

## **Brand New 1421**

### Chapter 1421: David's Challenge

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"Haahh... Haahh... Haaahhh..."

A brave paladin was gasping for air, he looked exhausted. His eyes seemed dried after having cried, and his mouth was covered on the blood he had vomited.

His huge, muscular and slender body was covered with bruises, his armor was shattered and falling apart, yet his spirit remained unwavering.

His blonde hair seemed to have grown longer without him realizing, oftentimes because he always wore his helmet.

Now that his helmet was destroyed, his long hair waved by the wind, glistening like strands made of gold.

His brave blue eyes glanced into the opponent in front of him, after having battled hordes of Demonic Beasts, slain dozens of Demonic Wizards, he was pushed further and further away from his team and his army.

He was cornered, and yet he still fought against all and won, until he found him, the man in front of him. Amidst this entire chaos, he finally found him.

He planned to confront him much earlier, but because of how things started, he was unable to find him in time.

He didn't want to let things be delayed any longer either way, this was, after all, his personal problem, not something he wanted to drag Planta and the Kingdom into.

This was something he had to deal with himself.

"Tell me son, David..."

The man in front of him spoke, tall, muscular, with a short brown beard, long brown hair, and sharp green eyes.

He was also wearing Paladin armor, holding a massive two-handed blade. He also looked a bit tired, his armor had cracks, his sword had many bruises, and so his face and the rest of his exposed body.

"When did you find out about me?"

His sharp emerald eyes were dead serious, as a glint of demonic energy surged from within him, which he had kept hidden this entire time.

"Someone else told me about it..."

David faced the man in front of him, preparing his stance. After he realized he had run out of potions, he threw away his pouch, he didn't need extra weight.

He also threw away his shoulder pads, his chest armor, and his greaves, becoming as light as possible.

The only thing he had now was his sword.

"...Who?"

"It doesn't matter now, doesn't it?"

David smiled, glaring at his opponent.

"It is quite clear what you are... stepfather."

David knew very well who he was, the man he called his stepfather.

Herbellstein Luminary, the previous Luminous Kingdom's Captain, stepfather of David and his swordsmanship master.

And...

"Second in command of the Demon King Cult, right?"

"..."

Herbellstein sighed, looking at David, and waving his head.

"We don't have to do this, David."

"And what else do we do then?"

"We can escape. This kingdom is in ruins already. Look around you."

"It is in ruins because of what you and your cult did!"

"My cult only reacted to this kingdom's degrading society. We were tired of it all, you too, right? The King marrying a Player and having a child with her was the last straw! How ridiculous can it get?"

"Don't you dare talk about her majesty in such a tone, Herbellstein!"

David roared, pointing his blade at his own stepfather.

"I've grown by their side, and I've learned so much about them... Queen Camilla, her majesty... She is a woman worthy of being the Queen of the Luminous Kingdom, Player or not! And her son, Young Master Gustav, is the brightest child I've ever known. It's futile trying to convince me, I will never betray them."

"I see..."

Herbellstein glanced at David again, smiling a bit, and giggling.

He realized his stepson was so stubborn because he had taught him to be that way.

"I've taught you well I suppose."

"...Why?"

"Why what?"

"Why did you go so far? To sell your soul to a demon... I thought you had honor. I thought you were above these things."

Herbellstein gripped the handle of his blade tightly.

"I am a human too, David. I am weak. I've grown older... I wasn't as strong as before. I wanted power, you know? I needed it."

"What? Why?! Couldn't you retire to-"

FLASH!

"Ah!"

David gasped, realizing his stepfather appeared behind him, moving at a speed he barely could discern.

"I wanted to build a new future for our family, you know?"

"Mother is not here... she's gone! Lady Planta brought her to a safe place. You can't get to her anymore."

"So that's what happened..."

David quickly faced him again; their swords close to one another.

"So you betrayed the crown, put a demon soul inside of you, and all of that because you disliked the new Queen and wanted a "new future"? What sort of bullshit is that?"

"Maybe that's all there is to it, David... Maybe I am not the great man you imagined I was." Herbellstein sighed, his eyes growing sharper, bloodlust surging from them. "If you don't want to join me, then there's nothing else to do other than eliminate you."

"I was waiting for you to say that..." David nodded, as he swung his blade against his stepfather.

And he did so as well.

CLAAASH!

An explosion of magical energies erupted as their swords clashed against one another, shattering the ground beneath them.

BOOOM!

Both quickly stepped back as they saw the ruined houses around them collapse, only for David to be surprised, as a huge blade went down, rushing towards his head.

He rapidly infused Mana into his body, forcing himself to move like a puppet rather, managing to make his body move as fast as his thinking process, without delay.

CLASH!

He intercepted the sword with his own, as he pushed forward and then kicked Herbellstein in the stomach.

BAAAM!

"Hmph!"

Herbellstein groaned slightly, realizing David packed a punch despite how weaker he had grown. His sword glowed bright gold as he rushed back towards him.

"You've grown stronger son... You make me proud."

"Shut up."

David didn't want to talk anymore, he wanted this to be over.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Their swords clashed, explosions of light erupting everywhere, the surroundings were rapidly being destroyed by their powerful Auras and destructive techniques.

Nobody else dared to even get between these two.

This was a battle between two men that had reached almost the pinnacle of swordsmanship.

Chapter 1422 Corrupted Heart

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David and Herbellstein continued their clash, explosions of light being released every time their swords clashed.

Moving as quickly as they could, both seemed to be almost equally matched, although Herbellstein possessed greater speed and strength, David made up for it with his courage, dexterity, and mana reserves.

"I really wanted you to join me... I wanted you to abandon this kingdom, to have a new beginning with me, son, with your mother."

His father swung his massive sword down, resembling a guillotine.

CLASH!

But David managed to intercept it once more with his own sword, rushing forward to confront his stepfather.

"As if you would ever do such a thing! There's no future for monsters like those of that cult! Sacrificing countless innocent lives! You're a monster if you think they did something good!"

He rapidly pointed the blade towards his stepfather's throat, as Herbellstein panicked, quickly kicking him away.

BAAAM!

David held on, quickly swinging his blade once more, unleashing a descending attack that resembled a beam of light impacting his foe at once.

CLAAASH!

"They did what they had to do to survive, this world is no longer peaceful, David! The Demon Kings are wakening one after another."

Herbellstein held his ground, quickly pushing forward with all the strength of his body, swinging his blade several times in a row, each attack faster than the other.

David evaded a few, while those he couldn't evade, he fiercely parried them.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"So what?!"

David roared back with all his soul, as he conjured a magic circle, firing a beam of light towards his stepfather's face.

BOOOM!

"Ugh!"

Herbellstein groaned furiously, as he glared at David with utter wrath after firing a spell on his face, although he seemed to have taken it quite easily.

"The world is in peril; we need a leader of equal power. Someone like Merlinus! He was the only one that could protect our future!"

He ran towards David resembling a blur of golden light, his sword coming down constantly, David evaded them by a hair, parrying a few blows, but the majority hit the ground, shattering it into pieces.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"He's a madman! An insane old man! He brainwashed you!"

David infused his Mana into his sword, suddenly increasing its size to three times, as he swung his blade vertically, aiming to slice his foe into two halves.

SLAAASH!

