

Warlord 241

[Undying Warlord](#)

Chapter 241 You choose wisely

Felia left the base with a heavy heart.

Her gaze kept flitting back to the factory, and the base of Dilan's group, more often than she wanted to acknowledge.

The situation had escalated and she had no idea what was going to happen.

The future was unpredictable but one thing was for sure; things won't end well.

Felia was bothered about this. She might have been afraid of Dilan when he had released his wrath and anger.

However, it was not as if she couldn't understand him.

'I would probably feel like killing someone, who was trying to do something to my people when I trusted them. He even invited us to his group and told us about his rules. It was just these bastards, who couldn't control their dicks. These fucking bastards...'

Slowly, with time, her thoughts about Dilan began to change. Felia was now beginning to make sense of Dilan's punishment as killing the soldiers would prevent anyone else from even considering raping someone.

Everyone would be way too afraid to have the slightest thought about it.

This was quite obvious, and Dilan had gained his group's trust by following the rules he had set up. His punishment might seem merciless but the women would trust him and the men would respect him.

Nonetheless, Felia didn't like how things had gone down the wrong path.

'This really won't end well. Just why did this have to happen?!?' Felia nearly cursed out loud. She wanted to scream at the top of her lungs, let off some steam, and beat the rapists, Dilan had just killed, into a pulp.

However, that was not possible anymore. Taking a few deep breaths, she tried to calm down. Felia gave her best not to show how she felt, especially because she could tell that the others were looking at her..

?(0??)???

But it was all for naught. Her soldiers looked at their Captain with puzzled expressions, feeling as if they were not sure what to say.

Only after they had nearly reached the area where they had parked their armored vehicles did one of the younger Soldiers ask,

"Captain...what will we do now? What are we supposed to report to our higher ups?"

This question was something many had in their mind. They were still not certain what exactly had happened. When they had arrived at the crime scene, everything was already over.

Dilan stood in the center of corpses, the corpses of their comrades, and the corpses of his own people. It was difficult to explain what exactly had happened because they hadn't been around to witness the bloodbath.

Only Felia knew what exactly happened, and she had also been a little bit late.

The first thing she saw was Marie, enveloped in a blanket, shivering while being held by Dilan. Afterward, the situation went downhill like a car with failed brakes.

"I...don't know what to say. I mean he told us about his rules before, and we still entered his base...I mean it is not actually his fault, or is it?" She mumbled, not giving her soldier a concrete answer.

However, Felia understood that she was just speaking gibberish.

"Argh, I have no idea. I will just plainly report everything that happened from the moment Dilan fought the Hyenas until the moment we return to the camp!!"

Felia chose the easier path, the rational path, where she would just reveal everything with all the details.

She didn't want things to get even worse, but Felia was actually not sure if that was even possible.

While she was deep in thoughts, her ears perked up. She turned to her right and saw a group of five Tier-1 Ascenders approaching her slowly.

They didn't have any weapons, let alone any other equipment.

"Aren't they...some of the Survivors of Dilan's group? Those who were exiled by him?" Felia mumbled, her head slightly tilted in confusion.

"Miss Felia, we finally found you. Did you want to leave without us? We wanted to join the Blue Star camp, yet, we couldn't find you guys at all!" One of the Tier-1 Ascenders exclaimed while continuing to approach her and the soldiers.

The soldiers didn't have their guns because Dilan had destroyed them. Thus, at the sight of the five powerful humans, they flinched involuntarily.

"I'm sorry but the five of you won't be accepted in the Blue Star camp. I won't take someone in our group if I cannot be certain that they won't betray us. You guys betrayed Dilan without hesitation, and you even became accomplices for rapists.

Tell me, why the hell should I accept trash in our group?! I don't want to harm the Blue Star Camp.

I bet you cannot even give me a single reason why I should allow you guys to join me!!"

Felia would be the last one to accept a rapist into her group. She was already agitated that some of her soldiers had attempted to \*\*\*\* someone, and it was even worse that they were in the territory of another group at that time.

It was embarrassing and extremely frustrating.

Felia had yet to gain control over her emotions. She looked at the five Tier-1 Ascenders with anger, not believing how they could be shameless enough to try joining them, after what they did, at that.

Meanwhile, after hearing Felia's words, the Ascenders grew angry as well. They had been forced to run for their lives, after using their one and only chance to join the Blue Star camp.

At least, they believed that protecting the few soldiers, who attempted to \*\*\*\* one of the most beautiful women in their group, would result in their acceptance in the Blue Star camp.

This was utter bullshit, yet it was not something they could comprehend anymore.

If one would have to label the five Tier-1 Ascenders, a hypocrite was probably the best name one could give them.

No other adjective would suit them better as they were hypocrites from the deepest parts of their souls, and this was clearly shown as they released their abilities.

The bodies of some of them expanded, while others were shrouded in elemental attacks. Meanwhile, the rest of them once again had summoned arrows manifested out of compressed mana.

"We did everything we were told! EVERYTHING!!! Everything just for your group, your people, to protect them, to be able to join your group, to join the Blue Star camp...and you want us to give you a reason to join you?!"

How about staying alive? Isn't that privilege more than enough to count as a reason!?!"

Felia frowned upon hearing what the middle-aged Tier-1 Ascender in front of them shouted. However, she had nothing else to say.

Shaking her head, Felia felt that the situation had grown even more complex than it had already been. Her mind was in a mess, and she knew that all of them would die the moment she would deny their request.

After all, the five Tier-1 Ascenders in front of her were even stronger than she was, let alone the others.

'Just what am I supposed to do?!' She asked herself.

However, her subconsciousness had already acted. Felia had unsheathed her sword and pointed it toward the five Ascenders.

They immediately knew the meaning of this action and the middle-aged Tier-1 Ascender didn't even think about holding back.

He blasted the compressed mana arrows at Felia. They reached her a mere second later, impacting hard on the sword Felia could barely lift in time.

She was pushed back and heard the crackling noise of her sword that was about to crumble after receiving the brunt of the tremendous force the mana arrows harbored.

Yet, just when Felia thought that it was already too late, the beautiful noise of something cutting through the air reached her ears.

?[0?]? Five times did she hear the unmistakable sound of arrows flying through the air, and just a moment later, the mana arrows dissipated, turning into countless particles.

'What the hell just happened?!' Felia was confused.

However, a glance at the five Tier-1 Ascenders was enough to show her and the soldiers below her that they had been killed.

Each corpse was impaled with a single arrow adorning its head.

With a shocked expression, Felia felt shivers running down her spine. At that moment a sixth noise followed suit. From her right an arrow came flying and landed right in front of her feet, startling her.

"A piece of paper?" One of the Soldiers noticed pieces of paper that had been bound to the arrow shaft.

But Felia didn't even hear the soldier. Her head turned in the direction the arrow had flown towards her, only for a young woman in her late 20s to be unveiled.

She was quite beautiful and her long blonde hair fluttered in the air as she smiled faintly before turning around.

'Is she heading towards Dilan's base? Does she belong to his group?' Felia wondered, not knowing that the archer was one of the few Ascenders, who had been with Dilan for the longest time.

Felia was baffled and only now did she see the note, which the Soldier handed to her.

[That is my last present. You choose wisely :D]

Chapter 242 Leading around

Dilan had guessed that some of the Ascenders would try to join Felia's group to have fewer problems getting into the Blue Star camp.

He also guessed that Felia would reject them. As a woman, she wouldn't accept anyone in their group, who protected rapists, and as a leader, Felia wouldn't accept anyone, whom she couldn't trust the slightest bit.

Of course, Dilan knew that his assumptions could be wrong, but when Ailee returned from the mission he had given her, she reported to him what had happened.

"So, I was right. That's great, I guess." Dilan merely said before he turned quiet again.

The atmosphere around Dilan was tense. Many Survivors looked at him in fear, and they didn't know what to think about their leader's actions.

Nobody dared to say anything against Dilan, not after what they had just witnessed, but the Survivor's eyes spoke volumes about their doubts, fears, and uncertainties.

Kathrine didn't like the way survivors reacted. Whether Dilan did the right or the wrong thing, there was no need for them to doubt or fear him.

Of course, one would feel fear upon seeing someone cutting apart other fellow humans before exiling his own people, threatening to kill them if they wouldn't leave his sight and to actually see him kill them.

However, right now, Dilan didn't release the same frightening pressure, and he didn't have the intention to kill someone without any reason.

