

# Void 861

## Chapter 861 Movements [3]

Several days passed since then.

The Nox and Heaven's Armies continued their endless search for the mysterious expert, and while they partook in the occasional scuffle, they waited patiently for the heavenly material to bloom.

From the looks of it, it wouldn't take too much longer.

The intense spiritual aura from that material had already permeated the entire Wild Continent, assuring those watching for its development that it wasn't far from being birthed.

"Have we found anything about the location of the heavenly material?"

Currently, Lucas Streem was meeting with his advisor to go over plans and information formulated and gained over the past few days.

"Milord, we have been able to triangulate the general location of the treasure. It will be birthed in a mountain valley 150,000 kilometers to the north. However, we did not dare to get too close lest we disturb the heavenly material's birth process, so this is as much as we have gained." The advisor responded while pushing a number of documents across the desk.

Lucas picked them up and perused them. These documents outlined the movements of the opposing armies as well as details garnered and inferred about the treasure, essentially providing Lucas with all the information he needed at the moment.

'The Nox are still being cautious. It looks like that old bastard Theon got injured in the previous clash. Now is the perfect time to act, however, I must be patient. When the time comes, I shall eliminate Theon in front of everybody's eyes. Who will be able to doubt me then?!

His eyes burned with ambition as he looked through the rest of the documents. For the most part, there was nothing he didn't already know.

However...

'Hm? What is this? Since when did the Arcadia Guild become so powerful?'

Asuran Gate wasn't located anywhere near the Misty Wildlands, but Lucas had still heard about the illustrious reputation of the Arcadia Guild.

'The number of extreme peak beasts they've slaughtered is already mind-numbing, yet they've been slaying all the Nox they come across as well. In these few days, they've accumulated over double the contributions of the next best team!'

If their Guildmaster was present, their current achievements could be more easily explained. Yet, they were able to accomplish so much with only a 6th revolution master at their head?

'How?' Lucas furrowed his brows in thought.

He pulled up a holographic panel that showed the information of several people. Among them were the Arcadia members present in the Void Corridor.

'Overall, while they are an exceptional thing, there isn't anything uniquely special about them. Were they able to come across some sort of miraculous opportunity on the Wild Continent?'

If so, then they needed to be watched far closer.

'The Arcadia Guild might be powerful, but it isn't anywhere near our Asuran Gate. Haha, after I take their treasures, I should thoroughly enjoy Alexandra and Alice, these two sisters. I wonder how they taste...?'

Lucas licked his lips, his eyes flashing red. Just as he went to consult his advisor for another matter...

HONG!

"Who?!"

A massive aura fluctuation tore through the Asuran Gate base camp and traveled endlessly into the distance. Lucas immediately stood up and readied his weapon to defend against the force, but before he could, another fierce wave rushed past his body.

HONG!

"This... could this be...?!"

HONG!

The third energy wave spread, accompanied by the ringing sound of an ancient bell.

"It's here! It's finally here!" Lucas exclaimed.

"Xiao Bai, gather our forces! We are marching to the heavenly material as soon as possible!"

"Rest assured, Milord, the troops will be prepared for departure in half an hour."

The advisor bowed and disappeared. Meanwhile, Lucas clenched his fists and tried to calm himself.

'This opportunity...I will not waste it! If that expert decides to disrupt my plans, then he can only die with the Nox!'

Lucas stood up from his desk and began putting on his armor. He grabbed a nearby spear and stood silent for a second.

This was his big moment, his debut.

He would definitely put on a show that thoroughly impressed the Bloodlock Clan.

Then, he could finally start making his way up this universe's power ladder.

His plan was foolproof.

Truly foolproof.

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The three waves of power didn't just sweep over the Asuran Gate bass camp, but the entirety of the Wild Continent. As long as one wasn't an absolute dolt, it didn't take long to understand what was happening.

The heavenly material was finally being birthed!

Heaven's Army began to congregate immediately. Due to their large numbers, they were forced to split into several different groups for ease of transportation.

As for the Nox Army, even though Damien was able to wipe out a large portion of their forces, they still had a great number of troops remaining. However, because of their strict hierarchal system, it didn't take them nearly as long to gather and set off.

The Nox had an advantage when it came to reaching the heavenly material, but it was unknown whether or not they'd be able to keep it afterward.

Nevertheless, both armies set off for the heavenly material's location the instant they felt the power fluctuations.

It looked like the final battle of the Wild Continent would take place only a few days later.

Currently, Alexandra and Alice were with the rest of the Arcadia Guild's people in a section of the army led by the Ancient God Clan.

'We've successfully entered this army since Xinyue suggested it, so we should be relatively safe in comparison to others. However, the other task...'

Alexandra steeled herself and stopped thinking about it. Since it was her benefactor's request, it was naturally impossible to refuse.

She just didn't know how her second benefactor would react to her actions.

'No matter, no matter. In the end, this will only benefit him, so he shouldn't get mad and kill me...right?'

Alexandra didn't stay with that man long enough to have a good grasp on his personality, but he definitely didn't seem like a good person.

'But if Xinyue can trust him, then I can too.'

Xinyue didn't try to covertly send her off to complete tasks or anything of the sort. Rather, she was quite direct with her request, and even requested Alexandra's aid within the golden palace that man controlled.

He likely already knew about what she was tasked to do. If he didn't warn her before letting her leave...

'But he could be testing me...'

Alexandra complained inwardly and constantly contemplated the disadvantages of her actions, but before she knew it, her feet had already taken her to the Ancient God Clan members.

"Hm? A member of Arcadia? What have you come for?" A man asked.

"I have a message to pass to your elders. Please allow me to pass." Alexandra responded.

The man's eyes narrowed. "I'm afraid I cannot grant your request. Our elders aren't people who can be seen so easily."

Alexandra sighed. She expected this situation. Luckily, Xinyue did too and prepared an out for her beforehand.

Alexandra reached into her spatial ring and pulled out a small emblem no bigger than her palm. It was inscribed with a cross surrounded by a strange construct similar to a dimensional crack.

When the man saw it, his eyes widened. "This, this is...! Where did you get this emblem?!"

"Where do you think I got it? Do you think I am capable of taking it by force?" Alexandra replied without a change in tone.

"..."



The man hesitated for a second before lowering his guard.

"I understand. I will inform the elders right away. However, whether or not they see you is not up to me."

"Thank you," Alexandra said with a smile. "Ah, but before you go, please relay a message to them. Tell them I said 'Ancient Codex: Blue Grade Violation.'"

The man nodded his head in confusion and left to inform the elders of her visit.

And not even a full minute later, Alexandra found the space around her twisting as she arrived in a new location.

Chapter 862 Movements [4]

"State your name and affiliation."

An aged voice boomed the instant Alexandra regained her senses, almost directly bursting her eardrums.

"Agh!" She exclaimed as she covered her ears.

"State your name and affiliation."

The voice rang out again. Blood gushed through the cracks in Alexandra's fingers, spurting onto the floor around her.

Thud!

Alexandra collapsed to her knees. Her head was ringing, she couldn't form a coherent thought, the world around her was spinning uncontrollably, and it felt like any movement she made would kill her.

She closed her eyes and clenched her teeth in an attempt to muffle her voice and endure the pain. Just as she did, the ancient voice rang out again.

"Sta—"

"Stop."

A second voice rang out instead, quelling the furious power of the first.

Alexandra collapsed to the ground convulsing.

"Look what you have done. How do you expect her to answer your questions in this state? How have you lived for so long and remained the same brainless man?"

The second voice, that of a gentle woman, admonished the first as it grew closer to Alexandra.

"Girl, forgive him for his actions. He is an impulsive idiot who doesn't know how to think properly. He only gained his elder seat through brute strength."

A warm hand approached in the darkness. The woman placed her palm on the convulsing Alexandra's forehead and inserted a stream of gentle mana into her body.