Herbellstein quickly infused Mana into his own sword, clashing against David's lethal blow, as both blades' mana auras exploded once they hit one another.

BOOOM!

The explosion sent them flying away, but both had yet to yield or fall into the ground, gasping for air, growing weaker and slower, tired.

But still with the blazing embers within their eyes.

Herbellstein sighed, thinking about what David had said, he looked back at his stepson's eyes.

"He didn't brainwash me, David. He opened my eyes."

His words made David snap.

"YOU'RE INSANE!"

RUMBLE!

His Mana Aura erupted from his body, combining his Paladin Aura, an evolved version of the Knight Aura created by knights who forged and cultivated a physique to manipulate and use Ki alongside Mana.

David's golden aura covered his entire body, as his wounds rapidly regenerated, and his entire physical prowess was boosted through the roof.

"JUST WHY?!"

As his long blonde hair became spikier the more he unleashed his Mana and Ki Aura, he rushed towards his stepfather, his sword slashing downwards and then upwards, creating a double, unavoidable attack.

SLAASH! SLAASH!

Herbellstein parried the first blow, but the second, coming from below, quickly caught him off guard, destroying his armored gloves and throwing away his blade from his hands!

CRAAASH!

"W-Wha...?!"

Herbellstein gasped in disbelief, falling to the ground without his sword in his hands, he glared at David, incapable of believing what he saw.

"Why did you do this..." David muttered, pointing his sword at his own stepfather. "I was so happy with what we had... With my family. Why... Just why did you had to do this?! Weren't you happy with our family? Didn't you love mother?! Why did you need more?! Why did you desire even more power, you fool!"

"Tch...!" Herbellstein's face distorted as he gritted his teeth. "You simply... wouldn't get it, David! Just like right now, how you've humiliated me... This sensation of frustration, of growing older, weaker... no longer useful! That I am past my prime! It's... FRUSTRATING! I HATE IT! I WANT TO BE AS STRONG AS I WAS! I WANT MY KINGDOM TO GO BACK TO HOW IT WAS!"

As Herbellstein roared in anger and frustration, a powerful Demonic Aura surged from his body, David stepped back due to the pressure, as he saw his father transform, the more he transformed, the more monstrous and louder his voice became.

RUMBLE!

The pressure became immense, as David was pushed back even more, his stepfather having transformed, now three times as tall, with another pair of muscular arms, his skin was bright red, and he was covered on black and dark red scales.

His face gained four black horns and a third eye on his forehead, and his hair turned purple colored, while his nails became sharp and long black claws, resembling blades.

"BUT WITH THIS?! I AM NO LONGER WEAKER! AND... I WILL NO LONGER BE SURPASSED BY THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS, DAVID!"

"W-What?! Was that all of it?! You bastard...! You're simply a selfish fucking piece of shit!"

David grew furious, as he clashed against his stepfather once he revealed his truest, darkest desires. His frustration over his own age, his ego, and his selfishness, that he didn't want to stop being the strongest knight, that he didn't want to give up his position to younger generations.

That he didn't want to lose against David, whom he still didn't recognize as a proper knight, that he still saw as a child!

David...

He simply couldn't contain his anger anymore!

"You betrayed mother for this! You ruined our family for this!" David screamed, swinging his blade against his stepfather, who used his long claws from all four of his hands to push him back constantly.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"I DIDN'T BETRAY HER! I WANTED TO BE A BETTER MAN FOR HER! I WANTED TO BE... THE MAN SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH!"

"She always loved you even as you grew older! Do you know how much she cried when I told her the truth?! How you broke her heart?!"

CRAAASH!

Chapter 1423 The Knight's Captain Shining Resolve

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As David confronted his stepfather's monstrous, demonic form, memories of that time, of a few hours ago, when he revealed to his mother the truth, and the plan they were going to carry out, where she would have to be moved away to safety.

"T-This can't be... Y-You're joking, right David?"

David's mother, a beautiful blonde woman with blue eyes, just like his own, couldn't believe his words when he first told her. She was in her early forties already, yet even then she looked as young as her late twenties. Sometimes, they would confuse her and believe she was David's big sister.

"I'm not joking mother..."

David had gripped his fists tightly when he told her the truth.

"It has been revealed, there's proof, and within him... There's a Demonic Soul."

"N-No... No... Why... He would never do that! Herbell... He's... he's your father you know?! He wouldn't...!"

"I'm sorry..."

"No, no, no! S-Stop joking around David! Stop it! Please! Please say this is a joke!"

"It's not a joke!"

As David screamed back at his mother, there was silence in the room.

Her mother looked at him, at the verge of tears, still denying it.

"He said he loved me... this morning... He kissed me and... And he ate the breakfast I made for him..." she sat down over her bed, as tears fell from her eyes. "H-How could he ever do any of that? Stop... stop it! Stop talking bad about him..."

"You think I'm happy about this?" David asked. "I'm also just like you! I-I don't even know what to do anymore! This is... this is simply too much. There's proof everywhere the more we researched... He's the second in command of their cult, he has a demon inside of him... he betrayed the Kingdom, mother."

"T-That's...! No...!" David's mother glanced at the documents, and even the photos of her husband taken by Players that were then given to the Kingdom of Herbellstein dealing with cultists.

"And there's a witness to that as well, Tomas," David sighed. "A young man that we rescued from the Demonic Tower, he said that Herbellstein... that stepfather was indeed part of their cult, a monstrous ally he said. Someone merciless..."

"N-No..." David's mother cried, hugging her son. "I don't want to hear about this anymore! Stop it, David! Stop it...! Aaahh...!"

She covered David's shoulders with her tears, hugging her son tightly, as David patted her head, and cried as well.

"I'm sorry... mom..."

David's eyes gazed at the demon his stepfather had become, of the monster born from his ego, the ego he was never able to let go of.

The monster he turned himself into because he couldn't accept his deteriorating age, his strength fading away, and his position being inherited to new generations.

The ego of always wanting to be at the center of everything, to never let go of his achievements and of what he had become, to move on, to live a more...

Simpler life.

"STOP CRYING, DAVID!" Herbellstein roared furiously. "AND YOU CALL YOURSELF THE NEW KNIGHT CAPTAIN?!"

His stepfather roared furiously, his claws encompassed on demonic flames as he pushed David back constantly, the young paladin was unable to keep up with his immense power.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Unnggh...!"

CRAAASH!

Until Herbellstein's blazing claws hit him all at once, pushing him back, and shattering his sword.

David's eyes widened, as he fell to the ground, rolling over the blazing floor.

His sword was shattered, the lower half was barely what remained.

"My Sword..."

His father stepped towards him slowly, glaring at him with indignation.

"SEE?! THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY POSITION! BECAUSE YOU SIMPLY NEVER GROW UP, DAVID! YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE A CHILD!"

"What?"

"YOU'RE ALWAYS CRYING! YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING! AND YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR AND THE WEAK, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE ARE WEAKNESSES? TO CARE ABOUT THE BAGGAGE, ABOUT THE WEAKLINGS... IN THIS CHANGING WORLD?!"

"Those are all... values you taught me, stepfather."

"...NGH?!"

Herbellstein suddenly felt a sharp pain in his head, as he heard those words, and realized that he indeed had taught David all these things.

"THAT'S...!"

