

Warlord 191

Chapter 191 [Second Acceleration]

The moment Mason told Dilan that the Instantaneous Teleportation Scroll was truly not working, he knew that holding back was out of question.

It was at this moment that the first wind blades and fireballs found a small gap through his defenses, if one could call it as such.

Wielding the Blazing Serpentine Blade in a complex manner, Dilan shielded his entire body using the enlarged form of the blade to his full extent.

Dilan's only disadvantage was the fact that his movement speed was too slow, preventing him from creating a perfect shell-like defense.

As a result, the attacks hit him hard, impacting on his back, arms and legs. The fireballs exploded while the wind blades cut through his clothes.

The wind blades manifested by the ordinary Rasnian merely scratched his skin, but the exploding fireballs were a different problem.

They didn't actually injure Dilan much but rather Mason.

Dilan blocked all the attacks using his body as a shield but the exploding fireballs were still bothersome enough to inflict injuries on the young man.

As if all of this was not bad enough, the number of Ligrav and Rasnian, who were rushing towards the area in front of the Sun temple with rapid steps was steadily increasing.

From the Sun temple's direction, more than a hundred hunters could be seen making their way down towards them.

The Eternal Guards had also upped their game as they had begun to create powerful wind blades and fireballs.

They were several times stronger than the other fireballs but looked similar at the first glance.

In the end, the Eternal Guards were intentionally using simple elemental attacks because they wanted their attacks to be well-hidden and take cover under the high quantity of weak fireballs and windblades..

Like this, their attacks were bound to create more lethal damage and a mental instability in the minds of their opponents.

Dilan would be forced to pay his full attention to every single windblade and fireball after one of the Eternal Guards' elemental attacks impacted on him even once.

Mason could clearly tell that the situation was spiraling out of control. His heart was beating wildly and desperation filled his entire being.

However, even then, he could only swallow his saliva before he faintly said,

“L-L...Leave me behind...”

He didn't want to die. Death was the last thing he wished to face right now, or in the near future. However, Mason could clearly tell that he and Dilan would die together if the situation kept worsening.

Right now, Dilan was still able to block most attacks and only a few impacted on him. They didn't injure him but that was not something Mason could tell.

Mason was merely able to perceive Dilan's completely focused expression, the sweat that trickled down his temples, and the rapid movements he made with his arms to control the Blazing Serpentine Blade efficiently.

'I'm too slow!' He noticed which made him feel highly frustrated. He could clearly sense that he was not able to release his full strength but that was not something he could change right now.

Mason was in his arms, and leaving behind the young man despite knowing that he was defenseless and would die was something Dilan would never resort to.

Dilan knew what kind of potential dangers would attack them the moment he allowed Mason to follow him. It was disadvantageous that the Instantaneous Teleportation Scroll didn't work but this was also something Dilan could have expected.

He had underestimated Priestess Brashta and her wits. This was a big mistake and he wouldn't let go of Mason, just to ensure his own survival.

It had been his mistake, so he would have to fix it. Promising himself to save Mason, Dilan took one step after another.

Keeping his guard up while approaching the outer area of the town was certainly not easy.

It was even more dangerous when the Sun temple's hunters and the vast majority of ordinary Ligrav and Rasnian were closing on him from all sides.

They attacked him with volleys consisting of several hundred Fireballs and wind blades. Even if he were to be stronger, it was only luck that would make him leave the area unscathed. And right now, he needed all the luck he could have.

Despite the fact that death was looming over them, Dilan was not worried about his own life and well-being but rather about Mason's. Because Dilan was not fast enough, it had been impossible for him to protect Mason from every single attack.

The young man might be a Tier-1 ascender, but even he was not able to fight against the power of the elements.

Two fireballs had exploded on Mason, and three wind blades cut in his right arm, his right cheek, and his thigh.

Despite feeling unbearable pain and discomfort because of the current situation, Mason didn't dare to scream out in pain. He endured everything and felt horribly guilty for having pulled Dilan into this miserable situation.

The mighty hero he admired for his strength was currently being attacked, his skin was getting cut by wind blades several dozen times and the majority of his clothes had already been burned.

“Just lea—...”

“Shut up, will you?!!!” Dilan suddenly roared, gnashing his teeth as one of the Eternal Guards’ fireballs exploded on his chest.

For a moment, Dilan lost his focus and he was forced to rely solely on his perception of the surroundings to be able to evade the attacks that shot toward him and Mason mercilessly with the aim of brutally killing the two human Ascenders.

The Blazing Serpentine Blade staggered in the air for a moment owing to the numerous attacks Dilan tried to block with it but the situation seemed to grow more and more helpless.

It was the first time since arriving at the Sun Temple that even Dilan couldn’t help but feel a little bit bothered by the fact that he was numerically overwhelmed.

Each of the four Eternal Guards was powerful as well. Their basic stats were already higher than his, they were able to control both of their elemental affinities in a precise manner and they had certain abilities through which their attacks and base stats increased even further.

Dilan was forced to halt in his tracks and there didn’t seem to be a single safe way for him to escape the town with Mason. There were still more than three hundred meters between his current position and the last house of the Sun temple’s town.

The distance was not the problem but the hundreds of beings, who were blocking his path could be considered quite problematic.

None of the present Ligrav and Rasnian was below Tier-1. All of them were powerful but that was obvious. After all, the Sun temple couldn’t send weak believers to other worlds to expand their influence.

Gritting his teeth, Dilan didn’t even notice that blood was trickling down his nose. As he was under immense pressure, he slowly changed his tactic.

Using the 11.5 Stat points that were not yet allocated to increase his Agility, it reached 50 Units.

Adding the 10% amplification of stats he received from the Title [Beyond the Stars], and the [+10 Agility] he had gained by wearing [Aeris’ leather boots], his stats increased to 65. With [Thunder Step] fully unleashed and [Bracing Pain] amplifying his stats even further, his Agility increased to over 90 Units.

However, even then, Dilan was not yet done with the drastic change in his tactics.

He had sincerely hoped not to be forced to resort to this but Dilan could clearly tell that if he wouldn’t use it right now, that everything would be over.

Either he went all out right now, or he would die with Mason by his side!

Thus he activated his newest ability, the ability he gained from exchanging numerous Bronze and Silver Tier-1 Essence crystals at the large Gate.

[[Second Acceleration] Tier-1 ★??

Ability can only be used if an Agility-enhancing ability has already been activated

Stamina consumption increases by 5 times.

Consumes between 2 to 15 Units of Mana to amplify the overall Agility stat by 5% to 30%

Duration: 90 Seconds

Disclaimer: The more Mana used to activate this ability, the higher the Stamina consumption will be. If certain criteria are exceeded the Stamina consumption may increase to more than 5x!]

Not holding back anymore, Dilan ignored the 5x Stamina consumption, which was the most worrisome factor owing to his rather low Stamina stat, he used 15 Mana to activate [Second Acceleration] in its strongest form.

Increasing his Agility by 30% once again, Dilan's agility reached close to 125 Units.

His body was heating up as he felt the sheer unbending power surging through him. Meanwhile, his hand began to move rapidly.

The Blazing Serpentine Blade in his hand turned into a huge ball of fire that enveloped him tightly. Not a single attack could break through him once again.

However, even then, Dilan was not yet done with enhancing his strength. If he said that he would go all-in, he would do so!!

Allowing [Bearer of Pain] to use his Life force in exchange for Mana, [Bracing Pain]'s effect was immediately unleashed.

In an instant, [Bracing Pain] enhanced Dilan's stats by 50%, and reached its limit.

Feeling the unbearable pain coursing through his body, while enduring the pressure of having an Agility that was close to 150 Units, and a Health stat that crossed 150 Units, Dilan knew that he would have to end the fight until the duration of [Second Acceleration] was used up.

If he wouldn't make it in time, Dilan would not only enter a weakened state but he couldn't even be certain of being able to move anymore.

He was desperate enough to make use of every means up his sleeves to fight against the hundreds of Ligrav and Rasnian, the four Eternal Guards, and the crowd of more than a hundred veteran hunters.

Meanwhile, Mason, who was barely able to stay conscious while being so close to Dilan's overbearing presence, could only question himself.

'We...will we be able to survive???'

Chapter 192 Sentient

If the situation was near impossible to survive before, the sudden improvement in Dilan's power changed everything at once.

His Agility was much higher than the strongest existence present. In fact, his current Agility was already high enough to rival Mid Tier-2 existences!