Alexandra's convulsions immediately stopped. Her body began to heal as well, even becoming stronger than it was before.

She opened her eyes with a slight struggle and looked up, only to be faced with the most beautiful woman she'd ever seen.

"S-senior! Thank you for saving me!" She immediately exclaimed, bowing her head.

The woman smiled. "No need for thanks. As that idiot Third Elder injured you, I have provided you with some compensation. Now, can you tell us who you are?"

Alexandra immediately nodded, completely ignoring the Third Elder who'd brought her to the ground in the first place.

"Senior, I am Alexandra from the Arcadia Guild. Today, I have come to deliver a message to the Ancient God Clan Elders."

"Oh? And the message is from...?"

"The message is from a friend of mine named Xinyue. From what I know, she is also the Young Master of your Ancient God Clan."

The woman nodded. "Indeed she is. Is she the one who told you that code?"

"Yes, senior, however, she did not tell me what it means."

"I see..." the woman said with a sigh, "Third Elder, are you ashamed yet?"

"What nonsense." The Third Elder harrumphed, disinclined to interact further.

The woman shrugged her shoulders and turned her attention back to Alexandra. "Was there anything else Xinyue told you?"

"Yes, Xinyue had an additional message. She told me to tell you, 'Enter the golden palace to find the answers we seek.'"

"Golden palace...?" The woman muttered. "So that mysterious expert is the Ancient Codex Violation? It seems Xinyue has found something interesting."

"Miss Alexandra, you may leave now. The message had been received."

Alexandra hesitated for a bit, but in the end, she retreated. However this matter proceeded, it had nothing to do with her anymore. This much was already far above her pay grade.

Within the Ancient God Clan camp, the woman sat silently, a group of Elders around her.

"Madam, why did you let her go? We have no way to verify her intentions, it is not wise to let her loose." An elder said.

"Indeed, Madam. This is against how we usually conduct ourselves. Especially in the face of an Ancient Codex Violation, we cannot act so lax!" Another elder agreed.

"Are you all of the same opinion?" The woman asked as she panned her gaze across the elders.

Several of them avoided her gaze, making their tacit agreement known.

The woman sighed. "Has our Ancient God Clan been raising fools all these years? You are only focusing on one part of Xinyue's message while ignoring the rest. How can I trust you with the clan if you act so recklessly?"

"Listen, Xinyue specifically categorized the violation as Blue Grade. Along with that, she has told us to enter the golden palace ourselves. Does anyone here doubt Xinyue's loyalty to the clan?"

"Absolutely not! It is impossible for the Young Master to turn traitor!" An elder exclaimed. His words were followed by numerous murmurs of agreement.

The woman smiled seeing this. "If Xinyue is not a traitor, then why has she categorized our most supreme violation as a mere Blue Grade?"

The elders went silent.

There were several codexes and scripts that the Ancient God Clan followed. Only the Ancient Codex encompassed those rules of the ancestors, mainly the harsh rules in place for the All-Seeing Eyes.

If Xinyue specifically stated an Ancient Codex Violation, it meant that she'd found an outsider with All-Seeing Eyes.

However, along with the several codexes, the Ancient God Clan had a different system to label the severity of a crime.

Blue Grade was second only to Purple Grads. Assigning a Blue rating meant Xinyue thought the outsider was extremely powerful and needed to be carefully confronted.

However, it also meant she didn't think the problem was worthy of being Purple Grade.

For Ancient Codex Violations, Purple Grade was essentially guaranteed.

"When was the last time there was a change in the Mist-Piercing Mirror?" The woman suddenly asked.

Immediately, every elder's eyes widened into saucers.

Right, how could they forget?

The Mist-Piercing Mirror that could be used to locate any trace of Ancient God Clan bloodline and the All-Seeing Eyes in the universe hadn't budged in several thousand years.

No member of the Ancient God Clan had violated their doctrine, and no existing threat remained in the universe.

If so, then how did this person get their hands on the All-Seeing Eyes?

"This must be the question Xinyue hasn't been able to answer. By the fact that she was able to easily send a messenger to us, it is clear that the other party is not hostile. I suggest we peacefully confront him before resorting to more unscrupulous means."

"Does anyone have any objections?"

The woman's eyes panned over the elders once more, lingering on the few who'd tried to educate her a moment ago.

There were no responses to her question.

"Good, then I will personally take a delegation with me to the golden palace after this heavenly material squabble ends. Until then, you are to regard the golden palace and its owner as distinguished guests of our Ancient God Clan. Any action against him will not be tolerated. Understood?"

""Understood!"" The elders responded in unison.

The woman nodded and sent them out of her residence.



Left alone, the woman sat in silence for a moment.

Suddenly, her eyes curved into crescents.

Her body shuddered as if she was holding back something big.

'Is it you? Have I finally found you?' She wondered inwardly.

It had been so many years that she'd almost forgotten her identity and purpose.

The current Ancient God Clan was nothing like its previous self.

She had been numb to emotion for so long trying to keep the clan surviving, but today, she felt a rush of emotion that almost capsized her.

Her heart palpitated in curiosity and anticipation.

'Young Master, have you finally come?'

Chapter 863 Birthed [1]

'Is it around here somewhere...?'

The damp cave walls dripped with unknown liquid, filling the entire cave system with a strange yet oddly calming scent.

Damien walked through the cave system for several hours without end, almost to the point where his perception of time began to blur.

At the moment, he was chasing something indescribable.

'I felt something strange during the trials, but that feeling came from deep within the Wild Continent. I wasn't sure if there would be tunnels connecting to such locations, but I should be able to get relatively close as long as I keep following this route.'

Even Damien didn't know exactly what he was looking for, only that it was important.

After all, a long-forgotten ability of his eyes had activated, the same ability that allowed him to sense Kurt Galloway's subspace and even Zara back when he was in the First Dungeon.

This sense always warned him about extraordinary danger or opportunity.

It had been dormant for a very long time. It was evident that this particular ability had extremely high standards for reacting.

Hadn't it been the only reason Damien saved Zara back then? Who would've thought that she was a being with such mysterious origins?

Knowing the past track record of this ability, Damien wasted no effort to try and find the source of that feeling, but as far as he'd been searching, he'd been unsuccessful.

'The only thing changing is this burning heat in my chest. The sensation has been incrementally growing fiercer with every second.'

It felt like the sun was blazing within his Mana Heart.

Yet, this sensation made Damien feel like he was continuously getting closer to the source of his troubles and curiosity.

Rumble!

Just as he stood up to continue searching, the earthen walls and ceiling enclosing the space began to shake chaotically.

HONG!

HONG!

HONG!

Three ancient bell rings that sounded almost vibrant were accompanied by three shockwaves that threatened to collapse the cave system Damien was in.

His attention was immediately drawn to the surface. His gaze pierced through reality, allowing him to see the slight gold hue that had permeated the Wild Continent's atmosphere.

'I see, so that heavenly treasure is finally blooming. The surface will become chaotic soon enough.' Damien thought with a grin.

'If this thing turns out to be what I think it is, my plans will proceed far smoother than expected. Haha, just gather in peace and fight those fools from Asuran Gate for now. I'll make sure both of you exit this world together.'

Damien shook his head with a smile and began moving again. From the looks of it, there were still several days before he needed to act. In that time, he had a few specific goals he absolutely needed to accomplish.

'Which means no more dawdling.'

His eyes sharpened.

It was time for him to get serious.

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A few hundreds of thousands of kilometers wasn't a distance that meant anything to a high-level 4th class expert, but when it came to moving as an army, even such a distance became taxing.

Putting aside the weaker forces that held the army back, there were also several security matters, conformity rules, and other circumstances that made it difficult for Heaven's Army to move at its full potential speed,

Overall, it took almost an entire week to reach the mountain valley where the heavenly material was hatching.