He saw David slowly stand up, holding his broken sword, as his Aura surged from the blade, creating a sword made of yellow and white light instead.

"So you've even forgotten who you are anymore..." David muttered. "The Demonic Domain is gone... And yet you're still like this, so you're not brainwashed then?"

"BRAINWASH? I TOLD YOU I WASN'T BRAINWASH! FOOL...! I'VE GROWN TIRED OF YOU ALREADY, DAVID! BEGONE!"

With a furious, animalistic scream, Herbellstein charged towards David, his immense body towering above the Paladin.

"C-CAPTAIN DAVID!"

David heard the scream of one of his disciples from afar, noticing a girl with pink hair crying from afar, looking at the fight on top of a building.

"Patricia...?"

David noticed she was there, alongside the rest of the team, they looked terrified by the battle, a battle they knew they couldn't join.

"DIE, MY PATHETIC SON!"

Herbellstein's claws rushed down towards David.

"CAPTAIN!"

"NOOO!"

"FIGHT BACK!"

"PLEASE!"

His disciples screaming at him from afar, unable to do anything.

David felt like time itself was going slowly.

The courage that he had slowly lost, the bravery that was shattered by his father's monstrous form.

It was slowly coming back as he saw those that still cared for him.

When he saw those he loved, and those he had to take care of...

Even as the Kingdom was now being destroyed...

As long as its people remained.

They could rebuild it one day.

"People aren't born for a Kingdom, stepfather."

CLAAASH!

His light sword clashed against his stepfather's claws, as the two began to struggle against one another's strength, David being slowly pushed back.

"WHAT?!"

"It's the people... that make the Kingdom...!" David muttered, his eyes glowing bright gold. "As long as they remain... We will rebuild our home!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"UNGH?!"

Herbellstein gasped in disbelief as he saw his claws being sliced apart one after another, falling into the ground as blood splattered everywhere.

"You became what you are... because you lost hope on yourself... And ultimately, you forfeited everything else. The Queen? Your age? Your position being taken away? It's all excuses... It's because you began to doubt yourself that all of this happened, and because you stopped... trusting our people. A crisis?! We'll get through it! A problem? We'll solve it together!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"UARGH...! W-WHERE IS THAT POWER COMING FROM?!"

Herbellstein was shocked as David kept pushing him back, covering him with slicing blows, glowing with bright holy light.

"This is the power of the people... you forfeited. This is the strength of those you called weak and pathetic!"

David rushed forward, kicking his father's face and pushing him down!

CLAAASH!

"NNNGGH...?!"

Herbellstein gasped, as he saw David's hands manifesting chains made of light, which had wrapped around his legs and arms, weakening and sealing his demonic powers.

"I-IMPOSSIBLE...!"

"This is the Spell one of such people taught me, the Players you hated..." David said. "There might be a few rotten apples... But there's also a lot of amazing and great people out there. Without them, this Kingdom wouldn't had gotten this far, father."

"DAVID! YOU'RE TRULY TRUSTING OUR KINGDOM TO THEM?! YOU'VE GONE INSANE!"

"Someone has to give... the first step. Or else, we will be unable to create a new future together."

David's blade went down, piercing his father's chest, deeper, and deeper.

"UUUAAAAGGHH! DAVID! Y-YOU BASTARDDDDDD!"

Until the Sword reached his stepfather's demonic heart, and pierced it, filling it with holy light.

"Goodbye..."

David cried as he saw his father's demonic screams.

He was no longer there...

"I'm... sorry..."

BOOOMMM!!!

His father was consumed by the holy light, as his body exploded from the inside out, turning into ashes instantly.

The shockwave was so strong David was pushed away, rolling over the ground.

"Ugh..."

He still kept crying, a trait unbecoming of his age and title, that his father mocked.

And yet... it was still what made him who he was.

"Captain!"

"Are you okay?!"

"I got a potion here!"

"Please drink it...!"

"Please...!"

All of his disciples ran towards him, grabbing him and holding him well, without letting him fall unconscious, as it could mean his death.

David smiled lightly, feeling blessed to have such hardworking students.

As he saw the ashes of his father fall from the sky.

He noticed a small speck of light.

It didn't take a shape, nor speak a word.

But that speck of light...

It flew into the skies and disappeared.

"I hope you can find peace... Father..."

Chapter 1424 The King's Last Stand!

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"We've defeated several of them already! Don't give up hope!"

The King of Luminous roared, as he inspired his troops to continue the battle. Planta's Domain had become weaker due to the spread of the Hellish Domain of Merlinus, but some of her powerful buffs and healing abilities remained, keeping the army of soldiers and warriors strong enough.

Along the way, several dozens of Players ended joining them as they battled the Demonic Beasts and the Demonic Wizards, with no other option than to battle themselves, the Players were forced to assist the Army of the Luminous Kingdom.

The King glanced into the battlefield, there were still about thirty Demonic Wizards and around fifty Demonic Beasts spread through the devastated city. There had been many casualties too, with around forty percent of their army now dead.

Planta's power could only help them so much before they ended being overwhelmed. But their foes were already cornered as well. With over seventy percent of their army gone, and without any more Demonic Beasts coming from the Hell Hole, which seemed to have finally turned off, things looked to be slightly in the favor of the humans.

"CHARGE!"

The King gathered his troops and charged forward, as they ambushed a group of dozens of Demonic Beasts feasting on the corpses of human soldiers and demonic wizards.

The Demonic Beasts, some of them resembling brutish giants, others were lanky, long-legged creatures, and others were green-skinned bald bats with massive brains in their heads and long tongues, they had all shapes and sizes and resembled even more lethal forms of monsters.

The King, equipped with his golden armor and the powerful Heroic Sword, had awakened his Heroic Bloodline, unleashing devastating attacks against the Demonic Beasts.

"Heyaaaa!"

With a ferocious yell, the King charged forward, his heavy mechanical armor clanking on the ground as his massive sword was swung down and then upwards, and then to the left and right.

"{Heroic Holy Cross}!"

SLAAASH!

A massive slashing wave made of holy light slashed through and pierced through the bodies of several Demonic Beasts at once, killing them on the spot!

The flying ones screamed, spitting acid at him from afar.

"Your majesty!"

"Watch out!"

"Move aside!"

His knights rushed to defend him, placing magic shields and physical shield armor in front of him and quickly taking the projectiles. The armor quickly melted, as one of the knights received several burns, his skin melting agonizingly.

"Gyaaaahh!"

"Fool! I could've evaded on my own!"

The King rushed to his help, using his Healing Magic, awakened with his Heroic Bloodline, to heal his wounds, the man however had fallen unconscious already.

"Priests! Bring this man to the camp where the wounded are!"

"Yes!"

Two priests ran into the battlefield and carried away the soldier, a camp had been established inside one of Planta's powerful Divine Barriers made using her Angelic Abilities

"And you...!"

He quickly glared at the flying creatures, as he gathered his Mana into his sword again, pointing at them, he remembered that Planta had taught him an attack that manifested as arrows, even though he used a sword.

"Long-ranged attacks, attack the flying demonic beasts!"

As he said that, suddenly, three Demonic Wizards appeared from the west, firing giant beams of demonic flames at his soldiers.

"Gyahahaha! Die you bastards!"

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"Some of them are still around here?!"