One could tell that his anger had subsided and that he didn't have the intention to kill anyone around him.

Everyone knew that Dilan was doing all of this for the group's sake, and not for his own. That was, at least, what Kathrine believed, which was also why she didn't fear Dilan at all.

Nonetheless, it was impossible for her to avoid accepting the fact that Dilan killed his own people, mercilessly at that after they didn't leave his sight in the five seconds he gave them.

"I hope we did the right thing... It looks like we have to become even stronger. The Blue Star camp might attack us soon." Kathrine sighed deeply, without realizing that her voice had been louder than expected.

Many Survivors nodded their heads at Kathrine's comment, while others trembled, thinking that Dilan might do something to Kathrine, just because she didn't actually sound as if she believed that he did the right thing.

That was not how Kathrine intended to sound, and she didn't even notice that she had let her doubts creep in her voice as if she was openly stating that she was not sure of Dilan's actions.

Dilan merely threw a glance at Kathrine, who acted as if she didn't say something that could potentially cause a domino effect to lead more Survivors to speak up against him.

Understanding that it was her slip of the tongue, Dilan could only smile faintly. He shook his head and was about to say something when Yvonne began to speak up.

"How about everyone or a few of you reveal your opinion about Dilan's actions. Was he too harsh to the soldiers or the traitors? Did they deserve to die, or would it have been fair to let them survive?"

While revealing your opinion, please consider that it might have been you guys who might have been raped, or potentially beaten to death by the Soldiers while the traitors prevented anyone from helping you.

Furthermore, think about why Dilan did everything he just did, and what others would think about him if he were to be generous enough to give everyone a second chance. Would they take Dilan seriously, or would they take him as a wimp?"

It was obvious that Yvonne was trying to beat some sense in the foolish group members and bring everyone to Dilan's side. They were supposed to look at the entire incident through Dilan's eyes, and figure out what he did, why he did it, and what kind of aftermath other decisions would have caused.

However, nobody dared to voice their opinion. Most Survivors were too scared to say something wrong, fearing that Dilan would throw a fit.

Thus, it was Yvonne, who was the first one to reveal her honest opinion.

"If nobody speaks, I guess that it will be fine for me to start.

I can only speak for myself, but I'm grateful to Dilan. He was already severely injured when he heard that someone was trying to \*\*\*\* one of his people. Without thinking twice he rushed over and he freed Marie, ignoring his injury that tore open once again.

Killing the Soldiers was the right choice, and if Dilan wouldn't have done it, I would have! As for exiling the Survivors and Ascenders, who protected the Soldiers while simultaneously preventing others from helping them, they deserved death as well.

In my opinion, their action was even worse than the attempted \*\*\*\* of the Soldiers. We trusted these Survivors and Ascenders, and they betrayed us the moment an opportunity to leave us and join a different group presented itself.

They didn't even know much about the Blue Star camp and had just heard that the military is in control of it. However, as everyone saw, even the military is not all that glorious because they have rapists amongst them.

And do you think, the higher-ups in the other groups or camps are different than they have been in the past? I believe that they will be the same, or even worse than before. They won't be put in prison, let alone killed for raping someone.

It would already be a surprise if they were awarded some kind of punishment, to begin with. Would anyone with power fear raping a weak woman? Definitely not! Would the weak have to live in fear, even if they were safe from powerful monsters in the Blue Star camp? Yes, because they can never know when a powerful Ascender would decide to cast his evil gaze on them!"

Yvonne had much more to say, but she decided to end it here. It was the first time for her to address a big crowd and continue speaking despite noticing all the gazes on herself.

Normally, she was shy and kept to herself. However, she thought that it was necessary for her to speak her mind right now. After all, Dilan had rescued her from getting raped as well.

When she had been powerless and expecting death than getting violated at the hands of the psychopathic guy on the fourth floor of the Rian mountainside hospital, Dilan was the one who had saved her.

Afterward, he killed everyone, who tried to \*\*\*\* someone, creating graphic examples of what would happen to anyone, who dared to \*\*\*\* someone in his group.

In Yvonne's opinion, Dilan's actions were great, simply because they prevented others from thinking that they would be able to leave unscathed after doing some stupid shit.

Some Survivors nodded their heads upon hearing Yvonne's words. Meanwhile, others could only shake their heads. They thought that Yvonne was biased.

But what those Survivors didn't expect was to hear that others began to reveal their honest opinion about Dilan's actions as well.

Most even said that nobody would dare to do anything to him and that they had only issues with Dilan's frightening presence whenever something happened.

"He did the right thing."

"Nobody would dare to \*\*\*\* us as long as they know that death would greet them the moment they attempt it."

“These fucking traitors deserved to die! It was already generous enough of Dilan to give them five seconds to run for their lives!!”

“Was it really necessary to kill the traitors? Didn’t some of them acknowledge that what they did was wrong and that they wanted to apologize?”

“Are you a fool? They wanted to save their skin, nothing more! In their opinion, everything they did was perfectly fine, and they would have done it again, the moment they sensed an opportunity to join another group or to gain more benefits! They would have betrayed us, either way, so they deserved death!!”

“We were extremely lucky that their betrayal ended up like this. Imagine that if a monster tide happened, and they would lead the monster tide to us to save themselves!!”

The more people shared their opinion, the better the situation became. The tension cleared as more people spoke in support of Dilan.

This was a great sign, and Dilan couldn’t help but nod toward Yvonne thankfully. She had done a fine job of leading everyone’s thoughts in the direction she wanted. This was not something everyone could do.

However, Yvonne did so easily, without the need to actually think about what she was doing. She did it with a straight face and one couldn’t even detect if she was proud of what she did, if she was satisfied with the result or if something bothered her.

Even for Dilan, this nonchalant behavior of the shy and timid girl was astonishing.

‘Looks like I don’t have to say anything. Well, that is a change that I can appreciate.’ He simply thought with a faint smile on his face as he continued to pay attention to the unfolding situation in front of them.

Yet, there was one question that attracted most of his attention, which was why he chose to discard his earlier thought of not needing to speak.

“But what will happen now? The Soldiers are already killed, and I don’t believe that the Blue Star camp will leave us alone. Will they attack us in retaliation, thinking that their soldiers were killed to provoke them?”

#### Chapter 243 Good use of an Enemy

The atmosphere in Dilan’s group was a mixture of being fearful of the unknown future, the intent to become stronger to survive the future challenges, and their trust in Dilan’s strength.

He was, by far, the strongest person they had seen until now.

Thus, even if they wouldn’t trust Dilan as a person, their loyalty toward him would be unwavering until someone more reliable and powerful would appear in front of them.

Some Survivors had believed that the military was more reliable, stronger, and more trustworthy than Dilan was.

However, fate hadn’t been on their side and they had met their deaths at Dilan’s hands.

They had supported the Soldiers in doing whatever they wanted to and had hoped to be able to join the Blue star camp immediately after.

To their misfortune, the entire incident ended rather bloody. Those who were too late to run away died, and Dilan made his opinion about rapists and traitors clear.

It was not the first time that Dilan made his stance clear. However, this time, he acted in a way that was looked at with split opinions.

After all, some members of his group might have spared the traitors in his group.

However, Dilan was too agitated about their betrayal to leave all of them alive.

Because his wound had been torn open several times after it had stopped bleeding, he was feeling exhausted.

Even after 24 hours had passed, his wound was not fully healed. The effect of [Bracing Pain] had stopped, and he didn't receive an amplification from the passive occupational ability anymore.

Nonetheless, Dilan was still weak, probably due to the fact that his Stamina couldn't recuperate properly while he had been injured.

'The others are somewhat motivated to go into an all-in war with the Blue Star camp because they don't really like the government and military, but there will be many casualties...'

Dilan knew that he couldn't fight the fight for others, they had to do it on their own.

That was only obvious but it was something essential for others to realize as well.

He could protect them to a certain extent but that was the maximum he could do. Dilan was not the nanny of the members belonging to his group.

'Well, let's just hope that it won't end that bad. Fighting vile Ascenders and ferocious monsters is fine, but I don't really want to fight against other humans if they never did anything to us.'

Dilan might be a battle maniac who acknowledged that he loved fighting. However, that didn't mean he was a psychopath, who wanted to slaughter just anyone to become stronger.

Otherwise, he would have long since killed the majority of his people, while forming a small but powerful group of Ascenders and then proceeded to search and slaughter other groups of human Survivors.

But that was not what Dilan wanted to do.

