

## D. of Pride 221

Chapter 221: City Of Mountmend (2)

Their destination, the dungeon they were headed for was called the Desert Gorge. Thinking about the dungeon, made Raven squint his eyes and he involuntarily put his hands on the two short swords he always carried on his waist.

It wasn't like it was their first time tackling it, but every time they did they would have to retreat back multiple times and could only progress in a snail's pace.

The Desert Gorge was also the place where multiple adventurers from their guild had died exploring thus paving paths for the other members of their guild.

Their guild, the Sea God's Trident was considered one of the top five guilds both in terms of numbers and strength across the Kingdom of Ellesmere but even they were nothing in front of the [B] rank dungeon.

However, all of this was before Godwin and Raven joined them and climbed the ranks of their guild. It wasn't guaranteed that their current exploration would ensue like all their previous ones.

Since his face was covered with a mask, nobody knew what Raven was thinking.

"Let's go" from inside the arc, came Godwin's solemn voice.

The space around the arc started distorting and a loud combusting noise started coming off from the engine of the arc. However, what was peculiar was that even though the arc made such a loud sound, no noise ensued out on the area a few hundred meters around it.

The space soon distorted and the huge back arc that was there a few moments ago, was nowhere to be seen. It was as if the arc was never there in the first place.

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WOOOSH... Diving through the dimensional tear, Simon found himself high above in the sky in front of a vast field that spanned for thousands of kilometres.

The land here was lush green with trees and grass growing all over. However, unlike the Ghastly Winding Forest, the land here had a very thin density of mana.

"Where are we?" was the first thought that came to his mind as he observed the distant few mountain ranges.

"Hmm? You don't know the place? This land here is the one adjacent to the place where you have built your dungeon. We are at the north-western borders of the Central Continent that connects with the Ghastly Winding Forest of the Demon Continent more specifically we are at the outskirts of the Kingdom of Ellesmere" Adalinda replied casually.

The moment Simon heard what she said, he couldn't help widen his eyes in amazement. This would be his second time coming on a land that was not inside the Ghastly Winding Forest, the First time being the Walpurgis held at the farthest reach of the Demon Continent.

Unlike the demon continent, the land here was lush and fertile, suitable for all kinds of cultivation. Also from Adalinda, Simon learned that the lands here belonged to the kingdom of Ellesmere which was just one of the thousands of kingdoms and empires flourishing on the central continent.

The Kingdom of Ellesmere was not very influential and was one of the many bottom tier kingdoms out there on the central continent.

"Well even though I say weak, it is still not an opponent that you can look down upon," Adalinda said drawing peculiar ruins in the air. The ruins intermingled and circled around each other and pulsed with a mysterious light.

Even without her deliberately saying it, Simon was already aware of it. There was no way he was going to look down upon a kingdom whose strength was still unknown to him.

Suddenly, the ruins she carved out, started giving some response and Adalinda squinted her eyes.

"Alright hop in" ripping the space apart with her fingernails once again, she beckoned at Simon before delving inside the tear.

Simon too followed behind and arrived at a new destination. They were still high up in the sky, but the land below them was no longer lush green and empty. Instead, there was a city down below.

Tall ramparts that went as high as thirty meters, surrounded the city from all sides. The city was neither nor small and can be said to be average. The buildings dotting the place were of varying heights and the roads could be said wide and big.

"Why are we here?" looking at the city, Simon couldn't help but ask.

"Hmm? My readings show that my disciple must have stopped by here. Although I can't sense any of her lingering aura, I cannot be wrong" Adalinda mused.

It seemed that her disciple had come to this city and thus they were here.

Simon patiently waited for Adalinda to complete whatever she was doing. It was not like he could go anywhere else since he agreed with her request of finding her disciple nor could he understand what she was doing.

"Hehe, if you think you can outsmart me, then you have underestimated your master too much" finally after a while, Adalinda muttered puffing her chest proudly.

Looking at her behaviour, Simon commented "Did you find something?".

Adalinda did not comment and instead looked at him with a wide smile "What do you think? If it was so easy to find her, would I even need your help? She is my disciple after all; but she forgot one thing and that is I'm her master. I know every skill and technique that she can use, there is no way she can hide from me for long".

"Is that so" For some reason, Simon felt his skin tingling and he wanted to end the conversation there. However, how could Adalinda allow him to do so.

"It is time you displayed your usefulness. You will come down with me to the city and search for any tracks or clues she might have left behind mistakenly".

The moment he heard her words, Simon couldn't help but become stunned for a while.

"Huhh? What do you mean come down with you? It's a human city for crying out loud. There is no telling how they will react if a demon noble like me descends on their town".

The city down below was occupied by humans, there was no way they would just casually greet him who was a Demon Noble no less.

The humans and demons have gone to war many a times during their history, there was already so much bad blood between the two species that it was extremely difficult to make peace. If not for the non-aggression treaty signed by both the representatives of the species, there would still be war all around.

There would be dire consequences if he was to be found roaming around a human city. Simon had inherited all of these memories when he was reincarnated as a Demon Baron so he was more or less slightly aware of what went down in their long history.

Plus he was not like Adalinda whose appearance wasn't any different from a human girl of her age. If not for that insane amount of aura she occasionally released, she would appear any different than a human girl to the average human of the city.

"It is impossible no matter how you see it. A Demon Viscount like me would plunge the city in panic the moment I'm spotted".

Simon was not lying, his pale appearance, horns, crimson eyes, all these features that was extremely noticeable, would give him away as a member of a Demon Noble no matter how he tried to hide it.

While it is true that he can use the Elixir of Metamorphosis to transform himself to look like any human, there was no need for him to show his cards here.

Even after listening to his dilemmas, Adalinda didn't appear to be fazed at all and appeared as relaxed as ever. With a swift motion, she fished out something from her ring and passed it onto Simon.

"Have you ever heard of ancient artifacts that are able to change one's appearance to their desire? As long as you have that locket with you, you will be able to change your appearance and mingle with the humans. With this, you can enter the city and as long as you do not wander near a high levelled being, they wouldn't be able to see through the transformation" Adalinda explained.

Catching the item in his hand, Simon quickly inspected it with his Analysis.

Trinket of Grimlock- [A] grade item. The detail of the item was as Adalinda had explained and can change one's appearance to their desire.

On that note, the item was extremely similar to his Elixir but unlike the limitations of his elixir which fades away when he attacks or when being attacked, the Trinket of Grimlock had no such limitations.

That is to say, the effects of the Trinket wouldn't dispel even if he engaged in battle and would only do so if he willingly dispels it.

The item on his hands was so amazing that it can truly be called an ancient artefact. Simon was not amazed that Adalinda had something like this in her possession but what surprised him was her attitude of casually tossing it to him.

"Now then I assume you have no more complaints right? If so then let us go down" Adalinda gestured while looking at the bustling city down below.

Without giving him any time to react, the invisible foothold that he was standing on disappeared and his body plummeted below.

WOOOSH... wind rustled past him and his entire body was in a state of free fall.. Simon had the skill [High Speed Flight] but whenever he used it, his wide pair of bat-like wings would come out of his shoulder blades.

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There was no way he could use the skill in his current situation as there were no humans born with a bat like wings and would quickly give him away.

The ground approached closer and closer and just when he thought that his only option was to kiss the ground, a mysterious energy that was foreign to him, quickly got hold of his body and decelerated his speed before freeing him of its grasp.

BANG... Simon landed on his feet without any injury and dusted his clothes.

Looking around him, he found himself on a deserted alleyway that was far away from the main market. It seemed that there were no eye witnesses and their intrusion into the city was a success.

"Hehh~ you don't look half bad even in your human appearance" sounded Adalinda's voice from out of the corner. Her golden dress did not have even a single crease and she was holding her umbrella as usual.

"Alright, let's go and find some slip ups that my naive disciple had left behind" saying that, Adalinda quickly walked forward.

Simon sighed in resignation and quickly matched her pace. The roads of the city were made of ordinary stone slabs and had adequate drainage for the water and rain to flow.

On the busy street of the city, multiple shops were lined up selling wares and trading goods with the customers that filled up the place. Various goods and accessories could be seen on the roadside and on the shop attracting customer's interest.

Two humans, a man and a little girl walked past the busy street and arrived near the fountain at the intersection connection three without causing any suspicions. Needless to say, the two were Simon and Adalinda.

There was not much change in Adalinda's appearance, but in contrast, it was Simon that had changed a lot. He no longer had his usual horns, pale white appearance or his striking crimson eyes.

Other than that, his height which was previously above two meters, had shortened down to match the average height of the humans around him. What was same was his appearance that he disliked changing.

While Simon could be called devilishly handsome in his usual form, the human appearance of his had its own unique quirks.