The King panicked, quickly pointing his sword at them, only for the flying demonic beasts to fire more acid bullets.

He was forced to choose between his own life or that of his soldiers.

"D-Dammit!"

He quickly twisted his body, attacking the flying monsters with his sword, as he punctured space itself with his blade, generating a rain of dozens of arrow attacks.

"{Sun Flare Arrows}!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

At the same time as he did that, he pointed his spare hand at the Demonic Wizards, firing a laser beam of pure sunlight against them.

"{Holy Sunlight Beam}!"

TRUUUM!

The beam hit the wizard closest to him, burning him and scaring him momentarily, the other two managed to evade his spell, which wasn't even as strong as their own.

"The King's there!"

"Kill the fucker!"

"We'll eat his heart out and make him watch!"

The once respected wizards had turned completely mad with power, laughing viciously as they rushed towards the King, unleashing devastating magic which he could hardly defend against after all the damage he had endured.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

"Nnnngh...! Dammit, they aren't even letting me defend or counterattack!"

The King groaned as he placed a Light Shield in front of him, but it continuously broke apart. And whenever his knights came to his rescue, the demonic wizards would throw them away with powerful traps they set up around the field.

"It's useless you bastards, it's time for a cleansing of this entire damned place!"

"We'll burn the forest of beginnings once we're done here too!"

"We are not stopping until the entire continent burns to the ground, Gyahahaha!"

The Demonic Wizards, resembling red, black, and green skinned demonic humanoids with long beards and wizard clothes torn apart wrapped around their bodies, giggled viciously, some were bulkier, others lanky, one of them was small, but had several eyes across his body.

Although he could faintly recognize them a bit, the King felt immensely frustrated when he saw how monstrous they became, they completely forbade their entire humanity to become stronger. Leaving behind their families, legacies, emotions and love, all for power!

"You're nothing but trash, you bastards...!"

FLAAASH!

His Aura erupted with tremendous power, resembling a miniature sun! The magic they were firing at the King was suddenly reflected by his ever-growing aura.

"I've heard Planta is the hero of this Era, but I, as someone with the Hero Bloodline, cannot let her have the title all on her own!"

The King roared, manifesting and channeling more and more of his inner potential, releasing it to the world, as the skies suddenly turned bright, as if the day had arrived.

"HAAAHHHH!"

With a furious roar, the accumulated anger and frustration of his soldiers dying and of his Kingdom ruined, the King went beyond.

Chapter 1425 The Awakened Hero King

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The King of the Luminous Kingdom had grown tired of it all.

Of these traitors, of their power, and of what they had gotten away with it this entire time!

Above all, he felt incredibly frustrated, and above all, because he knew this was all his fault.

He didn't put enough time and effort into investigating what was happening in the city.

It took him too long to become suspicious of the Wizard Tower, even more of Merlinus.

He focused too much on improving things such as tourism for Players instead of boosting the growth of his army and his soldiers.

Instead of recruiting nobles to his cause and strengthening his political power, he ended churning them away, forcing them to ally Merlinus instead, as they plotted his downfall.

All of these things, in his opinion, were the signs of a terrible ruler, to the point he hated himself for that.

His people were dying, even after they evacuated every civilian, the soldiers that trusted him, so many had died!

And his city, his beautiful capital, the thing he put so much effort into making, that his father, his grandfather, and his ancestors built...

They were now ruins, with a massive hole in the middle.

"I have to take responsibility for everything I've caused for my incompetence...! Even if it takes my own life, I must do it!"

The King put his life in danger, as he let all his Mana and his Soul overwhelm his body, his Bloodline flared and burned like charcoal placed into a bonfire, his entire skin turned darker, as his blonde hair started growing.

The powers of his Bloodline were quickly assimilated by his armor, reacting to his powers and then adapting to them rapidly, growing and becoming more flexible, smaller, compact, and yet even stronger!

"HAAAAHHH!"

While draining his own Liferforce, Stamina, and Mana, the King went beyond all of his previous limits. This as a realm beyond Levels and Skills, a power that was within him, that wasn't related exclusively to the System.

TRUUUMMM!!!

The Demonic Wizards felt the tremendous pressure, stepping back in disbelief at what they were seeing, their eyes widened, unable to comprehend the level of power that the King had now reached.

"T-This is not Magic?! What is this Radiance within him?!"

"That's... the Evolved Aura of a Knight Physique?!"

"No, this is something beyond that! Impossible! Wasn't the King just weakling wimp?!"

The Demonic Wizards prepared themselves for battle as they conjured powerful magic circles around their bodies, enhancing their magic power and defenses.

FLUOSH!

As the smoke dissipated, the King's new form emerged, he looked younger, taller, more muscular, his white skin had become brown, his blonde hair became longer as well, and even spiky. His blue eyes

turned golden, resembling two gold coins. The armor around his body wrapped around his body and became skin-tight, not bulky and slow anymore.

The helmet area transformed into a floating crown above his head, while four more metallic golden arms floated behind him, all of them suddenly summoning swords of light from them.

BA DUM!

BA DUM!

BA DUM!

The King felt his heart racing! The Bloodline of Hero Luminous, and the countless inheritors after and before him, they all converged into a single body, a never seen before event.

Holding the golden sword in his hands tightly, the King took a step forward.

RUMBLE!

The world around him began to rapidly disintegrate before his immense pressure, the three Demonic Wizards panicked.

"T-This is unbelievable!"

"Why did we even let him transform?!"

"What?! We couldn't even get close to the bastard!"

As the Demonic Wizards panicked, the immense holy aura coming from the King quickly attracted several other uninvited guests. The Demonic Wizards trying to find soldiers to kill were quickly driven to surround him.

"..."

The King looked around with his sharp golden eyes, there were now dozens of these Demonic Wizards, not everyone, but much more than before.

"So this is the King?"

"What happened to him?!"

"It doesn't matter! Kill him!"

"If we all attack at once, then we can win!"

"Don't let him get away with this, slaughter him quickly!"

"You bastard! You humiliated our noble family! I shall have your heart!"

The horrendous demonic wizards screamed furiously, unleashing their demonic spells at once. Gigantic fireballs, massive shadow claws, abyssal tentacles, freezing demonic ice, all-consuming void projectiles, and more all fell towards the King.

"YOUR MAJESTY!"

The knights that were fighting the demonic beasts panicked, as they saw their King completely surrounded and ganged on! There was no hope.

And yet...

"I will use this power to kill all of you."

SLAAAASH!

With a mighty spinning slash, the King spun in midair after jumping into the skies, the projectiles were all sliced apart, as the slicing wave of holy light caught up with his foes as well, and with a single attack, dozens of more slashing attacks were unleashed at once.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

The Demonic Wizards saw their own bodies bleeding, as slicing wounds covered them completely, and then, they exploded into pieces!

Blood and guts splattered over the floor, as they gasped in disbelief, those that survived, around half of the demonic wizards present, couldn't believe it.

"T-That bastard...!"

"How dare he?!"

"He's...! Isn't he too strong?!"

"Since when...?!"

"No, we can win if we combine our demonic souls together!"

The Demonic Wizards screamed in surprise, but the original trio fighting the King quickly rallied them together, their Auras converging with them.

"Like we practiced before, we must combine!"

"Hurry, before he attacks again!"

