giants along with two normal-sized humanoid figures made their way inside the cafeteria.

The normal-sized ones were Ji and Sheng, the demon and werewolf duo Ojas had introduced to Lith, while the two Giants were random mercenaries hired under Lith's name.

People from Gunther's faction were known by most of the people. It could attract quite some trouble if they were to enter this area with Ji and Sheng.

This neighborhood was close to the chief and the other high ranking elders' residential area, and was popular for its high quality alcoholic beverages.

Ji and Sheng were here to investigate a select few suspicious elders from the chief's faction.

...And it did not take them even a few steps inside the Inn to find something odd.

Two burly Giants, almost four storey tall and with rough ginger beard, were drawing dark color sigils in mid air and talking together in a somewhat serious tone.

The sigils weren't bright and eye-catching. Nobody would've been able to notice them had they not been staring at them with a motive of finding something like Ji and Sheng.

The demon-werewolf duo decided to play it cool and ordered a few drinks for themselves.

They chatted with the two Giant mercenaries about useless adventure tales and pretended to have a good time while staring at the ginger beard Giants through the corner of their eyes.

A few minutes passed.

The dark colored sigils slithered their way to the two Giants' arms and etched themselves on it like tattoos.

With his keen eyesight and demon physique, Ji could feel that those tattoos were a hundred percent demonic ones.

The flash of red light in the two Giants' eyes further solidified his conclusion.

Having finished a transaction of some sort, the two parted ways. One went upstairs in the Inn to his room while the other left the building.

It would be too suspicious to follow these people right now, and having prepared beforehand, Ji held his collar and whispered in it.

"Ojas... the guy's coming. Keep an eye out for the tattoo on his hand."

"Beep. Beep."

A low voice was heard by Ji through his collar and he let go of it.

The communication tool the two were using was an artifact that was sort of like a mini phone. It was a one way communication tool and from the other side, there could only appear two responses: "Beep. Beep." And "Beeeeeep."

The former meant ok while the latter meant repeat. That's about it.

This was Ojas's idea as he knew how the situation would unfold.

Ji's job was done and he went back to pretending to have fun. From here on, Ojas would take over.

.....

"He's coming."

In a soft tone, while randomly walking on the street with two Giant mercenaries, Ojas said to his dragon subordinate.

A ginger beard Giant could be seen walking down the street. He was a head taller than most and wasn't that hard to find.

Ojas and his group sneakily followed him.

The man first walked inside an artifact shop and met a few people. He shared the sigils with them, then went to a nearby tavern and repeated the same thing.

Eventually, the man walked out of Semohr and in a random forest nearby, kneeled before a tree.

From afar, as Ojas watched him with knitted brows, he thought, 'What is he doing?'

The man joined his hands into a praying gesture and began reciting unknown things before the tree.

Soon, at a visible speed, his body began aging.

Ojas's eyebrows jumped in surprise, but being a professional stalker, he remained in place and recorded a video of the man.

In five minutes, the man's body turned into a husk, then after ten minutes, even his bones had turned into dust.

'It's so strange...'

'I need to report this to Gunther and the Prince as soon as possible. In the meantime, I'll go see how others with the sigils are doing.'

With that, Ojas set off.

.....

In front of a dungeon's entrance, Lith appeared out of thin air, with the Giant girl in tow and his aunt on his back.

The moment he stepped foot on the ground, a line of words appeared in his vision as a mechanical voice stated:

[Ding!]

[A system user is nearby.]

Lith raised an eyebrow in surprise. 'Another system user?'

His memory was sharp. He remembered the day Lucifer had gone on a rampage in Raizen. There was a system user limply lying on the ground.

That was around two hundred something years ago, and the system was telling him that in two centuries, another system user had popped up? Now this was surprising and slightly concerning.

To Lith's rhetorical question, an answer was given by the system.

[This is the same system user Host had asked to mark.]

'Oh. So it's not just anybody, but that guy...'

It made sense now.

'...But why's he here?'

The world was a big place and anyone could anywhere they wanted. What were the odds of meeting the same person twice in this world?

Lith looked around to see where the guy was and quickly found him fast asleep on a tree branch.

That guy wore ordinary adventurer robes, had raven black hair and a well built warrior-like physique.

He was more ripped than Lith himself, but of course, that only meant his muscles were used repeatedly and nothing else.

Aesthetically speaking, the more ripped one was didn't mean the better they looked. Lith's physique and looks were still unparalleled.

Looking at that sleeping guy for a while, Lith racked his brains and wondered why he was here.

Quickly, he got an answer to this question.

All the continents of the world were unstable at this point of time.

It was only this place that was somewhat peaceful and had a good amount of dungeons.

This guy was also resting beside a dungeon gate, so the only reason he was here was to be in a safe shelter, away from the wars, probably.

It was a hypothesis. There was no evidence, but that's the only reason Lith could come up with.

'What do I do about him? Ignore and go to the dungeon? Or see what his system is upto and mess with him?'

After some thinking, Lith decided to kidnap him.

He was planning to see him in the future, but now that he had appeared right at his doorstep, ignoring him wouldn't be nice.

There also was no reason for Lith to mess with his system. The one this dude had might be an inferior one, given how it didn't detect him yet and alert him of danger.

Lith walked up to the guy and picked him up like a sack of potatoes on his shoulder. Despite the burly physique, he was as light as a feather to him.

He walked towards the Giant girl, then picked her up, and along with the sleepy Mayzin on his back, walked inside the dungeon.

The moment they entered, Lith saw a few berserk beasts squeaking and rushing his way.

His hands were full, holding people, and this was not good.

SQUEAK—! A human-sized large rat with red eyes charged at Lith with a loud squeak. There was an army of smaller, cat-sized rats beside him, and if something wasn't done about them, Lith was going to be... mildly injured... or not. He wasn't too sure whether this would result in a minor scratch or a minor bite.

In any case, even though he won't be harmed, the same couldn't be said about the Giant girl in tow.

Lith channeled some Lightning energy in his palms and sent it within the system guy's body, making it twitch and fall down on the ground.

The guy soon groaned and rubbed his head as he got up.

Immediately, a series of words rang in his mind and appeared in front of his eyes.

[Warning! Warning! Warning!]

[Berserk Grand Rats are coming at you!]

[Quest: Survive the onslaught (B+) has progressed!]

[Information: Survive this wave of Grand Rats.]

[Penalty: A minor realm setback.]

[Warning: Teleportation is restricted!]

[Warning: Do not give an opening to 'that' being to attack you!]

In his subconscious, Lucas was clicking his tongue and cursing this bastard system.

While on the outside, he thought, 'Okay... that's just a few Grand Rats. Not too big of a problem. It should be done in a minute.'

Without looking back to who was there, Lucas took out his sword and charged at the rat leader.

Lith watched him make swift movements and thought, 'Not bad. Those movements are almost as fluid as mine.'

He wasn't bothered in the slightest and seemed like someone watching a performance in a theater.

Half an incense stick's burning time later, the guy was done killing the rats and cleaned the area.

Lith looked at him and said, "Good job. You're capable of clearing this dungeon, it seems."

The guy turned around and gave Lith a slight nod.

"Fantastic. Let's have you clear it then. My hands are full at the moment, but don't worry, if there's a need, I'll assist you."

With that, they set out to see the Giant girl's aunt trapped inside the dungeon, and albeit reluctantly, Lucas began killing the monsters for Lith.

Chapter 1014 Breaking The Barrier

Ba-dump—! Ba-dump—! Ba-dump—!

Lucas's heart hammered against his ribs as he walked beside Lith and a Giant girl in the narrow entrance along with...

Lucas didn't dare think about who it was on the Vampire Prince's back. If he uncovered something he wasn't supposed to, things would be dire.

Even his system was warning him about this being. As of now, whoever was there was more powerful than the Vampire Prince himself and she was better left unprovoked.

'I need to get out of this situation as soon as possible.'

Outwardly he thought of this, but inwardly he was really happy.