On their way here, Simon had heard many bits and pieces of information from the individuals living in this city and came to know that the city was called Mountmend. It was a remote city located at the north-western corner of the kingdom and was the city closest to the Ghastly Winding Forest.

The city also served as a fortress from any monster outbreak from the forest.

"Were you able to find any tracks of your disciple?" Simon asked looking at the girl who height was only able to reach his waist even after he transformed into a human.

"Not yet, let's look around some more. Given her character, she is bound to make some slip ups. If we search carefully we should be able to find her tracks" Adalinda murmured closing her eyes.

Simon did not know what she doing, but given her strength, he assumed that she was looking for clues in her own way.

Thinking that the process would take too much time, Simon decided it would be better to ask around. However, after being reincarnated into this world, it was his first time coming in contact with a human city and because of that, even he was hard-pressed to find a place to ask the whereabouts of a person.

While he was observing the inhabitants of the city, Simon soon noticed that there were humans wearing different garbs than normal clothes walking around the city every now and then.

Some of them wore, armours, some light weight chainmail and some leather garbs; however, what was common in them was that they each had weapons sheathed in their waist or back.

Even without thinking hard, Simon immediately understood that those people were other than adventurers. Suddenly, an idea struck him. If he wanted to find some information, what better way than to ask the adventurers whose primary job was to explore?

"Hey where are you going?" Adalinda asked seeing Simon wandering off by himself.

He came near to a shop which was mainly selling different types of fruits, and initiated a conversation with the owner.

"Do you have a moment? I have a few questions I want to ask?".

The owner of the shop was a plump man with a short stature and a bald head. What was recognisable about him was his thick moustache that seemed to be very well taken care of.

The owner of the shop looked at him with disinterest before speaking dismissively "If you are not here to purchase something than don't waste my?".

His attitude ticked off Adalinda and she was just about to storm off from the shop when she saw Simon standing still.

Understanding the hidden meaning behind the owner's words, Simon immediately brought out some of the coins he had plundered from Laris, and tossed it towards the owner.

"How much are you willing to sell for this?".

The owner instantly caught the pouch in his hands and gave it a quick glance. Immediately, a bootlicking smile bloomed on his face and he redoubled his views on Simon.

"You are most welcome esteemed customer. Please don't hesitate to ask what you need". Seeing the 180° change in the attitude of the man after receiving money from Simon, Adalinda couldn't help but click her tongue in disgust.

Simon wasn't bothered by this change of attitude and asked his question promptly "It's like this we are looking for the whereabouts of a person and do not know where to begin searching for them. I was thinking if there was a place we could specifically go and ask...".

The owner intently listened to his words before making a peculiar face "Are you two by chance new here?".

Thinking that there was no point in hiding it, Simon willingly admitted it.

"I see, in that case are you here to request a commission to the adventurers? If so then you should head to the Adventurers guild branch located near the centre of the city. Or you could also go the headquarters of the guild of your choice and personally make a commission. Hehe, since you are an esteemed customer of mine, here is a free advice from me. Don't make a commission to the Sea God's Trident guild".

The owner next looked left and right before whispering few more words.



"Although I do not know the full detail but according to the rumours, in one of their recent expedition, all of their powerful members have been wiped out. It would be in your best interest to choose the other guilds that still retail all their best members. Personally I would advise you to pick the Blinding Arrow guild as they are the new and upcoming powerhouse of this city".

Simon silently digested the words that the owner had to say before walking away from the shop. He was much too familiar with the incident where a guild was ambushed near his dungeon and nearly lost all of its members.

After all, he was there and had interrupted the fight just in time to save the surviving two members of that guild. What he didn't know was that their guild was named Sea God's Trident and they were a guild from the city of Mountmend he was currently at.

"There is no mistaking it, it's them" Simon frowned while silently walking the busy streets.

'If those two are here, then I definitely cannot get involved with them or else my cover would be immediately blow away' he internally thought as he remembered the pair that he had saved.

Although the man had fallen unconscious, the woman had seen his face and would definitely be able to recognise him.

"Hey what are you brooding about?" Adalinda remarked seeing him creasing his brows and walking randomly.

"Do you really think these snotty nose adventurers will be able to find anything? If so then you have really underestimated my disciple. Forget about them, even their ancestors would be unable to find any of the clues that Lucine might have left behind. Hey are you listening?"

Simon who was walking towards the centre of the city, stated "Even if they do not know, there is a chance that your disciple might have visited those places and have left some tracks unknowingly that you could collect. Also, there is no harm in gathering information from a completely foreign land, who knows, we might even be able to know the destination in which your disciple is headed for".

Adalinda blinked her eyes in surprise at how level headed Simon was even when he was in a completely foreign land.

"Hehh~ interesting! Let's do as you say, although I doubt she is stupid enough to leave any such obvious tracks like that, but just in case there is no harm to check it out. So are we going to the adventurers guild or the one that fatty had recommended?"

Simon simply shook his head and replied "Since we are not going to make a commission, there is no point in going to a private guild. That leaves only the Adventurers guild".

Adalinda nodded her head without much interest.

The centre of the city was a wide plaza filled with tall buildings and was the hub of the market. Various offices and workplaces were also located at this place crowding with people who were coming and going out.

The place was vibrant with activity as the inhabitants of this city went along with their daily life.

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In one corner of the plaza, was a wide building that had enough presence that it attracted the eyes of any passer-by. At the forefront of the building, right on top of the entrance was a wide notice and written in that wide notice were few letters in a striking manner.

Although the letters were foreign to him, thanks to the ability of the skill [Language Comprehension], Simon had no qualms in reading what was written.

Adventurers Guild... was what the notice board on top of the building said. Simon and Adalinda arrived near the Adventurers guild before heading inside.

Inside, the entire interior of the building was made of polished wood and the very first thing that greeted their eyes, was a wide hall big enough to easily hold more than five hundred adventurers.

The smell of alcohol and food was very apparent here. Looking around, Simon spotted more than fifty adventurers currently sitting at different tables enjoying their meals and drinks.

While on other side of the hall was a big board with many parchments pinned on it. Quite a few adventurers could be seen lingering there.

Their entrance did not attract much attention other than a few glances from the nearby adventurers.

Simon did not bother with any of it, and directly headed for the counter where a group of humans dressed in neat clothes stood on the other side of the desk.

"How may I help you?" a woman probably in her twenties and seemed to look average in every way, greeted him with a polite smile. The smile was very practised and business-like.

Simon nodded, just when he was about to put forth his question, Adalinda spoke first. "You there missy... have you seen a girl about this big and having..." she kept on going for a while providing a description of her disciple to the best of her ability.

The lady on the counter made a troubled smile as she patiently listened to Adalinda's words before replying "I'm very sorry I have not seen any such person. But if the person is very important, why not make a commission? I'm quite sure some of the adventurers might have seen her".

Adalinda wasn't amazed, on the contrary, her face seemed to say 'See I told you so' as she stared back at Simon.

The woman that they were looking for was a master of hiding their presence. How can these average adventurers be able to even catch a glimpse of her?

Even Simon was able to detect her presence only when the woman decided to reveal herself in front of him much less these adventurers whose average levels were less 200.

Heaving a sigh of exhaustion, Simon shook his head before asking another question "We are not here to make a commission; however, where can we buy some information?".

The lady carefully looked at the two of them as they made quite the contrasting pair. One was a fairly built man in his twenties with striking features and a handsome face to speak no less, other was a petite girl who appeared to be less than fourteen years old and whose face had enough charms to mesmerise thousands of people with just a glance.

The pair was unique and not something that they saw every day in this city.

The lady pointed at the bar on the other corner of the hall and said "If it is the information that you are looking for, you can buy it from there".

Simon thanked her before heading towards the bar. Right after they left, the other staff near the lady asked her in hushed voice "I believe I have not seen them here before? Are they from outside?".

The lady nodded before writing something on the parchment.

Compared to the counter, the people gathered at the bar were clearly quite numerous. The group sitting around here could be said very boisterous, an effect of the alcohol doing its effect.

Taking a seat at the corner of the counter, they looked around the bar hearing bits and pieces of information relayed around before tearing their attention away.

"Hehe, you there friend... your face doesn't look familiar? Are you by chance new to the city?".

The person seating adjacent to them suddenly initiated a conversation. He was a middle-aged man with short brown hair and a friendly looking face, his facial features could have been said handsome if not for the unkempt beard he had allowed to grow.

No matter how Simon at him, the man had an aura of a veteran who had seen his fair share of adventures.

"You are?" Simon couldn't help but ask. "Ah! Where are my manners. The name is Scott, Scott Green... as for you my friend?" the man named Scott introduced himself.

Simon nodded before replying nonchalantly "Simon, you can just call me Simon, this here is... um..".

"Hmph, I see no point in introducing my name to a human of no value" Adalinda snorted not bothering to give them any face.

'Human?' Scott squinted his eyes at those words.