"Do it!"

As they rushed to do just that, the King glanced from afar.

"Don't think I'll let you do as you please anymore, you pieces of shit!"

He rushed forward, leaping into the empty air, his five swords glowing brightly, as he unleashed a massive barrage of slashing attacks!

"RAAAHHHH!"

With a furious roar, he began to rapidly cut through the flying demonic beasts and the barriers of the wizards, they panicked, unable to contain his fury.

While panicking, the demonic wizards kept firing their magic spells, unleashing a complete catastrophe around him.

And yet, the King remained unyielding!

"I WON'T STOP UNTIL I CRUSH EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!"

Chapter 1426 The King's Blazing Will

-----

The King had reached a new stage, and he was completely unstoppable, killing dozens of Demonic Wizards within a second, the time for the King to finally have his revenge had come.

The Demonic Wizards fell rapidly into despair and his powerful, yet simple attacks could easily slaughter them! they quickly attempted to combine their Demonic Souls to form a stronger being, but they were quickly stopped.

The King was not letting them even have a chance to go against him! He wasn't a battle junkie that enjoyed fighting, he was someone seeking to protect what was left of his soldiers and eliminate this threat once and for all!

"YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE BY MY HANDS, YOU BASTARDS!"

He had become almost like the demons he abhorred, his wrath surged endlessly from his body, as his aura of golden light continued expanding, his additional mechanical, armored arms rushed forward attacking his foes continuously.

The magical barriers and demonic shields conjured were quickly destroyed one after another, his attacks were extremely lethal and fast, his additional arms made out of his own armor floated wherever he ordered them, easily slashing and slaughter his foes.

"{Demonic Soul Magic Ritual}: {Archdemonic Claws of Destruction}!!!"

However, the original demonic wizard trio screamed in unison, they managed to at least unleash a powerful spell, combining their magic powers into a massive black and red portal!

TRUUUM!

From the portal, countless demonic arms with massive claws surged from within, attacking the King and sending him flying into the ground.

CRAAASH! CRAAASH! CRAAASH!

The King transformed his additional armored arms into large shields, taking the blows while stepping back, then, he charged his heroic blade with Mana and...

"{Heavenly Ascension}!"

SLAAASH! SLAAASH! SLAAASH!

He unleashed three ascending blows at once, as giant slashing beams of light split through the demonic claws, disintegrating them into ashes one after another, as countless explosions reverberated.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The soldiers glanced from afar, amazed by the power and ruthlessness of their ruler! After so long of struggling, their King had attained a new power, one that surpassed all limits.

"I-Is that really the King?!"

"He's stronger than David!"

"H-How is this even possible?"

"The armor and the sword with him must have allowed him to go even further beyond!"

"We can't do anything ourselves; we'll only get in the way!"

"At the very least, take care of the Demonic Beasts!"

As the knights continued taking down the rampaging demonic beasts and cleaning the area, the King continued fighting, he glanced at his knights and nodded as he saw them getting as far away as possible.

"Good, they know the role they have to serve in this battle."

He quickly gripped his sword tightly as more claws rushed towards them, this time, more than ten! The demonic wizards had opened a literal gate to hell like Planta had seen many times, but that the King hadn't.

"I shall take care of this... my people."

His eyes shone brightly gold, as he glanced at the gigantic hands, the portal was being fueled by all the demonic wizards at once.

"I must go even further beyond."

His armor rapidly merged with the rest of his body, as they suddenly enhanced his arms muscular power and movement speed.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

"{Holy Armor Modification: Divine Arms}"

His Heroic Sword grew thrice as long as he infused it with his golden Aura, as the dozens of claws reached him at long last, they quickly attempted to grab him or cleave through his body.

Several of them had eyes on their palms, firing laser beams as well!

And yet...

"{Horizon Cleave}!"

The King took a step forward, the world shook, the entire surroundings were split apart by his golden blade, as a massive blast of slicing holden light engulfed his foes instantly.

SLAAAASH!

The attack instantly destroyed the demonic arms, the holy light sliced through flesh and bones and turned everything else into ashes.

And then, it hit the demonic wizards behind.

BOOOMMM!!!

Half of them were instantly destroyed, their bodies exploding into pieces and turning into ashes. The wizards glared at the scene in utter disbelief.

What's more...

Crack, crack...!

CRAAASH!

The Demonic Gate they opened was also sliced apart, and it shattered, leaving behind a black void that quickly closed automatically.

"I-Impossible...!"

"T-This can't be!"

"After everything, we're losing now?!"

The King rapidly rushed forward, his gigantic mechanical arms holding his sword as he looked at the Demonic Wizards, his eyes full of righteous fury!

"It's your turn, pay for your sins and remember this moment when you're rotting in hell!"

RUMBLE!

The King leaped into the skies, the ground beneath him shattered apart and exploded, leaving behind a huge crater.

"S-Stop him!"

"Don't let him...!"

"I can't...! I...!"

The immense pressure he inserted into their bodies and souls was so huge they couldn't do anything!  
And the reason was rather simple, this was the same sensation every demon from hell felt.

The Demonic Souls inside of their bodies were screaming in agony and horror before the King's Golden Aura because it possessed the almighty power of a True Hero.

The same way Luminous had killed many Demons with his Holy Blade, this fear was etched into the demons from hell.

The fear against the power of a Hero!

"{Heavenly Tempest}!"

Without wasting any second, the King swung his blade upward, then downward, to the left and right, all within a microsecond.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

FLUOOOSH!

And from all these attacks, a tempestuous tornado made of holy golden light and slashing attacks engulfed his foes instantly.

"Uuaaggh!"

"Noooo!"

"I don't want to dieeeee!"

"My bodyyyyy!"

"Aaaaiieeehhh!"

The Demonic Wizards agonized as their bodies were reduced to shredded meat pieces that then turned into ashes.

The King glanced at the scene, slowly falling to the ground, and then...

"I'm done... I... did everything I could do..."

He muttered, feeling weaker and weaker, slightly sleepy.

"I... leave the rest to you... Camilla..."

He fell to his knees, looking at the battle in the distance.

"Please take care of Gustav, our treasure..."

And the king's armor disappeared into light, and so his blade, as his eyes closed.

"I love you... Camilla..."

Chapter 1427 A Hero's Sacrifice

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The knights ran after the King once he fell to the ground, gathering around him. David had just arrived with his disciples, as he gasped once he saw the King.

"Your majesty!"

The soldiers and knights around the King were all crying, David didn't want to think the worst, asking what had happened.

"What happened?! Hey!"

However, nobody would answer him, they remained in silence, crying, mourning...

"Y-Your majesty...!"

He reached his King, his eyes seemed closed, his face smiling, serene.

He looked even younger than before, as if he had regressed to his early twenties.

"A-Ah...! Your majesty!"

David knew what happened, as he started crying, while holding the King tightly, hugging him. To him, the King was more than just his ruler.

He was like a family to him, since he was promoted that he had lived so close to him and his family, they became his family.

He was literally Gustav's big brother at this point, and also it felt like the King was always his uncle, and the queen his aunt.

"No...!"

He couldn't take it anymore, as he began crying like a child, tears flowing from his eyes even more than when he had to take down his stepfather.

"Why...!"

He held onto the king's body tightly.

"WHY?!"

