

Evil 391

Chapter 391 - 391: Divine Intervention.

Aurelia watched the body of Zevrathi burn with Serena standing beside her. There was only silence, but one thing that made Aurelia feel uneasy, and that was the fact the body seemed to be immune to fire. They had been standing there for five minutes, but they didn't see any sign of the body melting, only the white dress the body was wearing.

"Who would have thought, the body that doesn't decay can't be burned. If the world doesn't want the body to disappear, what can a human do?" Serena said as she crossed her arms. "Perhaps you weren't the first who have tried burning this body, Aurelia. Perhaps, one or a few of your ancestors have tried it but all of them failed," she added.

Aurelia's thoughts were a tangled mess, so many things came to her minds, the possibilities and the anxiety that slowly filled her mind. When Serena placed her hand on Aurelia's shoulder, Aurelia snapped back to reality and looked at Serena with a blank expression.

"What now? We can wait for an hour or a whole day if you want, but I believe the body won't burn," Serena asked as she stared at the body that didn't burn by the flame, not even a strand of hair got burnt by the flame.

Aurelia sighed, her shoulders lumped as she rubbed her face. She didn't expect this kind of problem, the problem where she couldn't get rid of the body. This knowledge only made things harder for her because if people found out about this, they would be so eager to get a piece of this body for themselves.

"I'll discuss this matter with my mother. For now, let's keep this body burning..." Aurelia said with a tired gaze. "Who knows, maybe the body will miraculously burn into ashes..." She put on a bitter smile.

"It's funny, isn't it? God still loves the Zevrathi's bloodline even though they have corrupted themselves into a demon worshipper. God loves to play this kind of games," Serena chuckled mockingly as she stared at the unburned body.

Aurelia glanced at Serena, and once again she noticed how Serena seemed to say something taboo. Nobody in her entire life who dared to speak God's name like Serena did. She could feel it, the way

Serena's words about God had a hint of annoyance and something else that she didn't dare to speak or even think about.

They both left the secret chamber and went to meet with Astrea, who was already resting in her bedroom. Aurelia revealed the issue where the body seemed to be preserved and protected by some unknown force.

"That's concerning..." Astrea said, sitting on the bed with Daryus sitting on the edge of the bed, treating her wounds. "Perhaps it's a Divine intervention, something beyond what we could understand..." she muttered as she rubbed her chin.

"Saint Serena believed that maybe, one or a few of our ancestors tried to do the same but also failed. The reason why to this day we couldn't get rid of it..." Aurelia said as she sat on the edge of the bed, staring into her mother's eyes.

"That's highly possible," Astrea nodded as she reached out to Aurelia's hand, holding it firmly. "If the body couldn't be destroyed... how did they do it back then?" She furrowed her brows, staring out the window.

"Just like how you got your power and how Aurelia got hers. They might have ate the bodies clean, leaving only the bones," Serena answered as she approached Daryus, checking Astrea's wounds that seemed to have dried out even more. "You can chop their bodies into tiny pieces and bury them somewhere deep into the ground if you don't want anyone to find them," she suggested.

The image of cannibalism or mutilation to the body of a woman that looked like sleeping than dead only made Astrea and Aurelia feel disturbed. They couldn't do such things, and that wouldn't do them any good. At the same time, if they didn't do anything to the body, it would only drag them down like unnecessary baggage.

"We can try to use the corrosive solutions that the alchemists have been using to melt steel and such," Daryus suggested as he looked at them with a serious expression. "I can try to recreate it, but I might have to buy the ingredients first," he offered.

"That's worth the try..." Aurelia nodded in agreement, and then looked at Astrea and Serena. She noticed that both of them doubted that it would work. "We don't know unless we try," she added.

"Of course, sweetheart," Astrea nodded in agreement. "You can go and buy the solutions or make it your own, Doctor. There's no need to hurry since this isn't something urgent," she smiled at Daryus.

"Yes, I'll be right back as soon as possible," Daryus nodded and hurriedly left the room.

Serena thought of using a seal, something that Lilith used to see in hell, the seal that prevented even a powerful demon from breaking it. The seal that was specially made to confine the demons that the Devil placed on them, a seal that was powerful enough to seal Prime Lords. However, she knew it would be impossible to use because that would blow her and Videl's cover.