"Don't mind her, she is not used to socialising with others" Simon said trying to lighten the mood. He felt it was unwise to disturb the mood of the room even before they have gained any information.

Scott waved his hands indicating that he did not mind it one bit.

"As you have already guessed, we have arrived in this city just today" Simon admitted as there was no point in hiding it especially when the other party had already guessed that much.

"I see... so what brings you to this city?" Scott asked trying to probe something out of him.

"We just had some business here. Anyways, we are here to buy some information... by chance do you happen to know some events that had recently happened around the city?" Simon brought out a pouch of coins from his inventory and slipped it towards Scott.

Scott gave the contents of the pouch a quick glance before smiling slyly "Hehe, this amount of money is nothing my friend. If you want to learn some information, you have to dish out double of that or at least a gold coin".

Simon frowned, truth to be said, he wasn't familiar with the monetary system of humans and whatever knowledge he had, was from his time on earth.

Earlier, he had provided a pouch containing fifty silver coins to Scott; however, it seemed that it wasn't enough to buy him the information. The man demanded double of that or a gold coin... if he was to believe the man, then it meant that hundred silvers coins amounted to one gold coin.

The space ring that he had plundered from Laris had about a thousand copper coins, a few hundred silver coins and ten gold coins. Processing all of his thoughts with [Thought Processing], Simon dished out another fifty silver coins.

"Hahaha, that's more like it my friend" Scott quickly hoarded the coins before continuing "Have you heard about the recent tragedy that washed over the once top guild of this city, the Sea God's Trident?"

"It's the talk of the city after all. According to the news that I received, only the branch manager of the guild and a woman were the only ones that came back alive out of all those that went to that expedition".

Seeing that Simon wasn't surprised by this information, Scott provided another piece of news "Well I'm not surprised that you have already heard of it. But here is the catch, the Sea God's guild here is the branch of the main guild located in the capital city and is considered one of the top five guild amongst the whole kingdom. What the ordinary citizen doesn't know is that the tragedy was planned by someone. Naturally, there was a mastermind behind all of that".

When he enunciated till here, Scott noticed an unnatural glint in the eyes of Simon before he continued "According to some rumours, the people from the main guild were quite furious when they received the news. After all, they cannot stay quiet after what happened to their branch".

"As one of the top five guilds across the whole kingdom, they have a reputation to maintain. They dispatched a group of elite adventurers to avenge what happened here and do you know who they decided to send along?".

Scott lowered his voice even further and smiled widely "It was Godwin, the one who is renowned across the whole kingdom as someone who is going to join the status of the Rankers soon. There are even some witnesses who say that they have seen Godwin here in the city of Mountmend".

"Additionally, although it is not verified yet but it seems that the perpetrators of that event were from the barony of Morgress. According to some of my sources, there was a big incident in the city of Morgress. The news has not travelled here since it is being tightly kept secret by the men of Duke Redcrest".

Simon digested all of the information that he got from Scott and according to it, the situation that had developed near his dungeon, had blown up to become quite a big issue.

Who would have known that the party that was being massacred at that time, would be a branch of such a distinguished guild whose name was renowned across the whole kingdom.

Aside from that, the name which piqued his most interest was the name Morgress.. If his memories served right, during the final hours of Laris, he seemed to have mentioned his guild which was located at the city of Morgress.

### Chapter 224: Creating A Ruckus (3)

Apparently, one of the main perpetrators behind the subjugation of Forest Spring Spirits, came up during the conversation. Simon was quite wary of them since they were aware of the existence of Cecilia and Forest Spring Spirits.

What happened to that guild? What was the incident that occurred at Morgress all about and whether the information about the Forest Spring Spirits was leaked out? Simon wanted to know more about what had actually happened.

However, unfortunately even for Scott, the information was out of reach.

"This is all a big waste of time. What is this man babbling about from that time, of this information is useful to us".

While Simon was in trance with all of the questions bombarding his mind, Adalinda who was bored out of her mind, complained. All of this information was unnecessary to her who was only interested in finding her disciple.

Thus seeing that the man was simply giving irrelevant information she couldn't take this anymore and voiced out.

Her cranky words snapped him out of his thoughts and Simon couldn't help but come to terms with his present situation.

Adalinda was right, he was currently here to look for any clues or tracks that can lead them to her disciple. Worrying about something that he could do nothing about, was simply a distraction.

Scott Green locked his eyebrows at another piece of information that accidentally leaked out from Adalinda.

Simon gave a bitter smile before asking "Do you have any other information which should be of quite some interest or making waves around here?".

Scott closed his eyes and went into contemplation for a long time. It was then an adventurer who was intently listening to their conversation from the nearby seat, chipped in as he drank his beer from his mug.

"The Battle of the Finest... gulp... gulp... haa.. if you are talking about news that is making its wave all over the kingdom then it should the opening of the coliseum in the royal capital".

"The coliseum?" Simon repeated.

"Hey Berry don't go stealing other's customers" Scott said annoyed by the unwanted interruption from the adventurer.

"Oh shut up Scott, you can keep those money to yourself. I'm just providing some information to this friend here... you can also treat it as some drunkard's ranting" saying that, the adventurer got up from his seat and exited the hall.

Simon couldn't help but frown at this display "What was all that about Coliseum?".

Scott sighed, Berry had ruined his business. He had planned to sell this information for a few more coins but now that the customer was more or less aware, he wouldn't be able to dupe them anymore.

"It is as the title suggests 'Battle of the Finest', a completion held by the kingdom every decade to test the prowess of the future and the upcoming heroes of the Kingdom of Ellesmere. Anyone who is above level 200 and is not more than 50 years of age, can participate in it. But the requirement is that they need to be a resident of the Kingdom of Ellesmere".

A never before hint of excitement flashed in, Scott's eyes as he talked about the competition.

"Various guild from all the places of the kingdom, also visit this event looking to recruit some rare genius or in hopes of having their members make a name for themselves. Even the Royal Family, the top five guilds and the representatives from other kingdoms and empires would also be present there. After all, the 'battle of the Finest' is the place where the legends and heroes of the kingdom rise from".

Simon nodded, a peculiar glint flashed in his eyes. While Adalinda grunted appearing to be frustrated out of her mind.

"The 'Battle of the Finest' is an event that is eyed by the whole kingdom and various people that are now the heroes of the realm, made their name renowned through this very event. According to my sources, this year's competition is going to be even fiercer than the previous ones as there are many seeded candidates from each of the top five guilds".

"Not only that, as per the rumours it is said that the grand reward for winning the competition would be something so incredible that it had never been heard of before in the history of the completion attracting multiple people and raising the difficulty to unheard levels".



Simon tapped the table with his fingers as he processed all the information in his head. 'Battle of the Finest huh... it is worth keeping count of' he thought internally'.

"Where is the food, why hasn't it come yet?" Adalinda grumbled, she was no longer interested in the talks that was going around.

Ignoring her boorishness, Simon glanced at Scott and asked curiously "So this 'Battle of the Finest' when is it going to start?".

"Hehe friend it seems that you too are interested in it huh? Alright, I'll tell you... there are still more than forty days for the event. But if you plan on attending the event, I suggest that you leave immediately and find a caravan for the capital. The attraction of the competition is so that the capital would be flooded as the days go by and the day of the event approaches closer".

Simon did not deny nor agreed with his words and simply nodded his head. More than forty days for the event, that is to say, that there are less than two months for the event held at the capital.

"Ah that reminds me, there was also another person asking the same question as you not so long back" Chuck suddenly uttered remembering something.

"Is that so... what kind of person were they?" Simon asked offhandedly however the answer he got, suddenly roused his interest.

"Haha, now that I remember it, even the swords that person used were the exact same. They similarly asked me 'if there was anything big or interesting happening around here'. Although I must say that person was quite peculiar. A black robed covered their entire figure and their face was covered with a hood, even their presence was next to nil. However, from that person's voice, they appeared to be a woman" Scott recalled while drinking the ale from his mug.

In the meantime, while they were conversing, a bulky man with a thick beard and sharp eyes who seemed to be the barkeeper, came to them before asking "Your orders?".

Simon carefully observed the man whose build was that of a warrior before replying in a casual manner "We'll have anything you get us as a recommendation".

The Barkeeper did not seem amused and nodded before looking towards Adalinda "What about the child? Will a juice and apple pie suffice?".

At that moment, Simon instinctively felt that something that was already to their limit, finally snapped.

The barkeeper had no idea that he had unknowingly stepped on a landmine, one which might even cost him his life. Hearing the words of the man, Simon who had a bad premonition, hurriedly turned towards Adalinda before making an 'Oh Shit' expression.

His feeling was right, at this moment Adalinda had a murderous look in her eyes as she glared at the barkeeper and her aura that she always keeps restrained leaked out just a little.