His disciples glanced into the distance, the young squires that had yet to fully ascend into the Magic Knights that would protect the King.

They were all crying, unable to take onto so many losses.

"This has to end already...!"

David glared into the distance, as a gigantic wave of miasma approached, rapidly beginning to turn into something aberrant.

"Please... Planta... You're our last hope..."

Everyone was too tired, many too wounded to fight any longer, even David himself could barely move after everything.

"I don't want to lose more of the people I love..."

RUMBLE!

Their prayers all gathered into a single point, everyone couldn't take it anymore, no more of this...

They clung to their last hope, even amidst this despair.

"GROOOOEEEEUUURRGHH...!"

And the scream of a monstrosity echoed through the entire city, shaking its foundations.

"Merlinus... Just how much suffering do you have to bring us to be finally satisfied...?"

The Demonic Crown that Merlinus soul had possessed finally shattered into pieces, Planta and the rest finally relaxed for a moment, thinking that it was perhaps finally over.

Merlinus wasn't coming back, and whatever remained of his soul was now crystalized and inert, they had to simply store it inside their inventory and the problem was gone.

However, there were hundreds of pieces everywhere, so it was bound to not be as easy...

"Well, now that we're done here..." Planta muttered. "We should quickly cleanse the rest of the threats around the city. The Demonic Domain is gone but there are still foes to defeat..."

"I think there were a lot of casualties..." Titan said, looking into the distance. "We might've won, but... the price was huge."

"That is how war is, there were always going to be casualties when battling against such a gigantic and powerful foe as Merlinus and his immense army," Erebus said.

"You don't have to put it that way though..." Lily sighed.

"Don't be mean!" Achlys said angrily. "It still a tragedy, you know?!"

"..." Erebus fell silent for a moment. "I'm sorry... I'm not accustomed about conversations like this so... I tend to not be able to speak correctly."

"It's okay, Erebus, you'll learn at your own pace," Said Planta with a slight nod. "Now let's hurry, we have a lot to do... We must reduce the casualties as much as possible, then cleanse the area out of miasma and...! Camilla?"

Planta stopped, glancing at Camilla, who seemed slightly confused, looking into the distance.

"I heard his voice... Calling for me."

"Camilla?"

Camilla suddenly shed a tear, and then more started coming from her eyes.

"How could this be? He..."

"...?"

Planta slowly walked to her side.

"What happened? A-Are you okay?"

Planta noticed Camilla's hands were trembling, as her red eyes were full of sorrow, a calm sorrow.

She didn't start crying hysterically though, Camilla was very good at keeping her composure.

But... Planta could tell, something terrible happened.

"Why..."

Camilla fell to her knees, losing all her strength and energy.

She started grasping the ground, the rocks, crushing them with her fists.

"Why...!"

Planta and the rest remained in silence as they glanced at Camilla crying.

"Camilla, let me-"

SPLAAASH!

Before Planta could extend a hand towards her, a huge tsunami of Demonic Miasma reached them, splashing everywhere, originating from the Wizard Tower.

"GROOOOEEEEUUURRGHH...!"

And from within this mass of red and black mud-like goo, the souls of hundreds of innocents used for the Demonic Formation echoed from within it as the mass of Demonic Miasma that expanded for hundreds of meters across the city manifested eyes, mouths, heads, arms, hands, and legs.

"T-That's...!" Camilla slowly opened her eyes wide, seeing the monstrosity rushing towards them.

RUMBLE!

"W-What the hell is that thing?!" Lily screamed in horror.

"P-Planta! Camilla! Watch out!"

Titan panicked, his powers manifesting in that moment, as the ground shattered into pieces in that very instant and a sea of flames emerged.

CRAAASH!

A titan made of black steel wood surged from the ground, rapidly flying with its massive, phoenix-like wings towards Planta and Camilla.

Titan controlled it, as it was a part of himself, a gigantic being he modeled through his new Totem Formation.

Through using its massive hands, he grabbed Planta, Camilla, and Elena and flew as high into the skies as possible, missing Erebus, but he knew he would be fine even if he was drowned on the deadliest of miasma.

And well, even if he got hurt... Titan didn't care, unlike Planta, he hadn't forgiven him for everything he did.

"Phew, almost didn't made it!" Titan muttered.

"No! Wait! Merlinus fragments!" Planta panicked. "That thing will...!"

BOOOM!

As the Demonic Miasmic Monstrosity splashed into the area where they were, the crystals left by Merlinus' Demonic Crown were devoured, instantly assimilated into the thing.

FLUOSH!

And in that moment, rays of red light surged from its entire body, as countless faces surged from the mud, screaming in agony.

"The Demon King...!"

Until finally, one face resembling an old man with a long beard devoured the rest, remaining as the sole consciousness.

"I MUST BECOME... THE DEMON KING!"

Chapter 1428 Surprising News Amidst Battle

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While everyone was trying to process what had happened and calm down once things seemed to have finally ended, out of nowhere, a massive sea of demonic miasma emerged, Planta quickly realized it came from the Wizard Tower!

This only meant one thing, that when they finally stopped the Demonic Formation and therefore destroyed the Demonic Formation, something within it was also freed.

And from what she could tell, it was the souls of all the people and demons used for the formation to even exist, something that ended up being created as a byproduct of everything being screwed over forcefully.

And what's worse, although Titan managed to rescue Planta and the rest that were close by, the Miasma spread everywhere, and eventually, it splashed into the area where they were before. The crystals left by Merlinus' Demonic Crown, which were also containing his soul, were devoured, instantly assimilated into the monstrosity.

FLUOSH!

And in that moment, as the thing consumed and dissolved the crystals into its body, it quickly felt an immense surge of power, rays of red light emerged from its entire body, as countless faces surged from the mud, screaming in agony.

"The Demon... King...!"

One of these faces started screaming some words, with a voice everyone recognized... Planta and her entire party's faces distorted already in utter disbelief and anger, frustration, and above all... exhaustion.

The faces started devouring one another across the monstrosity's body, constantly growing new arms and legs, the entire thing being as huge as hundreds of meters!

RUMBLE!

Until finally, one face resembling an old man with a long beard devoured the rest, remaining as the sole consciousness, spreading its dark and demonic energies everywhere.

"I MUST BECOME... THE DEMON KING!"

With a loud scream, the rest of his miasmic body quickly took form and shape, resembling a giant humanoid made of slowly melting miasmic mud, covered with demonic flames.

It was unable to take a more solid form, this entire being was made out of pure waste energy and distorted, agonizing souls after all.

But even then, this thing tried to remain alive, this man...

No, this monster among monsters!

"Merlinus!"

Planta gritted her teeth, never had she felt this fury before, not even against Thanatos did she feel this much anger and fury.

Merlinus was without a doubt her worst enemy, someone she desired to not only eliminate forever, but also make him suffer if possible.

But she couldn't have either of the two, she had to end this quickly, before his influence, and whatever he had become, were to move on into the wilderness, eventually reaching her forest!

"That bastard is back?!" Titan gasped. "Just how many times do we have to kill him?!"

"Hopefully, this'll be the last!" Elena said, unsheathing her sword. "Mom! What do we do? Jumping there directly will make us fall into the miasma! It's spreading everywhere... should we fly there?"