Moving his arm that was holding the Blazing Serpentine Blade rapidly, he expertly fended off every single attack that tried to reach him, no matter the level of force or momentum exerted by his opponents.

All of the attacks were nullified long before the moment they entered the range of the enlarged Serpentine Blade.

With a mere duration of 90 Seconds left until [Second Acceleration] would wear off, Dilan had to move rapidly.

He used his entire strength to blast toward the direction of the exit.

'I can always kill you guys later...saving Mason is far more important for now!'

Dilan didn't care about facing dangers or pain by himself. However, he didn't want to drag others in his mess.

That was simply not necessary. Thus, despite feeling the desire to tear apart the entire Sun temple, Dilan held back on his urges as his responsibility towards Mason was more important.

He would never be able to forgive himself if something were to happen to Mason right now.

Determined to safely transport Mason away from the dangers, Dilan crossed a distance of more than 200 meters. He would be able to leave the Sun temple's town in a second, and it should be possible for him to reach the Rian mountainside hospital in less than a minute as well..

Afterward, they would be able to leave at once.

Unfortunately, escaping the Sun temple was not that easy.

Just when Dilan hoped to escape the town, fiery red blazing walls of flames surrounded the entire town.

They cut off Dilan's way of escape.

He might be able to use [Gale] to disappear from his spot, but the ability of Aeris' leather boots was not unparalleled.

First of all, Dilan was pretty sure that [Gale] didn't allow him to actually disappear. It only boosted his speed to the threshold required to cross a distance of 10 meters in a single moment.

It was not a short-distance traveling ability that was related to the spatial element, or something similar.

And even if that were to be the case, Dilan couldn't be sure that it was possible for him to take Mason with him.

Thus, the sudden appearance of the wall of fire that could even injure Dilan was certainly not something he could cross, let alone ignore while passing through.

'If I cannot even come close to it despite my high Health stat, and the Special Trait [Stone Skin], Mason will definitely die the moment he is engulfed by the flames!'

Understanding this rather easily, Dilan turned around in an instant. His gaze immediately traveled to the top of the Sun temple, where he could see Priestess Brashta.

Instead of rushing down the Sun temple in order to follow him herself, Priestess Brashta had ordered the others to do so.

Simultaneously, her gut feeling told her that Dilan could escape her grasp even if more than a thousand of her people at Tier-1 would pursue and attack him relentlessly.

Her gut feeling had not only been correct but actually way off the mark. She didn't even realize that Dilan was strong enough to contend with an agility-based Mid Tier-2 existence while going all out.

It was not difficult to perceive that Dilan would face a severe backlash from going all out but that was not interesting as of now.

The most important fact Priestess Brashta had perceived while sensing Dilan's sudden increase of strength was something that had never happened before.

[Sacrifice this human to me!]

It was said that the Divinity of Gods was sentient. That meant the Divinity Fragment, and the miniature sun was also sentient.

Sensing something in its range of effectiveness, the Divinity Fragment immediately contacted the Priestess, who was the closest to him.

A trace of Dilan's Divine Inheritance had leaked from his body that was barely being held together.

Despite increasing its strength to an extent that was not ought to be possible for Tier-1 existences, Dilan's body didn't crumble. Instead, he was able to fight while his stats were double the natural limit of a Tier-1 existence.

Obedying the Divinity Fragment's order immediately, Priestess Brashta used a vast majority of the accumulated energy within the miniature sun to activate the Tier-2 town defense spell [Towering Wall of the Crimson Flame].

The duration for which the spell would remain active was indefinite, and the only requirement to be maintained was a large amount of the painstakingly accumulated sacred energy.

However, that was something Priestess Brashta had to accept simply because the Divinity Fragment ordered her to sacrifice Dilan to it.

A few sacrifices in exchange for gaining the Divinity Fragment's favor was perfectly fine for her.

Thus, the Priestess didn't hesitate the slightest as she gave her final order to the guards!

"Kill them...I don't care how, but I want both of them dead!"

The Priestess' voice reverberated through the entire town and reached everyone. In a mere moment, the situation had changed once again.

Not only was he imprisoned but the gaze he and Mason were subjected to had changed as well. The murderous intent everyone released was different from before.

There was something wild in their expressions, their presence, and the wildly raging mana that was suddenly released by all of them.

It was not difficult for Dilan to tell that they were now in a life and death situation. Thus, Dilan shot toward one of the taller buildings before he allowed Mason to stand next to him.

He let him down so that the young Ascender could finally take a few deep breaths.

However, even before Mason was able to regain his composure, Dilan had to grasp him once again.

A volley consisting of more than a thousand fireballs and wind blades shot towards him. The fireballs and wind blades destroyed the building Dilan and Mason had been standing on in an instant.

'They're growing more and more ferocious...what the hell...'

All of a sudden, Dilan perceived something behind him. More than 30 wind blades had changed their trajectory all of a sudden. They rushed at Dilan, cutting off all of his paths to evade the attacks by running away.

Wielding the Blazing Serpentine Blade in return, Dilan blocked the majority of attacks.

"Huh?" Dilan suddenly exclaimed as the 30 or so wind blades turned into more than 60 wind blades.

He thought that the compressed wind of the wind blades would scatter upon impact with the Blazing Serpentine Blade.

However, that was not what happened.

Rather, the flames of the Blazing Serpentine Blades seemed to nourish the wind blades, invigorate them and allow them to duplicate.

Dilan was utterly dumbfounded at this sight.

But that was not even the worst because something even less expected happened just a moment later.

Out of nowhere, wind blades emerged beyond the near-perfect protection shell he created around himself and Mason by wielding the Blazing Serpentine Blade in a wild manner.

Dilan's Agility might be rapid but his paths to retreat were not many. Thus, he had to force his way through the path where the fewest attacks would pierce into him.

But that was fine as long as each attack targeted him...only him.

Thus, Dilan used his entire body to block all the attacks that pierced through him.

Yet, what Dilan didn't expect was for an invisible wind blade to emerge less than 30 centimeters away from him all of a sudden.

'Fuck!'

Chapter 193 ...

'Fuck!'

Dilan was not bothered about his own well-being and tried to twist his body at an uncomfortable angle. However, even his extremely fast reflexes didn't allow him to fully twist his body as the wind blade had already emerged next to him.

Advancing with rapid velocity, it didn't halt in its tracks before piercing right into the target it had been shot at.

Mason flinched...and all of a sudden, Dilan felt something warm trickling down his right arm.

'No, fuck it. That can't happen right now!!'

Dilan increased his speed, forcing his body to endure even more pressure exerted by the unbearable and potent energies that surged through his body.

He wanted to escape the numerous volleys of attacks that shot toward him but that was easier said than done.

A bad feeling swept through his entire body and Dilan could clearly feel how Mason's movement grew weaker by the second.

His heartbeat slowed down rapidly and in a matter of seconds, Dilan's entire arm was covered in the warm liquid.

With an ominous feeling, a trace of fear, and the desperate hope that everything was different than he perceived, Dilan's eyes turned to Mason.

The young Ascender was still thrown upon Dilan's right shoulder, but his face was slowly draining color..

Blood trickled down the corners of his mouth and Mason's eyes were slowly losing focus.

One of the small and nearly untraceable wind blades created by an Eternal Guard had found its way through Dilan's defense, and his perception, preventing him from noticing it before it was already too late.

Dilan felt like cursing out, and his left arm's movement speed increased drastically, preventing even the weakest attack from piercing through the shell of fire, which the Blazing Serpentine Blade was forming.

Instead of attacking Dilan with the nearly untraceable wind blade, the Eternal Guard hadn't aimed at him...but Mason.

A 20-centimeter-long deep cut revealed Mason's back, his flesh, and his mangled spine...

If Dilan was not holding tightly onto Mason, the young man would have long since collapsed on the ground, and bled out before dying a painful death.

Mason felt miserable while struggling to hold onto his consciousness. His body barely transmitted him the pain he ought to feel, only for his mind to be fully awake.

Mason didn't feel much pain anymore...only tiredness...endless tiredness that was slowly overwhelming his body. But even then, his mind was still fully working and was focused on one particular thing.

“I’m sorry...for letting you down...I made a huge mistake...please...p-please sur-vi-....” Mason barely managed to stutter after taking several breaths.

He was forcing his body to work despite it being on the brink of a breakdown but there was nothing Mason could do against it. He was struggling to stay alive, yet, his fate did not seem inclined to let him.