The bitch of a system was not handing him out unwanted missions. There weren't any unwanted potion injections or teleportation either. Lucas was in bliss. It was a freedom he hadn't experienced in a long time.

Walking beside him, Lith wondered what was up with this guy.

He could hear the guy's rapidly beating heart. Being a Vampire, he was highly sensitive to Humans and could feel a lot of things that even other Humans couldn't feel about themselves or each other.

'Is he afraid? There are hardly any dangers here... what's he getting scared of?'

Berserk monsters kept charging at them and this guy kept clearing them. Though, after a point, their numbers were so astronomical that Lith had to wake the Giant girl up and intervene himself.

The girl panicked when she woke up, and calmed down within seconds as she looked around and found herself being in the dungeon her aunt was in.

Lith then took out his sword and imbued Fire elemental energy into it. The moment he did that...

The berserk beasts stopped in their tracks, surprising the ones watching them.

Lith took a step forward and the beasts backed away almost instantly.

It confused him for a bit, but he then found Lucas showing an adverse reaction to his movements.

Just like the beasts, even he was getting fearful.

Lith then realized that it probably had something to do with his aura and dropped the topic.

After that, Lith let his aura flow freely. He ensured to not let it touch Lucas or the Giant girl, and thus, he had no idea why he was still having palpitations.

With everyone thinking of different things and walking, they soon arrived in front of a particular door that was giving off dense energy fluctuations.

Opening the door, a white translucent barrier blocked his entry inside.

However, through this almost transparent barrier, he could see a tall tree, ripping apart the ceiling and growing in the middle of the room. There was a face of a sleeping lady on it.

"Aunt..." the Giant girl softly called out in sorrow.

[Warning: Do not get in touch with the energy inside.]

A warning rang out in Lucas's mind and made his brows quiver.

Meanwhile, there was no such warning available for Lith and he tapped on the barrier, making it slightly ripple.

[Warning: 'That' being might break the barrier!]

[Warning: 'That' being might break the barrier!]

[Warning: 'That' being might break the barrier!]

Continuous notifications chimed in Lucas's ears. He was so annoyed at this point that he wanted to kill himself and end everything once and for all.

The motherfucking system was not even trying to help and kept issuing warnings even though he asked it not to.

'If you can't help, then shut up!'

Lucas's patience broke and he cursed.

It was effective as the system did not hand out warnings again.

Pop!

A popping sound made Lucas and the Giant girl's heads turn. The two saw Lith pinching the barrier and making it pop.

'What!?'

The two were taken aback.

The barrier was strong. So much so that even a Half Emperor Rank might not be able to break through it with force.

How was Lith making popping sounds from it!?

The more Lucas interacted with Lith, the more he understood his own shortcomings and became depressed.

He could tell why the apocalypse was called the apocalypse now.

If such an entity, at such a small level like King Rank, could bring out his entire potential to the maximum limit possible... then how would the others of his own clan be?

'T-t-they didn't think wrongly. The hybrids of the Asura God Clan and the Evure God Clan are monsters.'

The silver hair reminded Lucas of the Evure God Clan while one glance at the amethyst eyes made him understand the depths of it were more unfathomable than the actual Asura God Clan members. He actively tried to avoid glancing at Lith and looking into his eyes.

Every moment with Lith was like walking on a bed of nails "no, it was more like crawling on it.

'Yeah... I think I wanna get out as soon as possible.'

Lucas thought and slowly backed away.

"Oh hey, you..."

"Hissss..."

Lucas gasped as he got called out. He hadn't even taken two steps back!

"Y-yes?" Lucas slightly stuttered, but kept his stoic appearance intact and replied in a serious tone.

"Channel your spiritual power here."

Lith had drawn a black-colored triangular magic circle on the barrier and was pointing at one of the corners of it.

Lucas could only bit his lip and obey. He gave Lith a slight nod and did as asked.

Lith then turned to look at the Giant girl and asked her to do the same.

On the remaining corner, Lith channeled his own spiritual power.

Soon...

Pop.

Pop. Pop. Pop.

Like corn kernels making a popping sound upon heating, the barrier too let out a similar sound in the whole room.

Lucas's heart raced and the Giant girl's eyes widened in shock as she saw something actually happening to the barrier.

She couldn't believe what she was looking at. What her father and grandfather weren't able to do, this man had done it. Just who was he? He didn't appear stronger than them, yet could do such a thing!

The girl's attention was diverted in a few seconds as the popping sounds intensified.

Initially, there was just sound, but as time passed, a black bubble appeared on the barrier and popped.

[Warning! Run away from the energy!]

[Warning! Run away from the energy!]

[Warning! Run away from the energy!]

[Warning! Run away from the energy!]

.

.

.

[Warning! Run away from the energy!]

[Warning! Run away from the energy!]

Despite the danger bells ringing in his ears and lines of words blocking his vision, Lucas persisted and didn't run away.

He was fine with whatever hell awaited him. Anything would be better than being shackled like this by the system.

Unlike him who was worried to death, Lith's face was as calm as it could be.

The spell he inscribed on the barrier with his sharp fingernail was something he had learnt from Vanessa. It wasn't direct, but in an indirect way when Fei was telling him the stuff she did and showed him a few arrays.

The array worked on the principles of vibrations. It sent really tiny string-like vibrations into the cast place and vibrated at a really high intensity.

When one string is met with a thousand, then millions, it would cause enough vibrations to make a black bubble manifest and pop.

The popping resulted in the strings breaking apart along with the barrier.

The strings came from the spiritual power of the three casters.

The array inscribed was a medium to convert the dense spiritual power into string-like pieces and inject it into the barrier.

It was quite fun. Lith didn't think it would be of any use, but he learnt it anyway. He was glad that he did because you may never know when you'll be needing it.

A photographic memory helped a lot.

Lith remembered the exact array and inscribed it, even though he had no understanding of it.

Of course, doing such a thing was highly risky.

Firstly, if the array was something made by Vanessa, it would be a unique one. She would be alerted if he used it.

Secondly, if there was even a slightly wrong inscription, it may blast right in Lith's face, killing him.

Despite such risks, Lith attempted to draw it.

Why?

Death meant nothing in this world, as long as your soul was intact.

He hadn't died yet and didn't plan to, but he wasn't afraid of it either.

Look at Alea. She died at least a few times a month and was still doing fine.

Lith should be alright with one or two deaths.

POP—!

With the final popping, the barrier broke, and a wave of thick unknown energy swept over the three people, sending them flying.

In the middle of the room, the sleeping face of the woman abruptly twisted as her eyes snapped open.

Her white pupils turned black and her calm blue eyes turned into raging red.

Lith stabilized himself before crashing onto the wall behind.

Lucas and the Giant girl however weren't strong enough and crashed.

Lith didn't care about them and looked right in front of him.

A woman was staring at him with absolute hatred and a strong premonition of death loomed over Lith's head.

'Ah... I still have this halo...'

The black karmic halo was still over Lith's head. It was invisible to everybody below Half Emperor Rank and hence there weren't people who stared at Lith and made him aware of it.

'It should be due to this.'

The sudden appearance of a strong entity didn't faze Lith. He was quite used to it by now.

Lith took big strides forward, unafraid and unfazed, while looking right at the woman's eye.

'Let's see who you are and what you're upto...'

Chapter 1015 A Simple Sword Art Becomes Profound In The Hands Of A Monster

SNAP—!

A vine whipped at Lith's body while splitting the air beside him.

He jumped and slashed his sword, cutting off the vine, and took a step in front.

The space around his leg twisted and with one step, he was a hundred steps ahead, right in front of the woman's face.

The woman's eyes widened in shock and she let out a soul piercing scream.

Lith's eardrums and eyes burst apart, a stinging pain coursed through his head and body. However, the pain tolerance training done during his childhood was still effective and kept him unaffected.

"1st Ancient Sword Strike: Swift Sparrow."

Lith crouched down, coiled himself like a spring, and launched forward with a burst of speed, slashing his blade at the wrapped vines at the base.

The woman let out another soul piercing scream and Lith was sent a few steps back, staggering.

"17th Ancient Sword Strike: Rising Phoenix."