"Flying seems to be the correct answer," Planta said. "But I'll go first. Mark, please bring as many of these giants as you can! We must hold him back, so he doesn't begin spreading destruction everywhere!"

"Leave it to me but... How do you plan to do this?! A-Are you going to jump or something?" Mark asked. "If you jump you'll...!"

"Don't worry about me," Planta smiled. "I'll be fine! I've got some trump cards I haven't used yet...! And also... Johanna!"

She quickly called Johanna through telepathy, as the Druid heard Planta's voice, she and the rest of the Druids were all waiting at the borders of the Kingdom, where most of the destruction never reached.

They had been hiding underground, waiting for this moment while resisting the urge to go to help everyone else fighting for their lives, the reason was simple, their purpose here, the purpose of the druids, was much different than everyone else.

"I hear you, Planta!" Johanna answered, nodding as she glanced into the distance. "I can tell there's something going on! Is it time?!"

"Yes it's time! Please summon her right now!" Planta said.

"Very well!" Johanna muttered. "And I thought we wouldn't get to use her but... things have finally gotten to this point! Grandma! Uncle! It's time!"

She quickly talked to them through Spiritual Voice, the ability of Druids to talk with one another through Spirit Links and Connections they made with one another.

"So it's time, huh? Hohohoho... I never thought I would see this day!" Grandma Austucia laughed, walking out of her building, the swamp-like interior spreading green essence everywhere. "Everyone! It is time! Activate the Divine Spiritual Formation!"

Her words were orders, the rest of the druids spread through the city nodded, Uncle also heard, the old man that had once annoyed Planta, Augustus!

"As the representative of the Verdant Green Society, I cannot disappoint Planta anymore!" Roared the old man. "Everyone, please quickly activate your Node!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Suddenly, the surrounding city began glowing bright green, as several nodes were activated in quick succession, gigantic explosions of green light erupting everywhere.

"GRRRUUUOOHHH?! WHAAAATS... THISSSSS?!"

Merlinus, whose mind had been corrupted and turned monstrous due to having to become one with this massive miasmic chimera made of so many souls, glanced into the distance. His voice was now slow and stupid, and the intelligence and sharpness of his previous self were mostly gone.

He had deteriorated tremendously mentally, but the power he gained from this new body was also incredible, even more when everything he touched rapidly began to wither, consumed by the void and corroded space.

"GRAAAHHH!"

He roared beginning to slowly move his massive, sludge-like body towards the nearest green light, attracted to it like a moth to the flames.

"It's starting!" Planta said. "The ritual! For now, we have to distract it until it begins, only a few seconds at most...! I'm going now, Mark! Bring Camilla back to her totem and with Elena summon two more for them...!"

"Wait, Planta! I also will fight!" Said Mark. "I can't just do things in the back while I leave you, the mother of my child, do everything on her own!"

"M-Mother of your child?!" Elena asked. "E-Eh? Hey, what's going on here?"

"I-It's a long story but I'm pregnant!" Planta cried. "I really didn't want to say it right now you know?! But it's fine, we can talk about it later!"

"I'll have a little sibling?!" Elena fervently asked.

Chapter 1429 Three Minutes!

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Too many things were happening at the same time, and there was literally no time to sit down and address them one by one like usual. From Merlinus resurrection into a dumb monstrosity that made everything he touched wither away, to the Druids finally beginning to activate the entire formation, and then ending up with this reveal out of the blue.

Planta felt embarrassed, she wanted to keep this a secret for a bit longer, she didn't want to make others overly worry about her, for example... However, she didn't had quite the choice right now anyway, with Mark stubbornly stating he wasn't going to let go of her side.

"Y-You're pregnant, mom?!" Elena asked. "I-I didn't knew, you never told me...!"

"I'm sorry, I just didn't want to worry anybody for now," Planta sighed. "But whatever, this doesn't matter right now! Please go back to the totems now, and-"

"No! I'm staying!" Said Elena angrily. "I'll go by your side, mom."

"But what about the miasma?!" Asked Planta. "If you touch it you'll...!"

"I will be fine," said Elena. "I can fly around and stuff. And I got my Shikigami to help me out a swell, I'm more than ready."

"B-But...!" Planta was still worried.

"Let me go!" Elena complained, she wasn't going to give up.

"Fine..." she sighed. "Camilla, are you...?"

"I'll go as well; I can't just make Titan turn around and waste time bringing me back!" Said Camilla. "I had run to your side mostly because I wanted to talk with you and thank you for your efforts, but I ended getting caught into all of this, might as well fight on my own."

"I will seriously become neurotic now, do any body of you know how dangerous it is?!" Planta was about to pull out her own hair from sheer desperation. "But fine, fine...! Ugh, I just don't want you to die! The miasma will damage your souls and...!"

"I can take care of that," Mark said. "Leave it to me, Elayne. This body I have is more than just that, I'm piloting it myself, all while my body is also separate, you know?"

"R-Right..." Planta nodded. "But how does that matter right now, I know that-"

"I know the way!" Mark said. "This giant black steel wood titan I've crafted works the same as the ones that were made for everyone else. As long as they infuse their power into the core, it is possible for it to gain their powers and traits!"

"Oh? Then be my guest, I shall do that right now then!" Nodded Camilla.

"I would love to go myself, but I guess this will make it, so mom doesn't worry too much," Elena nodded. "Count me in!"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

As this happened, everyone saw even more pillars of green light emerging from the ground around the entire city, until the last one was created.

Then, rays of green light came from them, rapidly assembling into a massive magic circle that began to engrave hundreds of Divine Runes and Spirit Runes through its entire body.

"It's beginning, let's go!" Planta quickly leaped into the skies, transforming in a mere second.

FLUOSH!

Her small body rapidly grew hundreds of times larger, combining her previous transformations with her current form, the Valkyrie within her still had a couple of minutes before leaving.

It was more than enough to unleash a power that went even beyond her previous strongest form!

While rapidly transforming, hundreds- no, thousands of spirits all over the city, which had been growing and appearing the more her Domain and Terrain spread, rapidly fused with her body.

"Come on guys! You too!"

Aside from the little Spirits, the Dragon Spirits that lived within her Dragon Heart also rapidly manifested in their enormous forms, as they had been resting until now to save all the Draconic Energy possible for her.

"Very well!" The Blue Dragon King Spirit said.

"Leave it to us!" The Red Dragon Queen Spirit roared.

"This should hopefully be the last battle, right?" The Venomous Viper Drake Queen Spirit asked.

"Let's do our best!" The Mountain Drake King Spirit said.

FLUOSH!

They spiraled around her body and then merged into it completely, becoming part of her essence and her muscles and lifeblood.

She went from two and a half meters to five, then ten, twenty, thirty, fifty, sixty, eighty, a hundred, two hundred, three hundred!

RUMBLE!

Continuously growing larger and larger, Planta combined all her strength and harnessed its power into her ultimate form, landing into the ground as she shook the sea of miasma.

Her golden metallic body shone brightly even in the darkness of the night, her four enormous draconic wings, made of gold and silver metal and covered by smooth metallic scales and jewels, also had beautiful white feathers.

Her draconic form had three long heads, each one with different colored eyes, pointy golden horns, and floating halos above their heads.

She wasn't as bulky as before either, becoming leaner and also lighter in terms of weight!