Mason had so many things to do. He wanted to reunite with his family and meet up with his ex to apologize to her for having neglected her. He wanted to work it out with her and try to get back together once again.

Mason was also eager to become stronger, to explore the new side of Milarn, adventure through the Gates, visit new dimensions and get to know new races.

He was curious about everything that had happened after the Primordial Ascension. Being too afraid of the unknown dangers was never how he acted.

It was obvious that the new world was dangerous, otherwise, it wouldn’t be necessary for everyone to learn how to kill monsters.

However, the dangers of the new world had never been a reason for Mason to hesitate to do something.

That was, at least what Mason had told himself during the last few days.

Reality was unfortunately different.

He was afraid of dying...

Despite all the curiosity that filled his entire being with excitement, Mason knew that he was afraid of death.

A numbing fear of death had settled in his heart on the first day after the Primordial Ascension had occurred, and grew worse in the weeks that had followed.

Dying at old age could be considered a blessing in the face of the possibility of being torn apart by wild animals, bitten to death by zombies, or killed by elemental attacks used by foreign races.

The new world was dangerous, and even if Mason wanted to explore everything, the most important thing to do...was to survive.

When Dilan had appeared in front of them, saved him and the others, offered them food, something to drink, and a place to sleep without demanding much in return, Mason had been overjoyed.

Given the great support Dilan provided to every single survivor in his group, it was possible to become a powerful Ascender without encountering situations where one’s life was truly endangered.

With Dilan by their side, almost everyone believed that they would survive, that it was fine to continue dreaming about a promising future, that it might even be fine to dream about exploring Milarn in its new avatar despite being filled with dangerous monsters, mysterious places and places such as the Sun temple.

Mason had been certain that Dilan would be able to save him and protect his life by all means.

However, today, Mason noticed that nobody was unparalleled, or undefeatable.

Because of his nosy behavior, Mason knew that he had created lots of trouble for Dilan. He could clearly sense that Dilan was going all-out right now, risking his own safety and well-being just to protect Mason.

But even then, it was impossible for a single low Tier-1 individual to defeat more than a thousand Tier-1 existences, more than a hundred Mid Tier-1 veteran hunters, and the Eternal Guards, who had not only a combat prowess at the Peak of Tier-1 but also a terrifying control over their elements and numerous unique abilities that enhanced their elemental control and the versatility in their attacks.

Dilan was just a human...who was alone and trying to fight more than a thousand opponents at once while going all out in order to protect Mason.

Yet, in the end, Dilan failed...

However, even in the face of death, Mason could only force himself to smile one last time.

He was thankful for everything Dilan had done for him, and for everyone else he had protected.

Mason should feel regret dying like this, and it might even be normal to loathe the person who should have protected his life.

But right now, while taking his last breaths, Mason didn't feel any of that. The only thing in his mind was to say a few more words to Dilan...their protector...their savior...

'...It's not your fault'

The moment he thought of the words he wished to tell Dilan, Mason's eyes turned dim.

The last traces of life left his eyes and body as a lone tear trickled down his cheek.

After that, all the remaining strength left Mason's body, and his body stiffened in the grasp of Dilan, who was utterly dumbfounded about the twist of events.

"Is...he...dead?" Dilan could barely mumble in disbelief while looking at the young man in his hands. He was a few years younger than Dilan...yet, he died...

His life had ended, all of a sudden, just like that...

[Overflowing rage, regret, guilt, wrath, and adrenaline have been detected within the Host.]

[Requirements to activate <Berserk Mana> have been met.]

[<Berserk Mana> has activated itself upon sensing the host's inability to control his emotions.]

[Due to the activation of <Berserk Mana> the host's mana will be altered. Potency of Mana x2.]

Chapter 194 Losing it (1 of 2)

Several Units of Berserk Mana were consumed to activate [Thunder Step] and [Second Acceleration] once again.

Despite having already been activated, the potency of Dilan's Berserk mana overshadowed the ordinary mana, unleashing the terrifying strength of having mana with a potency twice as strong as usual.

[Thunder Step] and [Second Acceleration] became nearly twice as powerful as before, increasing Dilan's Agility to above 200 Units.

Dilan's body was not able to cope with the sudden increase in his Agility and as a result, blood trickled out of his pores.

Before he knew it, his skin was already covered in a thin layer of his own blood.

But Dilan didn't pay any heed to himself, neither the pain that swept through his entire body nor the blood he was losing.

After taking a single step, he disappeared from his previous spot before appearing on the other side of the town, which was several hundred meters away.

His empty sky blue eyes looked at Mason as he put the body of the young man on the ground.

He then accessed one of his Penta Item Pouches and took a pinkish potion out of it.

It was a [Rejuvenating potion], another Bronze Tier-1 treasure that he had obtained from exchanging Bronze and Silver Tier-1 Essence crystals at the large gate.

He didn't even hesitate before he carefully opened Mason's mouth as he emptied the contents of the vial inside his mouth..

Dilan's expression was stiff and he kept looking at the young man, who didn't move even after he received the strongest healing potion they had gotten their hands on during the last few days.

'He really is dead...'

That was the only thought flashing through Dilan's mind as realization struck him.

He was at fault for the young man's death. If he would have rejected Mason before leaving Rian, all of this wouldn't have happened.

Mason would still be alive and he would have left the Sun temple by now.

Everything would be fine and everyone would be alive...

'It's...my fault that he died?'

Dilan's mind was in chaos. He was not sure where the front or back was and had momentarily lost the ability to know what was right and what was wrong.

Death was nothing new for him but until now he had never been the reason for the death of someone innocent...

He always killed the scumbags, and numerous monsters. This was something Dilan could do without hesitation.

But being the reason for the death of someone innocent was something that had never happened before.

It broke something within Dilan as he was looking at the corpse of the young man. He had already stiffened and the only thing Dilan could do for Mason was to close his eyes.

Even giving him a proper funeral was not possible because they didn't have enough time left.

Dilan knew that he needed to be back as quickly as possible to leave with the others so that they would survive.

He was not sure what was going to happen but it was something terrifying.

Not even being able to provide Mason a proper funeral felt wrong but Dilan's mind had already lost the ability to think straight.

His rationality was slowly dispersing in the searing hot wind of the imprisoned Sun temple's town.

Every nook and cranny was waving off the unbearable heat the walls of fire created.

Mason was dead, killed by the believers of the Sun temple... thus, the only fair trade Dilan could do was to avenge Mason as his soul would travel to the afterlife.

Dilan's train of thoughts was messy and he barely remembered that he picked up Mason before moving him to the closest wall of fire by taking a single step.

Afterward, Dilan's empty eyes turned fiery and were overflowing with killing intent as he gently placed Mason down in the blazing fire.

He had no idea why he wanted to burn Mason's corpse. There was no reason for him to do so, however, his entire being screamed that he had to do so.

His mind had gone blank and he could do nothing save act upon his instincts without the desire to retaliate, Dilan's actions were slow and filled with mysteriousness.

When Dilan had put Mason in the fire, his hands had already caught on fire and were burning brightly. He didn't mind this at all, and circulated his Berserk Mana through his hands to extinguish the flames before he began to make numerous mysterious signs and gestures with his hands.

At this moment, he didn't even realize that he was not himself, or that it was not him, who was moving his body but that something deep within his conscience had taken control over him.

He had not lost his senses but something else had merged with Dilan's rage, it was his unbending wrath and his guilt.

Through this, he moved in certain ways he had never moved, did things he had never done, and stayed calm until Mason's 'funeral' ended.

Thus, Dilan did not even notice what was going on as he began to speak various phrases in an ancient language he never heard of before.

"Young Warrior...May your courage be the fire of your soul.

May your charisma be the reason for your brethren's ascension.

May your strength be the shield of the poor and powerless.

May your love never be lost in the hearts of your loved ones.

May the blood of your opponents exhilarate you on your path to the Gates of Nirvim

By the name of the God of Revenge, the Messiah of Carnage, and the God of Death's Loved One, I swear to sacrifice the blood of your enemies in your name!

Warrior Mason...Rest in Peace as long as you can, for when you are done, I want you to overcome the trials of retribution and return to the Battlefield of Eons to brandish your Sword by my side!"

Dilan's voice grew louder when he reached the end of his speech. Simultaneously, his hand was reaching out for Mason's burning corpse.