Taking a leap that defied gravity, Lith shot up in the sky like a bullet. Yielding to the sheer force of his ascent, a deep crater imprinted itself on the ground.

The sword's blade was engulfed in flames as the Fire elemental energy surged towards it.

Afterimages of a blazing fury etched itself in a beautiful arc in midair as Lith did a sharp descent, cutting off the tree's many branches.

"Kraaaaaaa!"

Another soul piercing left the face's mouth. This time it was so loud that ripples of sound appeared in the air and sent Lith flying.

The Giant girl watching from afar wanted to scream. She wanted to tell Lith to not hurt her aunt, but watching the demonic face on the tree which barely resembled her aunt's, she could only bite her lip until blood leaked out and stay put.

Lucas on the other hand wanted to run, but knew it would be the worst mistake of his life.

The Vampire Prince was much stronger than his expectations. It was to the point that...

'He's using a simple sword technique... but it looks like something really profound in his hands. With the way it's executed, not even someone who has complete mastery over it would be able to do it. Just... what is this potential...'

Fate was a bitch. To some it gave astronomical power for no reason whatsoever and to some, it took away their everything even though they hadn't done anything.

Now, Lucas didn't know what Lith's background was. But he knew that the potential he had... to have such a thing "all stars in the cosmos need to align themselves perfectly to have such a monster be born."

Lucas only saw the potential and failed to recognize the efforts Lith had put behind these things.

Throughout the years, even though he seemed carefree and appeared to be doing everything but train, it wasn't the case.

Holding a knife was similar to holding a blade. Chopping veggies were similar to chopping the limbs of enemies.

There were times when Juan and Miguel gave him and his party such tough roots to slice that it wasn't possible to do so even with their insane strength.

A hundred years ago, there was a time when Lith was stranded on an island by Juan and Miguel in some other dimension.

His friends were sent to some other places and they had to survive on that very island for a week.

It was not a problem until Lith realized there was no elemental energy in the surroundings. There was no way to replenish lost spiritual power and hence, it was a literal hell.

Without elemental energies nourishing his body, Lith would be as good as a normal mortal.

He had to eat, drink, sleep, piss and do the other normal activities like a normal mortal otherwise he would die of waste substances accumulating in his body.

Thankfully, there were no monsters or beasts in this place that could harm Lith. They were harmless rabbits, goats, and the likes.

For a week, Lith had to hunt beasts, gather herbs and plants, and also make shelter for himself and survive. It was quite challenging and something Lith would avoid at any cost in future.

The beasts had to be torn open manually. There was no stone on this island that could be sharpened into a spear. There was nothing that could be used as a knife. It was more challenging than it initially appeared.

Lith used his sharp, long Vampire nails as a knife. It broke at times while cutting and brought severe pain. Without elemental energies and spiritual power, the pain of such a small breakage was ten times more severe.

He endured it and did his best.

His body acted as a sword and a shield. He may be trying to cook food, but the things that actually got cooked were his skills.

He was a changed man after that.

Not only him, the rest were the same. The most haggard being Ralph, which was quite surprising.

Miwa was a mountain girl with brawns greater than Dennis's. How she cultivated was unknown, but her physique was super strong and she was somehow immune to all auras.

She easily survived in that place.

Dennis too did as he smashed beasts apart and ate raw meat everyday. His stomach was bloated and he hadn't been able to poop due to a lack of fiber. His body was turning blue, but he thought it was some cool after effect of consuming blue-

colored birds.

Had it been more than a week, he would've died of waste accumulation in his body.

As for Ralph, even though he was intelligent, there was nothing his intelligence could be used upon on these islands.

They had to act like cavemen and do their things. Even with high intelligence, Ralph could not find any tools to make, any shelter to keep at a safe place, and there was nothing that could be used on the island to protect himself from mosquitoes.

His body's regeneration abilities weren't like the Vampires or tough like Miwa's. He truly suffered a big blow here.

Not to mention, being turned into a mortal, his lust erupted. He had turned into a mindless beast by the fifth day and survived purely on instincts.

A month after the training was over, Dennis gossiped to Lith that Ralph was a manwhore. He slept with a hundred girls back at his place and the beauties were of all races available in this world.

In any case, Lith had done a lot to hone his skills which Lucas wasn't able to see through.

A simple sword technique in his hands looked like a sword god was wielding it.

The branches on the woman were cut apart and black blood seeped out of it.

The face of the monster was twisted and contorted in agony and pain. It continuously let out loud shrieks and made the entire hall quake.

Lith's shot ears and eyes regenerated. His body stabilized itself and he was back to proper health. For some reason, the energy in this room was much higher and better than the one present in this world.

Someone from higher realms was doing something here. He was sure of it.

Had it been someone else in his stead, even Ralph or Dennis, they wouldn't have been able to find it out.

The world had only just gotten in touch with the rest of the universe. They did not have the proper idea of dealing with higher beings.

Back in the Royal Archives, there were ways available to check which higher being was in one's own world.

This method belonged to an ancient Human clan that wanted to avoid conflict with higher beings and also contact them for their own benefit.

The ritual was a failure as the Humans were wiped out for their audacity. However, this could be easily avoided.

Fei, the one who was standing beside Lith in the courtyard while he was studying it, actually recognized this ritual. Being from a long extinct ancient clan herself, such things were trivial stuff for her.

She helped Lith change the ritual a little bit. With this, there wouldn't be any harm.

Keith, who had walked in on them studying, also took notice of the ritual and added a few points herself.

She was ancient too, not as much as Fei, but had strength far greater than hers, and being a Devil, had a lot of knowledge on these kinds of things.

Keith added a bit of modification in the ritual for Lith. With this...

Hehe, Lith would know what it would do when he uses it. This was what she told him and didn't elaborate further.

Being binded by a contract, Lith knew she couldn't harm directly or indirectly or even wish for it. So he wasn't worried about the modification she made.

Fei had her eyebrows knitted when she saw the ritual's modification. Being an ancient entity, from a race as rare as snow in a desert, even she couldn't figure out the depths of it. She knew it was something that would help Lith, but not much more than that.

Whatever the case be, she assured Lith that it was safe to use and asked for a copy so that she could study it herself. The Yellow Phantom Seers were a race of scholars. It was in her blood to fiddle with works such as these.

Lith looked at the screaming monster and took out a piece of paper from his ring. He ran towards it and began drawing a square filled with magic spell inscriptions with his blood oozing out from his index finger.

He didn't use the Space element to move closer to the monster and simply ran.

By the time he reached it, the spell was ready, and he slapped it on the woman's demonic face.

BOOM—!

Chapter 1016 More Affinities Doesn't Define Greatness

BOOM—!

A stone statue shattered in a celestial stone hall.

A towering being, as mighty as a mountain, snapped her eyes open as her gaze fell at a corner of the hall where a statue broke apart.

There were thousands of stone statues in front of her. Some were tiny while some were half her size as she sat in a lotus position.

A medium-sized piece broke in a corner. It was a sight that has never happened before.

Staring at it with her deep crimson eyes, the Giant lady saw a gray orb bobbing up and down in air in place of the statue.

Opening her palm, it shot towards her and hovered over her palm.

The lady gazed at the orb and with a neutral look, unbothered by the anomaly that had occurred a few breaths ago.

A gray mist covered the orb, but after injecting a bit of her energy into it, the lady saw a scene uncovered within it.

In a bright hall, a pair of purple eyes were peering right at her, indifferently.

Squinting her own eyes, she stared at the man with silver hair, wondering whether it was him that was the reason for the statue's destruction.

Soon, she got an answer.

"So you are the one pulling the strings. I'll remember you."

"!!"

The lady frowned. An ant dared to threaten her?

Her, who was so sought after by Gods in the higher plane, and the strongest being in the Sacred Celestial Realm?

The lady extended her index finger towards the orb and was about to channel her spiritual power into it. But, right then.

BA-DUMP—!

'Huh?'

Her heart, body, mine, soul... all senses screamed at her to stop!

Such an adverse reaction... how was this possible!?