Much like it happened with the King, this was a power that went "beyond the System" as it unleashed a power the system itself had a hard time describing.

A special near perfect convergence of power and strength, all harnessed into a single point...

But of course, this form was also extremely exhausting!

Her entire form shone brightly, revealing itself completely, her chest covered by a rainbow, heart-shaped jewel overflowing with immense power.

She had four long and dexterous-looking arms with sharp claws and fingers, a humanoid posture and long legs to walk and jump around with ease as well.

"Planta... we can only do this for three minutes at most," the voice of the Valkyrie spoke to her. "More than this and... We may risk hurting our souls, understood? Three minutes! After that, your form will revert, and you might even end up weakened for a while. The toll of overexerting my powers within your body is big."

"I know, Lady Valkyrie," Planta said. "Leave it to me... Three minutes is plenty of time."

BOOOMM!!!

"GRUUUAAGH?!"

Out of nowhere, a giant red beam hit the monstrous miasmic creature from its own stomach, blowing a hole through it, where a little fairy emerged from within.

"Especially when we still got allies like him around..."

Chapter 1430 Go All Out, It's Now Or Never!

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RUMBLE!

The entire city trembled as a gigantic three-headed dragon made of gold and silver metal emerged, spreading gigantic, feathered and angelic wings, whose feathers were made of white light and also metal.

A gigantic Divine, Spiritual, and Draconic Aura emerged from within her body, overflowing everywhere and filling the skies with bright golden light.

Her majestic form was finally attained, as Planta unleashed the combination and culmination of all her Skills, Magic, and Powers into a single being.

Not only by absorbing Spirits of all elements, but also by activating all her transformation Skills and Abilities at the same time, but also by even absorbing nearby Divine Draconic Spirits and Draconic Farm Spirits.

Her massive body fell into the sea of demonic miasma, as it rapidly wrapped her legs, trying to make her wither away.

And yet...

"GRRRHHHH...!"

The monstrous Merlinus, glaring at the giant three-hundred-meter tall Yggdragon, realized that the Miasma wasn't actually dealing as much damage as it should!

Her entire body was wrapped around an endlessly regenerating Barrier with several layers, the more damage the barriers took, the more energy she regained and the more her Aura spread, expanding a Domain and a Terrain under the sea of Miasma.

The Miasma should have easily destroyed it too, but somehow, the plants continued growing, unbothered by the destructive miasma that could devour it all!

And all of this was because of Elayne's current form, and the many abilities that came with it.

Ding!

[You have activated several skills, spells, and abilities and combined their effects and transformation powers together alongside thousands of Dragon Spirits, Elemental Spirits, Divine Spiritual Draconic Beasts, Draconic Farm Spirits, and your tamed Dragon Spirits!]

[Additionally, the Divine Soul of the Valkyrie within you has reacted to your transformation, further evolving and boosting your new and powerful form!]

[You have temporarily transformed and evolved into the {Three-Headed Heavenly Metallic Aeternitas Goddess} form!]

[All your Stats have further increased by 1000%, all of your Spirit and Dragon-type Skills and Spells Power has increased by 600%, your HP and MP Regeneration Speed has increased by 2000%, and you

have gained the ability to activate the Divine Skills: {Heavenly Divine Aeternitas Nature Domain of Fractured Spacetime}, {Divine Holy Metal Dragon Spirit Beast Army}, {Heavenly Draconic Skill and Spell Combination Armament Creation}!]

[Transformation Duration: 3 Minutes.]

Her New Transformation boosted her Stats to her limits and beyond, increasing all her power to a completely new degree.

Above all else, the three powerful Divine Skills included in this Transformation had been upgraded even further thanks to the power of the Valkyrie's soul and her other new skills.

"Now...!" Planta roared, as she saw the miasma beginning to slowly devour her away.

"{Heavenly Divine Aeternitas Domain of Fractured Spacetime}!"

FLUOOOSH!

Her aura spread everywhere, as holy light, time essence, and nature merged into a sea of white, green, and golden plants that began to grow through the miasma.

Ding!

[The Aura of the {Heavenly Divine Aeternitas Nature Domain of Fractured Spacetime} has spread everywhere, your Domain and Terrain has gained the {Immunity} status, becoming incapable of being destroyed as long as your transformation remains, and also {Holy Reflection} that will reflect the damage against the Domain and destroy any other hostile power trying to take over it.]

At the same time, the miasma started to rapidly burn away into ashes. Although the quantity was ridiculous, Planta's spreading Domain and Terrain were managing to slow down its propagation!

Thanks to the power of her Divine Skill, not only was Time beginning to slow down around her foe, but the power of Immunity made her Domain immune to any damage, all while Holy Reflection dealt damage back to it.

"YOU DAREEEEE...?!"

Merlinus went absolutely insane as hundreds of other faces screamed through his melting, sludge-like body, his gigantic arms rushed towards Planta, striking her with several massive, yet slow blows.

BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM! BAAAM!

Each blow was stronger than the last, Planta was pushed back, almost falling into the depths of the sea of demonic miasma, only to see hundreds of arms wrap around her legs and body, and dozens of screaming faces trying to drag her down.

"Disgusting!"

Planta felt completely disgusted by what this was, what Merlinus had created through his insanity! She rapidly used her massive claws, piercing the body of Merlinus and blowing holes through it as explosions of light engulfed him.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

However, any damage he took was easily recovered instantly, his entire body was nothing but pure black and red sludge, he technically couldn't receive any physical damage.

What's worse, his Soul had become aberrant and distorted after devouring the souls of so many sacrifices, becoming huge and capable of withstanding many blows.

Even if it shattered, the shattered pieces would remain with him and would simply continue spreading and melting through his body!

"Come, my army!"

Planta didn't hesitate to use the second Divine Skill, which she could spam as much as she wanted through the duration of her transformation.

"{Divine Holy Metal Dragon Spirit Beast Army}!"

FLAAASH!

A huge rainbow portal opened, where several gigantic claws emerged, tearing up the gate through space and time and emerging by the dozens, resembling gigantic metallic dragons of various different colors. Each one was roughly a hundred-meter tall.

Ding!

[You have activated the Divine Skill: {Divine Holy Metal Dragon Spirit Beast Army}! Your Powers and Energies have summoned the Divine Holy Metal Dragon Spirit Beast Portal, summoning Divine Holy Metal Dragon Spirit Beasts to battle!]

[For the duration of the portal's existence, these Divine Holy Metal Dragon Spirit Beasts will fight for you and protect you as well as heal you and even die for you! However, once the Portal's duration is over, they will return to their Realm.]

[Their Power is based on 50% of your total Stats without considering additional buffs or equipment stat boosts. And their Aura can be combined to further strengthen themselves the more of them are around.]

"ROOAARRR!"

"SHAAAAH!"

"GRUOOOH!"

The gigantic draconic beings leaped towards the miasma, spreading holy light and flames everywhere, burning through the miasma while also being tough enough that the miasma didn't destroy them immediately.

"NNGAAAGGH! DAMMIT!"

Merlinus screamed in agony, furiously punching and kicking the beasts one after another, successfully being distracted from ruining the Druid's Formation.

And just in time, as the pillars of green light converged into a single figure.

FLAAASH!

An immensely powerful divine pressure emerged, as the embodiment of a divinity began to rapidly manifest.