

World 1411

Chapter 1411: Meeting Hans Online

A lovely garden surrounded the Online mansion. This mansion was a bit smaller than Duke Alfredo's mansion, but it had more occupants.

Lance told Jack that Hans lived in this mansion with his wife and his three children. Aside from them, his brother and his sister also lived inside. His brother was still single. His sister had a husband and one child.

Jack met them all when he entered the guest room with Lance. They were gathering to mourn Neil's passing as they awaited the return of Neil's body, which had just finished the examination. Lance greeted them and promised that Neil's body would be brought here in a couple more hours.

They bowed when they saw Jack, but Jack could see hostility in their eyes. They were no doubt blaming him for Neil's death. If he didn't go and open the border and the settlements to the orcs, no orc would be murdering Neil.

Their eyes were the same as the other civilians who happened to lay eyes on Jack in this town. Jack did not doubt that if this country didn't have Serenity's Blessing, World Peace Garden, and Joy's Recreational Hub, this town would have erupted in a revolt already.

Even so, the enchantment and Wonder Buildings could not hold back the tide forever. They were not the solutions. To regain stability, he had to bring the murderers to justice and ensure such an incident would not happen again.

After a short meet and greet with the Online family, Hans' wife brought them to the study room.

Jack and Lance entered the study room and saw Hans sitting in his chair with his back on them. He was staring out into the large windows, gazing at the front lawn. He had seen Jack and Lance through those windows when they came. The mistress of the house closed the door after they entered.

Jack saw several empty wine bottles on the desk.

"Lord Online...", Jack began.

"The orcs are not our enemy...", Hans cut Jack's words. "That's what you said."

Jack went silent. He could sense the pain and resentment in Hans' voice.

"For the good of our country, you said... We have to see the big picture...", Hans continued speaking without turning back.

He then stood up. "Now... One of my sons is dead... MY SON...!!!"

Hans turned and smashed his work desk using his fist. He was a level 65 elite human. The desk cracked from the impact.

"You said we have to keep letting the orcs into our town! You said they want peace! Is killing my son an act of peace?! Still, you defend them! When you should have dragged them all out and burned them at

the stakes! And I, who have lost a son, am being imprisoned in my own house... for the crime of asking for justice for my son...!! Is this how you rule this kingdom...?!"

"Hans...!!" Lance scolded. "You are talking to His Majesty! Get a grip on yourself...!"

Lance turned to Jack and offered an apology for Hans. "Your Majesty, please forgive him. He is drunk. It is not him talking..."

"You bet your ass it is me talking!" Hans yelled. "I may be drunk, but my mind is still clear. These wines do nothing to cloud my mind, even when I want them to!"

Hans swung at the wine bottles on the desk. The bottles clattered as they fell onto the floor.

"Are you going to punish me, king?! For speaking my mind? For demanding justice?" Hans continued. "Go ahead! Show the people of this country who you truly are...! I should have joined the rebellion in Themelot... I didn't because I thought, maybe we should give this new king a chance to prove himself... What a fool I am..."

"If you join the rebellion, you would have been punished!" Lance rebuked. To Jack, he said, "Your Majesty, I've warned you about this. Please, forgive him and let him be for the moment. Wait until he cools down before we talk to him..."

"Lord Online...", Jack called again. His word was soft. There was no sign of anger in his tone. "I can't tell you that I understand your feeling... I don't think anyone who has never lost an offspring will ever understand... But I accept your anger. I swear to you I will bring the orc who has murdered your son to justice! If I can't capture him to let you carry out your revenge, I will take the revenge myself!"

Hans scoffed at Jack's words, but then he realized Jack had acknowledged the murderer as an orc.

"You... You admit that the murderer is an orc?" Hans asked.

"All the evidence points to this conclusion, I can't deny it," Jack said.

"Then it's time to round up all the orcs! We should hang them all in public square..."

"Lord Online!" Jack reprimanded. His tone turned stern. "I will bring the murderer to justice. Not all the orcs. The perpetrator is one orc or a group of them. Not every orc. We cannot condemn the entire race for the deed of one individual. Once we find out this murderer..."

"You are still shielding them...!!" Hans again slammed his fist. He looked ready to lunge at Jack. "All these talks and all you want is just to defend them. You orc-loving cunt...!"

Lance charged forward and gave Hans a hard slap. He was a special elite and his level was higher, at level 70. Hans fell to the ground from the slap.

"You fool! You can be hanged for that!" Lance scolded. He then looked back at Jack, hoping Jack would forgive the outburst just now.

Jack gave him an assuring look. He didn't mind the insult. He had received worse insults in the past. But of course, if this had happened in public, he would have no choice but to roll out punishment. Otherwise, the kingdom's dignity would be laughed at. Luckily, this happened within a closed room.

At this time, a knock was heard on the door.

"Who?! We are not to be disturbed at the moment!" Lance yelled in irritation.

"It's me," they heard Sherly's voice. "We've just talked with the teams in the other towns. We have something real to follow up on this case."

Chapter 1412: Tribal Tattoos

Hearing that, Jack opened the door himself. Sherly and Canon were outside. They were originally waiting in the garden outside this mansion.

"Come in," Jack said.

They entered and saw Lance helping Hans up from the floor and making him sit on a chair by the side of the room.

"It's okay, let them hear it as well," Jack said after Sherly and Canon threw him a questioning glance.

"Very well," Sherly said. "We found something distinctive in the eyewitnesses' accounts regarding the suspected murderer who was seen fleeing the scene."

"Something distinctive?" Jack asked.

"First, are you familiar with Verremor's tribal tattoos?" Canon asked.

Jack shook his head.

"It's a symbol that marked you as a member of a tribe," it was Lance who answered. "Normally, only big tribes employ this tattoo. It is both a mark of pride as well as to identify which tribe an orc is from."

"Is it?" Jack thought back to the times when he had contact with orcs. Now that they mentioned it, he did remember seeing some sort of a small tattoo on some of them. He never truly paid attention to it.

"The tattoo is normally small but is placed somewhere where it should be visible and not covered by clothes. Like the back of one's palm, wrist, cheeks, forehead, or the likes," Canon explained.

"The eyewitnesses had mentioned a strange drawing on the suspect's body when we asked them to describe the suspect, we presume this is the tribal tattoo," Sherly said. "Seeing a tribal tattoo on an orc is nothing strange. It just meant they come from a respective tribe. However, we have been comparing the description of the tattoo between the suspect from the murder case two days ago and the one in this town."

"They match?" Jack asked.

"Eyewitnesses' accounts are sometimes unreliable, but from the way they describe it, we dare to assume they were describing the same tattoo," Canon answered.