He ignored the flames that burned his hand, and instead fully focused his attention on the young man, who had sacrificed his life not too long ago.

All of a sudden, a white glow shrouded Dilan's hand. It spread over Mason's chest and faintly engulfed his entire body.

Only seconds later, the corpse began to glow faintly before the body crumbled, turning in the ashes of the blazing flames.

Dilan's eyes were still ice-cold and a murderous intent swept through his entire being.

He retracted his hand slowly, and looked at the scorched hand before he waved it once.

[Regeneration] had been activated without Dilan even realizing it.

He turned around and ignored the layer of boiling blood that covered his skin as a bloodthirsty aura shrouded his entire existence.

"I will kill you...all of you!!"

The Blazing Serpentine Blade had appeared in his hands once again. Dilan brandished it in a seemingly simple manner.

However, owing to his extremely high Agility which exceeded 200 Units right now, his arm's movement was not something an ordinary Tier-1 existence would be able to perceive.

Swish

With a terrifying sound, the enlarged Blazing Serpentine Blade cut through the air, slashing the surrounding buildings into two pieces.

Following which, Dilan leaned forward a bit, his feet dug deep in the ground as he blasted in the direction of the mortal enemies he had to exterminate.

The moment Dilan dashed toward his opponents, a two-meter-deep crater was created at the spot where Dilan had been standing before.

He crossed several hundred meters in a single second though on the flipside his Stamina was being drained rapidly.

However, all of this was of little to no interest to him.

The only thought that flashed through his mind was simple.

'If you kill one of my people...I will annihilate all of yours!'

[Undying Warlord](#)

Chapter 195 Losing it (2 of 2)

Priestess Brashta noticed that something was wrong the moment the human next to Dilan died.

Dilan's presence had changed instantly and the mana surrounding him had turned like a cloud of roaring fury.

For a few seconds, nobody knew where Dilan had disappeared to because it had been impossible to follow the path he had run to with their bare eyes.

This created distinct fear within the ordinary Tier-1 Ligrav and Rasnian, who hadn't even seen the purple flash Dilan's movements had created before.

Nobody dared to move first, forcing Priestess Brashta, the Eternal Guards, and the hunters to take the first step.

They were not less vigilant than the others but they also knew that mass panic would ensue the moment they would try fleeing from a single opponent.

Priestess Brashta was still in charge of controlling the miniature sun to her best capabilities while standing on top of the Sun temple.

She was more than half a kilometer away from Dilan but even her hair stood on its ends the moment the Priestess saw something.

If Dilan's speed and his presence had been terrifying before the death of the other human, he was on a completely different level right now.

There was no hesitation in his movement and the bloodthirst and killing intent he released nearly manifested around his body.

However, in the end, it was merely Dilan's blood that kept trickling out of his pores, owing to the overwhelming strength his body was not able to handle for too long.

Dilan could tell that his body would crumble and that it would be impossible for him to return to his earlier form and physique for more than a month the moment [Second Acceleration]'s duration ended..

But that was without his Origin ability's interference.

Whether the duration of his weakened state was shorter with his Origin ability or not didn't bother Dilan at all. His heart was beating wildly, adrenaline was coursing through his veins and he wanted nothing more than the death of the Sun temple's believers.

He didn't want anything else and accepted every punishment he would face in return.

That would be his retribution and atonement for Mason's death.

Willing to accept anything, Dilan disappeared from his position and emerged right in front of the first Eternal Guard.

He clearly remembered this Eternal Guard because the mana he had released to create wind blades was exactly the same as the invisible wind blade that had pierced through Mason's back.

With eyes that were as cold as Antarctica, Dilan stared into the depths of the Rasnian's eyes before his hand moved rapidly.

The Blazing Serpentine Blade coiled around the Eternal Guard's neck in a fraction of a second, without giving him even a moment to react.

A moment later, Dilan pulled his hand backward, pulling the Blazing Serpentine Blade in the process, and beheading the Eternal Guard in an instant.

Several hundred fireballs and wind blades shot toward him a moment later but Dilan only needed to dash toward the front to evade the volley of elemental attacks easily.

His movements were smooth, without wasted steps and it allowed him to emerge in front of the hunters.

They were Mid Tier-1 existences and powerful enough to fight against the stronger monsters all over the Shikan plains.

However, that was certainly not something Dilan was bothered about.

He twisted his body in a rapid spin while shooting the Blazing Serpentine Blade outward.

Dozens of hunters were killed in an instant. They were cut in half as his weapon and speed did not give them a way to escape Dilan's attack.

It was not even possible for their eyes to follow Dilan's path.

The only thing they perceived was the after image of the electric currents that shrouded Dilan's feet and the fiery red color of the blazing flames that engulfed the Serpentine Blade he wielded.

Other than that, the next thing they noticed was merely their blurred sight, the fact that their body slumped to the ground and that they were not able to move anymore.

They were dying and only noticed it when it was already too late!

With regret, they merely perceived the blurred images of Dilan's bloodthirsty appearance disappearing into a blur as he became their people's personal Grim Reaper.

He didn't hesitate the slightest while killing dozens of Ligrav and Rasnian with a single slash of his Serpentine Blade.

Rather, his speed and agility seemed to increase the longer he fought.

It was almost as if he had yet to adjust to the drastic increase in strength he had received from all the various abilities that were utilized at the same time.

As he continued to move faster and faster, Dilan was barely perceptible even to the three remaining Eternal Guards.

They had been confident to protect the new Branch of the Sun temple because the world called Milarn had yet to enter the second phase.

The planet had been recently awakened and it would take quite a while before Milarn would be able to adjust itself to the changes it underwent.

Nature was currently unable to adapt to the various changes, let alone the infiltration of foreign races and the Gates.

Clearly aware of the past records on how planets usually faced the Primordial Ascension, it had been easy to determine that the Eternal Guards were currently amongst the strongest existences on Milarn.

At least, that was what they had presumed. How could anyone expect that the first human being they found was an anomaly amongst anomalies?

Even if one didn't want to acknowledge it, Dilan's current speed and his whole combat prowess had long since surpassed the norms of a Tier-1 existence.

He had long since left that realm and turned his surroundings into a bloody battlefield, into his very own zone of the massacre.

Wherever Dilan went, blood, body parts, bones, and organs splattered through the air. He didn't show mercy to any being that entered his view, whether it was a man, woman, old, young, crippled, or the strongest warrior.

All of this was not important to Dilan because the blood of the foreign races he killed was a sacrifice to honor Mason, to provide his soul a safe trip to the Gates of Nirvim.

Dilan had no idea what all of this meant but his mind was not able to comprehend anything right now, to begin with.

Every fiber of his being was solely filled with the desire to kill, to exact revenge, and the desire to pay for his sins, for the mistake he did, and to prevent a repeat of the tragic and horrifying incident like today.

And for that...not only Priestess Brashta, but her Eternal Guards, the veteran hunters, or the thousand Ligrav and Rasnian had to be killed!

Charging through the masses of enemies like a bloodthirsty maniac, Dilan had killed more than a third within a minute.

However, even that did little to calm him.

Reaping the lives of more than 400 enemies in a minute might be enough for others but not for Dilan.

He didn't have much time left before he would enter a weakened state. His body was barely coping with the pain of moving around while having an Agility exceeding 200 Units.

But it didn't help that he was still able to move. He had to eradicate every single believer of the Sun God's temple before the effective time of [Second Acceleration] would wear off.

There was merely half a minute left before [Second Acceleration] would lose its effectiveness, and Dilan could clearly tell that his body wouldn't be able to reactivate [Second Acceleration] again.

The moment he would attempt to do so, his legs would give in and his muscles would be torn apart.

Severely damaging his body wouldn't be a problem for Dilan, but he still had to move after the battle was over.

This was even something the messed up mind of Dilan could understand despite malicious thoughts raking his conscience.

Thus, he gathered more than 20 Berserk Mana in his Blade as he activated [Mana Slash] the moment he reached and stood in front of the most crowded area of Ligrav and Rasnian.

"...die for me!"

Chapter 196 No Mercy

A bloody reddish hue shrouded the white crescent mana Slash Dilan released.

His mind was filled with nothing but hatred, wrath, and regret, which nourished the Berserk Mana his body had transmuted on its own.

As [Mana Slash] was used with Berserk Mana, the attack's potency was doubled. Thus, the attack was twice as lethal and destructive as usual.