He would rather overpower everyone and make them fear even the thought of fighting him.

This would prevent anyone from thinking about attacking him or his group, whether it was the government, the military, other groups of humans, monsters, other races, or vile Ascenders.

All of them should think twice to be even close to him while harboring ill intentions!!

Despite this 'grand' plan, Dilan knew that it would take a while before he could rival an existence like the Red Dragon.



It should have become even stronger now that it had devoured the Fragment of the Sun God's Divinity.

With that in mind, other plans now took priority, such as the creation of the Potion of Enhancement <Swiftiness>, the focus on combat training, procuring more and better equipment, and a more efficient way to increase their level and gain status points.

That was also why Dilan finished recuperating properly before he joined the others in fighting their way through the different Gates.

By now, Shiron was nearly void of monsters.

This was an achievement the Tier-1 Ascenders fulfilled by roaming around in groups and obliterating every single threat they came across.

Because temporary Gates would emerge and throw out a bunch of monsters every now and then, it was impossible to clear the city completely.

Nevertheless, Dilan was quite surprised that his group fought harder than ever before.

He clearly noticed that almost everyone was trying much harder to become stronger than ever before.

This was a nice change compared to the behavior most of his people had shown before when there was no threat.

'I guess it will be better to always have an opponent to fight against. It motivates everyone to improve. Maybe it's for the best. That way nobody should be able to overpower the group even if I might not be at the base!'

He was visibly satisfied with how things progressed.

Oliver and Ailee noticed this as they passed by him when he had fully recuperated.

"Hey Dilan, do you want to go out with us? We wanted to fight a few new monsters at the Mountain ring of the Elements Gate." Oliver asked, half expecting Dilan to decline his invitation.

Surprisingly, Dilan thought about it just for a second before nodding his head.

"Sounds good. I wanted to go to the Mountain Ring of the Elements, either way. Did you guys plan to do anything special or just to kill a few monsters and to look for more wild vegetables?" He enquired.

If they were to go out to hunt nonchalantly, Dilan might join them until they reached the Gate, or he would do something different than what they had planned.

"Well, we want to become stronger...so we planned on killing a few stronger monsters. The monsters in the Gate of the Mountain ring of the Elements are of a high level, which would help us to level up and gain many status points."

Ailee nodded her head in approval. She had felt useless during the last few weeks. Her strength had been extremely high in the beginning because she had attained the experiences and memories of a professional Archer.

With her bow and the arrows, Ailee had been extremely powerful in the early days just after the Primordial Ascension had occurred.

As long as she could use her experience as an Archer, everything would be perfectly fine.

Unfortunately, her advantage quickly lost its credibility. Too many monsters with strong defenses had sprung up like mushrooms, forcing Ailee to aim at the small vital areas to take them down.

However, this was easier said than done. Monsters with an Agility manyfold higher than an average human can ever achieve, were able to evade attacks easily.

It was no problem for them to perceive Ailee's attack and evade it to a certain extent.

That way, it was much harder for her to inflict severe injuries on her opponent. Ailee had been feeling useless for quite a while, and only when she gained her occupation, a handful of new abilities, and more proficiency with all of these abilities did her self-confidence return.

It was slowly building up once again, and Ailee was now ready to become much stronger. She was confident in proving herself as a valuable member, and was ready to show Dilan and everyone else what she was capable of!

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Chapter 244 Assassin, Archer, and the Slaughterer

Oliver had not been as frustrated as Ailee about her strength.

However, even he faced issues due to the fact that his natural talent to fighting was lower than William's and a few others.

At the same time, both Ailee and Oliver did not possess many abilities, let alone powerful ones such as Kathrine's [Lightning strike].

They were also amongst the majority of Survivors, who didn't have an Origin ability.

In fact, amongst Dilan's group, only he and Yvonne had openly revealed that they were in possession of an Origin ability.

Others might hide their Origin ability but Dilan didn't think that there was anyone else with an Origin ability, not in his group at least.

His group had also decreased in size. Now they were less than 2000 Survivors, with more than half of them being Ascenders.

After the incident where Dilan had killed the soldiers and the traitors, close to 200 Survivors had left them. They wanted to join the Blue Star camp, which was why they chose to leave Dilan's group and search for the camp on their own, and in small groups.

Dilan didn't hold them back, and he even gave them his support as long as he didn't suffer any losses because of the help he provided.

As for the remaining survivors, all of them were exceptional in Dilan's opinion. They didn't even consider leaving the group to join the government and the military.

Instead, their priority was to stay with Dilan and to survive with him!

Now that the incident was a thing of the past, Dilan decided to focus on the present and the future. Thus, he left the base with Ailee and Oliver, and found that it was quite relaxing to speak with the two.

It had been quite a while since Dilan had the time and nerve to give himself the time to relax and have a good chat with the two.

Both Ailee and Oliver were amongst the first and oldest Ascenders in his group. A few of the oldest Survivors were still in his group, and most of them had advanced to become powerful Ascenders by now.

Kathrine and Yvonne belonged to this batch though Dilan had known Ailee and Oliver for a bit longer.

Sadly, a little bit longer than a month was how long he had known most of the people around him.

He had yet to see anyone familiar from before the Primordial Ascension such as his friends.

Occasionally Dilan wondered if everyone was fine. But then again, even if they were alive, or dead, it was not as if he could find out anything about their whereabouts.

Even if he could, it was actually not helpful. Thus, Dilan focused on the present and the people who were currently with him, fighting for their survival.

That was also why he observed Ailee and Oliver intently when the three of them entered the Gate to the Mountain ring of the Elements.

What Dilan saw, however, baffled him a little bit.

‘Didn’t they say that they have already reached Level 14, both of them at that?’

Dilan frowned while looking at Ailee and Oliver. Their strength was not bad, per se, but it felt somewhat unrefined. Their combat experience was decent, and their passive mastery abilities were quite helpful as well.

However, there were still several factors that bothered Dilan.

When the two finished their first fight against a lower-leveled Silver Tier-1 monster, Oliver had almost been injured once, and Ailee’s arrows that had been amplified with one of her occupational abilities hadn’t struck the right spots.

“Guys, I didn’t intend to intervene in whatever you’re doing, but is it possible that the two of you rely on the experiences you’ve gained from the passive abilities you procured a long time ago?” Dilan’s question was not actually difficult to answer.

He just wanted to know if they were solely relying on their passive mastery abilities to fight.

After all, that was what it looked like.

“Well, you could say so. I fight according to the experiences I’ve gained through my Archery mastery occupation...” Ailee acknowledged after a second or two of hesitation.

She was pretty sure that her way of fighting was correct. After all, if she were to use her own experiences instead of making use of what she gained from her passive ability, her combat prowess would decrease drastically.

“I do the same, or at least, roughly...I think.” Oliver finally admitted as well after he endured Dilan’s piercing gaze for several seconds.

After receiving their hesitant answers, he could only sigh deeply.

“It’s great that you got yourself mastery abilities, about combat occupations at that. That’s truly helpful and something not even many [Rare] occupations provides.

However, if you solely rely on the memories and experiences provided by others, how would you guys improve? First of all the experiences mostly belongs to existences, whose average stats are at 1. That means, their combat style is completely different than what you can reveal in a fight against monsters, whose strength is 30 times the average of a human before the Primordial Ascension.

Other than that, you guys have completely different abilities, your distribution of status points is completely different, and both your strengths and weaknesses are completely different to everything shown in the memories and experiences of the combat mastery abilities.

It is great to know how to wield a weapon. However, the wielder has still to learn how to actually use it in action for maximum impact.

Some experience was already provided to you, but refining and creating your own style would be the best.

After all, the fighting style of everyone varies quite a lot, whether it was before or after the Primordial Ascension.

Everyone has their own few perks, their own disadvantages, habits and special tricks, right?”

Dilan finished his short lecture with a question before smiling faintly at the two Ascenders.

Oliver and Ailee didn’t need long to understand what Dilan meant, and they felt somewhat embarrassed.

Everything Dilan had just said was something they should have known already. However, because they had been too ignorant, their progress had been hampered.

Dilan didn’t mind their mistake, but the two were visibly embarrassed.

“How about we keep going? There is no need to be embarrassed, just try to improve. That way everyone will be happier.

Keep an eye on your actions, your opponents, and if possible your comrades as well.

If there is something wrong with my fighting style, or if there is something amiss or weird, just speak up as well.

I’m still far away from being considered a good fighter in terms of technique!”