"We have sent this finding to the other investigative teams earlier," Sherly continued. "They had questioned the eyewitnesses there with emphasis on tribal tattoos. From their description, we believe they are also the same tattoos as the one from our case."

"We can safely deduce that these murderers all come from the same tribe," Canon uttered.

"Good job!" Jack exclaimed. "Do you know which tribe the tattoo refers to?"

"We are not privy to all the tribal tattoos in Verremor," Canon answered and fished out a piece of paper. "But we made a rough drawing based on the description. If we show this to an expert of Verremor's tribal tattoos, we should get an answer."

Canon placed the paper on the cracked desk. It was damaged but was still standing. He glanced briefly at the cracks, wondering why someone kept a broken desk instead of replacing it with a new one.

Jack and Lance looked at the paper. Hans was still sitting on his chair. Lance's slap had sobered him up slightly, but it just brought all the grief back. He had been listening silently to the conversation.

"I have a friend who has a great knowledge about Verremor's culture, he should be able to identify this tattoo," Lance said.

"No need," Jack uttered. "I know which tribe this tattoo is from."

"You do?" Everyone was surprised by Jack's claim.

"I have seen this tattoo before. Your drawing is slightly off but I can still recognize it," Jack said. "This tattoo came from the Raretooth tribe."

Jack never truly paid attention, but he had clashed several times with Abasi and his tribe warriors. He saw this tattoo on them. Abasi's one was on the right side of his neck.

"There you have it! This is proof that orcs can't be trusted!" Hans jumped out of his chair. Now that they had confirmation, his anger was back.

"The Raretooth tribe doesn't represent Verremor," Jack said. "They have been expelled from Verremor's council after the invasion war. They are no longer involved in any of Verremor's matters."

"It's true, Hans. I heard the news that they left the country some time ago," Lance told Hans.

"So what?! They are still orcs!" Hans stated defiantly.

"This evidence confirms one thing. We are under attack, but not by Verremor. Our attacker is Liguritutum," Jack announced.

"How so?" Lance asked.

"The leader of the Raretooth tribe, Abasi Raretooth, is now serving Liguritutum," Jack answered. "I did not doubt the tribe that has disappeared from Verremor has now settled in Liguritutum, but they must have sent this tribe back, or a part of it, to create this chaos in our border towns as well as undermining our relationship with Verremor."

"What should we do then?" Lance asked.

"Now that we know the culprit, it is easier. Have your soldiers check all the orcs still inside the town. If they have this symbol, apprehend them! Broadcast this to all our settlements as well, especially those close to the border. Any raretooth tribe they can find, capture them!"

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Lance said. Now that they had something to go on with, things didn't look so bleak anymore. Perhaps they could now stop future murders from happening.

"We will get justice for Neil," Lance said to Hans before he left. Hans sat back on his chair. Despite the breakthrough in the case, he didn't feel any thrill from it.

Jack, in the meantime, was sending messages to Four Winds informing him about this. He was silent for a considerable amount of time due to the correspondence. The two investigators that were still in the room became awkward about this whole silent situation.

"Uh... Your Majesty, what would you have us do now?" Canon asked.

"You two have been of great help, I will take over this case from here," Jack said to them. "I have contacts in Verremor. With this information about the Raretooth tribe, we might know where the raretooth murderers fled after they left the towns."

"Are you saying you know where the orc who has murdered my son is now at?" Hans stood back upon hearing that.

"I might. The Raretooth tribe is using a village in Verremor as a hideout. Verremor was now preparing a force to raid the village. I've been invited to come along," Jack said. "Do you want to join this raid?"

Chapter 1413: Covert Operation

Jack spent the afternoon working with Lance who organized the search for the Raretooth tribe in Thenitsa. The same search was being carried out in the other settlements near the border.

Jack also sent messages to John. This evidence confirmed Master's involvement in the matter.

The search didn't take long since Lance had placed every orc within the town under surveillance since Neil's murder. They found three orcs that had the Raretooth tribal tattoo. One tried to run away, and he was rather strong. He was a level 56 rare elite and an assassin type, so he had the speed.

Jack took to the sky after asking for the general direction. His gold dragon wings flapped majestically as they reflected sunlight. Those who looked up couldn't help but be awed.

With his radar, he quickly located the runaway orc because there was only one red dot in the vicinity. The orc was registered as an enemy the second he fought off the soldiers who tried to apprehend him.

This orc was quite aware of his surroundings. He noticed Jack who was coming from above and used Vanish. He was saving this skill so he could use it to become invisible and slip through the guards at the gate. He had no choice but to use it now when he saw Jack hunting him from the sky.

Unfortunately, Jack had the Gold Dragon Sight. Jack cast Wind Jet and his body shot straight at the running orc who thought he was safe after becoming invisible.

Jack landed hard on the orc, slamming him into the ground. Jack pinned the orc while taking out a runic rope.

The orc activated Berserk and his whole body was covered with black tattoos. His strength increased, but it was of no use. It was still not enough to contest Jack's strength. He struggled helplessly as Jack bound him using the runic rope.

Lance and the soldiers came soon.

"Take him into custody. Have Sherly and Canon interrogate him for information," Jack instructed.

After the orc was taken away, Jack asked Lance, "Have you heard about the other border towns?"

"I've heard from five settlements who have also captured at least one orc of the Raretooth tribe," Lance answered. "I believe we will hear more as time passes. This tribe seems to be serious about infiltrating our border settlements. Is this truly Liguritudum's doing?"

"I believe so," Jack nodded and asked, "Is there any raretooth tribe that manages to escape capture?"

"I haven't heard of such an occurrence. The orc just now is the one that came closest to achieving that. Luckily, we have Your Majesty on the scene."

"I doubt this will remain a secret. Now that we start capturing them, I'm sure the ones hiding outside will find out sooner or later. We need to hit their base as soon as possible," Jack said. "The force in Verremor should be ready by now, I will go meet them. I will leave everything here to you."

"Your Majesty will truly bring Hans?" Lance asked. He didn't think that was a good idea.

"There is no known medicine for grief, but doing nothing and feeling misery about it is the worst way to deal with one," Jack said. "Hans is full of anger for his grief. It is better to direct that anger at the right target than leave him here and let him cause havoc. He has already tried doing that by riling up the mass and attempting a riot. We can't let him do it again."

"Your Majesty will keep him safe, right...?" Lance asked.

"I know. If something happens to him, his family won't stay quiet. His safety will be my priority," Jack said.

Lance nodded.