The groups of Heaven's Army joined together 4 days in and passed the great mountain that blocked them from their location.

It was a grueling journey for many, especially near the end, but most of them were able to make it through without dying.

Lucas stepped over the horizon, his figure occupying one of the two great mountains bordering the valley. Behind him, several million troops stood uniformly, slightly separated by unit and squad.

'Damn, we're late.' He thought with narrowed eyes.

As he gazed across the valley, he could clearly see the repulsing form of Sir Theon and his elite troop standing at a spot nearly parallel to his own.

Lucas furrowed his brows. 'As expected, his troop is far less numerous than it was previously. That mysterious expert really did leave a severe blow.'

It wasn't just the troops, even Sir Theon himself had a slightly weaker aura than he did previously.

'Just how?'

Lucas couldn't wrap his head around it. Even he, someone who stood on par with Sir Theon, couldn't leave a lasting internal injury on the man. Just how powerful was the mysterious expert to do so and escape without his identity being known?

In reality, Sir Theon was injured by the backlash of his own skill when the Demon God Summoning failed to consume its target, but that was perhaps even more embarrassing!

What would Sir Theon and Lucas do when they realized the mysterious man they'd been fearing and respecting was actually a junior that they could kill with a single slap?

Nevertheless, that was a story for another time.

At the moment, these two men stood across from each other and, despite the distance, didn't break eye contact even once.

Silence descended on the mountain valley.

All eyes were drawn to a small golden light that appeared in the dirt.

"Haha, nobody can stop me now!"

A voice suddenly rang out. A Nox being stood near the golden light, seemingly having snuck there while the two sides were busy standing off.

The sound of necks snapping in his direction was almost palpable.

Countless eyes went red with envy.

"How dare you take what's mine?!"

"Catch him first, we can compete later!"

"Hahaha, you are all too weak for this treasure!"

From both Heaven's Army and the Nox side, several weaker or less intelligent beings shot forward. The original Nox was cut down in an instant as several thousand others tried to take his place and steal the material before it bloomed.

However...

Thuk!

Thuk!

Thuk!

Bodies suddenly started dropping on the floor. Their vitality was sucked away and they were turned into lifeless husks in an instant.



Numerous small vines receded into the ground after completely devouring the thousands who charged early.

Their blood and vitality nurtured the half-birthed secret treasure.

The true golden light below the ground was tinged golden-red.

Rumble!

'Those idiots caused changes in the heavenly material, but they also caused it to bloom faster. I can't say whether this is a blessing or a curse.' Lucas thought to himself as he watched the ground split apart.

He didn't stop those people, and neither did Sir Theon.

It was for the sole purpose that their sacrifice, even if it changed the nature of the heavenly material, would definitely strengthen it.

And finally...

BOOM!

The ground burst into countless fragments that flew into the surroundings and embedded themselves into any solid surface they could find, including the bodies of many unfortunate souls.

From the cracked earth, a massive vine rose into the sky. Beautiful iridescent flowers bloomed on its surface with every few meters that it raised out of the ground, growing large enough that even a single flower could eclipse several dozen people.

'This is it...!' Lucas exclaimed.

He didn't know the exact identity of the treasure, but the breath it exuded was extremely enticing. It felt like even a Supreme like him could benefit from consuming this treasure.

Realizing this, he didn't hesitate to make the call.

"Heaven's Army, don't falter! Charge and take the treasure before those scums can!"

Chapter 864 Birthed [2]

"Charge!"

"We charge!"

"Onward!"

Calls for confrontation spread through the army as Lucas' command was passed down. The several million-strong army immediately split into several parts that operated autonomously but kept in contact with each other.

RUMBLE!

Even more than it did when the heavenly material first surfaced, the ground rumbled under the combined footsteps of Heaven's Army.

On the other side, Sir Theon harrumphed loudly. "Hmph! Look at those hypocrites go. If they win here, how can we ever show our faces in the future? Charge! Charge and kill everything!"

As both sides made their move, the vine finally stopped growing. Several thousand kilometers in the sky, the dual flowers at the very tip of the vine slowly bloomed.

One gold and one silver, one hot and one cold, the two flowers created untold harmony with their existence.

But more than them...

In the center of those flowers, one could faintly make out a certain structure holding a large amount of liquid.

'That's the true heavenly material.' Lucas and Sir Theon realized together.

The entire vine was polluted with treasures galore, but the only one that truly mattered was the liquid at the top. Only that was worthy of being called a heavenly material!

Two armies clashed in the valley below.

Experts clashed in the sky above, fighting for those flowers that bloomed on the vine's stem.

And finally, on par with the clouds were two experts eyeing the same treasure.

Now that they'd come face to face, it was time for them to settle old and new debts.

Only one of them would be walking out of here alive.

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Haa...

One breath.

Haa...

Two breaths.

Haa...

Alexandra's eyes remained focused. Her perception of time was anchored to the speed of her breathing, and the way she confronted her enemies seemed to portray her in a completely different light than before she'd entered the golden palace.

At that time, she'd been instantly turned into a spirit and rid of most of her fighting capacity. Back then, she was nothing more than a pig on the chopping block.

Now, however, her body had been reconstructed by Damien, who allowed her to possess far more potential than she originally had, and then strengthened a second time by the woman from the Ancient God Clan.

Without even realizing it, Alexandra received a comprehensive increase in power that was only showing itself on this occasion.

'Earthly Hellstorm!'

She slammed her foot down on the ground, causing the earth to ripple and change properties. The ground below acted like a wave of water, sweeping through the enemies in front of Alexandra and clearing a path for her to get to the flower ahead.

"Haa!"

Boom!

Just as she snatched the flower, a powerful shot of flaming mana narrowly missed her head. She turned around with bloodlust in her eyes, only to find an unexpected visitor.

"Clyde." She muttered through gritted teeth.

"Alex, you recognized me! How sweet!" The man named Clyde exclaimed with a perverse smile.

"What is your intention? You are actually attacking your comrades at this juncture?!" Alexandra yelled back.

Clyde's grin fell slightly.

"Aha, so you're unaware! Well..."

Xiu!

Alexandra's senses jumped, forcing her to rapidly move her body at an impossible angle.

She found herself looking up at where her head once was. There, a burning black hellflame was flickering without any intention of going out.

In the next second, Clyde's face took up her vision.

"There's no such thing as eternal allies or eternal enemies, my dear Alex." He proclaimed with a smile.

"The only thing that matters in this world..."

Clyde raised his arm, his hand sharpening and transmuting into a blade.

"...is benefits."

Clyde swung down, aiming to decapitate Alexandra in one strike.

However, she was no longer the same person he knew.

Yellowish-brown mana coated the surface of her skin.

Boom!

Clyde's arm blade cut through Alexandra's body, but Clyde didn't show any satisfaction.

That strike...

Crumble!

Before he could even ponder it, Alexandra's body crumpled into hundreds of rock shards that fell powerlessly to the ground.

"You have betrayed your homeland." Alexandra's voice came from further away.

"You are an Elder of Mystic Wind Pavillion. You are supposed to be a leader of Heaven's Army, a person that all troops can look up to. You've betrayed the Angel Race, betrayed your sect, and betrayed the universe itself..."



A wave of power spread. A yellowish-brown hue coated the air for several kilometers, entrapping Clyde.

"...your blood shall be a reminder for those of future generations! Our Grand Heavens Boundary is inviolable!"

'Spirit of Earth, Voice of the Wild, answer my call.'

Alexandra chanted in her head while galvanizing her mana. While it felt like eternities in her mind, it took less than an instant for her call to be answered.

Guuuooooohhh!

An ancient groan rang out.

BOOM!

The earth exploded. A titanic arm shot out from within and slammed down into the ground below, crushing Clyde in the process.

"Khhh...!" Clyde exhaled through gritted teeth as he tried to keep his blood in his mouth. He pushed against the massive hand with all his strength, but found that he could barely evenly match it.