Both Ailee and Oliver were of a different opinion because they could see that Dilan had disappeared from his location like a cat making no sound.

He didn't use any ability either. Dilan simply disappeared before appearing somewhere else, slashing out with the Blazing Serpentine Blade.

The enlarged blade shot through the narrow gap, precisely avoiding the thick trees that stood in its way before a painful squeal escaped a monster's mouth.

A small, blue-furred Rabbit had been pierced by Dilan's attack. It was merely a small monster but both Ailee and Oliver's eyes widened.

'Isn't that the Blue Flash Reaper?' Ailee nearly blurted out, barely quieting down to prevent overreacting all of a sudden.

The Blue Flash Reaper had an Agility that rivaled Gold Tier-1 monsters, and it was one of the most annoying monsters most Ascenders had ever faced.

They were extremely annoyed every single time they encountered this monster. After all, it would inflict minor injuries to their opponents while flashing through the surrounding area before disappearing once again.

Dilan didn't know the monster he had just killed, but Ailee and Oliver had faced it twice already. And they had been forced to leave the Mountain Ring of the Elements because of that monster specifically!

That was why both forced their mouths shut when they saw the monster's corpse pierced by Dilan's Blazing Serpentine blade.

"Y-Yeah...we will point out the moment we notice that something is odd about your combat style..." Oliver stuttered while feeling way too flustered to even say something to Dilan.

'How the hell does he expect us to say something if he acts like that a moment later? I cannot turn into a flash and throw out Wonder Woman's whip all of a sudden!?' He cursed inwardly.

Oliver started to get annoyed at Dilan. He acted as if he had so much to learn, yet, his actions were the exact opposite of what he actually said.

Meanwhile, Ailee could only nod her head silently. Her eyes were gleaming brightly at the sight of Dilan's mighty prowess, and he could see a tinge of awe and fascination in them.

This irked Oliver even more. He tightened his grip over his daggers, making his veins and muscles pop out while his knuckles turned white.

'I will surpass you, Dilan. Just you wait!!'

And with that in mind, the small journey of the Assassin, the Archer and the Slaughterer inside the Gate of the Mountain Ring of the Elements began.

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#### Chapter 245 The Windwalker & The Walker of Shadows

With Dilan by their side, it was fine to fight a little bit more aggressively than they would usually do.

Ailee and Oliver definitely felt Dilan's influence right off the bat, even more so when their courage increased thanks to the passive effect the title [Beyond the Stars] had.

Feeling more courageous, Ailee was able to use her abilities much smoother than usual, while the same could be said about her movements.

As for Oliver, he became more eager to use tactics in order to defeat his opponents instead of relying on his abilities and a high mana consumption.

For weaker opponents, it was not necessary to waste his precious mana. They fought Silver Tier-1 monsters with average stats of around 40 Units in a team of two, while Dilan observed them.

He finished off the monsters lurking around them, so as to prevent them from interfering in their battle, and observed everything else.

'Is it just me or are they improving much faster now?' Dilan didn't expect that his lecture would start showing results right away. However, he could clearly tell that the two improved much faster after he pointed out their flaws.

Right now, they were facing a heavy armored Wolf. Its fur shone in a silverish-gray tone, almost as if it was coated in metal.

It was faster than Oliver and had a higher Strength stat as well.

The Metal Wolf's stats were definitely higher than Ailee and Oliver's, but Dilan didn't think about intervening.

He wanted to see how much the two could improve under tremendous pressure.

'They can do it.' Dilan thought, his eyes intently focusing on the fight ahead.

Ailee didn't hesitate to use two of her active abilities in unison. [Armor Breaker(Wind)] and [Wind Arrow] were utilized at the same time.

While [Armor Breaker] was a wind-based armor piercing ability that could only be utilized on projectiles to increase their destructive force, [Wind Arrow] manifested an arrow out of compressed wind.

Both abilities Ailee had just activated belonged to her occupation [Windwalker]. It was an [Rare+] occupation that enhanced Ailee's Stamina and Agility a little bit.

Taking aim, she released the armor-piercing wind arrow which flew straight into the eye of the Metal Wolf.

However, the monster was not totally stupid either. It twisted its body to evade the armor-piercing wind arrow, while simultaneously avoiding Oliver's attack.

Ailee's attack merely impacted on the wolf's side, injuring it mildly.

Nonetheless, the attack was not a total miss and the arrow had lodged itself into the monster's side. It was only necessary to push the arrow deeper into the wolf's body to turn the mild injury to a severe one.

But that was not the Metal Wolf's biggest issue. After all, Oliver disappeared from the Metal Wolf's side the moment he finished his first slash.

He had activated [Shadow Walk] which was one of the occupational abilities that allowed him to disappear into his own shadow.

Furthermore, he could reappear in any shadow within a radius of 15 meters using the ability. Thus, Oliver reappeared on the other side of the Metal Wolf's body before slashing out once again.

Oliver had only a Bronze Tier-1 Dagger. Thus, he didn't dare to believe that his attack would be powerful enough to injure the Metal Wolf.

Fortunately, Oliver's plan was different, from the get-go. Using [Violent Strike], the first ability he bound to himself after the Primordial Ascension had occurred, Oliver's Strength increased by 20 Units.

[Violent Strike] had been upgraded to Tier-1 ★★ and its strength had increased by leaps and bounds.

While it could be considered a useless ability, this had changed completely by now. The increase of 20 Units in Strength was not something one could take lightly.

It might only be for a single strike, but that was perfectly fine because a true Assassin didn't require more than one strike to end the life of his opponents, either way!

Even if the Metal Wolf wanted to escape Oliver's attack at the last moment when it noticed that something was wrong, it was impossible.

With tremendous force, the Bronze Tier-1 dagger pierced into the Metal Wolf's neck.

As the attack impacted on the wolf, a loud cracking noise could be heard from the wolf's direction as it smashed onto the ground.

Dilan lifted his right eyebrow while observing their fight, realizing something he hadn't noticed earlier.

'I know that the status points from a level up are not enough to influence one's strength by a lot, but it looks like Oliver's focus is still Strength and Agility. Somehow, his strength seems to be even a little bit higher than his Agility.'

This realization was a little bit funny because Oliver's occupation was that of an Assassin.

It increased his Agility by 6 Units, his mana by 3 Units, and his Stamina by 1.

Thus, one could label Oliver not only as an ordinary assassin but a Magical Assassin.

However, that was not the name of his occupation. Rather, the name was something one might not even link to the occupation of an Assassin.

<Walker of the Shadows>, an [Rare+] occupation, the exact same rank as Ailee's occupation.

Oliver didn't acknowledge it, but everyone knew that he chose to advance to Tier-1 with the occupation [Walker of the Shadows] because it had the coolest name of all the occupations he could pick from.

That it was an Assassin occupation could be deciphered after some time, but it was more of a stroke of luck than a thoughtful decision. After all, he had chosen the occupation based on the name alone, not after carefully considering which occupation to choose for hours, let alone days.

After he killed the Metal Wolf, Oliver's expression lit up. It had been quite a while since he had killed a powerful monster that easily.

Ailee distracted the Metal Wolf by inflicting an injury, and after Oliver's first attack 'failed', he launched a second attack, from a completely different position and angle.

This was quite a decent feat, though it used a little bit more mana than the two had wished to actually use.

At that moment, a bunch of Bronze Tier-1 monsters emerged from the thicket of the forest. There were four large Goats, and all of them had bloodshot eyes.

They were certainly not here to graze some fresh afternoon grass in the forest. It was more likely that they were craving the blood of the human Ascenders.

Dilan was just about to move when he noticed that Ailee was reaching out for her quiver.

He halted in his tracks and looked at Ailee whose hands suddenly moved much faster than before.

[Rapid Shooting] Ailee's active ability was activated.

It didn't drain any of her mana. Instead, it used up Ailee's Stamina as her hands moved much faster when she shot a total of four arrows within a single second.

Each arrow hit one of the bloodshot Goats in the chest. Their hearts were pierced and the goats fell over just a moment later, never to get up again.

In an instant, Ailee killed four Bronze Tier-1 monsters as if it had been child's play.

It had been as easy as her killing the four Ascenders, who would have attacked Felia and the other Soldiers if it hadn't been for her intervention.

Dilan had noticed something about Ailee, something that was oddly familiar. However, it was only now that he believed he had figured out what exactly he had seen in Ailee.

'She is a natural killer.'