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Jack picked Hans up from his mansion. Lance escorted them to the Zone Portal. Jack paid the fees for Hans to use the portal. Jack changed his appearance into his orc disguise before he used the portal. His king costume was too eye-catching. The two of them appeared in the zone portal of a Verremor border town.

"Welcome to Urguzz," a female voice greeted them.

"Lily...!" Jack called cheerfully.

"I don't think I will ever get used to you calling me that way. Please stop doing that," Water Lily said.

"Let me introduce. This is Lord Hans Online," Jack said.

"I am Water Lily," Water Lily offered Hans a handshake.

Hans didn't take the handshake. Even though Water Lily was an outworlder, she was also an orc.

"I see," Water Lily caught the gesture. She motioned to Jack, "Follow me. We will head out to where the others are gathering."

"Good. The earlier the better. Otherwise, the enemy might know we are coming," Jack said. "How far away are we from village... What's the name again?"

"Giggragh," Water Lily answered. She ushered Jack and Hans into a waiting carriage.

"Yeah, that one," Jack said as he entered the carriage.

"This town is the closest settlement to that village. It's around four hours' ride using rare-grade steeds," Water Lily explained. "All the ones who are in this mission are equipped with at least rare-grade steeds."

"How many soldiers do you bring?" Jack asked. "Are you sure they can all be trusted?"

"Don't worry, this is not our first rodeo," Water Lily replied. "We started organizing once we received your information. We mostly bring our guild members. Around four thousand are the ones we can assemble on short notice. They had been teleporting to this town in batches and gathered outside. If anyone sees them, it will just be like we are doing a guild quest. Aside from those guild members, we also bring three natives."

"Only three? Four Winds is not mobilizing his soldiers?" Jack asked.

"This province is under a different tribe's command. We are doing a covert operation. If Four Winds moved his army here, he would be found out easily. Plus, it will take them days to arrive here. We need to do this fast. If we march now, we should be able to hit them before midnight."

"How do you know so fast that the Raretooth tribe is in that village?" Jack asked.

"We already know the Raretooth tribe is inside that village," Water Lily answered. "We just didn't know what they were planning until we received your information earlier today."

Chapter 1414: Old Grudge

"You already know they are there?" Jack asked.

Water Lily nodded. "The Raretooth tribe used to be the overlord of our province. We never believe they would relinquish their territory without a fight. Their disappearance has been something that we pay much attention to. So, when someone spotted them inside that village. It quickly drew our attention."

"So, you have been surveying the place? Do you know how many of the Raretooth tribespeople are there?"

"We can't tell for sure. That village has been closed to the public since the Raretooth tribe appeared. No players nor native outsiders are allowed in. We can only watch from afar. From what we see, we estimate there are probably around a hundred of the Raretooth tribe inside that village."

"That is just a tiny fraction of the tribe," Jack said.

"Yes. I think they are just a small company sent here for a specific mission. We just don't know what the mission is until today."

"You said the village is closed off...? That means the ruler of this province is collaborating with the Raretooth tribe."

"We suspected so, but we don't know if they are simply giving this Raretooth tribe a shelter or they are in with the things they do in Themisphere's border towns."

"Of course, they are in on it! You orcs are all vile creatures!" Hans interjected.

"Hans... You promised you would be cool if I bring you," Jack warned.

"Hmph," Hans laid back on the carriage's wall.

"I'm sorry for his outburst," Jack apologized to Water Lily.

"That's fine," Water Lily said. She had received a message from Jack about Hans after Hans rejected her handshake.

"Well, back to the topic. Who is the tribe in charge of this province?" Jack asked.

"That will be the Angryfeet tribe," Water Lily answered. "The lord chief of the tribe is Kusema Angryfeet."

"If the Raretooth tribe is the guest to this Angryfeet tribe, won't Four Winds get in trouble for attacking the village?"

"He has got permission from Grand Chief Kabaka," Water Lily said. "This incident risked the diplomatic relationship between our two countries. Your evidence is enough to implicate the Raretooth tribe. If that village truly sheltered the tribe, Four Winds has enough authority to carry out an attack. The grand chief will deal with Kusema after the operation. This, of course, means we have to make sure the Raretooth tribe is inside the village before we attack."

The carriage stopped.

"We have arrived," Water Lily informed.

"So fast?" Jack asked.

"This is just a small town. This carriage we are in is the only carriage in this town," Water Lily replied and went out of the carriage.

They came out to the town gate.

"We will ride a bit into the wilderness," Water Lily said. "Four Winds is gathering our force there so that we don't draw too much attention from the town's people."

The three summoned their steeds. Luckily, Hans' steed was a rare grade, so he won't slow everyone down. As for Jack, he used his backup whistle he got from the Adventurers Association and summoned the super-rare-grade silver horse.

The three rode with Water Lily leading the way. Soon they came into a clearing behind small woods. A regiment was on standby there. They went to the head of the regiment and saw Four Winds.

Next to Four Winds were his trusted lieutenants. Violent Blizzard, Disco Rain, Purple Mist, Coca, and Jim. Jim was level 63 now. It seemed Cipher Flight did help him level up quickly to catch up with the others. Four Winds and Violent Blizzard were level 71. The others including Water Lily were level 70.

The players in the regiment were mostly around level 66, but a portion was also around level 50 or even below. It was now becoming harder and harder for everyone to stay alive all the time.

"Hey, I can see your level now," Four Winds said to Jack when he arrived. "You are no longer using the thing that hides your info? Level 75... How the hell do you level up so fast?"

"Do you use cheat codes?" Coca asked.

"I do," Jack answered.

"Do you mind sharing?"

"Cut the crap. We should depart," Four Winds stopped the senseless talk before it developed.

"Yes, if we want to do this, we need to be quick," An old orc came out of the crowd followed by two young orcs.

"It's you three!" Jack recognized the three. The three were the native orcs that Water Lily said would follow them. They were Umeza, Mkulme, and Tumwa from the Giantkiller tribe.

"Your Majesty Storm Wind, it's good seeing you again. Especially not in a situation where we have to kill one another," Umeza greeted.

"I guess I am not your opponent now," Mkulme said to Jack. As a native, he remained at level 77 the same as when Jack fought him during the Election Tourney. As for Tumwa, she had increased by a level to level 62.

"If you people want to level up fast, there are candidates here who can be your companions," Jack pointed to Four Winds' lots.

"We will think about it," Mkulme said with a laugh.

Jack understood Mkulme was just giving him a polite response. Mkulme was the chief of the tribe. He won't be willing to be a player's companion and get summoned into danger without notice.

"By the way, why are you three here?" Jack asked.

"We were in the area," Umeza answered. "We received a transmission from Grand Chief Kabaka, asking us if we can aid Chief Four Winds in an operation. We heard what it is about and are willing to help."