"What is this?!" He roared. "Who are you?! You are not Alex!"

Hearing the screams from her delusional ex-stalker, Alexandra smirked.

"That's right, I am not the Alex that you can pressure anymore. Starting today..."

BANG!

"...I am reborn."

She slammed her hand down. The massive earthly hand followed her movement, slamming down and leaving no space between the ground and it.

Clyde was flattened into meatpaste and then flattened further into fine particulates that couldn't be seen with the naked eye.

After his destroyed body transformed into ink and she destroyed him a second time, she paid no him no more mind.

'That flower must have some special properties if it's attached to the heavenly material's stem. I must get to it before that man appears and starts ruining everything.'

Unlike everyone else, who merely raced against each other, Alexandra also had to race against time!

Even though she'd just achieved a piece of revenge that she'd been desiring for a very long time, she could even celebrate or revel in it.

She moved instantly and with efficiency, even completely avoiding many opponents for the sake of speed.

She was well aware. At some point, this place would be showered in blood without mercy. The Nox, and maybe even a part of Heaven's Army, would likely face calamity.

'Dammit! That man truly moves without any consideration for others!'

Alexandra complained inwardly while slicing through another enemy. She approached closer and closer until she finally landed on the massive flower.

There were 19 others on the flower with her. As soon as she stepped onto its surface...

The petals closed.

The 20 people in the flower were isolated from the rest of the world, and at the same time, a portion of the flower opened up and revealed a beautiful golden honey-like substance there.

It was evident what they were to do.

The last one standing would win the treasure, while the rest would become nutrients for this plant.

Fighting began immediately.

But rather than joining them, Alexandra stood back and observed.

There was something strange going on here, and before she found out what it was, even the gods themselves wouldn't be able to move her.

Chapter 865 Madness [1]

The situation around the heavenly vine soon became chaotic.

The Nox and Heaven's Army forces clashed fiercely, laying waste to the surrounding environment. Bodies dropped constantly, and as the earth was stained in red, the golden red aura around the heavenly vine began to shift and become redder and redder.

With so many millions of troops fighting fiercely, not everyone could stay around the heavenly vine. Several hundreds of thousands of kilometers had been transformed into a battlefield, this whole region becoming a bloody slaughter domain.

Near the outskirts of this region, several 3rd class soldiers fought fiercely against the endless waves of mindless Lesser Nox.

They split into countless teams and formed a defensive line that absolutely couldn't be penetrated, and even among these teams, roles were properly distributed for peak efficiency.

The first role was the tanks. This role also had the most people, as the tanks held the line and drew the aggression of these Lesser Nox to allow their teammates to attack.

The second role was the damage dealers. These people had highly destructive abilities and precise control, which allowed them to rapidly blitz the massive crowd of Lesser Nox and lessen their numbers considerably.

The third role was the cleaners. These troops mainly had wide area destruction skills, which they used to exterminate the ink remains of deceased Nox so they couldn't recombine with their comrades and form a greater threat.

Within these three roles, there were several subsidiary positions, and even outside of these main roles, there were several other positions. Together, even with their 3rd class strength, they even had the ability to hold off a small number of 4th class beings.

Boom!

A burst of Nox Mana impacted a man's shield.

"Khh...!" He groaned as he absorbed the impact.

"Josh, now!"

"On it!"

A man jumped over his head as soon as he made the call. The man's twin blades slashed through the air with absolute precision, followed by an almost invisible trail of green light.

Shing!

The cutting of air also symbolized the death of a group of several hundred Nox. The man named Josh immediately retracted his blades and retreated behind the shielded man the second he finished attacking.

Voom!

A burning ball of light appeared above the two men. It crashed down into the crowd that had formed to replace those Nox who died, spreading a wave of fire several hundred meters into the surrounding.

A woman walked up behind the two men, a crystal ball floating next to her head. "Josh, Elliot, we can't delay any longer! Let's join up with the main squad!"

"We can't! We don't have any space to move!" Elliot yelled back.

"Then we'll make room! Otherwise, we can only die!"

"Tch! Why do I have to do all the work again?!"

Elliot clicked his tongue in unwillingness, but his steely gaze didn't falter in the slightest.

Jess, the female witch, was right. They had been pushed almost an entire kilometer away from the main defense line, and with their current situation, only death awaited them.

"Fuck!" Elliot roared. Mana blazed around his body and congregated on his shield.

'Flaming Bull Run!'

VOOM!

Elliot burst into a ball of flames as he charged forward. His every step caused the ground to shake, and the Nox in his path were turned to cinders upon contact.

As he ran, Josh and Jess followed behind him, clearing the sides and making sure that the Nox couldn't interrupt Elliot's charge at all.

With Josh's agility and Jess' great long-range power, they were able to successfully support Elliot as he carved a path through the Nox horde.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

As the group of three approached closer to the defensive line, the sounds of battle became louder and far more prominent. At some point, the only sound filling the three's ears was that of blades clashing.

However...

'Blades clashing?'

The Nox...didn't use weaponry.



BOOM!

Elliot's charge came to an end. A burst of fire spread in all directions around him as he made the final push and returned to the defensive line.

However, when the Nox blocking the defensive line from view were cleared...

A horrific sight entered their eyes.

"This...what is this madness?!" Jess exclaimed.

No matter which direction they looked in, Heaven's Army had collapsed. Brothers were fighting each other madly, comrades stabbed each other while laughing indifferently, there was no semblance of order remaining in the ranks.

"Fuck! What are they doing?! At this rate, the defensive line will break!" Elliot roared furiously. "Josh, go ahead first and try to knock some sense into them! We'll support you from behind until I recover!"

Elliot's eyes scanned the battlefield as he waited for Josh's affirmation, however, it never came.

"Josh?" Elliot questioned, turning his gaze to his silent comrade.

"Josh, what's going on with you?"

Elliot walked up to his old friend and grabbed his shoulder, turning Josh to face him.

"...Josh?"

Spurt!

Elliot's eyes widened. He looked down into his friend's eyes.

The only thing he saw was madness.

His body collapsed to the floor, lifeless.

"Josh, you...!" Jess exclaimed, however, she found a speedy blade slashing towards her neck before she could finish.

'What happened to Josh?!' She wondered inwardly, panicking.

This was a critical juncture where teamwork was of the utmost importance. She didn't expect her comrade of so many years to turn against her here and kill her brother!

Her emotions boiled.

"Josh, I can't believe you'd do this!" She roared. She galvanized her mana and prepared a massive ball of fire to exterminate the traitor.

'Hm? What's that smell?'

Just before she let the attack loose, a strange scent entered her nose. It was an enticing scent of flowers mixed with the scent of blood.

As soon as it entered her nose...

Jess' eyes changed.

BOOOOOOOM!

Her fireball exploded in mid-air, turning into a rain of starfall that flew wantonly into the battlefield and caused a chain of explosions spanning several kilometers.

Swish!

A blade passed by her neck. Her eyes widened in concentration as she narrowly dodged to the left.

Her arm shot out, her hand catching her attacker's wrist like a claw.

Kekekekeke!

VOOM!

A bout of maniacal laughter left her mouth as a powerful flame transferred from her arm to her attacker's body, burning him to a crisp.

Josh's body fell to the floor not far from Elliot's, and as it did, Jess moved further into the defensive line to continue her killing spree.

Elliot and Josh's lifeless bodies were left in her wake, soon enveloped by the force of battle and consumed by the battlefield.

However, their blood remained stained in the earth as if to immortalize them.

That blood glowed with a slight hue of gold and red.

It integrated deeper into the ground, dripping into something like a vein extending below the surface of the earth.

If one could see a comprehensive view of the underground, they'd be able to see a massive network of these veins spanning the entirety of the slaughter domain that'd formed with the clash of these two massive forces.

And that vein system's center...?