Fear filled the eyes of the Ligrav and Rasnian, who found themselves standing in Dilan's attack range.

However, even before they could make a move, their body had been halved as their upper body immediately slumped to the ground while their lower body followed suit seconds later.

The Berserk Mana Slash used with 20 Berserk Mana units was equivalent to a Mana Slash used with 40 Units of Mana.

Its lethality and destructive force were enough to break the strongest defenses of Peak Tier-1 monsters, let alone a few hundred Low Tier-1 Ligrav and Rasnian, who were not even able to react fast enough to attempt to block the attack.

They didn't wear any special equipment to protect themselves either, which drastically decreased their chances of survival.

Dying at the hands of Dilan was just a matter of time for all the beings inside the prison the walls of fire created.

The same prison Priestess Brashta had created to prevent Dilan from running away was what caused the death of several hundred loyal believers of the Sun temple. This was just one of the many forms of payback Dilan planned to deliver.

In a matter of seconds, the Berserk Mana Slash had cut through several hundred bodies, halving them as if it was nothing special.

The number of casualties increased to more than 800 in seconds, but Dilan was not yet done..

He brandished the Blazing Serpentine blade and re-activated [Mana Slash] once again.

However, this time instead of wasting his precious mana, Dilan used merely 2 Berserk Mana units to utilize [Mana Slash].

That was enough to cut through more than a dozen opponents as the rapidly shot-out crescent Mana Slash was not something they could perceive with their bare eyes.

Dilan's Agility exceeded 200 Units, while their own mana was not even close to 30 Units. The gap between their strength was too wide to be solved by just looking at numbers.

Thus, hundreds of Ligrav and Rasnian died as Dilan repeatedly used [Mana Slash] with merely 2 Berserk Mana units.

Due to [Bracing Pain] Dilan's Mana had increased drastically as well.

He had more than enough mana left to make use of his precious mana on killing the small fries around him.

But they were not enough to calm down Dilan's endless rage.

Through his eyes, everything looked red. He was not able to differentiate between friend and foe anymore.

However, that was not necessary because every single being that was breathing around him was his opponent.

There was no ally by his side anymore. Mason had already been killed by the vile existences, who had forced him to fight them.

Despite blaming himself for Mason's death, he knew that he was not the only one at fault. Priestess Brashta had prevented him from leaving when he wanted to.

It was not his fault for the bitch of a Priestess to act all high and mighty.

That was why Dilan didn't want to atone to his sins alone. He wanted everyone to feel what death tasted like.

Death was the best way to atone to one's sins, directly after endless pain.

Because Dilan was far from being able to control himself and holding back he couldn't take his sweet time torturing Priestess Brashta. He didn't have the necessary time either.

Thus, she had to die and become the sacrifice for Mason's soul's journey to the Gate of Nirvim.

Dilan slowly adjusted to his extraordinary state and his high stats. He moved smoothly through the rows of dead bodies, killed everyone in his vicinity, and ended their lives with a single slash.

The enlarged Blazing Serpentine Blade whizzed through the air, killing dozens of opponents with a single strike, and ended their lives in a more or less painless manner.

The flame engulfed Serpentine Blade sizzled when it spilled blood that came in contact with its searing hot surface that dripped from the organs, flesh, and bone fragments stuck in its numerous small blades.

'A weapon of death...'

That was the only thought flashing through Priestess Brashta's mind as she witnessed the death of her people right in front of her eyes.

Her earlier confidence in defeating Dilan crumbled to dust as she watched him move like a tornado that left nothing but death and destruction behind.

The tides had changed and the numbers of her believers were not even in the three digits anymore.

In less than 90 seconds, Dilan had killed more than 1000 of her followers including three Eternal Guards.

On the other hand, they had merely managed to kill the weakling who had followed Dilan. It was not even close to a fair trade.

Yet, even then, Dilan's anger and his craving for blood didn't seem to have soothed either.

Rather, the bloodlust radiating from his body had intensified. The pressure he released didn't allow anyone to move freely.

If someone dared make a move, they were immediately detected by Dilan's razor-sharp senses and chosen as his next target.

His perception of the surroundings was terrifying. Even the slightest movement couldn't escape his grasp in his current state.

It was impossible for anyone to flee from his sight. He crossed more than 100 meters in a single dash and killed everyone in his way without a second thought.

Dilan was currently not even able to think, to begin with. His mind had temporarily lost the ability to think rationally.

He only knew that he wanted to wash his hands in the blood of his enemies, that he had to eradicate everyone around him, and that the death of his enemies was the only thing he could give Mason.

Dilan didn't even feel pain anymore right now.

His body was already crumbling, the skin on his legs already had blisters and his muscles were slowly giving in.

However, Dilan couldn't care less about the impending exhaustion. His only focus was to kill, to slaughter everyone, and end the life of the people who were responsible for the death of Mason.

Less than 10 seconds were left on the duration of [Second Acceleration] but that was more than enough to kill the last Eternal Guard, eradicate the remaining veteran hunters, and end the lives of all the Ligrav and Rasnian, who were cowering on the ground.

They were afraid to die, afraid of Dilan, the monster, who had barged into their home and was killing them as if he was slaughtering chickens stuck in a coop.

They could not fathom how the situation could have changed so much in just a few minutes.

Before, Dilan had been quite nice to them. The humans who were with him had brought them numerous sacrifices and it had looked like they could work together in the future.

Little did they know that the Priestess never planned to work together with Dilan.

From the beginning, her plan had been to kill Dilan and every single human in his group.

She had just waited for the perfect moment to attack them, for winter to end, and for Dilan and his people to lower their guard.

Unfortunately, her entire plan had been destroyed the moment she noticed what Dilan had planned when he used every single Sacred Point he and his group had accumulated during the last week.

The other clues she had gotten wind of were enough of an indicator to tell her that Dilan didn't want to keep dealing with the Sun temple.

However, even if he wanted to end it on friendly terms while expecting an attack, it was not as if the Priestess was willing to end it on friendly, let alone on neutral terms.

In her opinion, they could only end up being each other's, mortal enemies. After all, her plan had been to get her hands on the being, who had received the Divine Inheritance, not to make friends!!

Little did she know that her plan would not only fail miserably but that the entire Sun temple would cease to exist just because of the little human being, whom she had encountered at first.

'Is he the one?' Priestess Brashta asked herself as fear and desperation gleamed in her eyes while she looked at the monster of a human being, who had slaughtered every single person under her.

Not even the young or old had been spared, nobody had escaped Dilan's wrath!!

Everyone had been slaughtered without mercy...

Chapter 197 Rot in hell

Only three seconds were remaining on his duration of [Second Acceleration] and there were still ten enemies left.

With a single slash, he killed the last ordinary Ligrav and Rasnian before he emerged in front of the last two hunters.

Dilan killed them with bloodshot eyes before he spun around using all his might to slash at the last Eternal Guard.

Unable to evade Dilan's attack even after using all his remaining mana to erect a wind-fire shield through the use of a Tier-1 ability, the Eternal Guard was cut.

A deep gnash with a depth of more than five centimeters tore through his chest, making his ribs stick out.

It was a disgusting sight but Dilan didn't even flinch as he moved his arm rapidly.

In a single second, he slashed at the same opponent more than ten times, ending the Eternal Guard's miserable life.

With that everyone on the ground had been defeated. Dilan could perceive only one remaining living being.

“Now it’s your turn, bitch!” He growled while dashing upward.

He shot up the Sun temple’s stairs in a single second, wanting nothing more than to slash at her and end her life.

However, even before he could touch her, several layers of protective garments unveiled themselves in front of him..

Four layers of the shield were put over another, easily blocking Dilan’s attack.

A fireball emerged next to Dilan a moment later, exploding the moment he neared it.

Showing no sign of hesitation, Dilan activated [Gale].

He disappeared once again and emerged 10 meters behind Priestess Brashta before he blasted toward her in a swift motion.

Simultaneously, the Blazing Serpentine Blade had returned to its longsword form. It was still engulfed in fiery flames and it glowed brightly as Dilan pierced out with it.

Using the majority of his remaining Berserk Mana, except a few Units, Dilan had activated [Mana Slash].

But instead of following the usual pattern to attack while using [Mana Slash], this time Dilan made use of the Blazing Serpentine Blade and issued a rapid and straightforward attack.

Moving the shield in less than a second was not possible for the Priestess.

In fact, it was not even possible for her to react under normal circumstances. However, owing to her sensitive mana detection, she could clearly detect where Dilan was going.