"Thank you very much," Jack uttered. "I represent Themisphere to express gratitude. This operation is very important to maintain the peace between our two countries."

Umeza chuckled. "I never expected there would be a day when I fight side by side with a human against my own race. I, Umeza Giantkiller, truly have lived very long and seen everything."

"Umeza Giantkiller?!" Hans exclaimed. He wasn't aware of Umeza's name because his level was too low to inspect the old orc. "You are the bastard orc who killed my grandfather...!"

Chapter 1415: Sneaking into the Village

Everyone stopped when they heard the yell. Hans even made a show as if he would lunge at Umeza. Jack stopped him.

"Are you insane?" Jack chided. "You should know he is a veteran orc combatant. You are not his opponent!"

"So what? I have to restore the honor of my family. I have to kill him to appease my grandfather's soul."

Hans seemed unable to be reasoned with, but he couldn't move because Jack's great strength held him down.

"Why do you bring that troublesome fellow, man?" Four Winds asked while shaking his head.

Umeza, instead of distancing himself from the vengeful man, walked closer. This caused Hans to become more uncontrollable. Jack had to use two hands to hold him down.

"Who are you?" Umeza asked. "I killed a lot of humans in the past. Some I remember, some I don't."

"My name is Hans Online of the Online family! You killed my grandfather and I demand vengeance!!"

"Online...? Mm... Is your grandfather's name James Online?" Umeza asked.

Hearing the name, Hans stopped. He never believed this savage orc would know his grandfather's name.

"Brave soldier your grandfather was," Umeza uttered. "Both your grandfather's and my platoons had an accidental encounter while patrolling the Fulgur region. We fought. Many casualties resulted from the battle. Your grandfather fought valiantly to defend his comrades, but he fell under my claws."

Hans' face scowled again. His anger returned, but Umeza's next words stopped him from taking action.

"Before he was downed, he killed many of my platoon members. One of which was my brother. A little brother whom I loved very much. One who had just taken his first patrol mission under my wings. I failed to protect my platoon members. I failed to protect my little brother. That sent me into a rage that killed many of your grandfather's platoon members in return.

"When I landed the killing blow on your grandfather, he was shielding a young squire in his platoon. Seeing that act made me regret that I didn't do the same for my brother. To honor his bravery, I let the rest of his platoon members leave and carry the bodies of their fallen comrades back."

Umeza took one step closer to Hans. Hans had stopped fighting Jack's grip, so Jack eased up on him. Jack still paid attention in case Hans made any sudden movement.

"If you wish to take revenge, come at me any time," Umeza said. "But if you do, be prepared to face the consequences. I've heard about your second son. You still have your eldest son. Don't make him come searching for me to exact revenge on your death. I don't wish for James Online to lose all his descendants out of vengeance."

Hans seemed to want to say something but couldn't. Umeza stared at him for a few more seconds before he turned around and climbed his steed.

"Let's go! We are wasting time," He thundered.

"Move out!" Four Winds commanded.

Jack resummoned his silver horse and climbed back up as everyone started moving. Hans was still standing on his spot.

"Come on, Lord Online. It's time to move," Jack said.

It took Hans several seconds to respond. He got back onto his steed and followed the others in silence. Jack stayed close to him. Hans was silent throughout the journey, which worried Jack. Perhaps bringing this noble was a bad idea? Jack thought.

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The force traveled under cover of the night. None of them were carrying torches and no one cast the illumination spell. Four Winds had those who had Night Vision skills to ride at the front as guides.

The Night Vision skill was a non-standard skill that could be learned by any class that branched from the Ranger class. The skill was not that rare as they could be bought using faction points in several league factions.

It was close to midnight when they saw the outline of Giggragh Village. Four Winds first sent out scouts to check if there were any patrols around the village. They had been riding under the cover of darkness. He hoped the Raretooth tribes hiding in the village were still inside.

The scouts came back and reported that there were no patrols. There were some lookouts above the village wall, though. They couldn't tell for sure if they were the Raretooth tribes. Information from Inspect didn't show the tribe's info. They would have to see the tribal tattoo on the orcs to know, and they didn't dare to get too close to the sentries to do that.

"How are we going to make sure the Raretooth tribe is inside?" Water Lily asked. If they simply attacked and turned out there was none, then they would have a different kind of problem on their hands.

"I have something that gives me the authority to enter the village and search, but there is no guarantee they will cooperate and let us in," Four Winds said. "If that happens, we can only force our way in. I just hope that the Raretooth tribe is truly inside. Otherwise, this attack will be hard to justify."

"Leave that to me," Jack said. "I will make sure they are inside. Wait for my message before you force your way in."

"You have a way?" Four Winds asked.

Jack nodded. He took out his King Badge and summoned his nine Royal Agents. Umeza was astonished when he found one of these agents was a level 84 mythical human. That human was Eyrene, the ex-member of the Council of Charites.

"I guess even I am not your opponent now, human king," Umeza remarked.

Jack gave a brief explanation to his royal agents about the situation. He told them to protect Hans when he was away. He also told them that if a battle ensued in the village, they were not to attack the commoners.

Jack didn't summon Arlcard. The vampire was rather unruly. He was afraid Arlcard wouldn't follow his instructions and attack everyone in the village without concern.

After that, Jack flew into the sky using his gold dragon wings. He then cast Invisibility and disappeared from everyone's view.

"That guy is getting more and more unpredictable as time goes," Disco Rain commented.

"It's a good thing he is an ally," Coca said.

"Okay, we will go and greet the village, drawing the guards' attention so he can move more freely," Four Winds said. "Before that, I want to announce something."

His scouts had made sure that no one was within earshot. The village was still far away so they won't hear anything even if Four Winds shouted.

"If a fight breaks out, no one is allowed to lay a hand on the commoners. Civilians with battle power are also off-limit unless they show hostility. Please take note that I am very serious about this. If I find out that you break this rule, even by accident, I will not only kick you out of the guild but will also let you rot in jail for some time. So, do not use your AOE skills! Commoners are all level 1. They will die from a single attack. Only attack when you are sure of the target. Is everyone clear?"

Everyone nodded.

"Good! Let's go greet them," Four Winds declared and rode toward the village.

Chapter 1416: Looking for Confirmation

The lookouts above Giggragh Village's wall were immediately concerned when they heard the sound of the incoming army. They sounded the alarm and had everyone come to the wall.

Since stealth was no longer needed, Four Winds had everyone use their torches. The magic users who had the Illumination spell cast the spell. The sight of so many troops approaching caused the lookouts on the village wall to panic.