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Chapter 246 Killer

'She is a natural killer.' Dilan thought.

Had someone said these words about Ailee to him earlier, he would have never believed it to be true. After all, Ailee was rather naive, and her actions hadn't been out of the ordinary.

One could say that she had been a vulnerable woman, who needed to be protected because of her beauty.

She might not be the most beautiful woman in their group, but Ailee could certainly make heads turn.



In the early days after the Primordial Ascension, Dilan had helped her a bit because she had been afraid of being raped.

According to her own words, Ailee had even been too afraid to sleep peacefully.

Dilan had believed all of this in the beginning. This was also why it sounded logical that she was one of the first Survivors, who dared to fight monsters.

However, after the first few days since Dilan had gotten to know her, Ailee had mercilessly killed Jack, when he had attempted to kill Dilan.

This was something Dilan had been thankful for. But despite that, it was a little bit odd for Ailee to be unruffled about the fact that she had killed a fellow human being.

It was almost as if she was not even the slightest bit bothered about this fact, and she had continued to live her life as Survivors of the Primordial Ascension.

After that day, Dilan never had that much to do with Ailee. Of course, there were times when he went out hunting with all of them, and he saw her every single day at the meetings..

However, that didn't mean he actually focused on her, or that he spoke to her.

Only now did Dilan avert his focus on her because he clearly realized that Ailee was everything but an ordinary human being.

'She didn't even blink when I ordered her to kill the Tier-1 Ascenders, who I had presumed would try to force their way into joining Felia...'

Her immediate acceptance of his orders had made him knit his eyebrows because others would show hesitation when tasked with killing another human being.

But Dilan had simply presumed that Ailee didn't realize what exactly he wanted from her, that realization would strike her the moment she killed the very people she called her comrades just hours before.

That didn't happen, but Dilan had focused on recuperating from his injury. Thus, he didn't even notice that Ailee's behavior hadn't changed at all.

She was just like before.

'Ailee is definitely a natural killer. Even if she was obviously not a headhunter before the Primordial Ascension, she definitely has the talent of a natural killer.' Dilan couldn't hide that he was impressed.

Ailee could stay calm despite the sudden appearance of the bloodshot Goats, along with the four Bronze Tier-1 monsters that had charged at Oliver at a rapid pace.

She calmly used her [Rapid Shooting] and killed the four Goats as if they were ordinary animals.

'She is definitely worth nurturing. Her [Rare+] occupation has even 3 active abilities. That is quite rare.'

His group did research on the difference between [Common], [Rare], [Rare+], [Extraordinary], and [Legendary] occupation.

Secretly, Dilan would add [Divine] occupation as well, but for now, others shouldn't know about the existence of Divine occupations.

He was not sure why but something told him that it would endanger his people if they were to know about the true extent of his occupation.

Thus, the research only consisted of the five grades of occupations stated above.

Common occupations didn't provide many additional status points for advancing to Tier-1, and they only received one active and one passive occupational ability.

Furthermore, they didn't receive an additional spot for active or passive abilities.

Rare occupations had up to two active and passive occupational abilities. However, they didn't provide any additional spots for active or passive abilities as well.

The same was the case for [Rare+] occupations. Even William's [extraordinary] occupation only increased his passive ability spot by one.

Meanwhile, Yvonne's active and passive abilities increased by one, she received most additional status points and a total of three active and passive occupational abilities.

As for special traits, only special occupations had those, including Kathrine's [Lightning Warrior], Yvonne's [Fallen Angel], Old Jeff's [The Wise Blacksmith], and a handful more, including Dilan's [Kirak's Vassal].

In the end, Dilan's Divine occupation was not that different from Yvonne's Legendary occupation.

Both received a Special trait, three additional active and passive occupational abilities along with additional spots for their active and passive abilities.

However, while Yvonne received only one more active and passive ability spot, Dilan received two for each.

His status amplification was also higher than Yvonne's, and Dilan's Divine occupation increased the strength of his abilities by two stars!

This was something not even Yvonne had, and it was also the reason for Dilan's strength to be even higher than it ought to be.

Yet, on the downside, Yvonne didn't have something like Dilan's Cursed Blessing either, let alone a passive ability that decreased her Essence absorption.

Despite all of this, Dilan was happy with his occupation, even more so because it allowed him to become far stronger than anyone else.

While he thought about ways how to nurture Ailee properly, to make use of her natural instincts and talent, Oliver and Ailee absorbed the Essence crystals of the monsters they had killed.

Their strength would increase with each fight against stronger monsters, which was what the two wanted to achieve and show Dilan after receiving a lecture from him so as to redeem themselves in his eyes. They were sure that Dilan would follow them.

With confident strides, they continued to search for new monsters; monsters they had yet to kill for the first time.

Their Essence crystals were treasures to them, and absorbing only new Essence crystals would decrease the speed at which they would level up.

Leveling up was certainly a good thing. After all, one's strength would increase by leaps and bounds upon advancing to a new Tier.

However, without enough status points, one's strength would fall short at the end of the day.

It was important to level up, but slowing down one's leveling up speed to generate the most use of high leveled and high-quality Essence crystals was, at least, equally important.

Fortunately, Dilan didn't have this problem. Even if he were to kill and absorb the Essence of a thousand monsters, he doubted that he would level up that easily.

Only the highest quality and level of monsters would fill his Essence pool a little bit.

While he was deep in thought, Dilan followed Oliver and Ailee. However, what he didn't expect to find was that the two would encounter one of the monsters Dilan had killed just recently.

Dilan was immediately dragged out of his train of thoughts when he heard a ferocious roar coming from in front of him. However, instead of being nervous, his expression was more of confusion.

"It's one of them again?! But why the hell are your claws emerald now?!"

A five-meter-tall bear with 30-centimeter-long emerald claws had emerged from the forest.

'We're not even close to the territory of the CrimsonClaw Bear, so I guess they don't belong to one group. This one is a little bit different as well...'

Dilan immediately perceived that there was a slight difference between the CrimsonClaw Bear and the EmeraldClaw Bear. He presumed their status distribution to be different. However, that was not something he could know for sure.

And it actually didn't matter because Dilan knew that he shouldn't take this kind of monster lightly.

Nonetheless, there was a particular question that flashed through his mind.

'Just how many types of these Bears are there? For all elements or what?!

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Chapter 247 Speed

[0??]? "This time, I won't allow you to play around with me," Dilan mumbled before his eyes turned serious.

He knew that the EmeraldClaw Bear was completely different from the CrimsonClaw Bear. But that didn't mean it was weaker.

In fact, Dilan was pretty sure that the EmeraldClaw Bear was a bigger threat than the CrimsonClaw Bear.

That was also why he didn't show a trace of hesitation.

"Step back!!" He shouted out while activating [Thunder Step], and [Second Acceleration] at the same time.

Dilan's Agility skyrocketed, but he didn't feel powerful enough.

Thus, he activated [Gale] once in order to disappear from the EmeraldClaw Bear's sight. Dilan reappeared ten meters ahead and was standing only 20 meters away from the monster.

However, all of a sudden, Dilan was holding two crimson gleaming daggers, which neither Ailee nor Oliver had ever seen.

But at the sight of the daggers that Dilan wielded, the EmeraldClaw Bear's eyes narrowed, and a terrifying roar followed suit.

"Yeah buddy, those belong to one of your colleagues," Dilan mumbled before blasting forward.

He disappeared in the thicket of trees for a moment and shot upward a tree within a quarter of a second just to use the thick trunk of the tree to catapult his body towards the EmeraldClaw Bear.

Dilan's speed was terrifyingly high, and it was impossible for Ailee and Oliver to follow his trajectory.

Only the purple trail which he left behind gave a rough indication of Dilan's position.

However, contrary to the two human Ascenders, the EmeraldClaw Bear could precisely follow Dilan's movements.

It was as if it could actually keep up with Dilan's speed and blindingly fast motions.

This was actually what the EmeraldClaw Bear did. Its unboosted Agility stat was already above the threshold that a Tier-1 existence could reach.

The EmeraldClaw Bear had an Agility breaking through 80, and it was possible for the monster to further boost its Agility, using an ability called [Zephyrus' Boost].

Powerful wind currents engulfed the EmeraldClaw Bear, nearly lifting the monster. Yet, instead of actually lifting the bear, it was more like its weight was non-existent, allowing the monster to move much faster than anyone else.

[Zephyrus' Boost] also increased the EmeraldClaw Bear's Agility upon being used and further increased its Agility.