Even without her sensitive mana detection, Dilan’s bloodlust might be all over the place, but it was still concentrated at the location where he was.

His bloodlust was more than enough for her to determine where he was located. Thus, the Priestess was able to manifest new shields and use various treasures to protect herself.

Yet, owing to the vast amount of mana she had already used for the previous defense, it was impossible for her to manifest a perfect defense.

Her eyes widened in shock the moment she saw the white beam of concentrated mana, which was blasting out of the tip of the longsword Dilan wielded.

It was shrouded in a bloody reddish hue and contained all of Dilan’s emotions.

The Berserk Mana turned the seemingly simple Mana Slash into a destructive attack that was powerful enough to pierce through the Priestess’ shields.

Dilan’s attack was weakened drastically but it still pierced through the shields before impaling the Priestess, who coughed blood the moment the razor-sharp and burning blade punctured her lungs.

'What?...no...that cannot be...' She wanted to scream. However, the pain spreading through her body all of a sudden was too strong for her to be able to speak.

All of a sudden, her abdomen erupted in fire. She tried to stop the bleeding in her body by burning the wound but it was impossible. Dilan's blade was still stuck in her. The Priestess felt a sudden wave of weakness sweeping through her body.

It was impossible for her to remain standing as her legs caved in. The Priestess slumped to the ground though her gaze never left Dilan.

At that moment, she noticed that Dilan coughed up blood as well. His body began to shiver, and Dilan noticed that his entire body felt cold.

Blood began to trickle down his eyes, ears, nose, and mouth and he felt as if his bones were turning to jelly.

[Second Acceleration]'s effect had worn off, and so had [Thunder Step]'s.

When he pierced through the Priestess' body, Dilan could also sense that his bloodlust was slowly diminishing. His wrath and frustration were still apparent, but the effect of [Berserk Mana] had worn off as well.

The last remnants of the Berserk Mana in his body were used to activate [Regeneration], healing Dilan's critical condition.

He wanted to take a step forward to take a closer look at the miserable state of the Priestess, but when Dilan tried to approach her, he noticed that he was currently not able to move his legs.

They were in the worst condition, and his sword-arm looked no better.

The skin all over his legs and his sword arm was covered in angry blisters and wounds, his clothes were drenched in his own blood. Dilan knew that his Health had decreased rapidly and that he wouldn't survive even a single blow if someone were to attack him.

However, no one was left alive to attack him. Everyone was dead, and the ground around him was littered in corpses, killed by him without mercy.

Dilan should have felt remorse for killing the younger Ligrav and Rasnian. However, he knew that they had also been trained to kill, to expand the influence of the Sun temple with all their might, even if it was necessary to kill others.

As such, he didn't feel bad. Everyone, who was ready to kill others should expect to be killed as well. In fact, they had taken part in killing Mason by attacking Dilan and Mason with their fireballs and wind blades.

That was why Dilan didn't feel the slightest bit of mercy, pity or remorse and killed every single Ligrav and Rasnian around the Sun temple!

After two minutes had passed, Dilan noticed that he was finally able to move once again. He was still breathing heavily, and could barely manage to stay conscious.

If not for his unbending will, he would have long since collapsed, during the fight against the Sun temple's followers, to be precise.

Ignoring all the pain, Dilan switched the arm with which he was holding the Blazing Serpentine Blade as his emotionless, cold sky blue eyes stared in the depth of the Priestess' eyes.

"You should be happy that I don't have enough time to torture you...I would gladly torture you in the name of Mason, the young and brave man, you mercilessly killed!!" Dilan spat out before retracting the weapon.

However, instead of leaving the dying Priestess alone, he slashed out a few times.

Yet, instead of using his rapid speed, Dilan's slash was slow...eerily slow, to the extent that even an unlevelled human would think that his slash was just a wave.

However, that was not something Dilan was worried about. He was extremely exhausted, to the extent that he could fall asleep for an entire week, right here and right now.

But that was not feasible. He had to force himself to stay awake and finish the things he had started.

With each of his slow slashes, one of the Priestess' body parts was cut off.

Her hands and feet had been cleanly separated from her body but the Priestess was not able to scream as Dilan's serpentine blade suddenly stuck into her mouth.

Dilan's eyes were ice-cold as he looked at the Priestess, who was in unbearable pain, yet, unable to move.

She looked at him in fear and utter desperation, not believing what was currently happening.

She, a priestess of the Sun God Valgard, was currently being butchered as if she was just a piece of meat.

The Priestess knew it...she was fully aware that Dilan didn't even think of her as highly as being worthy of consumption as meat. Her value was not even equivalent to a speck of dust in Dilan's opinion.

Thus, her fear was genuine and she let out a blood-curdling scream the moment the tip of Dilan's sword sunk deeper in her throat.

/when she saw a cold smile on the young man's face, Brashta knew that her struggle was futile. She had seen cold murderers more than often enough in her short life.

However, comparing Dilan to cold and merciless murderers was not possible...merciless murderers were not like Dilan...not as frightening as the young man, who was standing above her, looking down at the Priestess as if she was the most disgusting existence in the entire Universe.

He was exhausted, his entire body was covered with the blood of his enemies and the blood his body had expelled, but he still stared at her with ice-cold eyes that could freeze even the hottest desert as he opened his mouth slowly.

"Rot in hell...and never dare to be reborn again, otherwise, I will find you...and kill you over and over again..."

A moment later, Dilan slashed out with the Serpentine Blade, beheading her.

Chapter 198 Imprisoned

The raging fire that surrounded the Sun temple's town was still burning brightly.

However, everyone inside it had already been killed. Only Dilan was left alive, but he was imprisoned in the walls of fire.

He could barely move his body, his sight was blurred and his hands were trembling.

Every inch of his body from head to toe ached tremendously but Dilan didn't issue the slightest groan.

His expression was void of pain as he just lay on the floor and stared at the ceiling. If there was an emotion in his eyes, it was sadness.

After Dilan had killed everyone, he felt as if he was missing something, almost as if something had been torn out of him.

He sighed deeply and looked in the direction where he had burned Mason's body.

"I hope you can be more fortunate in your next life..."

Dilan couldn't know if something like a next life existed but given the miracles he and everyone on Milarn had witnessed, everything should be possible.

He simply hoped for the best while letting out another sigh.

'Would he still be alive if I had sternly rejected his requests of joining me?'

'Was it my fault that he was killed?'

'Should I have done something different?'

'Was I simply too weak to protect him, were the believers of the Sun temple too strong, or are my people too dependent on me?'

Numerous thoughts flashed through Dilan's mind and he had no idea how to handle the grief and guilt eating at his heart.

He was confused. In fact, Dilan was not even sure how he should feel.

Was he supposed to feel guilty because he had allowed Mason to follow him? Yes.

But at the same time, he had told Mason often enough that it would be dangerous, had created a path for him to escape, even if it hadn't worked out, and had done everything he could to protect him...which had failed miserably as well.

Dilan didn't even know Mason well. He hadn't seen him often in the few weeks since the Primordial Ascension happened.

However, even if he didn't know Mason well, he knew that it was a shame for him to die like this. Dilan knew that he was partially at fault for Mason's death, even if it was Mason, who had pleaded to be allowed to come with him.

Everything could have ended peacefully but that hadn't been the Priestess' goal.

'Was it really necessary for her to sacrifice her people to imprison us? If I'm not wrong, I had already used [Thunder Step], [Second Acceleration], and [Bracing Pain] before the walls of fire erupted around the town...

It was obvious that I wouldn't give up without fighting, and my Agility was twice as high as the Eternal Guards by then...so why?'

Dilan couldn't understand the reason behind the Priestess' action and even if he were to know, it wouldn't really change anything either.

He was just sad that it ended like this.

After he had calmed down a little bit, Dilan drank more than 30 mana replenishment potions, which Sarah had prepared for him beforehand.

They had been stored inside the Penta Item Pouch and were of good use for him right now.

But instead of using the mana to activate his Origin ability over and over again from scratch, Dilan kept his attention on the walls of fire.

'How long will it take before they disappear?'

He had to leave as quickly as possible but the walls of fire blocked all the ways of exit.

That was why Dilan could only hope for the best while averting his gaze to the basement of the Sun temple.

'Should I raid it until the flames disappear?' He wondered for a moment.