The lady tried to channel her spiritual power again at her index finger, but once again, her survival instincts took over her and stopped her at once.

From the orb, the lady could see a pair of cunning purple eyes look down at her.

"You'll pay for this audaci—"

BA-DUMP—!

A pair of abyss-like dark eyes gazed at her and made her heart jump.

On the shoulder of this silver-haired man was a purple-haired woman, who gazed right into her crimson eyes and gave off a scary feeling.

'How... what...'

Where did these monsters come from? Why were they giving her such an ominous feeling?

The orb in her hands dissipated in the next instant and the connection was cut off.

The lady continued to stare at the empty space in front and kept wondering who these people were.

A few breaths later.

She placed her palm on her chest. She could feel her heart still thumping intensely. There was still a lingering fear within her.

"Whoever you are... making an enemy out of me wasn't right."

The lady muttered as a murderous glint flashed in her eyes.

She stood up from her lotus position and walked out of the hall, not avoiding the statues that lay in her path and shattering them.

A lot of soul-scaring cries rang out in her ears as this happened, but she did not care.

.....

Lith stared at the paper in front of him. The spell was erased from it after a few seconds of interaction and he saw a blonde-haired, crimson-eyed woman through it.

It was like a video call, but with someone in a higher realm.

Now that he knew the culprit of this lady that had turned into a demonic tree, Lith could free her from her curse.

She was linked with this entity, and through the spell inscribed on the paper, Lith entered within this link and got himself connected temporarily.

Once the connection was cut off, the spell vanished and erased the link with it as well.

The lady was free from the higher being's grasp and doing anything to her won't result in any backlash.

Lith wasn't proficient in curses to remove it. So, he called someone who was.

Ringgg... Ringgg...

Beep.

"Hello— woof! Woof!"

A puppy's woofing sound cut the soft, indifferent voice.

"Zen, be quiet."

"Woof! Woof!"

"No, no treats."

"Woooo..."

"Keep rolling near my feet. I'll not give it to you."

"Woo..."

"I'm sorry about this, Your Highness. Please ignore the cries in the background."

A smile unknowingly crept on Lith's face as he heard this. Whatever was happening, he was all in for it. Sylvia was showing more emotions than usual, it was a good development.

"Sylvia, where are you?"

"I'm at— waaoooouuu...!"

A different puppy's voice cut off Sylvia this time.

"Woof! Woof! Woof!"

"Ren?" Lith asked.

"Woooo!" Ren howled from the other side.

"Oh, it's you."

"Woof!" It was indeed him!

"Good to know."

"Wooo... woooo...wooooouuuu..."

"You miss me? That's good to know too. Anyway, stop talki—

barking, and let Sylvia speak."

"Woo..."

"I'll send you back to the golden-haired monster if you don't."

"..."

Beep.

"What? He cut the call?" Lith stared at his phone with amusement.

Ringgg... Ringgg...

A call from Sylvia arrived right in the next instant. Picking it up, he heard,

"So sorry about that, Your Highness."

"Don't worry. Ren can be a handful sometimes. Make him stand in a corner or throw him into a pond. He wouldn't bother you then."

"I've sent him and Zen into the Black Rose Forest. They won't bother again."

"Good. Anyway, you know how to deal with curses, right?"

"I'm not the best at it, but I can work with a few."

There was still the fact that Sylvia wasn't able to free herself from the curse that plagued her for thousands of years.

She thus didn't call herself an expert despite having a mastery over it. Lith was aware of it.

"No worries. Come to me, you should be able to handle this one."

"Okay. I'll be there then."

Beep.

The call was cut off and right in the next instant, Space twisted beside Lith and Sylvia walked out from thin air.

Instead of a maid uniform, she was in a black robe that clung to her body in the right places and brought out her curves along with a black pointy hat.

To this day, Lith had no idea why Witches wear pointy hats. He wasn't complaining, he just didn't know of it. He decided he would ask Sylvia about it later.

Sylvia bowed before Lith and greeted him.

Lith returned the greeting and pointed at the unconscious face of the woman turned into a demonic tree.

"Can you fix her?"

"I can try."

Sylvia didn't deny or agree to ensure Lith didn't have any expectations. Just by looking at the woman, she had a feeling that it wouldn't be easy to convert her back, hence she wasn't sure and gave Lith an ambiguous answer.

"Go ahead."

Lith backed away after saying so and let Sylvia do her work.

In the meantime, he looked back at the two people at the hall's entrance. They were still in place and intensely staring at him.

He could feel their gazes on him for quite some time but didn't address them because he was busy.

Walking close to the Giant girl, who's name he didn't know till now, Lith said, "Don't panic. Your aunt should be healed in a while."

The girl nodded slightly and tried her best to not cry. Her mind was blank right after she felt a change in her aunt's body. She didn't know what it was, but the malicious energy from before had vanished.

The girl had no idea how to thank Lith. She wasn't in the right state to do anything, thus she heeded his advice and stayed put.

Lith then turned to look at Lucas.

He was a head shorter than him, muscular and ripped.

Lith could feel the aura of ten elemental energies from within him. It was quite a surprise to see someone like that.

There was no one in the world who possessed an affinity of more than seven. Even his aunts and wives didn't have that.

Heck, his aunts didn't even have six.

Affinities were important, but not as much as people put emphasis on it.

One could think of it like this. They had just graduated from high school and had a lot of career options available to choose from. They could go into business studies, economics, medical, engineering, etc.

People with one affinity meant they had talent in only one thing. This meant that they could only ever be a businessman or a doctor or an engineer or a lawyer.

People with two affinities could become engineers and businessmen together, but the amount of effort they would need to put in would double as compared to someone with one affinity. The difficulty to cultivate both would rise sharply.

At times, they would be forced to work on something they don't want to as well, breaking them apart.

With each affinity rise, the difficulty increased like an exponential curve.

The people having six plus affinities were doomed. They had to work harder than most if they wanted to reap the advantages of their affinities, otherwise they would just become average if they only worked on one or two and ignored the rest.

After highschool, you went to pursue a business degree, put your heart and soul into it during the first month and vow to become the best businessman, but right then, you are shifted to an engineering class the next month and have to focus on advanced calculus.

You still work hard and vow to be the best engineer. But the month after, you're shifted to a medical class where you are forced to dissect cadavers and focus on medical knowledge.

Initially it would be rotating monthly, but after a while, everyday, you would be thrown from one stream to another like a ping pong ball. The juggling will take a mental toll and one day, you'll break.

More affinities were thus a blessing and a curse. But at the end of the day, the path to greatness all depended upon oneself.

A person who studied med, engineering, and business together could be successful, but it wasn't guaranteed.

Likewise, a person who just studied med could become the greatest out there ever. He could be the best doctor in the world that could heal anything. With that, he could also amass so much money that he could have the best engineers and businessmen at his disposal.

This applied to a mortal.

The world of cultivators saw even more astonishing miracles.

Keeping his thoughts to himself, Lith stared at Lucas.

He could see him sweating in nervousness.

Lith had an indifferent look on his face, opposite to the smiling, gentle one he usually showed to his wives and maids.

Lith parted his lips, and the words he said next shook Lucas to the core.

"So... what's your goal?"

"!!!?!?!"

.....

Chapter 1017 Khimav

In a room illuminated by soft blue light from aquatic vines hanging at the stone walls, an overbearing Giant walked towards a pedestal with slow steps.

A transparent casket big enough to house a family of four lay upon the pedestal, covered in beautiful bright flowers. It was shrouded in a gloomy air of tranquility, bringing out hints of melancholy and quiet from the onlookers.

The Giant stood before the casket and stared at the person inside it with an aged expression. His eyes were hollow and he seemed to have significantly become paler.

This was the current Chief of Giants, Khimav — the strongest Giant in the world.

"Yvonne..."

Khimav called out in absolute tenderness, afraid that even his voice might hurt her.

Within the casket was a sleeping Giant lady with blonde hair. Her complexion didn't seem odd and she appeared normal, but reality was far from that.