Naturally, it was none other than the heavenly vine.

Chapter 866 Madness [2]

BANG!

A body cut through the air and slammed into a pure white wall. Despite the wall's seemingly soft appearance, the impact between it and the man's body was thick and absolutely one-sided.

"Kah...!"

The man coughed up a mouthful of blood as his body collapsed to the floor. Before he could regain his bearings, a lithe figure appeared behind him like a shadow and sliced through his neck, letting his head fly into the air like a firework.

That man was the 16th to die.

From the group who originally entered the flower space, only 4 remained.

Of them, only one was familiar.

Alexandra stood in a corner with solemn eyes. Surrounding her were four bodies.

These bodies were a show of what would happen if one messed with her, as well as her temporary peace bringer.

She'd been attacked five times so far. The first four's fates were evident. After they died, nobody else dared to provoke Alexandra.

At least, for the most part.

The fifth time she was attacked, it was by the same lithe figure who killed that man. The figure was hidden by a cloak of shadows and remained both faceless and genderless, however, if one thing was certain, it was that person's strength.

If it wasn't for her twice-tempered body, she would've died under the force of a single one of that person's punches.

However, it was strange. After she survived the first attack, that person no longer paid attention to her, instead targeting the remaining experts in the flower space.

Now, they'd killed 8 of the 16 who died.

Alexandra was wary of this strange individual, but more than that, she was extremely wary of the flower space itself.

'Their bodies disappear when they die. They're likely being consumed as nutrients by this flower.'  
Alexandra surmised.

It wasn't a unique tactic. Most plant species and even several beast species used this same method of evolution to gain strength.

It was just...

'The scale of this time is massive. If this plant is truly able to steal our essence, it will grow into something calamitous.'

Alexandra's eyes rapidly moved from side to side as she followed that strange person's battles with the remaining two experts.

It was one against two, but that person didn't seem to be at a loss at all. In fact, it was more accurate to say that they were dominating.

'The soldiers and Nox below late-stage 4th class are probably already being slaughtered and absorbed. We can't let any more extreme peak 4th class experts die and feed this thing!'

"Stop!" Alexandra shouted just as that person went for the kill.

Their shadowy head turned towards her, however, the trajectory of their weapon didn't change.

Two heads flew into the air, two spouts of blood showered the pure white flower space in red.

"Fuck!" Alexandra shouted. "Why don't people listen?!"

Before she knew it, that person was in front of her face.

They stood silently. Even without their face showing, Alexandra could clearly feel their eyes scanning her.



"You are...not a dog of Asuran Gate." The mysterious person muttered.

"Hm?" Alexandra made a sound of confusion.

"Why...ask...stop?"

Alexandra furrowed her brows. The last time she heard this choppy speech pattern, she ended up without a body.

Nevertheless, this person was a potential ally she couldn't lose at the moment.

"It's like this..."

Alexandra rapidly explained her reasoning to the mysterious person. She didn't leave out many details, as long as they didn't concern greater secrets.

"...the rewards in these flower spaces are probably real, but there's probably corruptive mana hidden within. I don't doubt that those who consume these materials will become slaves to that vine."

The mysterious person stood silently for a short moment.

"How...fix?"

Alexandra shook her head. "It's impossible for us. The only solution is to kill the heavenly vine so its mana loses effect. Our best path forward is to escape this flower prison and spread awareness, but it doesn't look like that's easy."

It was as she said, the flower petals that enclosed the space were harder than most heavenly materials.

Every piece of this heavenly vine was a treasure, though that didn't quite matter if they couldn't survive this situation.

The mysterious person glanced at the petal walls and nodded.

"Will...break...5...minutes."

"What? Are you sure you can do that? Wait, in the first place, who the hell are you?!"

The mysterious person flinched at Alexandra's exclamation. They hesitated for a second with their back turned.

"Alexandra...Arcadia...Guild..." that person muttered.

They turned around, the shadows covering their body slowly vanishing.

Long iridescent blue hair, the divine body of a goddess, this person's form looked far too perfect for it to remain hidden under a veil.

However, her face...

It was a mangled mess. Shadowy black energy pulsated through the exposed veins in the woman's face, only somewhat contributing to its gruesomely mutilated appearance.

If it wasn't for the fact that it was attached to a body, it would've been hard to even call it a face at all.

Alexandra's eyes widened. The disgust she felt for a split second was replaced by pity almost immediately.

'This person is...'

No, this person used to be...

"Rilia...Sterhaven...Sanctuary...Guild..."

One of the first-round entrants of the Void Corridor, and also the strongest of them.

How did she end up like this?

\*\*\*

The battles on the ground and the battles in the flower spaces were all extremely fierce. The stench of death clouded the atmosphere and almost took physical presence due to the sheer amount of it in the area.

However, these battles meant nothing compared to the one taking place in the clouds.

BOOOOOM!

A massive blast of mana enveloped the sky. Shaped like a dark phoenix, holding the properties of both fire and metal, this attack formed a blazing inferno of death that enveloped the enemy and melted them while corroding their insides.

This dark phoenix slammed into a valiant man who stood across from it. A golden-red light barrier formed around him and clashed against the phoenix, causing sparks to fly into the air.

"Sir Theon, you've become weaker!" Lucas shouted jovially.

"Let's see if you can still take my attacks!"

Lucas raised his weapon and pointed it. Swirls of mana covered its blade like will-o-wisps as he pushed it forward.

"Divine Sword Style: Split Sword Enhanced Style!"

Lucas' sword split into several thousand pieces, each sword carrying a different concept from the Bloof and Metal Laws that Lucas studied.

These swords were already powerful individually, having more than enough power to destroy cities, however, when they came together...

B-B-B00000000000M!

The proceeding explosion was heaven-shaking. Clouds of flame and metal fragments rushed to cloud the entire atmosphere around Sir Theon.

The metal fragments were already extremely enhanced, but when they were combined with the force of the explosion and blood element, they became dangerous even for someone at Sir Theon's level.

"Tch!" He clicked his tongue as he swerved through the air and dodged the rain of attacks. His murky black mana acted like a ribbon, trailing his hand and forming a flexible defense that reflected most of Lucas' attacks.

Yet, Theon wasn't happy at all.

'If I was at my peak, dealing with this would've been no problem at all, however, I cannot exert myself to my full capacity due to that conspirator's tricks!'

The battle was fine right now, but if they prolonged the fight, Sir Theon would absolutely lose due to his existing injury.

Theon knew this and Lucas did too. It was obvious what the latter's intentions were at this point.

Sir Theon gritted his teeth in rage.

'Dammit! After I kill this fool, you will be next!'

Sir Theon immediately charged back into battle, exchanging several thousand attacks with Lucas every second.

And as the two fought, they lost the ability to watch their stray mana.

Below them, an almost unnoticeable suction force began emitting from the dual flowers at the vine's peak.

The mana that these two experts left in the surroundings...

Was slowly absorbed and turned into power by the heavenly vine below them.

Chapter 867 Madness [3]

Confusion was a dangerous weapon.

On a small scale, it didn't mean much at all, but when infecting a crowd, it spread like wildfire.

The mental confusion of Heaven's Army and the Nox started at the very outer edge of the battlefield where the 3rd classes fought. Out at that distance, the Nox were already mindless, so the effect of the confusion was far less pronounced.

Universe denizens turned on each other for seemingly no reason at all, but with them fighting anything that was around them, the battlefield was turned into a fierce melee with no sides whatsoever.

This melee was what spread to the inner portions of the battlefield.

Within half an hour of the heavenly vine's blooming, there wasn't a single sane person remaining on the ground.

Everyone from the earliest stages of 3rd class to the middle stages of 4th class turned crazed and clashed.

BOOOOOM!

The atmosphere exploded countless times under the fierce collisions taking place. Several 4th class beings, both denizen and Nox, rose into the sky and continued their fights away from the rest of the battlefield, not because they didn't want to hurt others, but because they had more space to maneuver.