"Call Chieftain Hasimu!" One of the lookouts called.

Four Winds divided his regiment into four divisions. Two large and two small. He led one of the large divisions to the village's main gate. While the second large division led by Violent Blizzard headed to the village's back gate. The two smaller divisions, each led by Disco Rain and Water Lily, went to the village's two sides.

Four Winds made sure each of the divisions had a proper number of Inquisitors or magic class players who had the Soar or Fly spells. This was to make sure that none of the Raretooth tribe escaped from the village.

"Giggragh Village...!!!" Four Winds yelled after he was close to the main gate. "Call your village chief! I am Four Winds, the leader of the Outworlder guild, Cipher Flight! The governor of the province under the main city, Mjiku Maba! I demand an audience with the orc in charge!!"

No one responded to Four Winds' call for several seconds. When Four Winds was about to say something again, someone from the wall yelled back, "Lord Chief Four Winds! How dare you bring your force here! This region is under the protection of the Angryfeet tribe. You have no jurisdiction here! Do you wish to trigger a war between our tribes?"

"Who am I speaking to? State your name!" Four Winds demanded.

"I am Hasimu Angryfeet, a chieftain under the Angryfeet tribe. I am in charge of this village," The voice replied.

'A chieftain?' Four Winds thought. A chieftain wasn't a high rank, but it was still high enough to make it unusual for a chieftain to be in charge of a small village.

"I have been given the authority by Grand Chief Kabaka himself!" Four Winds took out a recording stone and played it. The holographic image of Kabaka Proudusk was soon visible for everyone to see.

The image spoke, "Village chief of Giggragh Village, this is Grand Chief Kabaka. I've tasked Lord Chief Four Winds on a mission to search your village. There has been a suspicion that you are harboring the Raretooth tribe, which has committed crimes inside our allied country, Themisphere, and caused a diplomatic problem for our nation. You are to cooperate and help Lord Chief Four Winds apprehend any Raretooth tribe inside your village. Failure to comply will have you marked as traitors and Lord Chief Four Winds will have the right to attack your village. Stand down and cooperate!"

Silence ensued following Kabaka's projection. A minute passed before Four Winds called again.

"Chieftain Hasimu! You have heard the Grand Chief's instruction. I don't see the gate opening. Are you trying to rebel?"

"The Grand Chief might be the leader of this nation, but our leader is Kusema Angryfeet. My tribe leader gave me the order to not let anyone enter this village and this is the order I intend to follow! If you want to come in, you will have to get through us!"

"... You are not thinking straight, Chieftain Angryfeet. You are directly opposing the Grand Chief's order. This is mutiny! All of you who are on the wall. Are you ready to become a traitor to our nation?"

The orcs on the wall looked at each other. A rebuke from Hasimu quickly turned them back to stern expressions.

"Don't try to create dissent on us, Lord Chief Four Winds. We are all loyal to our tribe leader Kusema Angryfeet. You will have to file a request to him if you wish to enter this village. So, I suggest you go back and make a proper appointment with him for this matter."

"... I will let you think on this for a little while, Chieftain Hasimu," Four Winds said. "But my patience has a limit. If you don't open the gate when I reach my limit, I will crush that puny gate of yours."

In his mind, Four Winds hoped Jack didn't take too long to send a confirmation that the Raretooth tribe was inside the village.

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Since most of the guards inside the village were drawn to the wall by Four Winds' force, the streets were mostly empty. Some villagers woke up from the commotion and went to the wall to see what was happening. Some just peeked out of their houses but remained inside.

Jack surveyed everyone he had seen, no one was sporting the Raretooth tribal tattoo.

was Four Winds' intel about the Raretooth tribe hiding here accurate? Jack started to worry.

One thing alarmed him though, the soldiers who guarded this village were more than a standard village force. There were roughly two thousand soldiers here. It was too many for such a small village. Luckily, Four Winds brought twice their number. The soldiers in this village were also generally not too high level. So, they won't pose a danger to Four Winds' force. However, if a battle broke out. It would still take time to suppress this number, which meant the risk of the civilians becoming collateral damage was rather high.

He didn't have time to worry about that. He had to focus on the task at hand, which was finding a confirmation that the Raretooth tribe was inside this village.

He couldn't find any after flying around the village for a while, so he landed and started looking inside two of the largest buildings in the village. One was the village hall and the other was an inn. Both were not locked. The village hall was empty. As for the inn, many of the inhabitants were awake from the commotion. Jack made sure not to touch them. Otherwise, his invisibility would be gone.

He entered some of the rooms inside the inn, which were also not locked. He found no Raretooth tribe.

Coming back out, he started to randomly search around the villagers' houses where the occupants didn't come out from the commotion. Most of them were not locked. Some were locked. Jack could use his lockpick to unlock the door. Doing that won't remove his invisibility. He would only lose his invisibility if he was touched, got into a combat situation, or when the spell's duration ended.

He didn't use lockpicks because he didn't want to waste the time. Additionally, even though the doors were locked, the windows weren't. He could enter through the windows, which made him wonder why the orcs inside bother to lock the door. He didn't complain about this weird behavior.

Yet, he still couldn't find any Raretooth tribe. He was lost as to where to look when he noticed on his radar a group of three people walked away from the main gate.

He had heard Four Winds shouting something outside the main gate. He couldn't hear what the shout was about. It had been silent for a while after that. This was when the group walked away from the main gate.

Jack approached the group and saw that the three were soldiers, not civilians. The one on the lead even seemed like an important person. His Inspect told him this leader was named Hasimu Angyfeet, a level 70 special elite. This orc was the highest level and grade he had seen in this village.

He decided to follow this group out of curiosity. This group seemed to be heading to the central part of the village.

Chapter 1417: The Raid

Jack followed Hasimu to the village hall he had searched earlier. Jack wondered what the orc was doing there when a siege was happening right outside his village.

The two soldiers following Hasimu stayed guard outside while Hasimu went into the village hall. Jack followed closely without touching those soldiers and entered before the entrance door closed.

Jack continued to follow Hasimu who went to the main hall and removed a carpet from the floor, revealing a trap door.

When Jack was going through this building earlier, he was in a hurry. He didn't realize that he had missed that trap door. He also didn't come close enough for his monocle to detect anything.

Hasimu opened the trap door and went in. Jack quickly followed.

They came into a very large underground chamber. The chamber was even larger than the village hall above it, but that wasn't the thing that surprised Jack. What surprised Jack was this underground chamber was filled with orcs. More than one hundred orcs were in the chamber.

Hasimu approached one of the orcs in the group, who stood up.