Khimav knelt down beside her and caressed the casket as if he was caressing her silky hair. With his eyes moistening, he said gently,

"...Just a little longer, my love. Just a little longer."

After saying so, he silently watched his wife and reminisced, lost in nostalgia.

–You idiot, when are you going to propose? I am sick of you being as dense as a rock. Is there only muscles in your head or what?

–Khimav. Khimav Oljobanga. If you don't stop training right at this instance, and come back home, then just see what I'll do to you.

–I swear to Mother Helvia Khimav, if you confuse Zucchini again with cucumbers, I'll shove that ***** thing up your *** and make you train with your buddies.

–Idiot! I'm the one giving birth, why are you the one getting dizzy!?

–Ok. Ok. Ok. Calm down, calm down, take a deep breath... the baby will come out just fine. I'm a strong lady, I can make one or two of these pop out with no hassle.

–What? No? I'm not in pai— you! Why the **** are you crying like a lil *****? I'm fine, didn't I tell you? Aghhh... go stand in that corner and let me give birth in peace.

–Phew. That was some work. Get me a drink, Khimav. I'm tired.

–What? The doctors said I can't drink?

–Khimav. If I don't get a drink in two minutes, then...

–Haiz... babies grow up so fast. Our Yaza has awakened already, haha. Say... you dense rock... wanna go for—

hm, wait, why am I even asking? Let's go make another baby!

—Naberi has awakened too now, haha. Time flies so fast—cough! Cough!

—I'm fine. I'm fine. Don't worry— cough! Cough! About m—cough!

—Kh..ima..v... stop cry...ing... I'm fine... didn't I say?

—...Yaza... Nab..er..iu... don't cry... mother's... fine...

—Khimav... sorry... sor..ry... for being a... burden...

—...I... lo... v..e... you... idi..o..t...

Drip. Drip.

No matter how much Khimav tried to keep himself composed, his eyes poured out his true feelings.

Fifty years, eight months, and twenty-four days... that's how much time it had been since his wife stopped nagging at him, cursing him, beating him, and... loving him.

She wasn't dead, but the illness she was suffering through had no cure in this world. Khimav had searched everywhere for it.

When all hope seemed to have vanished, a glimmer of hope struck him as he overheard a group of people conversing about the new goddess in town.

Mother Seia was benevolent. She was kind, magnanimous, and more active in giving blessings to her devotees than Mother Helvia.

Khimav had prayed to Mother Helvia repeatedly but it was to no avail. Hence, as a last ditch resort, he hired a priest and tried to get Mother Seia's blessings for his wife.

The priest told Khimav that changing faith was seen as a taboo and wouldn't be welcomed by Goddesses'.

If one could so easily change faith, they were never a devout believer. They were never someone loyal and faithful to one Goddess.

Khimav was disheartened hearing that, but the priest then told him that there was still a way to get by these things.

To get the Goddess' blessings, there was a way.

All Khimav had to do was get more worshippers to her and perform a few rituals to please the Goddess, then she would understand his devotion and grant him the blessings.

Thus, from that day onwards, Khimav went on to become the Chief to have a commanding position over the Giants. He made many convert their faith to Mother Seia and became a devout believer of her.

What the priest said wasn't a hoax, as soon after he got the Goddess a few devotees, she blessed him.

The blessing was what brought his wife back to normal health, but she was in a coma and her illness still hadn't vanished.

However, her life was preserved and she wouldn't die or wither away with the passage of time.

There was just one more hurdle he had to overcome and his wife would be back to normal. His two children would also not be sad anymore and cry for their mom.

The cries of his children still buzzed in Khimav's ears. They had been in such a shock that, they changed completely.

Yaza and Naberiu lost their youthful innocence and turned into stoic personalities. The two moved away from the island and went to participate in wars for other races and kept themselves distracted.

They didn't visit their mother even once in fifty years. It was only Khimav who visited her everyday. However, he didn't blame them and could understand their pain. If they wanted to cope in such a manner, then so be it.

"...Just... a little longer..."

Khimav said gently once again.

The ex-chief's faction was the only one that worshiped Mother Helvia. It was due to them that the last few people in the Giant Society were still stubbornly refusing to pray to Mother Seia.

Khimav was strong enough to wipe them out, but doing so would cause a lot of disorder in the kingdom and the last batch of people would never worship Mother Seia.

He thus had to be lenient and pretend that he was neutral in this matter and not doing anything, when in reality, he was the one pulling the strings behind the curtains.

In the past few years, Malros's faction had been provoked quite a lot of times by Cimir's. They broke many rules as they still weren't used to Khimav's reign.

The initial few times, they were simply let go with a warning, and Khimav was successful in letting everyone in the kingdom know how good of a Chief he was.

It got to the point that many from Malros's faction broke apart as they refused to do the 'dirty' work of Malros. They refused to meddle with Cimir's faction and wanted to be out of these politics.

The things that took place in the court two days ago were also orchestrated by Khimav. It was the second last step of his great plans.

The last step would be to forever banish them, then kill them in seclusion, and have everyone in the society converted to worshiping Mother Seia.

Just a little longer... a few more days at best...

.....

Back in the dungeon.

"So... what's your goal?"

Lith was staring at Lucas as if he was a funny animal.

Despite being startled out of his wits and having a chill run down through him, Lucas tried to keep his calm and answer.

Firstly, he asked, "...My goal?"

"Your goal. What are you upto, where are you going to go, what are you going to do, and so on."

[Warning: mentioning about the apocalypse will hasten it!]

[Warning: mentioning about the apocalypse will hasten it!]

[Warning: mentioning about the apocalypse will hasten it!]

.

.

.

[Quest: Lie to the questioner(difficulty: F) has started.]

[Reward: Breakthrough assist for Half King Rank.]

[Penalty: Death.]

"..."

The damned system decided things for himself once again. There was no way to avoid this quest.

However, being an old being, Lucas's brain quickly came up with something that would lead to his benefit.

"I have no plans for now. I've been wandering, trying to avoid wars, and slowly cultivating to achieve a breakthrough."

"I see." Lith nodded thoughtfully. 'If Lucas had nothing to do then—'

"Your Highness... there's a slight problem."

Sylvia's voice cut off Lith's thoughts and made him turn to her.

He instructed Lucas to stay in place and walked over to Sylvia to see what the problem was.

"There's a remnant will of a higher being here." Sylvia pointed at a red strand coiled into a sphere in a certain branch on the tree.

"It's really powerful. If I touch it, it would overpower me and I would die." Sylvia answered flatly.
"Do you want me to proceed?"

Again, Sylvia was someone who didn't wish to live. Be alive or be dead, it did not matter to her.

Lith sighed and flicked Sylvia's forehead. "Stop having such thoughts. Anyway, as long as the will's overpowered by someone who has a stronger one, it would be fine, right?"

Sylvia nodded. "That's right. If you could have a stronger bloodline than this person's, it would also work."

"Stronger bloodline..."

Lith said to himself softly and then stared at the will.

'Hmm...'

'...System, can I handle that will? Is it on the level of Grand Lust Sovereign?'

[Analyzing...]

[Answering...]

[The will is weaker than Grand Lust Sovereign's. The Host should be able to handle it. However, caution is advised as pain is inevitable.]

'So I'll have to bear some pain?'

[Yes.]

'Alright.'

Since it wasn't going to be a problem if Lith handled it and chances of succeeding were high, he had an idea.

He turned to look at Sylvia and instructed, "Go home and bring Hyunsuk here."

Sylvia tilted her head in confusion, wondering why the Prince would require someone so weak like that, but it wasn't her place to question his order and thus, giving him a bow, she left.

And thus, Lith awaited Hyunsuk's arrival.

Chapter 1018 Danger!

"Master."

Hyunsuk clasped his hand and bowed before Lith, speaking in a monotonous voice. His voice even rivaled Sylvia's that had not a single ounce of emotion behind it.

"Hyunsuk, hold onto my shoulder. Make sure to not leave it."

Lith instructed and faced the remnant will.

Hyunsuk nodded in understanding and extended his hand up to hold onto his shoulder. But, he was unable to.