These 4th classes used the height of their law comprehension to fight, holding nothing back at all.

Little did they know that their presence in the sky only aided the spread of the infection. As the scent coming from their bodies permeated the air, it was absorbed by the heavenly vine and redistributed among the flower spaces on its stem.

At that point, the situation saw a second change, not any better for either side.

BOOM!



BOOM!

BOOM!

Originally, there were less than a hundred enclosed flower spaces, each holding more than twenty people. However, suddenly, the vine seemed to bloom into something different, sprouting several hundred flowers that were even larger than the originals.

The original flowers were consumed by these larger variants, and the total number of peak existences trapped within the flowers drastically increased.

"Dammit! We just got out, now we're back in the same situation again!" Alexandra exclaimed in defeat.

How long had it taken Rilia to carve her way out of the original flower space? Just as they thought they could start helping their comrades, they found themselves trapped by an even larger and stronger flower space.

"Unite...here...kill...enemy..." Rilia muttered.

Alexandra nodded. "You're right. Even if killing is feeding the vine's agenda, we have no choice when it comes to the Nox. It's best for us to unify our side's experts and counterattack faster than the vine can grow!"

In the current flower space, there were a few hundred extreme peak masters at the very least, and the split wasn't even.

A majority of those present were enemies.

To rally allies with their current odds and the already disjointed nature of Heaven's Army would be difficult, but they had to try.

Alexandra immediately put the plan in motion. She rushed to the denizen experts and began explaining the situation to them slowly, allowing them to completely understand how they needed to move from there.

At the same time, Rilia charged into the crowd of Nox and began a killing spree.

Unfortunately, the strength of these Nox far exceeded the strength of her previous enemies. She wasn't able to rapidly kill them off like she'd done before.

Still, she was an efficient killing machine unlike any other.

Her body moved like a shadow, it was a blur in the light that even the greatest trained eye would barely be able to catch a glimpse of. It wasn't a teleportation skill, nor was it some kind of instant movement. Rather, it seemed Rilia had mastered some sort of movement skill that allowed her to move swiftly and elegantly, almost defying the laws of physics the way she ignored gravity.

This speed was her main weapon. The massive sickles she used as weapons were truly envoys from the Death God. Each time they sliced out, it felt like a soul was reaped. Even those who remained alive could feel their souls losing power under the oppression of those weapons.

Though, there were several hundred Nox present, and it was absolutely impossible for Rilia to hold out alone.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

She zig-zagged through the air to avoid a terrifying array of spikes that threatened to swallow her. Just as she reached the end of her movement path, a mushroom cloud swallowed her whole.

BOOOOM!

A nearby Nox swept his hand through the air, controlling the explosion to deal the greatest amount of damage possible.

Rilia's form went flying through the air, black blood spurting from her lips and chest.

THUD!

She slammed against the flower wall and slid down to the floor.

Ptui!

Her eyes remained indifferent as she spat out the blood pooling in her mouth and stood up again.

There might've been an injury, but she didn't feel pain. She was more than okay to keep fighting.

And luckily...

"Hey! Don't move so recklessly!" An annoyed voice came from behind.

Alexandra arrived next to Rilia in the next instant, followed by a crowd of Heaven's Army experts.

Rilia's eyes widened.

Alexandra grinned. "I couldn't convince all of them, but the majority are good people. Now that we're all on the same page, let's fight and kill the enemy so we can survive and save our people!"

Haaaa!

The experts behind Alexandra all nodded solemnly and charged.

A massive clash began, a clash that could easily rip a continent or maybe even an entire world into shreds.

However, this conflict was contained within a single flower space.

If one exited this flower and looked into the hundreds of mirrored spaces in the other flowers on the vine, they'd see similar scenes, however to different extents.

There were some flower spaces where the experts realized what was happening and banded together to defeat the Nox and escape, some where denizens and Nox actually worked together to escape their mutual destruction, and others where the experts simply fell prey to the vine's machinations.

No matter which route they took, it remained an absolute truth that a massive number of experts was dying, a loss that neither side wanted to endure at all.

The current forces in the Void Corridor weren't a joke. If taken back to Eien, they would make up roughly a fourth of the massive universal ring.

If they took so many losses, wouldn't a massive hole be opened in the universe's defense?

Unfortunately, the only people who could possibly care about this fact were either trapped in flower spaces or didn't care at all.

As a matter of fact, the latter opinion was only held by a single person.

The same person who was currently leading Heaven's Army for the sake of his own personal gain.

That man wasn't even thinking about the universe. His only thought was achieving merit to enter the eyes of his owners in the Bloodlock Clan.

But how could such a stupid person ever be accepted by the Bloodlock Clan?

To be so desperate for recognition, yet to not realize the repercussions of causing such severe losses to the army, why would the Bloodlock Clan accept this kind of narrow-minded fool?

Of course, their clan was built on a foundation of narrow-minded fools, but that didn't need to be said out loud, right?

Nevertheless, the current situation was one that devolved with every second it continued on.

Something needed to change.

As soon as possible.

Chapter 868 Madness [4]

If one thing could be considered miraculous, it was the structural integrity of the Wild Continent.

Even with a massive war of 4th class beings who could single-handedly destroy continents and extreme peak masters who were even stronger than them taking place on its surface, neither the continent itself nor its atmosphere experienced even the slightest collapse.

Hell, the most atmospheric disturbance the Wild Continent had experienced since the opening of the Void Corridor was Damien's constant teleportation.

However, no matter how strong an environment was, if it wasn't in the Heavenly World, could it truly withstand the collision of forces just barely below Divinity?

This question was put to the test as Lucas' clash with Sir Theon intensified. Law fluctuations with untold profundity flew through the air like clouds, absolutely razing everything in their path.

Lucas was the head of Asuran Gate, an organization under Blood Asura Holy Land, which meant his main specialty was in Blood Laws, though his original affinity was for metal.

Lucas incorporated this original affinity into his Blood Laws and created an art that could manipulate the iron in blood, whether it was his own, his enemies, or even blood mana created through mana.

This concept somewhat limited his versatility, but his expertise in manipulation made him a deadly enemy.

Bang!

Sir Theon shot backward, his arms crossed in front of his chest. The armor that covered his forearms had been shattered by the previous attack.

Ptui!

Sir Theon spit out a mouthful of blood and furrowed his brows as he charged back into battle, attacking continuously to prevent Lucas from having any opportunities.

'He already got me. If I give him even a single moment of respite, I will lose here.' Sir Theon thought solemnly.

As mentioned before, Lucas' ability was to control the metal in blood, even his opponent's. The only caveat was that this ability had harsh activation requirements.



In the current situation where Lucas had been continuously barraging Sir Theon with blood and metal attacks and injuring him, these conditions had been met.

Every cut Sir Theon received, no matter how shallow they were, was corrupted by Lucas' mana. His mana had already formed a connection with Sir Theon's blood, almost nearing the point where Lucas could instantly control the Nox Supreme.

At this point, it was far too late for Sir Theon to counteract the corruption. Instead, he could only kill its originator before he could make use of it!

His mana raged into the surroundings, forming a human-sized projection behind him.

'Partial Divinity.'

Sir Theon activated his Demonic Providence. The projection melded into his body, turning into an aura of Divinity that encased him.

When it came to Demonic Providence, Sir Theon's was likely the most literal. He gained the ability to "borrow" the Divinities of Demigods who allowed him to. Naturally, not many Demigods would agree to such a thing, however, there were several exceptions.

One of which was the Saint Emperor who Sir Theon served.

Sir Theon felt a rush of power course through his body. He felt the unbridled freedom of a higher existence, the absolute gait by which a Divinity carried themselves.

His eyes sharpened. His muscles bulged. His attacks became exponentially fiercer and deadlier.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Terrifying bursts of black mana filled the atmosphere, taking on the properties of several elements as they did.