In an instant, Dilan's two agility-boosting abilities turned insignificant in the face of the EmeraldClaw Bear. It was now faster than Dilan!

Thus, his movements were easily perceived by the monster.

'It can read my moves!' Dilan quickly noticed, but it didn't surprise him.

From the beginning, he could tell that the EmeraldClaw Bear was as powerful as the other one. It shouldn't have such an endurable body as the CrimsonClaw Bear, but that was something Dilan had to find out first.

Instead of being durable and overly powerful in terms of its Strength stat, the EmeraldClaw Bear was extremely fast. That was the monster's perk, and Dilan had figured this out right from the moment he saw how smoothly it moved through the thicket.

However, this was something Dilan wanted to take advantage of.

While he catapulted his entire body toward the EmeraldClaw Bear, he threw one of the daggers straight at the monster.

Usually, Dilan would never sacrifice his weapon to do something as stupid as throwing it around. However, Old Jeff had forged him a total of 10 daggers, by grinding and polishing each of the CrimsonClaw Bear's crimson claws.

When the first dagger was thrown out, another one manifested in Dilan's hand. It was easy to replace them as long as he threw his weapons using the hand where the storage ring was located.

It made things much easier.

The crimson dagger shot towards the EmeraldClaw Bear, who could clearly perceive it. Lifting one of its paws, the crimson dagger was blocked.

However, even if the EmeraldClaw Bear was exceptionally fast, Dilan was still stronger in terms of stats. Thus, the impact of the crimson dagger was not something the EmeraldClaw Bear could simply ignore.

The paw which the bear used to block the dagger that had been thrown at it was slightly pushed backward.

At the same time, Dilan was almost right in front of the bear, and he could already smell its pungent breath.

But just when Dilan was about to slash out, the bear's other paw lunged out at him. With a shocking speed, the paw cut through the air, and it was about to impact on Dilan when a blue shield appeared right in front of the Emerald Claw.

Dilan had activated [Aegis' Shield] with full power once to block the slash that had already been initiated, and when the distance to the EmeraldClaw Bear had further narrowed, Dilan activated [Aegis' Shield] a second time.

The second time he activated [Aegis' Shield], Dilan didn't use much mana. Instead, he merely blocked the EmeraldClaw Bear's right paw, which he had earlier pushed back with the use of the thrown crimson dagger.

The weaker [Aegis' Shield] prevented the EmeraldClaw Bear and used its paw to initiate an attack.

Thus, with the use of two Aegis' Shields, it was possible for Dilan to unarm the Bear and to blast straight into its chest while holding the crimson daggers right in front of him.

Impacting on the EmeraldClaw Bear, Dilan felt how the razor-sharp daggers pierced straight through its thick fur, the bear's flesh, and even the monster's bones.

He twisted the daggers by using every inch of strength in his body to rip the weapons, and tore out the daggers, just to pierce them into the bear once again.

The monster roared out in pain, endless pain, however, there was nothing it could do about it.

Its head had lunged out for Dilan, but he had moved rapidly, pushing his feet from the bloodied body of the EmeraldClaw Bear the moment he sensed that it would attack him.

The bear had been drastically weakened and it was barely able to stand. Intestines spilled out of the huge wound Dilan had inflicted, and it was merely a matter of minutes before the bear would eventually die.

Nonetheless, the bear didn't want to go down alone. It wanted to take Dilan with it.

Yet, when one of the crimson daggers gleamed in a white light just as the EmeraldClaw Bear lunged out with its head, everyone knew that the fight was over.

[Mana Slash]!

Dilan activated [Mana Slash], and attacked his opponent straightforwardly as he pierced out with the crimson dagger the moment the bear lunged out.

He didn't use his entire mana, but only a portion of it. However, that was already more than enough to end the life of the severely injured monster.

It slumped to the ground seconds after Dilan's mana slash pierced through its wide-open maw. The emerald eyes of the monster slowly lost their light and dimmed down. They turned lifeless and the body collapsed on the ground, leaving behind a mere corpse.

Dilan started to breathe heavily when the EmeraldClaw Bear collapsed on the ground. He had just used the majority of his mana to defeat one monster.

This was definitely a waste of precious mana. However, Dilan couldn't help but feel fortunate. The corner of his lips was curled upward into a crooked smile, and he sighed in relief.

"Fortunately, I could prevent using [Bearer of Pain]. I have gone through enough pain during the last two days as it is." He mumbled, fully aware that he would have to feel far more pain in the future.

Every single day without unbearable pain was a pleasure. However, at the same time, Dilan was slightly worried about feeling too much pain.

He was about to get accustomed to it, and somehow, deep within his conscience, there was also a part of his body and mind that wanted the pain.

After all, the pain made him stronger, literally...

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Chapter 248 'Good' Monster?

"What a monster..." Oliver could barely say after he had regained control over his body. He looked at the corpse lying on the ground, and goosebumps appeared on his body.

“Yeah, Dilan is really a monster...just how did he get so strong.” Ailee agreed, misunderstanding Oliver’s comment. She thought that he was speaking about Dilan and not the EmeraldClaw Bear.

Oliver turned his head in her direction, only to see that Ailee was looking at him as well. She had a weird smile on her face and her hands were trembling in excitement.

It was only at this moment when Oliver noticed that his hands were trembling as well.

Both knew that the daggers Dilan had used were much sharper than the Blazing Serpentine Blade. That was also the reason for him to use the daggers that neither Oliver nor Ailee had ever seen.

However, while Ailee was not that interested in the crimson daggers, Oliver had the exact opposite opinion.

“Dilan, do you have some more of these crimson daggers?! Their sharpness is exceptional. Aren’t they even better than Silver Tier-1 weapons, or Bronze Tier-1 weapons?!”

After overcoming his initial dumbfounding about Dilan’s unique fighting style, and the way he had locked the EmeraldClaw Bear in place, he approached his leader with gleaming eyes.

Dilan just smiled in return as cold sweat trickled down his temples.

He threw the set of daggers to Oliver, just to see that the young man evaded them, not daring to catch them.

In return, Dilan’s smile widened as he picked up the third crimson dagger that lay a few meters from the EmeraldClaw Bear’s corpse.

‘I coated it with mana to dull the blade, but I guess Oliver is still afraid to be cut by it.’ Dilan assumed before averting his attention to the corpse of the EmeraldClaw Bear.

He collected its Gold Essence crystal that had faint platinum-colored strands in it. Afterward, the corpse was tightly stored in his storage ring while the Essence crystal crumbled in his hand.

[<Gold> Essence of a Tier-1 Level 17 Rumia EmeraldClaw Bear has been absorbed→ +0.9 Agility, +0.5 Mana]

Dilan was more than satisfied with the status points he had gained from the EmeraldClaw Bear. A monster seven levels higher than him and with a high-quality Essence crystal was worth more than dozens of low-level and low-quality Essence crystals.

He felt invigorated due to the Essence of the Rumia EmeraldClaw bear and looked at Oliver for a moment.

“If you want a weapon that boosts your stats, or one with a special characteristic, the CrimsonClaw Daggers are definitely the wrong choice. But they should be sharp enough to pierce through the hide of the strongest Tier-1 monsters. Well, you can exclude monsters at Tier-1 with an ‘unparalleled’ defense.

There might be a handful of monsters strong enough to block your attacks.”

Dilan didn't want Oliver to be arrogant while using the CrimsonClaw Daggers. A powerful weapon was a great treasure to a strong combatant. However, to make proper use of a powerful weapon, you would have to be able to injure your opponents first.

Oliver shouldn't rely a lot on the CrimsonClaw Daggers, but keep his attention on how to progress and figure out what it needed for him to become stronger, improve his combat prowess and work on his flaws.

Ailee didn't ask for anything, but her gaze had been drawn to the EmeraldClaw Bear's claws when the corpse had yet to be stored by Dilan.

"You can use a few claws to make arrow tips," Dilan said, understanding what Ailee wanted, and added in a slightly teasing tone, "But don't lose the arrows afterward."

Ailee was quite happy when she heard that it was possible for her to get some better arrows. Her arrows weren't the best, and they sometimes split apart upon impacting on her opponent's hide.

This was quite annoying, and it was one of the reasons for Ailee to prefer using her ability [Wind arrow] over the few good arrows she actually possessed.