"What are you thinking, Saint Serena?" Aurelia asked.

"A seal..." Serena muttered. "We can use Divine power to seal the body, but I'm not sure if the seal would be powerful enough to prevent the demons from breaking it, the Prime Lords might be capable of breaking the seal, but not humans," she answered, thinking about the seal using divine power, but Fallen Watchers were basically powerful angels and could easily break it. There was a reason why the Devil himself was the one who was capable of sealing them with his power, neither divine nor demonic energy.

"We have seen how powerful Nemu was back then, even my Divine power couldn't stop his attack. He could use teleportation, and we don't know when he would come back and steal the corpse," Serena explained with her arms crossed. "Nothing will fix the problem unless we get rid of the body completely," she sighed.

Aurelia and Astrea nodded in agreement, knowing that nothing would solve the problem unless the problem got erased completely.

"I'll be outside and think of a way," Serena said as she walked away and left the room.

Aurelia and Astrea watched Serena leave the room, and then they both looked at each other, thinking of a way to get rid of the body completely.

Serena left the palace and took a breather, walking aimlessly toward the palace area. She looked around until she saw Videl speaking with a priestess and playfully teased her by leaving a mark on her neck. Serena raised her brows, and when the priestess noticed that Serena was there, her breath hitched and she hurriedly left as she hid the mark on her neck.

"Something never changed," Serena crossed her arms, staring at Videl with a cold gaze. "You know she's God's servant, and you have just dragged her to Hell with you," she shook her head in disbelief.

"I think that's none of your business," Videl looked a bit annoyed that Serena was ruining his fun time. "Are you perhaps jealous?" He smirked and chuckled.

Serena stared at Videl with a stoic expression but her eyes filled with disgust. She never liked him, not even back in hell where she was his plaything. She was sick of him and she would kill him if she could, but she couldn't. However, a mischievous smirk appeared on her face, using divine energy to create a powerful force that was enough to send Videl flying.

Videl landed on his back and could feel the sting all over his body. He grunted as he slowly sat up and stared at Serena still with that smug face. He could see the irritation and frustration in Serena's gaze other than the obvious disgust.

"What's wrong, Lilith? Something bothers you?" Videl asked as he slowly got up. "Is it about the corpse that all of you try to get rid of? You know I can easily devour the corpse and disappear into thin air as if it just disappeared," he said as he walked toward Serena.

"And if that happens, it will be us that will be their suspect because we are the only ones that seem to be capable of doing so," Serena shook her head. "It's such a waste to get rid of that body with such power within it," she muttered.

Videl shrugged his mouth and slowly leaned in to whisper something into Serena's ear. At first, Serena tried to avoid close proximity with the Devil himself, but something intrigued her by what he proposed. She slowly raised her brows, finding the plan to be an amazing one.

"You can pull something like that?" Serena asked with her brows raised.

"Of course. I have my minions that have infiltrated Nemu and his army. I can easily provoke him and do it," Videl answered with a huge grin on his face. "I can pull that off easily," he said with confidence.

"Then let's do that," Serena smiled coldly as she stared into Videl's glowing red eyes, the eyes that made all the demons in hell cower in fear.

Chapter 392 - 392: Ancient language.

The news about Aurelia defeating a whole army had spread across the continent. The truth about how Aurelia massacred more than a thousand army with fire, it placed her in a different light. People began to speculate that she also used the power from the body that the Angelis family had kept in secret. That made the people hate her even more and gave leaders a reason to invade the Holy Nation to possess that body for themselves.

It was as Aurelia had expected, and the scout had informed movements from different nations and their armies. They were marching toward the Holy Nation with full force and sieges that were ready to breach the city wall. Approximately, they would arrive in a day, and there was nothing she could do but defend her home.

The issue related to getting rid of the body was a complete failure when Daryus used the corrosive solutions. It was as Astrea and Serena had expected that the body was immune to any kind of damage other than cuts. They even tried to use maggots to eat the body, but the maggots appeared to ignore the body as if they refused to harm it.