"Master, bend over."

"..." Lith

"..." Sylvia

Lith turned around and saw Hyunsuk's hand was indeed not able to reach his shoulder. He was short, around 175 cm or 180 cm.

Rubbing his temples, Lith wondered whether Hyunsuk had no common sense or whether it was just him who had a dirty mind.

In any case, he didn't say anything to Hyunsuk and said, "Hold onto my waist instead."

Hyunsuk grabbed a handful of Lith's non-existent love handles. The grip wasn't good because there was barely any fat there.

If his Master moves, then his hold would break loose. Hence, coming up with a proper strategy, Hyunsuk decided to hug Lith from behind, which he did right after Lith turned around.

Lith soon felt something warm behind his cold back.

His lips twitched, but he didn't say anything to Hyunsuk this time.

He needed him to be in physical contact with him. If the grip was lost during the remnant will removing process, then the situation would be slightly problematic.

Lith needed Hyunsuk's boundless luck. The halo on his head was a source of trouble and to offset it, who else would be better than a Charm?

Once he was in place, Lith channeled his spiritual power at the remnant will and began suppressing it.

The moment a strand of his spiritual power touched it, like current finding itself in a closed circuit, a strong aura charged flowed into Lith's body.

A prickling sensation made him want to scratch his body apart, but he gritted his teeth and channeled more of his spiritual power into it.

Soon, on every millimeter over his skin, Lith felt as if someone was poking him with a needle from inside. His mind screamed and his body wanted to withdraw its spiritual power from the will, safeguarding itself, but he persisted.

Sylvia could see Lith's face turning red with each passing second while Hyunsuk who was behind him was as expressionless as ever. It seemed that things didn't affect him.

A few moments later.

"Huff!"

Lith sent a last wave of his spiritual power into the will and it finally was absorbed fully by him.

The moment the last strand of it went inside his body, Lith was taken to another realm of consciousness for a second.

He saw a glimpse of the same crimson-eyed woman in a mighty hall, then appeared back to reality.

This confirmed a few things for Lith.

This woman was the one behind all of this. Secondly, beings of the higher plane could have their influence on the lower ones. It wasn't a lot, but it was of a considerable degree to harm individually targeted people.

Lith fell into deep thoughts as he pondered over a few more things in this regard.

Higher level beings were seen as constellations in the night sky and he could communicate with them due to his system. However, did others have such notifications pop up in their minds too?

If yes, how was this possible? If not, then how were they able to know which constellation was speaking and their ability to burn providence and do gestures?

Constellations or otherworldly deities could provide contracts and grab someone from the lower realms. However, why hasn't there been any instance of it appearing in his own world?

Was there something blocking it or was there a different reason altogether?

It was a quite fascinating development. Lith had a feeling that answers to these questions would soon be answered in the Sacred Celestial Realm when he goes to visit the Martial Master.

Speaking of Martial Master, Lith wondered how Miwa was doing right now. Her Master was the same guy who killed her. It seemed like an illusion at first, but Miwa described it to be very real, which could mean that it was indeed a real event.

Killing and resurrecting someone wasn't an unknown thing, afterall.

Hopefully, Miwa was doing good wherever she was. Had she been here, she would've been easily able to suppress this will with her bare hands.

Miwa had some sort of special physique that made her immune to all auras and pressure from higher beings.

She either didn't have the ability to perceive the pressure or her constitution was just that strong to overcome any aura in the world.

Lith, Ralph, and Dennis had collectively blasted their auras before her during their training session. It happened unknowingly as they were busy with their own stuff, but moments later when Lith made his own aura explode, Dennis called him out and asked him to retract it. He felt suffocated and was on his knees.

Ralph was in a similar situation while only Miwa was looking at everyone with a dumbfounded gaze, wondering what was up with them.

'I'll see you soon, for sure, Miwa.'

Friends were hard to come by, especially someone as genuine as Miwa. He didn't have any romantic feelings for her, but that did not mean he disliked her company.

Coming back to reality, Lith found himself still being hugged by Hyunsuk and Sylvia staring at him with a curious, emotionless gaze.

Rubbing his temples, he said, "Hyunsuk, get off."

Hyunsuk did as asked and tried to suppress his yawn. He was really bored.

Lith ignored him and then checked up on the lady stuck in a demonic tree.

The demonic aura from her had vanished while he was lost in thoughts and the tree was slowly withering.

Lith asked the Giant girl and Sylvia to stay by the woman and watch over her. She should be back to normal soon, while he took Hyunsuk and walked over to Lucas.

Lucas stared at him with a somewhat fearful gaze. He didn't know what this creature would do to him. At present, even though he was a reincarnated being, far stronger in his past life than the present Lith, he still felt a slight fear.

Lith looked at Lucas and said with a calm gaze, "I wanted to ask what you were upto so as to see whether you're busy or not, but I've changed my mind now."

Lucas didn't have a good feeling about this.

Lith looked right into Lucas's black eyes with a serious gaze and said, "I am quite curious about your system."

'Huh!?'

Lucas's hair stood on their ends as his vision darkened. Continuous chill went down his spine and he unconsciously shuddered.

Not only he, but it seemed as if the system was shocked by this revelation as well, given by how it didn't utter a single word.

Despite being aware of the turmoil Lucas was going through, Lith continued, "You'll be staying by my side. I want to research that system of yours."

"!!!!"

[Danger!]

[Danger!]

[Danger!]

.

.

.

[Teleporting...]

[Teleporting...]

Lith saw the space around Lucas bend. Without wasting time, he called out, "Sylvia."

Sylvia appeared in an instant before him. She didn't need to be told what to do as she threw a punch at Lucas's guts, sending him crashing into the walls behind.

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

The force with which Sylvia hit him made him burst through four layers of the dungeon's walls.

His bones broke apart, blood gushed out of his mouth, and with such a powerful punch from a Supreme Rank, his Saint Rank physique went into a coma.

"You hit him hard." Lith pointed out.

"My apologies."

From her flat tone, Sylvia didn't seem apologetic, but that was just the way she spoke.

"Hyunsuk, take him and ask others to ensure he doesn't run away. Sylvia, drop Hyunsuk and that guy in the castle and be back."

The two nodded their heads and went to do as Lith had asked them.

Lith then went back to the Giant girl and watched her aunt recover at a visible pace.

The tree withered away and the Giant girl's aunt's body slowly started appearing.

It was sickly pale and quite thin for a Giant. Her stature was also half the size of the Giant girl, almost similar to Lith's.

By the time the woman fully appeared, Sylvia was back by Lith's side.

She ensured to cover the nude woman in front and help her recover faster and properly.

The Giant girl was in tears and sobbed continuously. Her mind was probably blank and she was in no state to converse, thought Lith.

Ten minutes later.

The woman's eyes fluttered open. Her hazy vision soon gained clarity as she saw the Giant girl.

"Nika..."

"Aunt!"

The girl burst into tears and hugged her aunt, unable to stay put anymore.

Lith backed a step away with Sylvia and gave the two some alone time.

The girl, whose name Lith now knew was Nika, wailed in happiness and sorrow while the woman, although sad, kept her tears to herself and consoled the girl.

The girl's sobbing was quite loud. Even though Lith was away from her, it felt as if someone was screaming in his ears.

Maybe it was due to this, but he felt something wriggle on his back.

Turning to the side, Lith saw his aunt make some movements.

'Oh, I totally forgot about her.'

She was so light and unmoving that she seemed to have blended into Lith's body. She didn't become a hindrance while he battled or made any movements. It was quite odd.

"Mhm..."

Mayzin mumbled softly as her hold on Lith tightened, making him gasp.

'Oof...'

She seemed to be waking up.

"...huwaaa..."

A soft yawn was heard by Lith, but he couldn't react to it as he was busy gripping onto his aunt's hands, trying to put them away from his neck and letting him breathe.

Mayzin's hold was too tight!

Lith's face turned red as a tomato and veins popped everywhere on his neck and face.

"Mhm... where am... I?"

Chapter 1019 Finding A Treasure

"Huff... Huff..."