However, just that tiny bit of it was enough to bring a disaster onto the hall. The building trembled and a pressure like never before descended onto the guild.

The drunk adventurers who couldn't take this pressure, immediately collapsed onto their tables and the weak ones immediately fainted. Bottles collapsed and spilled on the floor, the entire building creaked and there were cracks quickly spreading on the wooden floor everywhere.

"You... stop it right now before you make the situation even worse" Simon tried to snap her out of it. But it seems that all was for naught, the barkeeper had clearly earned her ire and she was not going to stop before she vented it out.

"Wha-what is going on?" Scott who was seated near them, sobered up and cautiously looked around his surrounding. However, how could an ordinary human bear the slightest bit of presence that Adalinda had allowed to emit out?

Right after saying his words, his feet staggered and he fell onto the floor unconscious.

As if all of this was not enough, the Barkeeper who was the main target of her ire, collapsed onto the floor with froth coming out of his mouth. The pitiful man did not even have time to realise what wrong he had committed.

The pressure enveloped the whole building and Simon was not spared from it, he distinctly felt that the whole place slightly sinking down. Although he had difficulty resisting her aura, it wasn't like it was his first time being under such a powerful force of suppression.

He hurriedly stabilised his footing, and resisted his body bending down.

"Hmph" At this time, he heard a snort coming from Adalinda. She had a refreshed expression on her face as if her action had released all of her pent up vexation.

Being on the level that she was, she had a very haughty and prideful attitude, so how could she take this remark lying down? Releasing a tiny fraction of her aura, was her way of warning others not to take her lightly.

After what felt like a while, Adalinda finally withdrew her aura and basked in the silence. Well, with all of the adventurers down, it would be a miracle if it was not silent.

"W-what have you done?" Simon who could finally move his body as he wished, looked all around himself and saw the shocking condition of the place.

Chapter 225: Branch Manager Gill

. "W-what have you done?" Simon who could finally move his body as he wished, looked all around himself and saw the shocking condition of the place.

The place no longer looked how it was used to before with adventurers collapsed all over the place and the scene gave off a feeling of a disaster-stricken area.

The corner of his eyes twitching repeatedly, Simon hurriedly called out to the girl who was the instigator behind all of this "Let's get out of here before the situation gets any worse".

"But I have not received my promised Apple Pie?" Adalinda groaned, looking extremely unwilling to leave the place.

Simon who could no longer take her selfishness, grabbed her and hurriedly dashed towards the exit. However, a force of wind that came from the floor above, blocked his way and sealed off his escape.

The energy that blocked the exit, rippled with a strong light which could give even Simon a tough time.

With the exit sealed and a witness with a hidden level, there was no way they could get out of this mess with only an apology.

Turning towards the stairs where the energy had come from, Simon revealed a helpless smile. Everything was going smoothly until Adalinda decided to throw her tantrum. Now that they were found, there was no telling what would happen next.

Heck, with all the adventurers lying on the floor unconscious, bottles broken and floor cracked, it painted a very bad picture of them no matter how one looked at it.

Creak...Creak, the sound of footsteps coming from the stairs started becoming more apparent before an old man with white hair and a straight back came down.

He carried a cane with him that did not look ordinary and the gaze hidden beneath his thick white eyebrows were as sharp as an unsheathed blade.

The old man scanned the floor and tapped the floor with his cane a few times. His brows that were locked together tightly, loosened a bit when he realised that all of the adventurers here were alive and simply unconscious.

Next, he fixed his gaze on the only two people remaining standing and observed them carefully.

The gaze of the old man was like a wave of energy that tried to see through his very being as it lingered on him for quite a while.

Simon sweated profusely when introduced to such probing, he immediately understood that the old man was using [Analysis] on him which made him stand on tenterhooks for his identity being revealed.

The aura that Adalinda had emitted out, had enveloped the whole floor and the old man that had endured that, should be quite high levelled or at least as strong as him.

Simon gulped, he was currently using the artifact that Adalinda had provided him to mask his appearance to that of a human. Although he had yet to dispel the effects, a truly strong person would be able to see through his façade.

Fortunately, all of this was his needless worry, the old man other than giving him some confused looks didn't spot anything out of ordinary on him.

The old man next gazed at Adalinda who appeared to be no more than fourteen years old girl. At that moment due to reflex or from the instigation of Adalinda, but the old man refrained from using [Analysis] on her.

"You people no matter how I see it, don't appear to be ordinary? Who are you and what is the meaning behind all of this?" The old man asked, his gaze strangely fixated on Simon.

Simon couldn't help but laugh awkwardly at this, he had not done anything so why was he held accountable for something he had not done? However, there was no way with Adalinda around. he can scream that out.

Swallowing all of his dissatisfaction, Simon tried to scavenge their way around this. But before he could open his mouth to answer the question of the old man, Adalinda spoke first.

"Hmph, who do you think you are to ask me this question. It was all their fault in the first place, you should be thanking me for not killing them on the spot instead of asking me questions" Her attitude was extremely haughty and it looked like she did not place anyone in her eyes.

'Why are you making the situation even worse' Simon screamed out internally.

Contrary to what he thought, instead of getting angry, the face of the old man told that he was extremely confused by her words and the gaze with which he was looking at her seemed to be looking at an unreasonable and spoiled child.

"Don't mind her, she is just not used to socialising with others" Simon stepped forward trying to soothe the situation.

The old man frowned but did not mind much "So who are all of you? You don't seem to be familiar faces that I'm used to seeing around here?".

Simon deliberated as to how better phrase it before replying "We are indeed new to this city and don't know much about the places and people of this town. We only came here to obtain some information".

The old man closed his eyes before opening them once again, there was a sharp glint in them which he used to stare back at Simon.

"Young man... if you only came here to obtain some information, then what is the meaning of this?".

The old man spread his hands and pointed all around the room.

"Don't tell me that this is not done by you? I have indeed grown old but not so dilapidated that I won't be able to recognise the culprits when I see them. Did you think that all of this can be undone with you running?".

Simon did not know whether to laugh or cry, he himself wanted to ask the same question to the little girl beside him.

"We also didn't want to create such a scene, it was all an accident. You can see that we meant no harm by our actions as of the adventurers are dead" He said trying to ease out the situation.

"Snort, whether you had killing intentions or not, the matter as it stands is clear to me. Young man, don't think that you can simply get out of this" The old man's eyebrows which were as sharp as sword refused to budge from his stance.

Hearing this, Adalinda's eyes took a threatening glow making Simon who was beside her perspire.

"Hey old man Gill, what's all this ruckus about?" At this moment, a voice that came from the entrance of the building rang out.

Following this sound, a fairly built man in a casual clothing hurriedly entered the hall. The man was not overly handsome but would give anyone looking at him, a sense of ease and affability.

Looking at the face of the man, Simon hurriedly arched his eyebrows; that was because the man was not unfamiliar to him.

"Oh? It's you Chuck boy... Has your body already healed? How is it, is the sensation on your right arm coming well?" The old man inquired with a friendly face that was devoid of any hostility he had been throwing at Simon up until now.

Chuck laughed heartily at that question and replied "Yeah, although the feeling is still quite sluggish and foreign, other than that, it's functioning quite well. Honestly, when I lost an arm, I did not think that I would have it back so soon. It's all because of that mage you called out all the way from the capital, you have my thanks guild manager".

Hearing Chuck give his heartfelt reply, the old man who was called Gill, Smirked a little.

"Brat do you think that I can reject a request from Godwin? Besides even I'm unwilling to lose a person such as you and see your light dimming".

The high praise of the guild manager made Chuck's expression somewhat embarrassed. He knew that because of the last expedition of his, many of the people had lost their lives and others had to go through quite some trouble.

"Brat I can see why Godwin regards you so highly. After that fall, it would not be surprising for many people to shut themselves out, reject the world and not do anything. I have even seen some people who had tendencies of committing suicide after losing all their companions".

However, you to get back on your feet I must commend that willpower and spirit of yours. Remember take it slow for now, I know what you desire the most right now but you must hold back and bide your strength".

Gill commented observing the condition of Chuck.

Chuck who was repeatedly called brat by the old man laughed and hurriedly tried to change the conversation.

"Leaving that aside, what happened here? Why are all these people down?" Chuck glanced all around him and frowned.

"Snort... no need to ask such unnecessary questions since the culprits are right in front of me?" Gill's eyes immediately became sharp when they landed on the two people who were standing at the entrance.

"Oh... but it doesn't look like all of them are dead." Chuck approached one of the unconscious adventurers and searched for his pulse. Finding nothing unusual, he made a strange expression and looked at Simon and Adalinda.

"Like I'm trying to say it was all an accident" Simon repeated smiling bitterly in his heart. There was a ticking time bomb beside him and who knows what she might do next if did not resolve the situation fast.