However, upon seeing the corpses of Ligrav and Rasnian, and the thick layer of blood that covered the now wet soil on the ground, Dilan could only sigh deeply.

'I may as well take care of that first...'

Slowly walking down the Sun temple after he stored the mangled corpse of the Ligrav Priestess in the storage ring he had obtained from her beforehand, Dilan reached the bottom of the stairs a few minutes later.

It would take him an eternity if he were to go to every single corpse and extract the essence crystal out of its head. As such, he thought of something that would save his time and energy.

He tried to release his mana to shroud the corpses around him. This didn't work at first because his senses were dulled due to his severe exhaustion.

But after a few tries, a few corpses were shrouded by his mana.

"System...give me their Essence crystals."

All of a sudden, Dilan's voice echoed through the surroundings. It was an instruction to the system.

He had hoped that it would react and allow him to absorb the Essence crystals inside the corpses as long as he had shrouded their body with his mana.

“Tch!” ‘Not working, huh?’

It didn’t work, which was somehow expected. But only a moment later the corpses he had shrouded with his mana disappeared as Dilan stored them in his storage ring.

“If I cannot get my hands on your Essence crystals easily, I might as well take your entire bodies...”

Dilan didn’t care the slightest about the Ligrav and Rasnian bodies but he needed their Essence crystals.

There was nothing else for him to do right now, except to hope that the walls of fire would soon die down.

That was why he began to store the Ligrav and Rasnian corpses in his storage ring and the Penta Item Pouches he was wearing.

The corpses that could be stacked in the Penta Item Pouches were stored inside it, while the others were stored separately.

Dilan had no idea why it was not possible to stack all of their corpses but he made his own assumptions to keep himself distracted.

‘Is it because of the number of blood enhancements or the occupation they chose while advancing to Tier-1?’

In the end, the reason didn’t really matter to Dilan but the thoughts distracted him quite a bit. It was certainly helpful to prevent him from thinking about Mason, his guilt, the other emotions that flashed through his mind and the doubts he had.

Time passed slowly but the walls of fire were still fully erupted. Dilan’s body was still as exhausted as before but he had begun to use his Origin ability after a while.

It alleviated his physical pain and created a cool sensation that spread through his body.

But even after constantly using his Origin ability for more than half an hour, Dilan was far from feeling that his condition had improved.

‘My stats have been halved and it will take, at least, a week before everything returns to normal? That is under the condition that I keep using [Regeneration] whenever I replenish one unit of Mana...’

Dilan didn’t like what he was sensing but he couldn’t do anything against it.

He had to accept his condition and keep moving forward, otherwise, he would succumb to the terrifying dangers they were about to face.

If the Sun temple had been extremely dangerous to everyone, then the danger Dilan perceived from the mountainside was comparable to a calamity.

He had to leave the Sun temple and return to his people but the walls of fire didn’t seem to want to let go of Dilan.

This was frustrating, even if it allowed Dilan to take his time and store every single Ligrav and Rasnian corpse inside his Penta Item Pouches and the Storage ring.

Afterward, there was still some time left until the fire around the camp would extinguish, enough to enter the Sun temple.

There was no believer left, so he might as well take their goods.

Dilan entered the Sun temple from the only entrance he found before. His steps were slow and he was mindful of possible traps.

Even if he didn't sense the presence of a living being, there might still be someone hidden somewhere. There could also be traps that would be activated the moment someone of a different race were to enter the temple.

Thus, Dilan was very careful from the moment he entered the Sun temple.

He took a look around but didn't see anything special.

The temple's inner walls looked the same as outside, the same Aztec-like build with numerous unique hieroglyphs visible to his bare eyes.

Numerous images had been engraved in the walls, attracting Dilan's attention.

However, the moment he entered the first larger hall, it was impossible for Dilan to stay silent.

"What the hell? Is that still a Gate?"

While looking at the liquid mass he presumed to be a Gate, Dilan was utterly dumbfounded. He could clearly remember that Gates didn't look like the one in front of him, but the notification he received upon getting closer made things easy to understand....or so he thought.

'Really...?'

Chapter 199 Roar

[Sun God's Gate to the Lowest of Karandor's Six Blazing Realms. Conditions to enter not met.

-All Stats <500+>, Advanced Fire resistance,

Special permission granted to <Believer of the Sun>!]

The Gate in front of him was made out of liquefied flames.

That was the best term Dilan could find to describe the appearance of the Gate which was ten meters in diameter.

The notification screen about it was nothing special and Dilan couldn't care less. He didn't want to enter any place related to the Sun God.

Only one piece of information attracted his attention!

'There is nothing written about the Gate being temporary or permanent, just that the gate belongs to the Sun God.'

Dilan was not sure what kind of restrictions the 'Believer of the Sun' had to enter Milarn through the Sun God's Gate but he could be certain that no Tier-2 existence was allowed to enter the newly awakened planet yet.

At least, that was what Dilan concluded from the information he had collected until now.

Making a big detour around the Sun God's Gate, Dilan planned on venturing deeper inside the Sun temple.

But after he walked less than 100 meters deeper inside the temple, Dilan sensed that something was off.

The temperature around him decreased drastically. Instinctively, he turned around to take a look at the Sun God's Gate.

'Is it fluctuating?'

That was not it!

The Sun God's Gate was not only fluctuating but also devouring the heat from the surroundings.

Its suction force was quite high. Dilan felt cold all of a sudden and worry gleamed in his eyes.

'What the hell is happening? Was someone on the other side of the Sun God's Gate informed that I eradicated the entire branch of followers of the Sun temple? That cannot be it, right?'

Dilan ignored his earlier plan to raid the Sun temple. He made his way back outside the temple, ignored the unstable Gate, and stepped down the steps of the Sun temple.

At that moment he also noticed that the heat created by the walls and the flames of fire were getting pulled toward the Sun God's Gate.

'Are they trying to send over reinforcements while not having enough energy to do so?'

Dilan had no idea what was actually going on, which was why his mind came up with some theories on the spot.

In the end, it didn't matter what was true and what was not. He could clearly see and sense that it was possible for him to leave soon.

'Less than a minute and I'm free!'

Exactly 58 seconds later as Dilan reached the outer parts of the town, the walls of fire were extinguished and Dilan was free to roam outside.

However, just when he took his first step outside the Sun temple's town, his steps froze in place as his head turned instinctively to the mountainside.

A moment later every single hair on his body stood on its end and his gut feeling told him that something terrifying was about to happen.

And it was just at this moment, a seemingly ordinary moment on an ordinary day after the Primordial Ascension that a terrifying roar reverberated through the mountainside, Rian, and the Shikan plains.

The ground shook, forcing Dilan to the ground as he covered his ears to prevent his eardrums from bursting apart.

His heart was beating wildly while his breathing became rapid, his entire body began to twitch, and his eyes widened in terror as the deafening roar seemed to pass by him.

Simultaneously with the passing roar, his head turned toward Rian.

Rian was several kilometers away from him.

However, due to his great eyesight, it was still possible for him to see how the gigantic skyscrapers collapsed on the ground. Rubble was flung through the surroundings and dust was stirred up, clouding his vision for a while.

Yet, all of this was blown away by the roar that never seemed to end.

Only moments later, even the damaged buildings behind Dilan began to give in as well.

Time seemed to slow down and seconds turned into minutes as everything in the surrounding was slowly beginning to crumble until there was nothing but ruins left behind as the terrifying roar finally ended.

Only five seconds had passed but the destruction a simple roar had caused was devastatingly high.

Dilan's mind was befuddled but he was still able to see that numerous weaker monsters had collapsed on the ground. White foam spilled out of their mouth and they twitched as if they were under unbearable pain.

To say that Dilan had a bad feeling was an understatement. Terror struck him and his mind got cleared up. He recalled that the Sun temple was only supposed to be a minor task in his to-do list before he wanted to leave with the others.

In fact, according to his old plan, he should have already left the city by now!!

'I wasted way too much time here...I hope the others are already ready, or even better, it would be best if they already left.'

Ignoring the miserable condition of his body, Dilan activated [Thunder Step] before he rushed back to Rian.

On the way, he found numerous collapsed monsters around him but their existence couldn't be less significant to him as right now.

His mind was in turmoil and his body was under even more pain as was the case when he was fighting.

Earlier, the adrenaline and the loss of his rationality had numbed his pain but right now, this was not the case.

He grit his teeth rushed back to the Rian mountainside hospital and was relieved to find out that everyone had already finished packing up.