Lith was gasping for air as Mayzin set him free.

She looked around and found herself in a dungeon. In front of her, two ladies had their eyes red and were staring back at her.

'I seem to have seen her before...'

There was a certain moment where Mayzin had woken up. She didn't remember when, but she recalled looking at this woman's eyes and having a strange power stare back at her.

'If only I was awake...'

Even though she might've woken up in the middle of her power nap, her memory about it was hazy. Being a Dragon, her personality was tuned to sleeping whenever it was possible and hunting for treasures.

It may sound like a stereotype, but sadly, Mayzin checked all the boxes and was a typical Dragon true to her nature. There was no helping it.

'Now, where is it...'

Mayzin's attention shifted from the ladies in front and she looked around. There was a reason she woke up. It certainly had some reason to do with the disturbance caused by Nika, but there was another major one.

While Mayzin walked away, Nika turned to Lith.

Her eyes were moist and bending down to reach his eye level, she held his hands together and said with her lips pursed, "Thank you. Thank you so much."

Those were her heartfelt words of gratitude. Saying anything more would just degrade the value of her thank yous, so she kept it short.

Lith gave her a small smile. "No worries."

"If there's anything I can do, please let me know. Me and my family are forever indebted to you."

Beside Nika, her aunt appeared. She took a knee and said with her palm on her chest, "We are forever indebted to your grace, Sire. Neither me nor my family will forgive the kindness you've bestowed upon us."

"Don't worry about it. This was a fair exchange, so there's no debt between us."

Lith had his own motives to help these people. He wasn't doing it for benefits, but because his aunt guided him to. What he would get out of it... he didn't know.

For now, he had a dragon clavicle healing potion recipe. He would need a dragon clavicle for it though. Those were hard to find as the strength of the potion was equivalent to the bone strength of the dragon.

If he wanted to make a King Rank potion, he would need a King Rank dragon's clavicle.

Nika, upon hearing Lith's comment, swiftly shook her head and said, "No, no, no. How can a mere recipe compare to what you've done for us? Even if we made you potions or artifacts for a thousand years, it wouldn't be enough to repay what you've done for us!"

There was no tone of flattery, but genuine appreciation. This was the first time Lith was hearing this and a sudden stir occurred in his heart, making him somewhat raise his eyebrows.

'Damn... this feeling...'

It was much better than killing somebody!

Who would've thought doing good deeds felt better than doing evil ones!

This feeling was even better than getting appreciated for cooking up some good food. There had been a lot of praises in the past from customers who liked his food, but that kind of appreciation and this kind of appreciation had a huge difference.

Lith wasn't able to describe how, but the current feeling was better than any he has ever felt.

The innocent eyes of Nika that were twinkling in front of him, and the gratitude-covered eyes of her aunt... they could not be faked.

'Is this what aunt wanted me to show?'

Thinking so, Lith turned to look at her, and found her searching for something.

Shaking his head, he turned to look back at Nika and her aunt.

"Well, since everything's good now, I suppose I'll leave. But before going, I wanted to ask, how exactly did you get trapped here?"

What Nika said only showed her side of the story. What happened to her aunt that caused her to turn into a tree was a mystery. Now, Lith had a chance to hear things from her side and piece the puzzle.

Nika's aunt furrowed her brows and her expression darkened. "We were ambushed," she said flatly, making Nika gasp in shock.

"There was a group of four figures in blue hooded cloaks that ambushed me and my husband. They created a situation where it appeared as if the dungeon was collapsing, but in reality, everything was perfectly fine."

Nika's aunt then bit her lower lip.

Lith could see she did it strongly as blood began oozing out of it.

"There was not much talk. They were simply after me because I was a 'potential seed for the Mother'. I don't know what that means and I was clueless at that time as well. My husband felt it was a bad omen and tried to cover for me so I could run, but the cloaked figures..."

The lady's eyes turned moist and a lump seemed to have been formed in her throat as she recalled the painful memories.

"...they were far too powerful."

She said after collecting her words.

She seemed to be moments away from bursting into tears, but somehow kept herself from doing so.

"My husband was brutally killed in front of my sight and I had some sort of restrictive spell placed on me. The next thing that I can remember was being shackled in this room and then turning into a tree. For the initial few days, I was conscious and normal, but later, everything seemed to have turned black."

Lith nodded in understanding. "So, how much time do you think has passed?"

This was an important question that was always asked to people who went through such things where they fell into a comatose-kind-of state.

The woman smiled wryly and said, "It feels like it's been a week since this incident happened, but that's surely not the case, right?"

Her niece Nika seemed to have matured. There was no way only a week had passed.

Nika held her aunt's hand and said with a sorrowful nod, "Not one week, but roughly a bit over fifty years have passed since you were turned into that state."

"Oh, Mother..." Nika's aunt covered her mouth and gasped in horror.

Nika's lips quivered and she continued in a low voice, "You have no idea how much has changed..."

Lith left the duo at this point. Their conversation was of no use to him as he had gotten the most out of the lady already.

Four cloaked figures that called her as a potential seed for the Mother. It probably had something to do with one of the two Goddesses. And one of the two was demonic in nature.

Having been around Gunther's faction, Lith did not feel a single trace of demonic energy in them. However, when in Semohr, he could feel a faint trace of it lingering in the air.

This meant that there was something wrong with Mother Seia's worshippers.

'Not to mention... I'm pretty sure that woman was Seia.'

The woman with crimson eyes that Lith saw in the spell, it was probably her.

Piecing together everything, it did not take a genius to know that things were wrong with the people worshipping Mother Seia, and with Seia herself.

'So the cloaked figures... probably extreme worshippers of Seia? Or are they perhaps someone related to the Seia faction in the administration?'

Things were pointing at the faction that was at odds with Gunther's father's side. Maybe it was them?

While thinking so, Lith walked towards his aunt who was searching for something.

SQUEAK—!

Something squishy got crushed beneath Lith's foot. Turning to look down, he accidentally stepped onto a rat.

Shaking his head and thinking it was a common thing in a dungeon, Lith ignored it and walked towards Mayzin.

The rat wasn't dead, but startled. It squeaked away as quickly as it could from the place.

"Aunt, what are you searching for?"

Lith asked Mayzin as he stood beside her.

"Treasure." Mayzin replied flatly.

"Why are you searching for it?" Lith asked with a smile.

"To find it?" Mayzin didn't look at him and continued to look in every corner.

"Why would you want to find it when you already have it?"

Mayzin knitted her brows. She turned to look at Lith and asked, "How do I already have it?"

If she had the treasure already, she wouldn't be searching for it. What was Lith saying?

Lith rubbed his non-existent stubble and said, "Aren't you already looking at it? Ain't I your biggest treasure?"

"..."

Mayzin's eyes twitched. "Say it again and I'll bury you right here and now."

Lith chuckled and tried to pinch Mayzin's cheek, but she slapped his hand away and got back to searching for the treasure.

Had it been before, Lith would've been punched in the abdomen until his guts spilled out.

After his date, now was a different case. She seemed to have become quite tolerant.

"So... how does the treasure look like?" Lith asked while searching alongside her.

"No idea. I just have a feeling that it's there somewhere."

"You're working on intuition?"

"Yes."

"Wow. What are the odds of finding a treasure that way?"

"80%"

"That high?"

"No."

"What?"

"90%"

"..."

The conversation was going to a level that hurt Lith's brain. He kept his silence and just rummaged the surroundings to see where this treasure that his aunt was looking forward to lay at.

Chapter 1020 Are You Sure It's A Rat?

Lith was walking deep in the dungeon with Mayzin and Sylvia, searching through every nook and cranny of it for the treasure.

Being a Supreme Rank Dragon, Mayzin's aura scared the beasts and kept them away.

With them out of the picture, this dungeon pretty much had nothing. At least those beasts provided beast cores that could be used in potions, artifacts, and arrays.

"Aunt, I seriously think that we shouldâ€œ"

Squeakâ€œ"

Lith stomped on something squishy again. Turning to look down down, it was a rat. A pudgy, hairy rat, about the size of a handball.