Seeing her displeased expression, it wouldn't surprise him if she decided to suddenly blow up this whole city.. Despite her innocent and childlike look, doing something like that was as easy as flipping her hands for her.

#### Chapter 226: Branch Manager Gill (2)

"Don't think that you can deceive me and get away young man. I'm the guild manager of the Adventurers guild branch located in this town. No matter who you people are I must hold you responsible for this mess" Gill stated tapping his cane on the wooden floor.

Seeing the situation was going nowhere with both the parties, Chuck decided to interfere.

"These people have simply been knocked unconscious. I say, old man... why not let them explain themselves".

Inside a room that was above the main hall of the Adventurers guild, four people sat on two wide sofa's facing each other. The room was not overly decorated but still gave off a feeling of mystery with multitudes of papers, books and weapons all around.

This was the office of the guild manager of the adventurers guild, Gill. One could see many bookshelves and paperwork lying all around the table waiting for his inspection.

"So how are you going to explain yourselves?" Gill brewed some tea for the so called guests before asking in a somewhat sour mood. His years of attitude towards his work, did not allow him to treat the guests without manners even if they were the culprits who had completely devastated his guild.



Simon spoke first before Adalinda could open her mouth and worsen the situation.

"As I have said before, we only came here to obtain some information. However, due to an uncommon skill we recently acquired, we weren't able to contain it and it ended up backfiring and going out of control, knocking all of the adventurers that were inside the hall unconscious".

Simon tried to be as vague as possible and lay all the blame on a skill. When in reality it was all because Adalinda wanted to vent her frustration and knocked everybody out with her aura. Of course, he couldn't say the truth and that was why he decided to lie.

Simon did not know how much of his concocted lie would be effective, but regardless, he still decided to try.

To his surprise, his words evoked an intense reaction from the guild manager and Chuck who was seated opposite them.

"A skill going out of control you say?" Gill mused as he thought about the strange energy that had enveloped the entire guild.

'It wasn't impossible for it to be an effect of a skill going berserk' he thought internally. Earlier when Adalinda's aura descended onto the building, it only appeared for a moment hence Gill was unable to clearly identify the origin of that pressure.

Thinking back to what happened back at the hall, all of the adventurers appear to be just unconscious.

Chuck who was the branch guild leader of the previously strongest guild of the city of Mountmend and also an adventurer, pondered over the words of Simon. According to his knowledge, it wasn't like there were no skills that could do something like that.

[Intimidation], [Ruler's Aura], [Glare], [Mystical Eyes], there were many such skills that could achieve such an effect and given that Simon had admitted that it was a new skill that they acquired, it made all the more sense for them to be unable to control it.

However, given his rich adventurer's experience, what he couldn't understand was that there were so many adventurers on the hall, although they couldn't be said strong, they weren't weak either.

This question was similarly rose inside the mind of Gill. A skill wouldn't display this much of an effect if the level of the user wasn't very high. But sensing the presence of the two of them, Gill didn't feel like they were overwhelmingly strong.

This was especially true for the little girl whose energy aura in his view wasn't even above level 150.

"My attempts of [Analysis] are repeatedly being blocked... by any chance..." The old man tried to probe but he was quickly cut off by Adalinda whose mood have become a little better after she was offered tea and some snacks.

"Nom... nom.. Isn't it because he possesses some skill that blocks all attempts of probing by [Analysis]". Sitting on the sofa, she lazily sipped on her tea and commented. Her answer naturally dissolved all doubts that they had.

It was rare, but not overly extreme to sometimes meet people whose level wasn't very high but their status hidden due to them possessing a certain skill.

'Was it because the adventurers were drunk that they got easily affected by the skill?' one could see a crease appearing in the forehead of the old man as he fell in deep thought.

"Well... at the end other than a few bottles of liquor breaking and floor cracking here and there, it appears there are no irreplaceable damage. Old man why don't you let them go?" Chuck said aware of what Gill was thinking.

Guild Manager Gill immediately snarled when he heard Chuck's words.

"Hah? I can't let them go so easily after what they have done. Even if all this was due to an accident, they still have to pay a sufficient remuneration".

The old man was adamant; Simon had no choice but discard any thoughts of getting away from this unscathed.

"Ten Blackgold coins for all the damage" Gill stretched all of his ten fingers and specified.

What was black gold coin? Was it different from the gold coins? Simon was clueless. Unlike the Dungeon Points that all the Demon Nobles used for transactions, humans have various currencies that are being used amongst the numerous nations.

Thinking that the black-robed young man was not from the Kingdom of Ellesmere, Chuck explained.

"The kingdom follows the denomination flowing in from the Viridian Empire. The money system used are mainly: Copper, Silver, Gold, Blackgold and platinum. Most ordinary things can be bought with copper and silver coins but to buy weapons, armours and other various quality goods, you will need Gold, Blackgold and Platinum coins. 100 copper coins amounts to 1 silver coin, 100 silver coins= 1 gold coin, 100 gold coins= 1 blackgold coin and so forth".

Simon nodded his head in understanding; thanks to Chuck he was able to roughly get an idea of the monetary system used by humans. But wait a minute... suddenly his head which was nodding, stopped in mid-motion as the realisation of the words from Chuck struck him.

If 100 gold coins= 1 blackgold coin, then wouldn't it mean that 1000 gold coins= 10 blackgold coins?

The old man who was the guild manager of the Adventurers guild wanted him to spill out 1000 gold coins for the damage. Simon's eyes twitched as he remembered the total amount of money that Laris had in his emerald ring.

The adventurer who claimed to be from one of the greatest guild around here, only had a pitiful sum of 10 gold coins in his stash. He couldn't help but curse Laris internally for boasting so much.

What Simon didn't know was that, although Laris only had 10 gold coins, he had spent most of his fortune indulging himself on bars and seeking the pleasure of life. The only real treasure he ever had inside his space ring would be the spirit orbs that he forcefully plundered from the innocent Forest Spring Spirits and the [C] tier weapon.

Additionally, 10 gold coins were by no means a small amount and was the entire six months fortune of a low-level adventurer.

No matter who it was, they would have a hard time spilling 10 blackgold coins unless they were high-level adventurers renowned across the kingdom.

Even Chuck himself made a strange face when he heard the old man demanding 10 blackgold coins. No matter how he looked at it, no adventurers died from the accident. The hall and the bottles of drinks might have taken some collateral damage, but they were by no means items which would cost that high amount of sum.

The guild manager asking such a price could only mean one thing...

Simon made an awkward face as he looked at the old man and Chuck who was seated beside him. How was he supposed to explain them that he did not have any more than 10 blackgold coins with him.

From the corner of his eyes, he spotted Adalinda who was quietly having her tea and snacks, behaving as if all of this had nothing to do with her.

"Is there no way the amount could be reduced any lower?" Simon asked thickening his face.

The thick eyebrows of Gill trembled, he said in a stern voice "Brat on top of all the damage you caused inside my guild, you even had the audacity of running away? Snort, I'm already being lenient by just charging you that much and you still have the gall to bargain? Ten blackgold coins.. no less".

His voice which did not have the slightest intention of negotiating, rang inside the room.

Listening to his words, Simon could only dejectedly sigh, there was many a times he thought about storming out of here but he ultimately suppressed such notion. If he really did that, it would be like burning the bridge, there would be no way of reconciliation.

Plus, he couldn't make a scene lest he risked his identity being discovered by some strong individuals currently residing in this city.

"The thing is..." Simon tried to explain embarrassedly but was cut off by Gill's angry roar.

"What? Don't tell me that you don't have that much money".

Simon could only nod his head when his thoughts were already seen.

The old man clicked his tongue and tapped the floor with his cane a few times, he then closed his eyes and went into contemplation.. When he next opened his eyes, there was a stern and sharp look in his eyes with which he observed Simon.

#### Chapter 227: Provisional Adventurers

Being the guild manager of Adventurers guild, he too was once an adventurer back during his prime, now although age had grabbed hold of him, the aura which only a veteran that had undergone numerous battles should have, was still present within him.

"Brat even if it was an accident, you cannot hide your guilty conscience since I saw you with my own eyes running away. As such you only have two choices, first either you compensate the guild by handing ten blackgold coins, or you accept a condition of mine. Which choice will you make is up to you, however, you can forget about running away without taking any responsibility".

A pressurising aura came from his body as he eyed Simon.

Simon on the other hand frowned over the words of the old man, as he quietly weighed his option. Previously during their conversation, he had quietly used [Analysis] on the old man and was shocked by the result he got.

Although the old man did not look like it, but his level was 434 [Yellow Guardian Knight] with many skills in his repertoire.

A level difference of over a hundred and not to mention his level was around the same as the Diluvian High Orc General Berigard whose might was enough to even shock Simon.