"The Divine seal, should we use that?" Serena asked with her brows raised, staring at Aurelia who was standing next to the window with a distant gaze. "Everything that's happening right now, and how those nations have moved almost in unison, this isn't a coincidence. I'm afraid Nemu has something to do with this, and he might want to keep us busy and use that opportunity to take the body," she said with a serious expression.

"If we both use our power, I believe it will be strong enough to stop Nemu from taking it quietly. He might need to use force to break the seal, and that would be enough to notify us if someone tried to break the seal or steal the body, and we might be able to prevent that from happening," Serena explained.

Aurelia took a deep breath as she closed her eyes, slowly nodding in agreement. She knew there was no reason for her to dismiss Serena's suggestion. With that being said, they both went to the secret chamber to seal the body with their combined powers.

Aurelia stood at the end of the rectangle stone table while Serena stood at the other end of the table. They both clasped their hands together, feeling each other's Divine energy and slowly combining. The Divine energy turned into a dome barrier, feeding it with more and more Divine energy, reinforcing the barrier even more. The barrier seemed to turn thicker and more dense in color, a bright yellow color with unknown language on the barrier like a warning.

It was the first time Aurelia had seen that language, and she had never seen any Divine power that released such engraving before. She looked at Serena who seemed to be aware and not surprised by it.

"Saint Serena, what language is this?" Aurelia asked as she walked around the barrier, staring at the writings around the barrier.

"It's an ancient language, a language of God," Serena answered without hesitation.

Aurelia's eyes widened and she turned her head toward Serena with a shocked expression.

"Language of God?" Aurelia asked with her brows furrowed, shocked, confused, and suspicious at the same time. "Where did you learn that? How did you know that?" She asked, searching through Serena's eyes for deception or lies, but she saw nothing.

Serena smiled gently as she approached Aurelia and held her hands, lifting them up to their eye level.

"Repeat my words," Serena said, staring into Aurelia's eyes. "Ha Fi La..." She muttered.

Aurelia didn't know if she wanted to repeat those words, not knowing what they were for or if she was ready for it. However, Serena waited for her to say those words, to repeat the words she said. Aurelia closed her eyes, taking a deep breath, knowing that there was only one way to find out if Serena was telling the truth or not.

"Ha Fi La..." Aurelia muttered, still with her eyes closed.

"Dho Mun La..." Serena muttered.

"Dho Mun La..." Aurelia muttered with a shaky breath, beginning to regret it, but it was already too late to stop now.

"In-Kar..." Serena muttered.

"In-Kar..." Aurelia muttered, flinching slightly when she knew it was the final words.

Aurelia felt warmth in her hands, a warmth that she had never felt before. She slowly fluttered her eyes open and saw a ball of light that looked like a miniature sun floating above her hands. She felt nothing but lightness on her shoulders, her mind cleared up, and her heart beat calmly. Tears slowly fell to her chin when she stared at the ball of light floating above her hands.

"This light, I bestow upon you this light, you're free. That's what those words mean," Serena said as she let go of Aurelia's hands, slowly taking a few steps back from the light. "I have heard those words so many times, echoes in my mind for my whole life," she revealed.

Aurelia slowly cupped the ball of light and when she touched the light, it dispersed into tiny light particles. It spread across the whole room like thousands of fireflies until they all disappeared into thin air. The effect lingered in her body, the calmness and the peacefulness as if she was being embraced by a higher being, something divine that she had never felt before.

"It has been a while... it has been a while since I can breathe like this..." Aurelia said, smiling and chuckling in disbelief as she wiped off the tears on her face. "Thank you, for showing me that, Saint Serena..." She smiled gently at Serena, and realized that she might have been suspicious toward someone as holy as Serena, and that made her feel guilty.

"God is by your side, Aurelia. You pursue truth, uphold it, strip everything behind, and you want nothing but the world to see the truth. Not only that, you still have compassion toward others, bearing all the responsibilities on your shoulders. There's nothing more noble than that. You're the Saint, not me," Serena said with a gentle smile on her face.

Aurelia smiled as a fresh tear fell to her chin and she immediately wiped it off from her chin. She didn't know what to say to Serena, didn't expect Serena to say those things to her, which affected her deeply.