"Your people have been careless! What you are doing in Themisphere has been found out," Hasimu said to the orc.

"What do you mean?" The orc asked.

"The outworlder lord chief is currently sieging this village and demanding me to surrender your tribe! They might force their way in soon. You must leave through the secret exit!"

Jack used his Inspect on the orc who was speaking with Hasimu. The orc's name was Nadra. He was a level 72 rare elite orc.

There was no tribe surname on Nadra's name but Jack saw the familiar Raretooth tribal tattoo on his right arm. This orc was a member of the Raretooth tribe. He then looked around at the other orcs inside this chamber, they all had the same tribal tattoos somewhere on their bodies.

No wonder he couldn't find them anywhere in the village, they had been stashed down here. Additionally, from the conversation, it seemed the Angryfeet tribe was aware of what the Raretooth was doing. This placed them as willing accomplices to what had happened in Themisphere.

Jack sent the confirmation to Four Winds. Not long after, a big commotion was heard from upstairs. One of the soldiers who were guarding upstairs came down and shouted, "Chieftain Hasimu! They are breaching the gate!"

"Damn it! Hurry and leave!" Hasimu yelled at Nadra. He then ran back up with the soldier.

"Everyone, we have to leave! Go and open the secret exit!" Nadra commanded.

An orc went to a wall opposite the stairs going up to the village hall and pressed a secret switch. A part of the wall opened and revealed the secret exit.

When the first orc was about to step into an exit, he was suddenly slammed down to the ground by someone who just appeared out of thin air. This person was holding a runic rope which quickly bound the orc who was pinned on the ground.

It didn't take long for the orcs to recognize this person.

"The... Themisphere king...?!" Nadra exclaimed in surprise.

Jack had changed back to his real self before attacking. His regal outfit was easily recognized.

"No one is leaving this place," Jack said as he brought out more runic ropes. "You will pay for your crimes for disrupting the peace in Themisphere and for murdering its citizens. You can follow me back to face trial or I can dispense the punishment here. Your choice."

"Kill him!" Nadra commanded.

"So be it," Jack said and brandished his two swords.

*

Once Four Winds received the confirmation, he issued the order to charge. Violent Blizzard who was guarding the rear entrance to the village also received the command. She led her troops and charged forward.

The village gates were just wooden doors that had little HP. It couldn't be compared to city gates with strong rune diagrams empowering them. Within a short period, the gates had fallen and Four Winds' forces poured inside.

"Remember! No AOE. Do not touch commoners and unresisting civilians!" Four Winds bellowed.

As he entered, he shouted using mana manipulation. His voice reverberated throughout the small village.

"Villagers of Giggragh Village! Do not resist! We will not harm you if you don't attack us! Stay in your house and you will be left alone! We are under an official mission sanctioned by the grand chief to root out rebels. Do not attempt to confront us!"

The orc soldiers guarding the wall were hell-bent on their loyalty to the Angryfeet tribe. They came down from the wall and engaged the force pouring into the village.

Jack had also sent a message to Four Winds warning him about the unusual number of soldiers inside the village, so he was not caught by surprise. He expected this resistance. He summoned his companion, Muwaje.

"To the village hall!" Four Winds ordered. He knew from Jack where the Raretooth tribe was hiding.

"Outworlder! How dare you attack? You will pay for this!" Hasimu came running with more soldiers.

"Pah! You and your tribe will pay for your treachery!" Four Winds spat.

Four Winds used enhanced berserk and Titan Strength. Crimson tattoos covered his body while it increased in size. At the same time, he also activated Ancestral Possession. A demon ogre floated above his giant body with a menacing glare.

This turned Four Winds into a very intimidating presence. Hasimu and the soldiers he brought couldn't help but stop their charge upon the display, some even took a step back.

Four Winds grinned savagely as he used Punishing Cyclone and charged into their midst.

*

Following the force were Hans and Jack's royal agents. The battle was raging fiercely around them.

Although Four Winds' force outnumbered the enemy, they had one disadvantage that the enemy didn't. The enemy didn't have reservations about using AOE skills. Hence, the battle was somewhat even out despite their numerical superiority.

There were some combatants in civilian clothes attacking them. Jack had given them runic ropes and told them to try their best not to kill the civilians even if they were hostile. So, they incapacitated these hostile civilians using the runic ropes instead.

With how chaotic things were going, they had difficulty staying in formation. Hans didn't make things easier. As soon as the battle started, he kept on charging to the first enemy orc he saw one after another. Duke Alfredo tried to keep him in line but the chaos made it hard to do so.

At one point, he could no longer see Hans anywhere.

"Bloody hell! Where has that lunatic run off to?!" he yelled. "Everyone, search for Hans at once!!"

Chapter 1418: Blind Rage

Jack was still in the underground chamber fighting the Raretooth tribe. He summoned Therras, his spirit weapon, and his ten golden wolves.

He easily killed the lower-ranked orcs of the tribe. When he saw a higher rank, he incapacitated them and then bound them using runic ropes. He didn't have that many runic ropes to capture every orc here so he chose those with higher ranks. These orcs might have valuable information, so he tried to capture as many of them as possible. Otherwise, he would have just obliterated them with Perpetual Lightning Judgement or Lightning God Barrage.

Jack remained near the secret exit to stop anyone from using the exit, while Therras went to the stairs to stop the orcs from running up to the village hall. His golden wolves and spirit weapon dove into the enemies' midst and caused disturbance so they couldn't adopt proper formation.

Therras took some time to arrive at the stairs. During that time, some orcs had fled upstairs. Jack wasn't concerned too much about that. The village was surrounded, even if they fled upstairs, they would still not escape Four Winds' troops.

Unfortunately, Jack saw the highest-ranked orc, Nadra, flee through the stairs. That orc probably knew he was not Jack's opponent, so he immediately fled once he sicced his subordinates on Jack. Jack saw the coward leave but he couldn't leave his post. He needed to stay and guard the secret exit.

'Never mind, Four Winds will deal with him,' Jack thought.

*

Up there in the village, Hans was fighting ferociously. Once he drew blood, he only saw red. All the grief and anger for losing his son came to the surface. He had been unable to do anything all this time. Now, he was letting it all out.

His weapon of choice was a glaive. One with a large blade that made it look almost like an executioner axe more than a glaive.

Although he was just an elite grade, his level 65 was high enough against the average level of the enemy soldiers in this village. The enemies also mostly consisted of basic and elite grades.

Hans was a hybrid combatant like Lindsey where he could use battle skills and magic spells. He had Ki Weapon and cast Wind Enchantment on his glaive. The wind enchantment increased his weapon's sharpness and added Bleed probability on every attack.