'Why are there so many rats here?'

This was the second time he accidentally stepped on one.

The rat squealed and aggressively struggled to move away as its life slowly slipped away due to Lith's foot on it.

Having no interest in killing it, Lith stepped away and the pudgy rat ran as fast it could, only to suddenly crash on a wall.

It shook its head, then made a run in Lith's opposite direction.

"Aunt."

Lith called out as he neared Mayzin.

Mayzin, digging the ground in a squatted position, turned to look at Lith as he called her.

"Aunt, I think we should..."

Lith stopped speaking as Mayzin squinted her eyes and glared at him. It seemed that she figured out what he was going to say and didn't want to hear it.

"...we should look and search some more, yes."

Lith got to work and gave up the idea of convincing her to leave.

Mayzin went back to digging the ground.

"Have you found any clues, aunt?"

"No. But if there's anything that feels out of place, that should be a good enough clue."

Lith wondered what out of place things could there be in this dungeon.

Time was slowly ticking and he had to be there to help Gunther. Without him, those guys might not be able to formulate a proper plan.

"Aunt, about the quest you gaveâ€"

Squeakâ€"

"..."

Lith frowned and turned around. Why was he hearing a rat's squeak so much?

"Your Highness, please take a look at this."

Sylvia walked towards Lith, holding a fat rat by its tail that was squealing on top of its lungs and trying to look for ground.

"This rat again?"

Now things were suspicious. One time was understandable. Two times were also somewhat understandable, but thrice?

Lith stood up and went near Sylvia.

"Your Highness..." Sylvia said in a monotonous tone. "What should I do about this? Kill it?"

"What's with the rat? How did you find it?"

"It was near our vicinity, bumping its head on walls and trying to escape. I caught it when it bumped into me."

"..."

Was this rat dumb? Did it have no survival instincts? Could it not feel his aunt's explosive Dragon aura or was this rat so weak that it couldn't actually perceive the aura?

"This rat sure is suspicious." Lith said.

Sylvia nodded. "Yes. It's also not actually a rat."

"What?"

"Oh, you guys found something?" Mayzin's gaze fell on them as she heard the commotion.

She dusted her hands and appeared beside Lith.

"Oh? A Druid?" Mayzin immediately said as she watched the squealing rat.

As if being caught red-handed, the rat's hair stood on their ends and it squealed and struggled to escape even harder.

"A Druid?" Lith was surprised hearing this word. "That's a Druid?"

"Yes. A strange one at that. I can't feel any aura from it." Mayzin said and took the rat from Sylvia, examining it.

"What happened to you? Why are you not showing your true form even after being caught?" Mayzin asked.

The rat squealed harder and tried to escape, making Mayzin knit her brows.

"Such a strong level of shape shifting. It looks nothing but an ordinary rat to me."

"Are you sure it's a Druid and not some ordinary rat?"

It looked like a rat, squeaked like a rat, and also smelled like a rat. Wasn't it really just a rat?

"No." Mayzin said. "It's not a rat. I need to figure out a way to cancel its shape shifting spell."

"Lady Mayzin, let me."

Sylvia grabbed the rat back from Mayzin and began drawing something strange on its body with her index finger's sharp nail.

Soon, a bright green light shimmered in the dark dungeon from the rat and Lith could feel elemental energy fluctuations near him.

Sylvia let go of the rat, and as the light diminished, a petite ginger-haired girl with small u-shaped horns present horizontally on her head came into light.

"A-a-a-ahâ€¹."

The girl was flustered and immediately tried to run, but bumped her head into a wall.

"Ow!"

Still, clutching her head, she tried to run away once more, but bumped her head into a wall again.

Lith and Mayzin looked at her with a dumbfounded gaze while Sylvia had a no change on her neutral face.

"A-ahâ€¦ ex..itâ€¦ exitâ€¦"

The girl ran again and this time, she bumped into Lith.

Instead of letting her wander around like a headless chicken, Lith held her shoulder and asked, "Why are you running?"

"Aaahhh!" The girl was startled and shrieked in fright.

"Calm down, will you?"

"Ahhhh!" The girl shouted and tried to run again, but Lith chopped at her neck with the side of palm and knocked her unconscious.

The girl's body limped on Lith's hand like a steamed spring onion and he said out loud "What's wrong with her?"

"Hmâ€¦" Mayzin had some idea in regards to it. "Let me see."

Mayzin raised the girl's head and opened her eyes to see into them.

She saw dull green pupils in her eyes. They lacked vibrancy and the saturation of green was so less that her pupils appeared almost gray.

"Yup. As I thought." Mayzin said and let the girl go.

"What thought?" Lith asked.

Mayzin pointed at the girl and said, "She's blind."

"Ohâ€¦"

Lith finally realized why the girl was running around like that.

"Blind?" Sylvia begged to differ. "A Druid of that level can be blind too?"

"It's surprising, but yes. That is indeed the case."

Lith wondered what the conversation was going on about. He didn't know much about Druids other than the fact that they did exist and were a race of people close to nature and could shape shift into any animal, beast, or plant.

"Is this girl's level high?" Lith asked the two.

"Yes. She should be equivalent to a Supreme Rank." Mayzin said without batting an eye.

"What!?"

It was a bit of a shock knowing this girl was a Supreme Rank and couldn't even see. Didn't Supreme Ranks have abilities to perceive and 'see' even without eyes?

Heck, let alone them, even Lith could spread out his spiritual sense and look at things even without his eyes.

Mayzin knew what was going on in his head. She pointed at the girl and replied, "That Druid's cultivation is suppressed, if I am not wrong. When she was in a rat form, her abilities strictly adhered to how a common rat would be. After she was taken out of it, I suppose Sylvia might've put a seal on her, hence she was still not able to see."

"Lady Mayzin is right." Sylvia nodded in affirmation.

"Oh."

Now it made sense.

"But why's she blind?"

"Wake her up and ask yourself." Mayzin said and yawned. She felt like having a short power nap again after so much searching.

"Now that we found the lead to the treasure, should we leave the dungeon? I suppose the girl will be calm once she finds herself in a better environment." Lith suggested.

"Works." Mayzin said nonchalantly.

Lith left the dungeon with her, Sylvia, and the Druid girl. They went to a comfortable Inn in Semohr and had the girl rest on a cozy bed.

As for Nika and her aunt, Lith left them to their own company. They might have a lot to talk about, and would do a reunion with their family. He didn't want to meddle with that.

She would settle down after a day or two, so there was some time before meeting her.

Lith, Mayzin, and Sylvia sat on wooden stools by the bedside and watched the sleeping Druid girl.

Lith and Sylvia sipped on tea while watching her and Mayzin yawned again.

If there was nothing stimulating happening, she would be bored and feel sleepy.

When she was with Lucifer, she would get annoyed by her constant harassment and would need to be on guard at all times. This kept her awake.

While managing her society's administration and getting busy doing work, she would also be awake and not feel the least bit sleepy.

However, right now, she had nothing to do as her role was only to watch over Lith and see him finish his quest.

Even though Lith was about as shameless as Lucifer or even worse than her, Mayzin knew he wouldn't harass her like that stupid otaku. There was nothing to worry about, so her guard was down and there was no stimulation.

There was a chance that Lith might kiss her again, but that didn't matter.

Yes, she was aware of the head kisses she got from Lith and also the warm caresses when she almost woke up a few times.

It reminded her of the warmth she got from her mother and kind of odd. Mayzin didn't hate it and wouldn't mind letting Lith do that again.

Maybe this shameless guy might kiss her on the lips and take cheap advantage, but that's about it. She had faith that he wouldn't go further than that.

Mayzin thus didn't mind.

Unknowingly, she was getting used to Lith's company and wasn't even aware that she was fine with him kissing her then lips. If Lith asked her about it when she was awake, she would surely beat him up.

Mayzin's eyelids drooped as her thoughts blanked out. In a few seconds, her head fell on Lith's shoulder and she dozed off.

Lith looked at her with visible surprise and thought, 'She slept again?'