Plus there was also a 359 [Guardian Knight] named Chuck beside him. If he wanted to get out of this situation forcefully, it was likely that he would have to show some of his cards and even reveal his identity in the process.

There was no way he could count on this little girl who was the source of all this trouble in the first place.

"Sigh... before we agree with you, can you tell us what this condition of yours is?" Simon asked appearing to be extremely calm.

Gill knitted his brows and glared at Simon before revealing the contents of the condition he had previously put forth.

"The condition is simple... snort, since you weren't able to compensate the guild for the damage with money, naturally you have to remunerate us in another way. Oh and it's very simple, you just have to accept a task that our guild is currently short-handed to complete. Of course, once the task is complete you naturally have no more obligation to pay us"

A peculiar glint flashed in his eyes but was quickly concealed.

Chuck's eyebrows twitched the moment he heard those words, it seemed that he was aware of what the old man was thinking.

Simon failed to notice that as he was busy delving in his own line of thought "And what is that task that we have to complete?".

He was no fool, there was no way he would readily agree to something that he knew nothing about.

Gill smiled, he was not surprised by the question of the unfamiliar looking man, on the contrary, it looked like he was expecting it.

"As I said our guild is currently short-handed to complete this task or else there was no need for me to ask the help of some strangers whose integrity is something that I doubt. The task is to guard the caravan at all costs till it reaches the capital from here".

"Naturally, you must also secure the life of members and passengers riding that caravan. The journey will take about a month, obviously you have to see it through the end. I can only tell you about the client and further details when you accept the task. So what will it be?"

Chuck silently shook his head, the moment he heard the old man bringing some task forward, he knew that was the real intention behind the old man Gill for asking such a high price. Though he knew it, he did not comment, this was the matter between Adventurers guild and them.

When Simon heard the detail of the task, the first thing that he did was make an ugly face, that was because he was again tangled into something that he didn't wish to be involved with.

As if the situation with Adalinda wasn't enough, fate had to get him involved in something once again. Just when he was about to reject the condition, Gill added as if suddenly remembering something.

"It just so happens that the 'Battle of the Finest', the tournament which is making quite a lot of uproar across all the region of the kingdom will be held on the capital 40 days from now. By accepting this task you would be able to witness the tournament and have a look at the upcoming and rising heroes of this kingdom".

The old man stroked his beard and smiled vigorously when he thought about the upcoming event.

A bizarre light flashed in the depths of Simon eyes as he mused for a moment. It was clear that the guild manager was trying to trick him into completing a task that currently the guild couldn't complete due to being short-handed.

However, there was something about the words that the old man and even the guy named Scott he met back at the hall had said that gave him a mysterious feeling. The feeling was something that Simon had difficulty putting his hands on.

Plus there were also those words from Scott.

"Ah that reminds me, there was also another person asking the same question as you not so long back"

"Haha, even the swords that person used were the exact same. They similarly asked me 'if there was anything big or interesting happening around here'. Although I must say that person was quite peculiar. A black-robed covered their entire figure and their face was covered with a hood, even their presence was next to nil. However, from that person's voice, they appeared to be a woman"

Simon glanced at Adalinda who was for some reason behaving quite well before speaking towards the other occupants of the room.

"Can we get a moment alone to discuss?".

His words had an added depth of solemnity which caused the other two to be quite surprised. After a moment of deliberation, the old man left followed by Chuck and the room soon descended into silence.

Simon closed his eyes and fell into a deep contemplation, earlier he had asked them for some time to discuss and weigh their options, but even after a while there was no hint of either of them uttering a sound.

Time passed just like that and before long Adalinda who couldn't take this silence any longer broke the quiet.

"What are you thinking so hard for? Don't tell me you are thinking of accepting this task? Have you already forgotten for what purpose have I brought you with me? We have no such time to dilly dally for. Just reject them and be done with it. Hmph, if they think they can detain me Adalinda one the two vene... ahem anyways there is no need to speak nonsense with them any further".

Saying that, Adalinda got up from her seat and was just about to approach the door when Simon suddenly called out.

"Wait".

It was at this time that his tightly shut eyes opened and an intellectual light flashed between them.

"Huh?" Adalinda couldn't help but turn around while making a confused face.

"Our objectives may coincide... there is no reason for us to hastily reject this task" he said staring particularly at nothing.

The words he uttered, made the little girl even more confused, she tilted her head and looked at him for clarification.

"What I'm trying to say is that we might be able to find your disciple in the capital" Simon stated, there was an unusual tone of confidence in his words. Adalinda trotted back and sat beside the seat near him and asked with big wide eyes.



"Really? My disciple is in the capital city of this Kingdom? But... even I'm unable to find any trace that she had left behind from here, how is it that you sound so sure?" Adalinda asked voicing her doubts.

She was unconvinced that he was able to find some traces about her disciple which even she couldn't find any.

Simon naturally knew that it was very hard for Adalinda to believe him based on random person words and that was why he further backed his reasoning with some facts.

"As I have already said, I have met your disciple back inside the Ghastly Winding Forest. At that time, when the Lightning Draconic Serpent and the orc general were having an intense battle, if she deliberately didn't release her presence, I wouldn't even be aware of her existence".

"However, she chose not to hide her presence and show herself in front of me. At that time I didn't have enough time to think over her actions but now when I look back, she seemed to have told me her motive behind coming to the Ghastly Winding Forest was just to have fun. Additionally, she must have taught me that technique of yours just because it would be more fun to do so. The time I spent with her wasn't long but even I could see that the woman had a very playful disposition".

Adalinda nodded her head when she heard those words, she was the most familiar about the nature of her disciple and knew that she was a very lively and spirited person who even dared to sneak out of her home because it was too boring.

"Indeed you are right but what has it got to do with her being in the capital?" Although she did not find faults in his opinion, it did not mean that she was convinced.

## Chapter 228: Provisional Adventurers (2)

At this moment, a demonic crimson light flashed past his now dull grey eyes.

Simon smiled and revealed his pearly white teeth "The 'Battle of the Finest', your disciple who had come to this town according to the traces you have found, wouldn't miss this information and would definitely head for the tournament which this kingdom is hosting not long from now at the capital city".

"If we think carefully, a playful person such as her would surely be interested in this event. What's more, given what I know about her, I can already see her making arrangements to arrive for this event".

Adalinda's mouth was agape as she intently thought over it, even she couldn't deny that the possibility of this assumption being true was zero per cent. However, this wasn't enough to completely convince her hence she asked.

"What if she is not there?".

Simon simply shrugged his shoulders at that and replied with a 'we can only try our luck' attitude.

Seeing that Adalinda was still hesitant, he asked in a little mocking manner "If you have any other leads then by all means please share?".

His words immediately shut any doubts that had welled up inside her and she could only forcefully swallow it. He was right, even after roaming the city and with all the techniques and skills she employed, she couldn't find the slightest clue of where her disciple might have gone next.

Since she was clueless, she couldn't deny the only possibility that he had appended together.

"Alright there is no harm in going there... so let's go to the capital city right now. I can cut the space and create a tear and in a few dozen of minutes we will be there".

Adalinda nodded her head as her two ponytails flailed. She was just about to create a spatial tear inside the room when Simon hurriedly grabbed her hand.

"Hold on a minute, why are you in such a hurry. Listen to my full conjecture before doing anything" he arced his brows and barred the little girl from being impulsive.

Her petite little hands which seemed soft to the touch, immediately broke away from his grasp, she looked at Simon and asked fumingly.

"Why are you stopping me? Didn't you just say that my disciple could be in the capital city of Ellesmere? Then there is no reason to hesitate, let's go there now".

Simon sighed, a little exasperated when he saw that the little girl whose monstrous strength allowed her to look down on all creation, getting her sight clouded over her disciple.

Ignoring the dangerous fact that she told she could cover the ginormous distance between her and the capital, in a few dozen minutes, he first calmed her down.

"Would you first listen to my full explanation? I'm not barring you from going there, on the contrary, I couldn't be any more than happy to find your disciple as soon as possible" Simon declared curtly making Adalinda who seemed ready to rush out quiet.

Seeing that the little girl was finally willing to listen he explained further "I did say that she would be in the capital but I did not say she would be there now. There is still more than a month of time for the 'Battle of the Finest' to begin. That disciple of yours who seemed to be enjoying the time of her life roaming the world after escaping out of her home, wouldn't choose this time to arrive on the capital when there is nothing going on".

"I believe that she would be choosing the exact same date to appear when the event is going to start". This time, his voice sounded oddly convincing allowing even Adalinda to feel like his words were right.

"All the more reason to go to the capital right now. I would be able to catch her the moment she arrives there and beat her into submission fufu..." she said flashing a somewhat merciless smile.

At this moment, Simon asked a sudden question "How were you able to find the trace of your disciple here?"

Adalinda saw no harm in answering his question and thus satisfied his curiosity "That is because I felt her aura that she used while tearing through the space".