He also cast Giant Strength, increasing his power. He was maximizing his damage power so he could kill the enemies faster.

He slayed one orc after another. He targeted the ones who were already wounded by Cipher Flight members. Some of these members were pissed since Hans was not in their party. Hans was also not under Four Winds' command so the exp points he reaped were not shared with them.

'This native gets no exp from the kill. Why the heck is he so passionate about kill-stealing?' These Cipher Flight members thought.

They didn't dare do anything to Hans, though. They knew Hans was Jack's friend, who was their guild leader's good friend. So, they just bore with it and tried to move away from this insane native. The further the better.

As a result, fewer and fewer allies were in Hans' vicinity. Hans was so into the battle that he didn't pay attention to his surroundings.

He just killed and killed. He was shouting like a madman most of the time.

"Die! Die! Die, you filthy orcs...!!!"

He was about to claim another victim when his glaive was stopped by a strong hand. He looked over and realized the one who stopped him was an ally. Yet, it was an ally who he also had the desire to kill.

"What are you doing? Have you shown your true nature? You want to betray us, don't you?!" Hans yelled.

"You, madman! Look at the ones you are about to kill!" Umeza scolded back.

Hans looked over and was horrified when he noticed the ones before his glaive. It was a level 1 orc woman who was cowering on the ground holding her baby. Her face showed a terrified expression as she stared at Hans.

"I... How...?" Hans didn't understand. He truly didn't notice the woman with her baby. He thought he was attacking the enemy soldiers.

"Look out!" Umeza rushed behind Hans just as a strong explosion shook the place.

Hans fell from the shockwave. He was now on the ground next to the terrified woman. He saw Umeza who stood at the place where the explosion had happened. From how strong the explosion was, he knew that he would die if he was hit directly by it. He was just an elite grade who didn't have too much HP. Umeza had rushed ahead and used his body to receive the attack, so the AOE of the attack didn't reach either him or the woman.

"You... Why...?" Hans stammered.

"Hmph. Protect that woman and her baby," Umeza said.

Umeza's skin was glittering. It was the effect of his diamond body which he activated before blocking the explosive attack. He looked back at the one who sent the attack. It was Nadra who had escaped from the underground chamber.

"Elder Umeza, why do you help that human? They are our enemies! Our leader is right, the orcs who hold the power in this nation have all turned into traitors. You are now colluding with the humans. Have you forgotten how our nation suffered because of them? How many orcs' lives were lost because of these humans?!"

"It's funny hearing a traitor call someone else traitor," Umeza said. "You must be in dire need of a bashing to knock some sense into you."

"Elder Umeza, you are a hero to many of us young warriors. You fought the humans the longest. The number of humans killed by you is uncountable. Why are you turning your back on us now? Join us! Our leader, the great Abasi Raretooth, will return the glory of orcs to this nation. He will bring Verremor back to the great nation as it should be."

"Pah!" Umeza spat. "From what I hear, your great leader is now the dog of Liguritudum. All he did was use this cowardly scheme to cause a dispute between our nation and our ally. He is not worthy to be called a Verremor warrior. He has no honor...!!"

"How dare you besmirch our great leader's honor!" Nadra bellowed.

"F*ck you!" Umeza cursed and sent a punch into Nadra's face.

Chapter 1419: A Surrender

Nadra didn't expect Umeza to just suddenly attack like that. As a veteran orc warrior, he expected Umeza to at least issue a declaration or a warning before attacking. Umeza's punch was very fast. Before he knew it, he was already flying backward from the impact.

He made a backflip and landed on his legs.

"Asshole!" He cursed back. He brandished an axe that was crackling with lightning in one hand. His other hand held a wand which was now forming a spell formation.

The spell was completed and multiple fireballs were shot at Umeza.

Umeza used Vines-infused Fist. His two fists were covered by thorny vines. He didn't dodge the incoming fireballs. Doing so would let Hans and the woman become the fireballs' targets.

Umeza's fists punched rapidly. They struck each of the fireballs and destroyed them mid-flight. When all the fireballs were neutralized, he saw that Nadra had run away.

"Coward!" He yelled.

Nadra knew he was not Umeza's opponent. Umeza was more than ten levels stronger than him, after all. His objective at the moment was to flee this village.

Umeza summoned his three-headed wolf and had it chase after Nadra. He couldn't leave the place as he wanted to make sure that Hans and the woman with the baby were okay.

Nadra saw the three-headed wolf chasing behind him. He cast a spell. Blue chains came out of the ground right underneath the wolf. The wolf was nimble enough to jump away when the blue chains almost coiled around his body, but its legs still tripped over the chains. It stumbled and fell to the ground.

Nadra made use of the chance to put more distance.

His eyes scanned the surroundings for a place where fewer enemies were. It was difficult as the entire place was in chaos.

He had to escape this place and send a report to Abasi. He was dejected. The tribe chief would be very disappointed in him. This operation was supposed to just start. They had been preparing for weeks. They had just been given the command to dial things up. How did they get found out so fast after just a few murders? To make it worse, even their hideout was discovered so soon.

He would have to accept punishment when he returned, but he would have to make sure that he could return first.

He ran to the side part of the village wall. There seemed to be fewer enemies here. He cast the Soar spell and his body took to the sky.

When he floated past the wall, he was surprised to see a company of outworlders guarding outside the wall.

"Fire!" Water Lily ordered.

The Elite Marksman shot their arrows while the magic users cast their spells. Nadra hurriedly cast Magic Wall to block the attacks. Just as the barrage of ranged attacks ended, he saw a group of Inquisitors take to the sky. On their back were the shiny wings from their skill, Angelic Possession.

"Move aside!" Nadra bellowed.

His glaive swung left and right, striking these inquisitors who approached him. As a level 72 rare elite, he was still too strong for these average players. The players were sent toppling away with each strike.

A huge chunk of ice suddenly formed above him. It had been so abrupt. His soar spell also didn't give him much flying speed. The ice block fell on top of him. He received damage and was forced to the ground.

"Rarrggghh...!!" Black tattoos covered his body as he activated Berserk. With increased strength, he threw the ice block away.

He glared at the one who conjured the ice block. That would be Water Lily. She was in the process of casting another spell when she heard a voice from above.

"Allow me!"

A humanoid dragon slammed into Nadra from above. Nadra didn't know what had hit him. He felt as if an entire mountain had fallen on top of him, but he wasn't going to just let himself stay on the ground. He used his two hands to forcefully push himself up.

As he did, a feeling of a thousand sharp blades pounded his back.

"Aagghhh...!!" He screamed in pain. He felt as if he had been cut to pieces. He then felt his body getting locked by cold energy. He looked and saw that an ice ring had formed around his body.