"Now, shall we focus on what's in front of us? There will be bloodbath, and I want you to assure everyone that this won't be the end for them but a beginning," Serena said as she reached her hand to Aurelia. "Salvation is given to those who seek it. Even if there's bloodbath, forgiveness is still there, and you will be the one to give it to them," she smiled.

Aurelia nodded and held Serena's hand before she was guided out of the secret chamber. She looked over her shoulder at the barrier for one last time, knowing that it should be strong enough to prevent Nemu or any demons from taking the body from them. She prayed that nothing would happen and things would go in their favor.

As the morning came and the sun rose, Aurelia was already standing on top of the city gate, staring at the distance where the enemy forces were gathered. Her expression stiffened and serious when she could see dozens of catapults, ballistas, and trebuchets in the distance. She was in disbelief that they would go that far to destroy her home although they knew she had nothing but a few dozens of Paladins by her side.

"They seem to be forming alliances just for this. I wonder how long until they cut each other's throat when they have the body of Zevrathi right in front of their eyes," Serena said as she leaned in on the stone railing. "Should we do that instead? Using the body as bait then watch them kill each other?" She asked with her brows raised.

Aurelia shook her head with a smile on her face, finding Serena's joke to be a bit extreme.

"No, I don't want to see them kill each other, Saint Serena. I will defend this city, I will not let anyone take this place because I want this place to be the only place that will welcome them in the future with open arms," Aurelia answered as she clenched her fists, watching the enemy forces march toward the city.

"Videl will help you. He's ready over there and will make sure nobody breaches the city wall," Serena said as she looked at the knight in full body black armor that looked so intimidating even to the Paladins, Esper, and Ulric.

Aurelia knew that Videl alone would be enough to prevent anyone from entering the city. Everyone had witnessed the man who could fight equally with a Prime Lord, and no humans could fight against someone like that.

"Thank you, Saint Serena," Aurelia smiled softly at Serena.

"The pleasure is mine, Aurelia," Serena smiled back at Aurelia.

Chapter 393 - 393: Support.

Aurelia watched the boulders fly up high into the sky, coming toward the city's wall. She was calm and glanced at Esper who stood on the left side of the wall and Ulric who stood on the right side of the wall. The Paladins stood behind those two with their swords in their hands. She watched those two and the Paladins release slash waves into the sky, and cut the boulders into tiny pieces.

The moment the boulders hit the wall, they were too small to even chip the wall. However, that didn't stop the enemy from throwing more boulders at the city wall, knowing that sooner or later the Paladins, Ulric, and Esper would get tired. The enemy had the upper hand by wasting Aurelia's force's stamina.

"They're playing the long game, Lady Aurelia. It's as we have expected," Ulric said as he swung his sword relentlessly, creating slash waves toward the boulders. "Should we proceed on that plan?" He asked.

"No, not yet," Aurelia shook her head. "We will make a move when they are. They think they have the upper hand, but soon enough they will realize they're just wasting their time here," she continued as she spread her Divine energy that could remove fatigue from the body.

Ulric nodded with understanding and followed Aurelia's order.

Hours had passed and the enemy began to feel like Aurelia's force didn't show any sign of exhaustion even after being bombarded with their siege weapon. They decided to take this matter to the next level, and that was to use the Magnify magic formation, knowing that the siege wouldn't work anymore.

"There, they have finally changed their strategy," Aurelia said as she clenched her fist. "Let's proceed with the second plan," she ordered.

Nobody in the world knew how strong the Holy Nation actually was, and they had no idea how impenetrable the city wall was. The Paladins walked down the stairs and pressed their hands on the inner city wall, releasing Mana into it. In just a second, a tall Magic barrier appeared from the ground up to the sky, high enough that it would be impossible for Mages to release an attack that could go that high.

The enemy looked at the barrier that spread across the city wall, but that didn't stop them from using magic. The moment their mages released the magnified fireballs and icicles into the air and hit the barrier, they were shocked by how strong the barrier was.