He silently nodded before adding "Then doesn't it also mean that your disciple would also be able to sense your aura if you cut through space multiple times from here to the capital?".

His reasoning made the little girl silent and reflect on those words.

Simon observed her silence for a while before asserting "Try thinking like that... even if we arrive at the capital, there is no guarantee that we will be able to find your disciple before the event starts on the contrary, if she manages to detect your presence in the capital, that disciple of yours might not even show up. Being impulsive at this moment would not only hurt our plan, but would also stop you from capturing her".

Adalinda fell into contemplation as his words had some truth in it. She was the master of that young lady and knew her exactly well, if she detects the slightest presence of her master near the capital, it would be just like what Simon had said, she might not even appear there.

As her master, she knew very well how capable her disciple was hence there was no way she wouldn't detect the spatial tear made by her or her aura.

Although a little frustrated that she couldn't immediately go and capture her disciple this instant, nonetheless, she was still able to calm down and see the whole picture.

"You are right... so how do you say we go on about this?" she asked somewhat vexed.

Simon thought for a while before a thought rushed into his mind "Keep in mind that all of this is just a thought of mine at the end. With that said, this is where the proposal from that guild manager comes in. We can use him to get ourselves to the capital a couple of days before the event starts".

"This way, the risk of us being detected by your disciple would be very low and during the event when she arrives, you would be able to quickly apprehend her".

Adalinda thought over his words for a while before nodding her head. Although this way it would seem that she was restrained into doing some human's bidding, she had no choice since her top priority was to find her disciple.

She could only suppress all her vexation and go along with it.

"This is the only lead we have, so there is no harm to give it a try. Who knows, during this trip we might find a new clue related to your disciple" Simon consoled trying to prevent the ticking bomb from blowing up.

After a few minutes when their voices died down, the door was opened once again and the old man walked in. However, unlike the last time, Chuck was not with him.

Gill tapped his cane and sat opposite them before gazing with a stern expression.

"So what will it be? Will you pay ten Blackgold coins for the compensation or will you accept this task from the adventurers guild and accept my condition?"

Simon sighed and pretended that he had no choice but to give in "We accept your condition".

His voice sounded despondent as if he was really reluctant to accept the task.

Looking at him like this, a surreptitious smile appeared on the old man's face before quickly disappearing.

"Hoho, I must say it was quite a wise choice. Now that you have accepted this task from the adventurers guild, I am willing to forgive you for your actions earlier but it does not mean that our record is clear. As I said once you accept this task you must see it through the end".

The old man tapped his cane a few times and stroked his beard, his mood could be said quite good this time. He was no fool, with his experience and eyes that had gone through many adventurers and met various people, he could obviously see that the two were not ordinary humans.

The force that had descended onto the building earlier and that unknown skill going out of control, adding that with the fact that his attempt of [Analysis] were blocked previously, he could naturally sense that these two were not any weaklings.

He was convinced of this thought when they did not even flinch a little when faced with his aura.

The commission that was issued to their adventurer's guild this time required powerful people and most of the ordinary adventurers were unsuitable for it. It also at the critical time when he was delving over what to do, these two appeared and caused quite a scene.

As they say, your wits increase along with your age, Gill had already decided to rope these two in this task the moment he laid his eyes on them.

"Let's go, I shall inform you more about the clients and the job you need to complete on our way"  
Gill got up from his sofa, pulled open the door and beckoned.

"Where are we going?" Simon couldn't help but ask when they were all of a sudden to follow him.

The old man smiled and quietly led the two of them "From the way you two behave and act, I can already see that you two are not adventurers. But now that you have accepted the task from the adventurers guild, it won't do if we just sent some non-adventurers for the task.. Haha, that is why you two must become adventurers, provisional adventurers for the time being".

### Chapter 229: Perusal Mirror

Simon's interest was piqued when he heard that, being a dungeon master he was naturally aware of what kind of existence the adventurers were. There was no way he wouldn't be interested about them now that he was given the opportunity of becoming one.

The old man in the front led them into a spacious hallway with many rooms on both sides before coming to a halt in front of a large polished wooden double doors.

Without waiting for anyone, Gill pushed open the door and a large hall similar to the reception hall below, came into view. The room was well lit with many small and big lanterns made from a type of crystal similar to the phosphorescence crystal to light the room.

The room other than having various kinds of things placed all around, was mostly empty.

The old man stepped inside the room before turning towards the two following behind him "This is the room we use for issuing adventurers cards and measuring their power and potential. It is also the place we store all our equipments. Although I can see that you two are no ordinary humans, I can't exactly guess what level and class both of you are".

Following the old man with his eyes, Simon saw that he went straight to one corner of the room and patted a large oval construct that looked like a mirror at a glance. However, unlike any ordinary mirror, the surface of this one was a glossy black which made it impossible to reflect anything.

After stepping inside the hall, the very first thing that had drawn Simon's eyes was this very thing.

Adalinda made a slight nasal sound as she squinted her eyes and glanced at the thing beside the old man.

"Since you two are not a registered adventurer, normally you would first have to fill out the details and personal information about yourself at the reception down below. Then only you would be called here to measure and verify the authenticity of the information that you had filled in".

"Based on the records of the test result, and if they are passable, then only you would be registered as an adventurer" the old man enunciated.

Nodding his head in understanding, Simon continued to look at the peculiar black object as a crimson light stealthy flashed between his eyes.

"Of course, the process that I just mentioned is what we use normally to register any adventurer, however, this time is an exception since we are only going to issue a provisional adventurers card to you".

"The difference between a provisional adventurers card and a permanent adventurers card is that the former is only issued to a person for a temporary period of time and cannot be used everywhere unlike the permanent one. Obviously, you are not recognised as a full-fledged adventurer and cannot avail all the benefits with it"

The guild manger of the adventurers guild explained while staring at the both of them. Next, he revealed a smile before continuing.

"Of course, the provisional card can be turned into a permanent one and you can become a full-fledged adventurer and roam the world but that requires merit and acknowledgement from a branch guild. After you successfully complete this job, I'm willing to change your cards to a permanent one".

After finishing all that needs to be said, the old man tapped his cane on the floor, turned and gazed at the object that was three times taller than him.

"Since my analysis attempts are blocked every time, we will use this thing to measure your level and potential as an adventurer with this. We call it the Perusal Mirror".

The Perusal Mirror was the peculiar huge black mirror that was more than five meters tall and a hundred centimetres wide. It was standing on top of a slightly elevated pedestal that seemed to hold it erect.

"This Perusal mirror is a special device of ours that is used to measure an adventurer's level and potential. How it is made is even unknown to us and only a few members from the headquarters of the adventurer's guild is privy to it. Hence you can only find this device inside the adventurer's guild only" Gill said proudly, his gaze flickering between the two of them and the device.

Seeing that the two were not moving from their spot after entering the hall, he couldn't help but urge them.

"To issue you a provisional adventurers card, we need to test you with this mirror. Don't just stand there, quickly come and measure yourself with this device".

Simon had a calm look on his face, but internally he sweating profusely. Why wouldn't he after hearing the description of the device called Perusal Mirror?

Although he now looked like a human, that was just a façade he used with the help of the trinket of Grimlock, his real race was a Demon Noble.

If the device functioned like it was supposed to, wouldn't it mean that his cover would be blown and he would immediately become a common enemy of all the inhabitants of this city? Just the thought alone made Simon unable to proceed any further and he felt like his feet were glued to the floor.

"What wrong...? If you are worried about your skills being disclosed, then don't be. This device only displays a person's name, race, class, level and potential" the old man assured them.

He thought that the two were hesitant to use the Perusal Mirror because they were scared of their skills and other things being disclosed.

To anyone, especially adventurers whose skills are their trump card and most highly guarded secret, it would be unusual to see them willingly disclose it, after all, they rely on these very skills to fight and survive.

Hence it was not surprising to see people hesitate before coming up to this mirror. A scene like the present was not surprising to Gill and thus he did not suspect anything.



Simon's mind churned and he used his [Thought Processing] skill to their maximum extent. Many ideas and thoughts floated up to his head but were quickly discarded by him, he needed a solution that can allow him to skip the Perusal Mirror test without making the old man suspicious.

However, no matter how much he racked his brain, no viable option other than storming out of here came into his mind.

Right when he was panicking internally, from the corner of his eyes, he saw Adalinda walking forward nonchalantly and approach the device.

What was she thinking? Although Simon did not know which race she belonged to, one thing he was sure of was that she was definitely not human.

According to what the guild manger said, other than displaying one's name, level, class and potential, the device would also show one's race. That is to say, the fact that she was not human would be immediately revealed if she were to go through the test of the Perusal Mirror.

Everything proceeded so fast that before Simon even had time to freak out, Adalinda was already in front of the device.