"That's great. By the way, can we continue to hunt? Now that we're already out with you, it would be best if we can go all-out and become stronger in a short amount of time." Ailee suddenly asked before she continued to speak,

"We don't know when, or rather if the Blue Star camp's military camp will come back, and how many powerful Ascenders they will bring with them..."

Ailee didn't blame Dilan for what he did. Rather, she worshiped him for being fair and impartial to everyone who broke his rules.

Rapists and traitors should be killed in her opinion as well, which was why she supported the decisions he had taken in the past more than anyone else.

While even Kathrine or Yvonne had been unsure about his decisions once or twice, especially when he invited the Shepherds gang into his group, Ailee never doubted Dilan's choice.

This was something not many could say about themselves.

Even Dilan could tell that Ailee was never disloyal to him.

It astonished him as well, but from the moment she had approached him in the cafeteria of the Rian mountainside hospital, Ailee never did anything against him.

On the contrary, she had always been on his side, trying to protect him from dangers, when he was not capable of safeguarding himself.

'I never really even realized that.' It was as if he received enlightenment all of a sudden.

For Dilan, the realization didn't actually change much. His opinion of Ailee was still the same, and he would nurture her as per his initial plans, just like the rest of the group.



As for Oliver, he needed some nourishment as well, but that was something he could create on his own. Dilan could not be sure about this but as long as Ailee became stronger than Oliver, he would work his ass off to reach a higher threshold than her.

In the end, it was obvious that Oliver liked Ailee, and Dilan was pretty sure that Ailee knew about this as well. Their age difference was only a few years, and Ailee adored Oliver as well.

Though Dilan was just not sure how exactly Ailee felt. It was hard to see through her.

But her feelings were not exactly important for Dilan's reasoning to allow Oliver to grow on his own.

It would make him stronger than listening to someone else's teachings about combat techniques, and other specific topics.

Oliver would also try to learn things on his own. He would accomplish more by using his brain to figure out things all by himself, and so on.

"Alright, let's continue to hunt monsters in the Mountain Ring of the Elements. Let's focus on procuring three to four Essence crystals of new monster types for each of us before we store the remaining Essence Crystals." Dilan suggested the plan of action before he dashed out all of a sudden.

He blasted in a specific direction, and the Blazing Serpentine Blade manifested in his hand, just when he waved his hand in a rapid manner.

The Blazing Serpentine Blade enlarged and shot out, cutting through the bushes right in front of him.

All of a sudden, blood, body parts, twigs, and leaves splattered through the air. Painful screams echoed from behind the bushes, and Dilan had to slash out a second time before the screams died down.

They were replaced by an eerie silence as Ailee and Oliver looked at Dilan with baffled expressions.

"Truly a monster...I don't know what else to call him..." Oliver mumbled while staring at Dilan with a wide open mouth, not sure what to think about their leader.

"He is a monster in human skin. But he is a very good monster..." Ailee corrected him, feeling that it was necessary to add the term 'good monster', which caused Oliver to smile dryly.

'There is no need to praise him for that. A monster is still a monster. If he goes on a rampage, all of us might die.' Oliver thought inwardly.

However, even if he thought like this, he could tell that Ailee was completely right. And this time, both were of the same opinion, that Dilan was the monster both were talking about!

Chapter 249 Why are my Stats so low?

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Name: [Dilan Cier]

Rank[Tier-1 (Level 10)]

Race [Human]

Occupation [Kirak's Vassal(Divine)]

Title [Beyond the Stars <Bronze(Growth)>]

\*\*

Strength= [52.7+5.2] (+5)

Health= [95.4+9.5](+10)

Stamina=[45.3+4.5]

Agility=[60.1+6](+10)

Mana=[63.8+6.3]

Status Points to allocate→2.3

\*\*

-Origin ability-

[Regeneration] Tier-0 ★★☆☆??

-Special Trait-

[Stone Skin]

-Active abilities (2/4)-

[Thunder Step] Tier-0 ★★☆☆??

[[Second Acceleration] Tier-1 ★??

-Passive abilities (3/7)-

[Immunity] Tier-0 ★??

[Nightvision] Ungraded ★??

[Language comprehension] Tier-1 ★??

-Blessed Curse-

[Will of the Primordial]

---

Dilan was quite satisfied while looking at his Log of the Ancient.

His stats were still far from reaching the limit of a Tier-1 existence because of the increase he had received from his Divine occupation [Kirak's Vassal], however, Dilan was still quite powerful after all the gains he made.

'Without all these amplifications, my Health stat would be extremely low...' Dilan had realized not too long ago.

While his current base state for Health was 95.4, the title Beyond the Stars provided a +10% boost. Meanwhile, the chestplate he was wearing gave him an additional boost of 10 Units for his Health.

However, that was not what Dilan was the most interested in.

'My Origin ability [Regeneration] increases my Health by 35 Units, my Divine Occupation [Kirak's Vassal] increases all my stats by 10 Units along with boosting my Health by an additional 15 Units. So...without all these amplifications, my base Health would only be at 35.4 Units?!'

Dilan was a little bit disgruntled when he realized that his stats might not be as high as he had presumed them to be. Without the stat boost that stemmed from his occupation, only his Stamina would go lower than his Health stat.

This was something Dilan never realized before, and it stupefied him.

"And? What does your Log of the Ancient look like? Did you write down your stats to compare them before and after we went hunting for some time?" Oliver asked, smiling faintly.

He saw the change in Dilan's facial expressions and felt that their leader noticed something that irked him.

Oddly enough this was something Oliver found pleasing to the eye. It was rare to see Dilan stupefied or that something other than human beings irked him.

That was why Oliver felt like smiling, only for his expression to stiffen when Dilan answered him,

"I'm actually a little bit dissatisfied with my stats. They're actually lower than I anticipated."

This was the truth, and Dilan's honest opinion. However, Ailee, who had been drinking some water, nearly choked on it before she spit it out.

Unfortunately, Oliver had been in her way, and all the water rained down on his stupefied face.

"Oh my! I'm so sorry, Oliver!!" Ailee quickly apologized before she wiped his face with the sleeve of her shirt.

"Yeah...no worries..." Oliver replied while blinking rapidly. Goosebumps appeared on his body when he glanced over to Dilan.

'How the hell can he say that he is dissatisfied with his stats?! His stats are definitely above 50 on average...Not even Yvonne has reached that threshold!!'

If Oliver had been pleased for a quarter of a second, his mood plummeted the instant Dilan started to speak.

Ailee felt similar, with the sole difference that she had never been pleased with the expression Dilan made.

Rather, she had been confused about why Dilan would be dissatisfied after they told Dilan to make a before and after comparison of his Log of the Ancient after a week of hunting.

'Well, I guess stronger people have a fiercer desire to become even more powerful. Maybe he wants to advance to Tier-2 as quickly as possible, and something is hindering him.' Ailee mused. There was no other reason she could find that might have led to Dilan's quick change in his behavior.

"If the two of you are done flirting, we should continue hunting." Dilan suddenly interrupted the two before he turned away without waiting.

Oliver blushed a bit after hearing what Dilan had said, but Ailee just nodded her head and followed Dilan just a moment later.

They had already been out hunting for several hours, yet, instead of absorbing the Essence crystals of the monsters they had killed, the three decided to wait.

It wouldn't make a huge difference whether they absorbed the Essence crystals immediately or after, just that they were stronger if they were to absorb the Essences immediately after the battle.

However, by not doing so, Dilan forced himself, Oliver, and Ailee to use their current strength to defeat their opponent.

He wanted to improve his current strength without changing his stats, and the flirting pseudo-couple was supposed to focus on the same.

As he shook his head, Dilan's ears perked up. He heard something from his right side and dashed out at once.

There was no hesitation in his movement, and the first thing he saw was a SapphireClaw Bear.

"Another one?" Oliver asked the moment he appeared next to Dilan, who was hiding behind a bush.

"It looks like that." Dilan merely answered before preparing to go all out to defeat the SapphireClaw Bear.

He didn't have much mana left, which is why he forced himself to use [Bearer of Pain] and replenish his mana by using some of his life force.

This resulted in [Bracing Pain] to amplify his strength. A moment later both [Thunder Step] and [Second Acceleration] were activated.

Dilan shot out of the bush, and his speed accelerated rapidly.

It was impossible for the SapphireClaw Bear to notice him early enough to react.

A huge ball of water began to form around the monster, but even before it was fully constructed, Dilan had already passed through the bubble of water.

The CrimsonClaw Daggers had manifested in his hand and Dilan slashed out with them. With a cross-slash, he tore open the Bear's entire abdomen before he reached the monster's neck, which he pierced through as well.