However, due to the terrifying roar, more than half of Dilan's group had collapsed on the ground. They were currently being transported in the buses and were squeezed inside them before they would set off.

The Tier-1 Ascenders would run around the buses, protecting the survivors from monsters.

Upon seeing his people and knowing that they were still fine, Dilan couldn't help but sigh in relief.

Blood trickled out of his eyes, nose, mouth, and ears, and the injuries of his legs had torn open once again but that did not matter.

Everyone was fine, and that was the only thing that mattered to him.

The moment the others saw Dilan, their first thought was relief.

However, seeing the paper-white Dilan, who seemed to have lost several liters of blood, and continued to bleed, chills ran down the spines of everyone who got a glimpse of him.

Williams rushed to him with several Ascenders who had healing abilities.

The Ascenders surrounded him and used their abilities however often they could.

Never in their life had they seen Dilan in such a bad state, and that was saying a lot, considering that he had been in a near-death state on several occasions.

The Ascenders, who had healing abilities, could clearly tell Dilan's condition.

Thus, none of them could help but look at Dilan in shock, and wonder how he was still alive, could stand on his feet, let alone walk around.

In their opinion, it was already a miracle that he was alive, to begin with.

Yet, seeing that Dilan was still able to walk, some Ascenders truly began to wonder, whether Dilan was still human or if he had advanced to become a higher life form.

"What happened to you? Will you be fine? What happened to Mason? One of his friends told me that he sneaked out to follow you. Did you see him?"

Dilan didn't want to answer any of these questions, and they actually didn't have time for small talk.

However, upon hearing Mason's name, Dilan bit his lower lip before a bitter expression appeared on his face.

That was the first time anyone had ever seen Dilan with such an expression. It was filled with sadness, anger, frustration, and the guilt of having been unable to protect someone.

"I...He...he died..."

That was the only thing Dilan could say. He didn't have the energy to retell the harrowing incident that had left him shaken. It was already difficult for Dilan to speak a few words, let alone to reveal everything that had happened.

Yet, just a look at Dilan was already enough to figure out that their leader had tried his best in order to protect Mason.

Even if one didn't like Dilan, or didn't think highly of him, everyone could tell that Dilan wouldn't end up that badly...except if the worst possible scenario had occurred.

Nobody said anything to him, and Williams merely nodded his head. He hadn't been close to Mason, and Williams' mind had already accepted that every single one of them could die at any moment.

That was what the world had changed to.

Either you are strong enough to survive every possible hindrance...or you would die, and your name wiped off from the records of history.

This was the bitter truth about the new world...about Milarn, and about the entire Universe!

Chapter 200 Mountain of Lava

There was not much for Dilan to do when he had arrived at the Rian mountainside hospital.

Everyone had witnessed the terrifying roar that had originated from the mountainside. Thus, it was no wonder that even the narrow-minded and doubtful Survivors finally chose to follow Dilan and his people.

Out of the 500 Survivors, who had wanted to stay in the Rian mountainside hospital for various reasons, less than 100 stayed behind after hearing the terrifying roar.

Those who stayed behind were obviously scared but they firmly believed that the existence hiding in the mountainside wouldn't bother them.

No one truly knew how the few dozen Survivors could be so confident about this but it was not as if anyone cared about forcing them to follow them.

At least, Dilan couldn't care less about what choice others made.

They were free to do whatever they wanted to do as long as their decision didn't implicate him.

Dilan was still in emotional turmoil because he was still coming to terms with the fact that Mason had died on his watch.

It annoyed him more than anyone else that his mind was still focused on Mason and the fact that he could have saved him, somehow, as long as he was strong enough.

However, despite his mind and emotions being in chaos, Dilan's body was way too weak, damaged and exhausted to prevent him from overthinking the events that had occurred and those that were currently happening..

He was led to one of the seats in one of the more than two dozen buses they had managed to get their hands on.

Afterward a few elderly nurses were told to take care of Dilan, which they did without further ado.

Their experienced eye told the nurses that Dilan was not supposed to be conscious right now. He had to be in immense pain, and was supposed to be rendered incapable of even lifting a finger without feeling as if his limbs would be torn apart at any moment.

They couldn't even imagine what Dilan had faced outside Rian, and if they were to be honest, they didn't want to know. Dilan's entire body released a horrifying sensation as if he was born to kill.

It felt weird but the nurses tried to ignore it as well as possible while tending to Dilan's wounds.

He didn't move at all while the nurses cut open his clothes when they took off his boots, his gloves, the metal chest plate he had been wearing and the other clothes that obstructed them from observing his wounds and bandaging him.

In the end, Dilan didn't have many clothes on but his impressive physique was the last thing the Nurses could pay attention to.

They looked at him with shock and terror in their eyes as they took in the bloody sight, clearly seeing that not a single inch of Dilan's body was unscathed.

After cleaning his body with a wet towel, his appearance was not as frightening as before but that didn't mean that the nurses felt any better.

He had angry bruises, and blisters all over his body, his legs looked as if an apprentice butcher had attempted to do something great but failed miserably, and his sword-arm looked no better either.

While the nurses tended to Dilan, who was barely able to stay conscious, the others finally completed their last mission; to carry the unconscious Survivors inside the buses.

They started not long after and began to drive off.

At the same time, the majority of Tier-1 Ascenders were ordered to guard the buses. The buses drove slowly as they had to pave their way through various abandoned cars, destroyed streets and the remnants of skyscrapers that had collapsed on the ground.

Leaving Rian took more than 20 minutes and it was only fortunate for their group that they didn't encounter any malicious monsters.

In fact, they didn't encounter a single monster, let alone a group of monsters on their way outside the city.

It was almost as if Rian had been abandoned by all the monsters.

And this was exactly what it looked like when they finally reached the Highway that passed through the Shikan plains.

Even if one didn't want to admit it, with the sight that unfolded right in front of everyone, it was certain that something big was happening.

The terrifying roar had been a warning, and the reaction to this warning was the flood of monsters that fled from Rian as far and quickly as possible.

Tens, if not more than a hundred thousand monsters, mutated animals, and mythical beasts were running for their life just after hearing that blood-curdling roar.

It didn't matter if one was predator or prey, the monsters didn't care about each other as they dashed over the Shikan plains with their terrifying speed, frantically stomping over the weak ones on their way.

On the other hand, the buses and the speed at which the Tier-1 Ascenders were running over the highway could be considered to be slow like a snail.

“Should we speed up as well?...I have a bad feeling...” Xenia remarked with a wildly beating heart. She didn’t feel comfortable with what she saw and wanted to leave at once.

However, Sven could only shake his head.

“We don’t have that much gasoline, and cannot waste a single drop of it. The weight eight buses have to carry is too huge to drive much faster and the waste of gasoline would increase exponentially just by driving 10 km/h faster...”

To be honest, I wish we could drive faster as well but even if we drive faster and we pass by some monsters, we never know if some horde of beasts would attack us to make space, or if another untoward incident would occur.

And without Dilan...I’m not sure if anyone is confident of defeating a group of monsters at the later ranks of Tier-1...”

Even though Yvonne was powerful and ready to fight numerous monsters, it was not as if she could protect everyone, defeat powerful Tier-1 monsters and escape unscathed all alone.

By being slower than the fleeing monsters, they could escape their wrath and prevent being dragged into their mess.

It might be uncomfortable because the lurking dangers from behind them scared everyone but Dilan had warned them early enough to pack up and leave.

“...without Dilan’s warning, we wouldn’t have packed up even now...” One of the Tier-1 Ascenders commented, feeling relieved of Dilan’s forethought.

And it was just at this moment, that a hot gust of wind swept into their back, which caused some of them to fall on the ground.

The Ascenders were nearly sucked into the air owing to the intensity of the hot gust. However, this was not even the most frightening.

Everyone’s head turned around in unison. It was as if they were drawn to what was going on behind him, and to the scenery that was now unfolding right in front of them.

The mountain’s greenery was ablaze and its greyish stones were covered in thick molten lava that poured down everywhere.

A mountain of lava was created in a single moment.

However...

The mountain of lava was not what everyone looked at with widened eyes that were filled in terror.

“As if...”

Dilan was the only one able to speak through his shock. Yet, even he was not able to hide his expression.

Chills ran down his spine, causing his body to flinch in pain but that was not something Dilan noticed right in that instance.

“That...thing...was hidden in the mountainside?!”