Gill observed the little girl who looked just like a doll cute and adorable, and nodded his head.

"You don't have to worry... just place your hands on the black surface of the mirror and gently insert some mana into it" he explained.

Using the Perusal Mirror was quite easy and the results were always accurate hence it was used in every adventurer's guild spread all across the continent.

Adalinda extended her snow white arm and gently placed her hand on the glossy black surface of the device. A silence descended onto the room and everything... remained the same.

The mirror showed no signs of changes or working as per usual making the old man quite confused.

'What was going on?' Simon thought internally as he eyed Adalinda. There was no way he would believe that it was not her doing.

Just when Gill frowned and came closer towards the mirror to check what went wrong, the glossy black surface of the mirror started rippling as small waves spread all across the edges. The scene was as if a stone had been thrown on a clam lake inducing ripples on its otherwise still surface.

The old man exhaled a breath of relief after finding that the mirror was working as usual and halted his steps. His eyes then went on top of the mirror where a few words were starting to be displayed one after the other.

Observing the sudden changes that occurred on the surface of the mirror, Simon clenched his hands and immediately prepared himself to dart out of the hall. However, when his eyes went over to the top corner of the mirror, all of his thoughts suddenly became blank and the mana circulating wildly within him completely dispersed.

Few lines of words have started to appear on top of the now still surface of the mirror and displayed themselves to the onlookers.

Name-Adalinda Quodriiss Hornblaze,

Race-Human,

Class-{Dragonfire Adept}

Level-300,

Potential-High.

Simon became gobsmacked and his mouth opened wide when he read the information written on top of the surface of the mirror.

Ignoring the fact that it was his first time reading her full name, what was all that about her race being human and level 300?

He rubbed his eyes and double-checked the information displayed on top of the device once again, nonetheless, the words written there were still the same.

What was going on? There was no way that the monstrous little girl who can even make Irene serious, could be someone so low levelled and a human at that.

Chapter 230: Perusal Mirror (2)

Though he did not know what she did, Simon at least knew that the information displayed on the device were false and something which she had manipulated. When his thoughts arrived till this point, he couldn't help but be amazed.

"Hmm... Adalinda, level 300, Class- Dragonfire Adept?... potential High... good, very good... incredible even" the guild manager stroked his beard and smiled broadly.

His old eyes went over her rare class that he had never heard of, her potential and her level, his head nodded in satisfaction and excitement.

There was even a fierce glow in his eyes that was difficult for him to hide. A human with a high potential and strange rare class ... how rare was that?

Potential referred to an individual ability to level up and the heights that they would reach in the future. Naturally, a high potential meant that the person would be able to reach greater heights and their achievement would be truly astonishing.

Those with high potential were also seen as a genius that was difficult to come by and there were only a few of them in this entire kingdom with a potential like that. How could the old man not get excited?

Even if he counted all the people currently living in this city, there would be no more than 2 individuals with a high potential. Counting the little girl in front of him, doesn't that mean that there were currently three individuals with a high potential and an ability to reach unknown heights currently in their city?

Gill's face was flushed but it boiled even more when his gaze went over to her level. Level 300... what kind of concept was that? Even when counting all of the veteran adventurers amongst all of the guilds here, those people who were able to reach level 300 wouldn't even cross thirty.

Just this fact alone was adequate to lift his opinion of the little girl who doesn't even seem to be more than fourteen years old.

The thick eyebrows of the old man trembled and his body quivered with excitement. 'An excellent find... an excellent find' he repeatedly thought in his heart.

Adalinda flashed a cheeky smile while reading the information displayed by the mirror before turning around and walking towards the baffled looking Simon. She couldn't help but smile even brightly when she saw the expression on his face.

Simon eyes quietly followed the figure of the little girl as she approached him and it took him quite a while to come to his senses.

"You... that... how?" Maybe due to him receiving a relatively big shock earlier, but he was having trouble forming coherent words.

Seeing him tongue-tied, Adalinda proudly puffed her chest and declared "Of course, I have my own methods. It's just a Perusal Mirror, even if the technology of the mirror has become obscured and difficult to create in present times, if they think that they can use that against me then they are sorely mistaken".

Simon blinked his eyes a few times after hearing her words, why did she sound like the Perusal Mirror which was viewed so highly by the adventurer's guild, was nothing but a simple toy in front of her.

While the two were having their own secret discussion, the old man finally finished with the thing he was currently busying himself with before looking at the two of them. The eyes with which he viewed them was now less stern and more gentle than before.

How could he not, there was an individual with high potential and level 300 standing there and although he did not know what potential and level the handsome looking young man over there was, but from the way that they tagged along he did not believe that the potential of the young man was any less than the little girl beside him.

Shaking his head, Gill turned around and faced the Perusal Mirror once again, he stared at the information for a few seconds before taking out a transparent marble the size of a peanut from his space ring and throwing it into the mirror.

The transparent marble swiftly passed through the black surface of the mirror without generating any ripple before coming out of the other end. The marble was still transparent; however, there was a small light at the centre which was previously not there.

The marble which dropped onto the floor after passing through the mirror, was swiftly picked by Gill and kept tightly within his palm. He then looked back at the mirror and surprisingly, there were no longer any lines of words floating on the black surface of the mirror.

The Perusal Mirror was back to how it was before being used.

"Alright, young man it's your turn now" Gill turned towards Simon and beckoned him with a smile. Even the way he used to address Simon, had changed from brat to young man.

The young man in question hesitated for quite a while, he was not Adalinda and did not have mysterious powers like her. If he went up to that mirror, it was likely that he would be seen through by this device and his façade would be immediately blown.

Should such a scenario come to pass, he would no longer be able to stay idle as he would be constantly besieged by humans from all over the city.

Yes to start with, the old man in front of him would become his enemy first the moment his race was revealed. While such turbulent thoughts were churning in his head, he heard a soft whisper from Adalinda beside him.

"Hehe, don't worry I have tampered that device a little... it is unlikely that the mirror would be able to tell your race" with her insight, she could clearly tell what Simon was worrying about.

After hearing her words, Simon finally felt a little relieved and his feet which were previously glued to the floor, moved. Being assured by someone on the level of Adalinda who could even tamper with the result of a device such as the Perusal Mirror, he felt his body relaxing as he approached the mirror.

He glanced at the guild manager standing beside the device and then at the mirror, the old man was not the slightest bit aware that the device had been tampered with and whatever results he got, was false.

"Place your hands on the surface of the mirror and quietly channel some of your mana into it" Gill said with a slight tone of excitement in his voice.

Simon nodded and followed the instruction without any complaints. He placed his hands on the smooth glossy black surface of the mirror and felt that it was quite sturdy. He then next circulated the mana around his body before channelling some of it towards the mirror through his hand.

The moment his mana pressed on the surface of the mirror, it was quickly sucked in and before long, the previous phenomenon where ripples started generating spread all across the edges of the mirror.

Simon arced his brows when he felt the device quietly eating the mana he had channelled in it. He must mention that the amount he had inserted into it was enough to turn a boulder into fine granules yet the mirror looked perfectly fine with no hint of it shattering.

It would be a lie if Simon said that he was not at all curious as to how this device and the materials used on it were made.

By the time such thoughts passed through his head, the ripples on the mirror started dying out and before long few lines of words started surfacing on its smooth surface.

Looking at the information displayed on it, he sneakily spared a glance at the little girl who was currently giving him a bratty smile.

Name-Simon

Race-Human

Class-[Sword Master]

level-300

Potential-Low

The excited smile of the guild manager quickly became stiff when he saw the normal class and the potential of the young man displayed by the Perusal Mirror.

His brightened eyes quickly became a little dull, nonetheless, he quickly hid it. In his heart, however, he was sighing intensely. Although the young man was also at level 300, due to him having a low potential his future was limited and the heights he could reach was not very high.

The potential displayed how pure the bloodline one inherited was, thus Gill couldn't help but sigh when he saw that the limit of the young man was already set.

He was the guild manager and therefore he quickly hid such feelings and nodded at the young man. According to him, the limit of the young man would be appearing soon and when that time came, he would no longer be able to level up.

Shaking his head, Gill started busying himself with his work once again and brought out a transparent marble similar to the one in his palm from his space ring.

Meanwhile, Simon walked back towards Adalinda who had difficulty containing her smile and stared at her with a hidden meaning.

He was unconcerned about her prank of putting his potential at low while her at high and was more concerned with how she achieved it. From the sensation he felt from the Perusal Mirror, he could immediately tell that it was no ordinary device, however, Adalinda had easily tampered with it.

This fact once again reminded Simon how insanely powerful this little girl who had a short temper was.

With her help, Simon was able to outwit the guild manager without being found out.. His race was displayed as human while his name remained the same, it seemed that Adalinda had also tampered with his level which should be higher than 300.