The city wall was designed and reinforced by Lenin, placing dense big Mana stones into the walls. Lenin guaranteed that the Mana barrier would stay up for months without having to be recharged. A defense that was personally made by the Mage Tower itself, and that explained the toughness and the impenetrable wall.

Their mages reported this to their commanders about the Magic Barrier, believing it was similar to what the Magic Tower had. They were confident that even if they bombarded the barrier for days with magnified spells, it wouldn't even crack the barrier.

"Magic is useless, huh? What other option do we have?" A commander asked as he rode on his horse. "Should we ask his help for this?" He muttered to himself as he looked over his shoulder at the tent with his eyes narrowed.

The commander jumped down from his horse and walked toward the tent. He knew that there was no other choice but to ask for help. When he entered the tent, he saw an old man in a black cloak, holding a long wooden stick sitting patiently on the chair.

"Sage, we might need your help. They have a strong barrier that protects the city wall, and our mages couldn't break it," the commander said.

The sage nodded with understanding as he slowly got up and used the wooden stick to help him walk. He walked outside the tent and saw the magnificent Magic Barrier on the city wall. He hummed and nodded, understanding the situation as he walked to the front while the other mages looked at him.

They murmured about that person, of who he was. Some of them only knew that the sage in front of them was someone famous, said to have used to be someone important in the Magic Tower. However, there were rumors that he was someone that didn't belong to the Magic Tower and his skill was beyond what any Sage would have, and rumors stated that he might be close to being a Great Sage.

The sage slowly raised his wooden stick and pointed at the city wall. In almost an instant magic formation appeared in front of him, however, the magic formation was nothing like what the mages knew. The magic formation seemed different and unknown to the mages. Suddenly, a ball of white light appeared in the middle, slowly changing its shape into an oval before a dark purple flame appeared around it.

Serena narrowed her eyes when she saw the dark flame in the distance. She knew exactly what kind of flame it was, however she didn't say a word to Aurelia.

The moment the dark purple flame was released and hit the barrier, it exploded and seemed to devour the Magic Barrier. It was as Serena had expected, the Magic Barrier shattered into pieces, shocking Aurelia and the others. The enemy was cheering in unison, making Aurelia and the others panic even more.

"That mage, he's not a human..." Serena pointed out, finally revealing the truth. "What he just used, that was hellfire, something only a high rank demon can do," she revealed.

Before Aurelia could react to Serena's words, the enemy mages released magnified spells. She created a Divine barrier with everything she had to protect the main gate and the wall around it. She was in time before the magnified fireballs and icicles hit the wall. However, that only made the enemy change their strategy, and that was to target the other area of the wall, making it impossible for her to protect all sides at the same time.

The situation was already bad enough, and to make it worse, the Sage began to float into the sky and cast multiple dark purple flames around him. It was impossible for Aurelia to defend all of that, and the Paladins were vulnerable from the spells, so she chose to protect them all.

They all watched the city wall crumble so fast, and none of the enemy focused on them either, making it even feel worse for Aurelia. She watched as the city was being destroyed by the Sage, and there was nothing she could do.

"Do you need a hand, Aurelia?" Serena asked, and she wasn't bothered by everything that was happening.

"Yes, we need a hand," Aurelia answered without hesitation.

Serena clasped her hands together, and in almost an instant a divine barrier appeared on the wall. Nothing could penetrate her divine barrier, not even the Sage's hellfire. Aurelia realized that she wasn't powerful enough, not capable enough to protect the city with her own power.

"Thank you, Saint Serena," Aurelia said from the bottom of her heart as she watched as the hellfire couldn't even make the divine barrier tremble.

"This isn't the time to be grateful, Aurelia. We haven't solved the problem yet," Serena said as she stared at the Sage that was floating in the sky, trying to break the divine barrier. "Nobody can touch him, and we can't do anything but defend with him around," she added.

Aurelia looked up and noticed the Sage was casting something massive by the look of the magic formation around him that was five times bigger than before. She was anxious that Serena's divine barrier wouldn't be able to stop what was about to come, but when she looked at Serena, she saw nothing but calmness on Serena's face.