Lucas suddenly found himself in an extremely disadvantageous position.

His thoughts whirled as he tried to find a way out of his predicament.

However, there was no way he could compete with true Divine Mana.

His eyes hardened as a thought crossed his mind.

'Will I truly be forced to use that here?'

\*\*\*

Within a certain flower space, a reeking smell permeated the air. Several blotches of black ink painted the ground below, evidence of the hard-fought battle that had just come to an end.

Of the several hundred Heaven's Army experts, only around 200 survived the fierce collision, and currently, they rested their bodies and healed their injuries.

As soon as they broke out of this place, they would need to go back to battle again. It was best to cherish every moment of respite they could get.

Apart from the main crowd, two people sat together. One was a beautiful woman, while the other was veiled in a cloak of shadows.

They sat in silence for a very long time.

There were many things that needed to be discussed, however, actually discussing them was a different matter.

Finally, Alexandra couldn't take it anymore.

"Rilia, just what happened to you?" She asked through mental transmission.

Rilia glanced over at her and sighed.

"My story...is not one worth listening to."

Unlike the voice that came from her mouth, the voice that came from Rilia's mental transmission was both beautiful and articulate.

Hearing it, Alexandra felt a pang in her heart.

She shook her head in refusal. "You are my savior and my comrade. Now that we've been through multiple life-or-death battles together, I know your character. Whatever is troubling you, I want to help you with."

"..."

Rilia sat silently for a while.

She was a person of few words and even fewer expressions, however, Alexandra could clearly feel the desolate emotion that clouded Rilia's mind at the moment.

"I was..." Rilia started.

"No, my story does not matter. The important matter now is to leave this place and placate the situation outside. This whole thing...this whole thing is a conspiracy!"

Rilia's heart suddenly spiked. Her mana flared unintentionally, slamming the unsuspecting Alexandra into a nearby wall.

"Ah...!" Rilia exclaimed in shock.

"It's fine," Alexandra responded as she brushed off her clothes and returned to her original spot.

"Continue. I want to hear what you have to say."

Rilia nodded.

"My experience in this secret realm has been a hell greater than hell itself, however, there is still one person I despise most in this world."

"It was him. It was he who orchestrated everything! The war in the Blood-Drenched Wilderness, the defeat of our Heaven's Army, it was all within his predictions!"

"However, this Void Corridor was unpredictable. It was something that no man could ever plan. It sucked us in, it foiled his grand scheme, but...it gave way to something greater!"

Rilia's aura flared again. Her killing intent rose into the sky as she gritted her teeth and continued speaking.

"For his own selfish desires, for his own goals, he is willing to sacrifice everyone and everything. Even if he didn't know this heavenly vine was carnivorous, he wouldn't act on it even if he knew."

Alexandra's eyes became more solemn with every sentence.

Even if she hadn't known Rilia for long, she'd heard the latter's reputation. She was an upright and logical woman, nothing like the behavior she was showing now.

And despite the horrors that she seemed to have gone through, she was still sane. This much could be understood by her general demeanor and ability to judge the situation.

With all this in mind...

"Just who could possibly make you so wary?" Alexandra asked.

Rilia opened her mouth. She spoke with her true voice rather than mental transmission, as if to enunciate the importance of her words.

"Lucas...Streem..."

"...is...a...traitor."

Chapter 869 Confrontation [1]

'Will I truly be forced to use that here?'

Lucas Streem gritted his teeth as the thought flashed across his mind.

'There are too many people here, but...'

Sir Theon was relentless. With the strengthening of his Demonic Providence, Lucas completely lost his original advantage.

However, to truly use "that," meant to abandon almost everything he'd worked so long for.

'My position will be in danger as long as anyone who sees me survives. If I leave alone, there will be additional suspicions that will lead to my being exposed. At the end of the day, I must use it to survive.'

Lucas' eyes hardened.

It had been many years since he first converted, and ever since that fateful day when his destiny changed completely, he'd been meticulously planning his steps so he could gain the most benefits from any situation he found himself in.

The war in the Blood-Drenched Wilderness was one of these plans.

In fact, the Blood-Drenched Wilderness was only coincidentally drawn into his plan.

Due to the mysterious destruction of one of the Nox Strongholds and the death of the Nox's Heavenly Demon Candidate, a buzz of rumors began to spread about the area.

Lucas capitalized on this buzz, nurturing it into a wildfire that eventually consumed the entire domain and descended it into chaos.

Merely, Lucas never expected a Void Corridor to open.

And he never expected a force greater than his own would also be meddling in the Blood-Drenched Wilderness' affairs.

Nevertheless, the conditions inside the Void Corridor were extremely advantageous for him. With everyone dying left and right, wouldn't his plan continue without fail?



Especially...

His eyes landed on Sir Theon who was rapidly approaching.

This man was the goal of the Blood-Drenched Wilderness plan. The entire operation was a front to lure out a Supreme and put him in an unfavorable position.

'At that point, I can devour him and grow. I am just barely below the line of Divinity now. If I can consume a few Supremes, I will be able to take the final step!'

The Nox were a cannibalistic race. No matter how strong they got, the most effective method of evolution was to consume their own kind.

Nox Worshippers didn't obtain this ability, at least, not upon their initial corruption.

However, Lucas Streem was different from the other Nox Worshippers Damien had met. Lucas was a man who'd reached the 9th revolution of extreme peak 4th class as a Nox Worshipper, and as a reward for his efforts, he also gained several of the Nox's qualities.

Of these was the ability to consume the Nox to grow.

As Lucas' blood was nearly completely corrupted by now, he was closer to Nox than Demon anyway.

Therefore, when the time came to make an impulsive decision, he didn't hesitate for long.

VOOM!

An explosion of murky black mana surrounded Lucas. His bloody metal mana was corrupted by this color, turning into a dirty grey color as it swirled in the air.

Lucas' form went through a massive change, becoming demonic to the extreme. Horns, wings, a tail, and even sleek reptilian skin covered Lucas' body, exponentially empowering him.

Ha!

Lucas let out a short shout as he charged forward and met Sir Theon head-on,

BOOOOOOOOM!

A murky black aura collided with a Partial Divinity. The air exploded, space shivered and trembled, and an expansive line of spatial cracks opened up in the sky, polluting the air with chaos.

"Hahaha! So that's how it is!" Sir Theon exclaimed immediately.

"You selfish bastard! You actually dare to consume me?!"

Sir Theon's emotions boiled. It was one thing for him to battle an expert of the universe, but now, this battle was an internal struggle.

A greedy man wanted to bite off more than he could chew.

Did he actually think Supremes were soft persimmons?

How could Sir Theon not feel rage?

"Fool! Allow me to show you the power of a true Nox!" He roared.

His mana raged, covering his body in a terrifying black armor. Hellflames and black ice surrounded him on both sides, ignoring their differences and melding into a single attack that shot out with utmost ferocity.

B-B-BOOOOOM!

The attack was shaped like a bullet of compressed energy, and its existence already ripped through the air before it even started moving.

It approached Lucas at lightning speed and exploded into a rain of icy flames.

Lucas' face hardened. His eyes darted from side to side as he judged the trajectory and danger of the attack. His body, now empowered by the release of his true form, moved like a loach as he dodged every single piece of mana that Sir Theon sent at him.

Slowly but surely, he inched closer and closer to the enemy, and once he was less than a kilometer away...

'Magnetic Impact!'

He clenched his fist. The iron that he couldn't quite control because of his previous disadvantage came under his reign.

"Hak...!" Sir Theon exclaimed as his body jerked to a halt.

He tried to move his arm, but it felt like it was weighed down by the weight of a planet.

"Ha...hahahaha!" Lucas laughed maniacally.

"A Supreme...a true Supreme...hahahaha!"