The monster was killed in an instant, but that was only obvious.

'Even the EmeraldClaw Bear wouldn't have been able to reach my speed if I amplified my stats with [Bracing Pain] first before I activated both the acceleration abilities I have.' Dilan thought, reminding himself once again, why [Bracing Pain] was one of the strongest abilities he possessed.

Oliver and Ailee didn't look as surprised as Dilan upon noticing his terrifying speed.

They had already accepted that Dilan was far stronger than them, and it was fine with the two.

As long as Dilan was on their side, they would be happy with his progress, no matter how strong he actually became.

Dilan stored the corpse of the SapphireClaw Bear and its Essence crystals separately before his head flicked to his left.

"There are, at least, 300 monsters ahead of us in this direction. Looks like I get three more Clawed Bears to kill, a bunch of a few dozen Silver Tier-1 monsters, and the rest are either ordinary or Bronze monsters.

But all of them seem to be at a high level." Dilan shared his observations, not bothering about cleaning the CrimsonClaw Daggers because their job was not yet over.

Meanwhile, a bright smile emerged on Dilan's face. Adrenaline coursed through his body and excitement filled his mind and heart.

He was happy to have entered the Mountain Ring of the Elements Gate with Ailee and Oliver.

After all, he could finally let go of his tension, increase his strength without worries, and simultaneously, both Ailee and Oliver would become stronger as well.

'Let me see some more blood!!'

#### Chapter 250 Slaughterer's Influence

While Dilan, Oliver, and Ailee were fighting a large group consisting of 300 monsters, the others were not slacking off either.

Yvonne and Kathrine chose to focus on two particular missions. Instead of playing nanny in the base, they had gone out to focus on collecting the Essence crystals of monsters and procuring equipment

The easiest way to do so was, in fact, the Pagoda of Time. Not many dared to enter the instance dungeon, but for the sisters conquering 11 floors in a short period was no problem.

Their focus was on collecting Essence crystals and not procuring many other treasures. After all, the highest quality and grade of a treasure they could obtain up to the 11th floor was merely Bronze Tier-1.

Dilan's group had more than enough Bronze Tier-1 treasures, and if it was possible, they would try to sell them somewhere, in exchange for Dungeon points as well.

The Taurus shop, which was what everyone called it, was quite useful. If there was an easier way to procure dungeon points than conquering the Pagoda of Time's floors, everyone would try to do so.

The shop was even more useful than the Basic Sacred Shop, and that meant quite a lot.

Dilan had 15,500 points but he didn't want to use them yet. There was no specific ability or item that attracted his interest enough to make him spend all these points which he had obtained from the doubling effect and the fact that he broke the majority of speed records.

In the end, Dilan waited to potentially accumulate more dungeon points once he got a whole team of people, who wanted to enter the Pagoda of Time, together.

Meanwhile, Kathrine and Yvonne conquered the Pagoda of Time up to the 11th floor before leaving it just to enter the instance dungeon once again.

The number of Essence crystals they had collected was massive and nothing to scoff at.

"We will definitely get our hands on more than enough Essence crystals to create a bunch of Potions of Enhancement <Swiftness>!!" Kathrine said in between two deep breaths.

She was giving her best to fight with all her might without wasting too much of her precious mana. After all, she might need it the moment something unexpected happened.

Meanwhile, Yvonne was rather relaxed while flying through the air, and killing monsters before using them against one another. She had two powerful Silver Tier-1 Minotaur corpses by her side.

Her focus was on replenishing her mana while controlling the Minotaurs using the same mana she replenished.

Yvonne's control over mana was quite precise, and if one were to compare Yvonne and Dilan's control with one another, one might not even be able to determine who was better among the two!

Dilan used mana during every single fight, whether it was for his abilities, or to circulate it through his body due to the soothing and invigorating feeling mana provided to his body.

Furthermore, by using the Blazing Serpentine Blade, Dilan was forced to focus on his mana control, which was why he had improved quite a lot. It was all thanks to the Blazing Serpentine Blade, one of the most terrifying weapons he owned.

Everyone, who had already tried to use the Serpentine Blade on their own, knew that it was extremely difficult to control the weapon properly due to its extreme fluidity and razor-sharp blades.

It was quite easy to cut oneself, and one's colleagues with it accidentally. If one were to add the difficulty of continuously supplying the Blazing Serpentine Blade with mana so that it could keep burning, and maintain a perfect supply of mana. It had to be not too much to make the blade erupt into a huge blazing flame, neither too little for a gust of wind to extinguish the flames.

Dilan never really revealed how proficient he was in controlling mana. However, it was quite obvious to everyone that his control was great and that it was one of the reasons for him to be so strong.

And this was something one could clearly see right now as he was using his terrifying Agility, and the Blazing Serpentine Blade to turn the large group of powerful monsters into lifeless bodies, whose blood, body parts, guts, other organs, and brain mass littered the ground.

The battlefield was more like the memorial of a massacre that Dilan had caused.

There were even body parts and intestines that hung down the long formerly brown branches of the trees in the vicinity as blood dropped on the ground.

Oliver nearly vomited at this sickening sight, while Ailee's nose twitched twice in total before she seemed to have regained full control over her body.

She held her Silver Tier-1 bow tightly, nocked an arrow on the bowstring, pulled it back, and fired after stopping to aim for a mere second.

Her hands moved in a blur as [Rapid Shooting] was activated, and her passive [Higher Vision] was fully revealed. Even the smallest monster that escaped Dilan's large-scale slaughter show couldn't escape her attacks.

Dilan's actions lead Ailee to attack the severely injured monsters and those that escaped his attacks.

Meanwhile, Oliver was just looking at Ailee, wondering what the hell had happened to the girl he likes.

'Is she really the same?! Why do I feel like she turns into a mass murderer when she is with Dilan?! Is that how much influence he has on her??' He thought in astonishment.

Oliver never realized how much influence Dilan had on other people. The courage his [Beyond the Stars] title provided was already more than enough to motivate rather timid people to fight with their life on the line.

But what the title turned people like Ailee, who were already confident, and ready to set their life on the line was clearly visible right now.

Ailee's entire demeanor seemed to be overflowing with the intention to kill every single enemy in front of them.

She was shooting her arrows without hesitation and aiming precisely. Even if not every single shot hit the bullseye, Ailee hit her designated target with each shot.

Ailee reaped the lives of her opponents, while blood, body parts, and death were all one could see around her, caused by the actions and attacks of the Slaughterer himself.

On the other hand, Oliver's heart tightened when he saw how many monsters Ailee was killing.

'If she continues like this, her combat strength will skyrocket and she will leave me behind!!' His realization made him feel both nervous and a bit jealous, and Oliver could only force his mind to shut off at the sight of all the blood, the cruel way in which Dilan killed his opponents, and the fact that the scenery in front of him was simply disgusting.

[Shadow Walk]!

Tightly grasping the CrimsonClaw Daggers, Oliver disappeared from the spot. He reappeared in the shadows of a monster several meters away from him before he lashed out.

His speed was not overwhelming fast, such as Dilan's speed, and neither were his attacks like Ailee, who could precisely see where severely injured monsters were located.

However, Oliver's advantage was that he could move without getting noticed, disappear on the spot and reappear in the most disadvantageous areas before slashing out with the razor-sharp CrimsonClaw Daggers.

Dilan had a total of 10 of them before. Their value was exceptional with the current dangers and the fact that Tier-1 existences were the strongest they had encountered until now.

Thus, Oliver's prowess was evidently beyond everything he could have attained earlier, with the wrong choice of weapons. His strength was high, and his weapons sharp enough to cut through every opponent he slashed at.

Oliver's attacks caused blood to spurt through the surrounding, body parts to be cut off, and death to everyone who dared step in his path.

Without him realizing, let alone acknowledging it, he was finally beginning to grow used to the idea of the slaughter of monsters. Oliver's entire existence was focused on nothing but the death of his opponents, and his mind felt like it was completely blank, except that one thought.

'I need to kill all of them!'

That was how big Dilan's influence was, the influence of the Slaughterer, and the person, who allowed both Oliver and Ailee to improve, to become much stronger than they have ever been.

Dilan allowed them to unveil their fuel potential, to understand that there was much more to become stronger than just their stats, and abilities.

They themselves as living beings had to keep progressing, otherwise, even high stats and great abilities would never allow them to become truly powerful!