Before the Sage could form the spell that he was going to release, a flash of blinding light was seen up high in the sky. Everyone looked up, but then a beam of light hit the Sage and the beam turned the ground into glass because of the extreme heat. Not long after that more beams hit the siege weapons, burning them into ashes in almost an instant.

The Sage had turned into nothing, not even his ashes were seen in the air. He was completely obliterated by the beam, and everyone wondered what had just happened until they saw a figure landed on the ground. They were in disbelief, and knew that it was over for them because the figure that was standing in front of them was no other than the Great Sage herself, Lenin.

The city was still being devoured by flames, but then Novia landed and released a strong gush of wind that was enough to put out all the flames in an instant. She then flew and went to where Aurelia and the others were.

"I apologize that we came a bit too late," Novia said as she landed in front of Aurelia.

Aurelia was confused and surprised to see both Lenin and Novia come to help.

"Lady Novia? Why are you here?" Aurelia asked with her brows furrowed.

"Because the Magic Tower has chosen to aid you, Lady Aurelia," Novia said with a smile on her face, and then looked up at the sky, nodding her head up.

Aurelia and the other turned around and looked up, watching Sages with the Magic Tower robe in the sky and then landing behind Lenin. There were dozens of them, staring at the enemy's force, enough to put fear on the enemy's faces.

"Those who dare to raise their weapons and cast any magic, we will not hesitate to eliminate all of you. The Magic Tower has decided to support Lady Aurelia and her cause," Lenin said, her voice echoed throughout the vast field with amplifying sound magic. "Now, do you still want to fight? Or are you going to go back to where you came from?" She asked with a serious voice, creating multiple magic formations behind her, then the Sages from the Magic Tower did the same, ready to join the battle.

Chapter 394 - 394: More allies.

Lenin walked beside Aurelia with her chin held up with Novia and all the Sages in brown robes with gold emblems of the Magic Tower crest on their backs. They looked at the outer layer of the city that was ruined by the Sage. They found out about the Sage that caused such damage, and Lenin was glad that she chose to kill him rather than sparing his life. Lenin couldn't believe it at first until Serena confirmed it that the Sage or the Demon King that pretended to be the Sage died from that attack.

"But that doesn't mean I killed it completely, is that correct, Saint Serena?" Lenin asked as she looked at Serena who was walking beside Aurelia.

"Yes, demons can only be killed by Divine power, to erase their existence completely. But that doesn't mean they can come back immediately and regain all their powers. They can be resurrected but that it will take time for them to regain their powers back," Serena answered as she nodded. "Either way, we just removed one of the many powerful demons. That alone is more than a good news," she smiled at Lenin.

Lenin hummed with understanding, but something bothered her more than the demon itself. She glanced at Serena who seemed to have gained Aurelia's trust, allowing one of Rasmus's people to be near Aurelia. She knew that she should draw a line between those two before it was too late.

"Great Sage, are you sure about this? You announced that the Magic Tower has decided to support me and my cause. That will threaten the Magic Tower's position in Neva, it will cause a huge conflict and drawback," Aurelia asked with a frown on her face as she stared into Lenin's eyes.

"What can they do? Destroy the Magic Tower? I doubt it," Lenin smiled with her brows raised. "They would be foolish enough to threaten the Magic Tower in this kind of situation that's happening in Central Neva. They're going to think of saving themselves rather than causing more trouble to themselves. We the Magic Tower never rely on others, it's them who have been relying on us," she chuckled, assuring Aurelia that there was nothing to worry about.

Aurelia put a smile on her face with a hint of guilt in it, but she was grateful nonetheless.

"There's something that I would like you two to see. About the body," Aurelia said as she looked at Lenin then over her shoulder at Novia. "I want you two to see it, to understand it," she added.

Lenin and Novia looked at each other for a moment before they looked at Aurelia and nodded with understanding.

Aurelia brought them to the secret chamber and revealed the body of a Zevrathi that was being sealed by a divine barrier. Lenin and Novia were stunned when the body was preserved and how it seemed like the woman was sleeping. They had found out the truth behind the Zevrathi's family as the family of Saint and each of them held divinity and God's authority and power.

Aurelia told them of her plan to get rid of the body, revealing that it was pointless. She was hoping that both Lenin and Novia could burn the body, but Lenin and Novia knew they wouldn't be able to do it.