To actually try to consume a Supreme was insane. Even Lucas was aware of that.

The reason he had confidence was his special ability. Unlike others, he had a sort of inviolable control that allowed him to ignore strength differences as long as he could play his cards right.

If he could gain control over an enemy's body before they blocked his interference, it was over for them.

"You are my pawn, Sir Theon! Your only purpose is to feed me! Hahahaha!"

Sir Theon was just now learning about the seemingly absolute truth of this statement.

He tried to move his body, but nothing he tried mattered at all. After all, his body itself was the chain holding him down.

Meanwhile, Lucas circled him without a care in the world, caressing his body and slowly cutting into it as if savoring a delicacy. His mouth constantly moved, spewing an unending rain of nonsense into Sir Theon's ears.

"You pathetic being. Allow me to put you out of your misery." Lucas said.

'Dammit!' Sir Theon roared inwardly, unable to open his mouth. He glared at Lucas in hatred as he willed his entire body to move.

His mana flared and roared, causing constant quakes in the atmosphere.

At some point, Sir Theon felt a slight portion of his movement ability return.

But at the same time, Lucas had already begun slicing into his arm, eating it whole without a care for his surroundings at all.

He must've realized it.

He must've realized that there wasn't a sane soul remaining in the heavenly vine's vicinity.

He must've realized what the heavenly vine was doing, he simply didn't care.

Why would he care about something that didn't affect him? There was a prime meal in front of his eyes, simply waiting to be devoured.

The battle in the sky suddenly became strange.

Rather than two opponents fighting for life and death...

It was more of a standoff between predator and prey, merely, the prey was still undecided.

After all, Sir Theon was absolutely not going to allow himself to die like this.

Chapter 870 Confrontation [2]

"Finally found you."

A lone voice rang out deep underground, far away from anyone and anything existing on the Wild Continent.

Well, anything except one.

Before the man whose hands slightly trembled as he gazed at it was a ball of light roughly the same size as a 2 story house. It was dim and barely glowing, but had an untamed yellowish hue that made it look larger than life.

From many many days ago, Damien had been searching for this thing. It was the source of the fluctuation that led him so deep into the underground and what he believed was the greatest treasure of the hidden realm.

'It's similar to a World Core, but not quite the same. It looks like this Wild Continent was part of the established universe at some point.' Damien thought to himself.

World Cores were a product of universal law, so by all means, no secret realm or separated space should be able to birth them. This meant that before it was part of the Void Corridor, the Wild Continent actually existed in Grand Heavens Boundary!

'Then is this a different hidden realm than the one that opened during previous Void Corridor openings?'

Damien had the memories of experts, but he didn't have enough context to know whether they entered the Wild Continent through normal means or through Void Corridor.

'Never mind, the situation outside seems to have reached a tipping point. I shouldn't delay any longer.'

Damien walked up to the floating sphere and gently placed his hand on its surface.

Unlike when he bound World Cores, he was extremely careful with this one.



After all, it was still a rudimentary World Core that hadn't fully formed and materialized yet. The strength of Damien's Celestial Mana Thread would likely cause this construct to collapse.

Nevertheless, under Damien's gentle urging and gradual introduction of his own mana, the floating sphere began to expand and change in color.

At the same time, Damien's senses expanded far past his body, growing until his perception encompassed the entire Wild Continent.

'Oho...' Damien exclaimed.

Since it wasn't a complete World Core, he didn't gain much World Force by binding it, but he did gain a modicum of control over the Wild Continent.

'Until I can move this continent out of the Void Corridor, I won't be able to claim full ownership, but this is enough for now.'

Damien closed his eyes and focused on the scenes taking place directly above him.

Actually, he didn't really need his expanded vision to understand the situation above, but it allowed him to gain a far more precise understanding.

Though, the massive roots that clawed their way into the subterranean world made the heavenly vine's location obvious.

Even as Damien bound the underdeveloped World Core, the roots fell deeper into the cavern space, growing longer to reach its target.

A target that Damien had just stolen from it.

He grinned when he realized.

'Am I foiling plans on accident now? How fun!'

His vision suddenly turned to the stem of the heavenly vine. His gaze pierced physical reality and witnessed the happenings of the flower spaces, his eyes narrowing as he did.

'The extreme peak masters can't keep dying like this. I need to lessen this vine's atmospheric control.'

He raised his hand to do exactly as he said, but before he could...

'That...'

His eyes caught sight of what was happening above the heavenly vine.

A surprised chuckle left his mouth.

'Is this a 'like father like son' situation? Who would've thought the subsidiary force of that corrupt clan would be corrupt as well? Utterly blasphemous!'

Despite his thoughts, Damien was grinning widely.

Another Nox Supreme?

Didn't that mean...

"Haha, it looks like you're getting a feast today."

He spoke out loud, addressing the woman who stood silently behind him.

In response, she lightly smiled, her eyes turning sharp.

"Good. It's been a long time since I tasted blood."

The crescent moon-shaped symbol between her eyebrows shone with her eyes.

However, her time to enter the battlefield hadn't quite come yet.

Before that, there was another team who wanted to show their strength.

And who was Damien to reject them?

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Rumble!

The battlefield shook, though nobody paid it any mind. There were barely any sane troops left in general, let alone those who had the time to pay attention to the rumbling that had already become white noise to these soldiers.

However, unlike their assumptions, this rumbling wasn't the normal sound created by the collision of so many troops.

No, something was approaching.

A dust cloud approached the battlefield with untold speed, the rumbling caused by its existence becoming fiercer and fiercer with every second.

By the time the dust cloud got close enough for its identity to be ascertained, the ground was already cracked and sundered, on the verge of collapsing entirely.

"BROTHERS!"

A booming voice resounded through the world.

A man who stood an entire kilometer in height roared, his eyes piercing the battlefield.

"ELIMINATE THE ENEMY!"

He didn't waste any words.

And his exclamation was met only with vigor.

RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

The Cloud Giants let out a fierce warcry as they made their entrance into the battlefield.

Not only was this warcry a domineering show of power to their enemies, it was an unexpected boost to their allies.

The sheer momentum behind their combined roars cleared a portion of the atmosphere of the heavenly vine's madness spores, and the power of their roars shook people's internals and loosened the heavenly vine's control.

For Heaven's Army, a portion seemed to have regained a measure of sentience, allowing them to break away from the chaos and truly fight once more.

However, the Nox didn't experience such benefits at all.

Instead....

RAAAAAAAH!

"HAHAHAHA! FINALLY! BATTLE!"

The Cloud Giants were like berserk executioners. They slaughtered any Nox around them, the records of their past humiliation burning in their souls and empowering them.

As they approached the inner battlefield, more and more Cloud Giants separated from the large crowd that they'd arrived in.

Several hundred of them remained on the outskirts with the 3rd classes, tens remained with the remaining 4th classes, and the rest climbed the vine stem to reach the flower spaces that had been blocked off from them.

The advent of the Cloud Giants unto the battlefield was truly a game-changer. Not only did Heaven's Army suddenly gain a method to regain their sanity, but they also gained a fighting force of elites that wasn't much worse than their selection of extreme peak masters.

When these Cloud Giants finally made their way through the flower spaces and united with the universe's extreme peak masters, just what kind of show would they put on?

It was definitely a question worth asking, but it wasn't a question Lucas or Sir Theon would allow answered at all.

The gazes of the two Supremes snapped down to the ground. They immediately separated, Sir Theon regrowing his arm.

They glanced at each other in tacit understanding.

They could fight against each other later.

Now that an outside threat had come to stop them, it needed to be taken care of first.

Two blurs of black light disappeared from above the flower.

And at the same time, a platinum light intercepted them.

"Were you looking for an opponent?" The owner of that light said.

His kilometer-tall body was a natural roadblock that couldn't be surpassed simply.

He grinned as he faced the two beings in front of him.

"Come, I shall entertain you for today!"