That was Water Lily's spell, Ice Bind, which was an evolved spell from Mage's Magic Bind.

Jack in his supreme dragon form took out a runic rope and bound Nadra who was still incapacitated.

Four Winds' force had pushed into the village hall and came down to the underground chamber. With their help, the Raretooth members who had not died were soon apprehended. Jack received the message of Nadra's sightings. He had sent messages informing Four Winds and the others about this orc. If possible, he wanted to capture the enemy leader. Nadra sure had more intel compared to the other Raretooth members. Jack immediately flew to this place once he got Water Lily's message.

"The battle seems to be almost over," Water Lily said. The sounds of battle inside the village were getting lesser. "Do you think there are any civilian casualties?"

"I don't know," Jack said. He hoped not. But in a battle, accidents were hard to avoid. Their troops probably paid attention to not harming the civilians but the enemies might not, especially the Raretooth members who tried to flee. If one civilian was hurt, even if it was not done by their troops, the other civilians might misunderstand it to be their doing. These misunderstood civilians might retaliate and their troops would have no choice but to fight back.

Jack knew he had no control over these things, but he would still try to prevent them if he could.

"Watch him," Jack said, referring to the bound Nadra. He then flew up and surveyed from the sky. If he saw any civilians or commoners who were getting attacked, either by their troops or the enemies, he would swoop down and save them.

He saw Hans. The noble was still safe. His royal agents were surrounding the man, guarding him. He didn't know they now kept Hans in a tight lease after losing him some time ago.

The battle didn't last long. Hasimu knew it was over. He lost many soldiers. A good portion of the Raretooth tribe had also been apprehended. He called for a surrender and everyone stopped fighting.

Chapter 1420: The Hunt for Justice

Dawn was approaching. The enemy survivors were being rounded. The Raretooth tribe members who were still alive were all bound using runic ropes. The soldiers who guarded the village were not bound except for Hasimu Angryfeet, but their weapons were confiscated.

"You will have a lot of explaining to do," Four Winds said to Hasimu. He had received Jack's report about the conversation between Hasimu and Nadra at the underground chamber.

"My lord chief will have your head for this!!" Hasimu hissed.

Four Winds chuckled. "I think your lord chief will be very anxious once he learns about this. Grand Chief Kabaka is heading here as we speak. My guess is, Lord Chief Kusema will most likely deny his involvement in all this. You know what that means, right? That means he will be throwing you under the bus."

Jack was amused hearing it. He wondered if these natives knew what a bus was. But from how Hasimu's face turned pale, he figured the native understood the idiom.

"I suggest you cooperate and tell us everything you know," Four Winds told Hasimu. "We will consider lightening your punishment for your cooperation. Otherwise, you will be the fall person for your tribe leader."

Four Winds left Hasimu alone to ponder the offer. From Hasimu's expression, he knew the orc would break sooner or later. Hasimu's proclaimed loyalty to his tribe was just a façade.

"How about giving these captives to me for the interrogation?" Jack asked Four Winds.

"They are orcs. They will be tried in their own country," Four Winds replied.

"They committed crimes in my country," Jack argued.

"You will receive a formal apology, as well as any intel we can get out of them," Four Winds didn't give in.

"Tsk. If it was not you, I wouldn't have believed that. Fine, I will wait for your info," Jack said.

"Hopefully, I can tell you about it when I go to your guild for training. My master said your guild headquarters have a very beneficial room for training martial arts. What kind of room is that?"

"Why ruin the surprise? You should just come and see for yourself," Jack said.

Four Winds chuckled. "In a few more days perhaps. This incident here will have political matters that need my attention."

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On the other side, Hans was standing before the rubble of a house. During the battle, a stray AOE spell caused damage to the house and it collapsed. A couple of civilian orcs inside the house were killed as a result.

Four Winds had demanded a full investigation into who had cast this AOE spell. Water Lily was leading the investigation. If it was their members, that member would be expelled and punished. But from all the chaos during the battle, it would be difficult to find out conclusively.

"Such is the sad thing if we invade a settlement," Umeza said. "There will always be collateral damage. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to let this village evacuate its civilians before we attack due to our mission objective."

"Why do you save me?" Hans asked Umeza. "You know I have a grudge against you. You could have just stayed back and done nothing. No one would blame you if I die. You will have one less threat on your life."

Umeza chuckled. "Threat? You are overestimating yourself... I've said it before, I don't wish for James Online to lose his descendants."

"But... He is your enemy... He killed your brother..."

"And I killed him. I thought that was the end of that. But no, it created new hatred. It created you. And if I kill you, it will create a new hatred for your son, and so on. It will never end. I've told my son," Umeza pointed at Mkulme, who was by Four Winds' side. "If I happen to be killed by the descendants of James, or any descendant of the people I've wronged in the past. He was not to go on a revenge quest for me. It's just a waste of time. I am old and I have lived long enough. If someone comes and takes my life for what I've done in the past. So be it. I probably deserve it."

Hans didn't know what to think about that.

"So, how do you feel?" Umeza asked.

"What?" Hans didn't quite understand the question.

"You killed quite many orcs in the battle. Do you feel any better after doing that?"

"... No, I don't."

"I suppose it doesn't," Umeza remarked.

"I don't even know which one is the one who killed my son... I guess I will never know," Hans uttered.

"The one who killed your son is not in this village," Jack came over to them.

"What do you mean?" Hans asked.

"The murder took place just one day ago. They are not using the town's zone portal, which means they are crossing through the border to get here. It took an average steed one week to do that. Even if the murderer has rare-grade steed, which he most likely has for his mission. It will still only reduce his traveling time by one or two days. He is still on the road, together with the murderers from the other towns."

"Then... We won't be able to capture them then? We can't bring them to justice?"

"We can. I don't believe they were given a message transmission device. Those things are too valuable to be handed to a peon, even for one that is on an important mission. No, I believe those murderers are still on their way here, oblivious of what had happened to their hideout. We made sure that no Raretooth tribe escaped during the battle, so there would be no one to warn them."

"So, if we go in the direction of Thenitsa, we might catch the murderer who murdered my son?" Hans asked.

"Yes," Jack nodded. He then asked, "Want to join me on a hunt?"

There was a pause before Hans answered, "Let's hunt this son of a b*tch."

Jack summoned Pandora and gestured for Hans to climb. Hans hesitated for a bit because of Pandora's uncomfortable aura, but he soon felt that aura receded.

Jack bid the others farewell before he took to the sky. They flew in the direction of Hans' hometown, Thenitsa, just as the sun started to rise.