Lenin and Novia could see Mana, and they could see a white energy around the body that was similar to what Saints and people that possessed divine power had.

"I'm sorry, Lady Aurelia. I believe it's impossible because Mana refuses to linger around her body. No matter how powerful spell we use, it won't even touch her," Lenin answered as she shook her head. "I can take this body to the Magic Tower and hide it from the world. It's the most secure place in the world," she suggested.

"No, I can't risk that. I know it's safer in the Magic Tower, but I don't want to risk moving the body from here to up there in Gratlan with so few people. This place might not be the safest, but we have people that can protect it," Aurelia answered as she shook her head.

Lenin couldn't agree more because the risk was too high, and at this moment, they couldn't risk something unnecessary. She also agreed that this place wasn't the safest but it was the most protected place because everyone was here.

Lenin and Novia went to visit Astrea since they hadn't seen her ever since the war in South Neva. They were glad that Astrea's condition seemed to be a lot better than before thanks to Divine Physician Sima.

"So you got treated by the greatest physician in the world, but even so, he couldn't treat you well enough," Lenin said as she sat on the edge of the bed to look at Astrea. "Where is he now?" She asked.

"He left, to South Neva to be with Princess Anastasha. I don't understand why he would go meet her when he was wary of her," Astrea answered as she watched Daryus treat her wounds. "But that's that. I want to thank you, Great Sage, for choosing to support Aurelia. This means a lot to me as a mother," she muttered with tears in her eyes.

"I did it because I knew this was the right thing to do. Where the world is hiding lies and ignoring truth, she's the one who embraces the truth and fights the lies. That alone is enough to gain our support," Lenin answered as she shook her head, assuring Astrea that this had nothing to do with favoritism. "We both lost seats on the council. But if I could be honest, I don't know if I can trust them anymore, not after Count Blackheart allowed me to read his father's journal," she added.

"Count Blackheart found his father's journal?" Aurelia asked, and decided to join in the conversation. "What did he find in that journal?" She added, looking at Lenin with curiosity.

Lenin revealed everything to Aurelia, Astrea, Serena, and Daryus about Eraglade's journal. They were shocked and found out how the Blackheart family was actually trying to get rid demon worshipers. They realized that they were the ones who prevented Eraglade from erasing evil from this world, and killed him and his whole family.

Lenin also revealed about Rasmus's awakening as Orthias, and that he was no longer the same person as they knew before. She revealed how he had grown even stronger, and perhaps stronger than her in terms of magic. She told them about her conversation with him, about why he forced Nemu and the demons to make a move.

The room was quiet after Lenin revealed everything to them, realizing that Rasmus was the one behind this whole situation. However, Aurelia was a bit disturbed that the timing of her movements and Rasmus's seemed to be happening at the same time. She wondered if he knew about her plan of announcing the truth, and he used it to his advantage, to create a huge momentum in shattering peace in Central Neva.

"Where is he now?" Astrea asked with her brows raised.

"He was in the Magic Tower, but... he left a few days ago..." Novia answered. "We don't know where he went. Wherever he is now, I'm sure he's scheming something," she added.

"He's extremely dangerous now," Lenin said, unbothered that Serena and Daryus were there. "To tell you the truth, there's nothing we can do to stop him now," she looked at Aurelia and Astrea with a serious expression.

"Dangerous is an understatement. He's already dangerous before, but now, maybe he's the one holding the fate of humankind," Astrea said as she looked at the window with a lazy gaze. "Everything is on his palm, including all of us here," she continued.

Nobody disagreed, but Aurelia knew this wouldn't stop her from achieving what she pursued. She knew that Rasmus wanted her to do this, and she knew that he wanted her to be different, to be a force that he couldn't break. After all, she was taught by him, to be someone different than anyone, including himself.

Before Aurelia could open her mouth, they heard a knock on the door.

"My Lady, there's a blimp coming toward the city. There's no crest on the blimp, and the Paladins are unsure if they should get rid of it or not," a priestess said from behind the door.

Everyone looked at Lenin and Novia, but those two shook their heads, telling them that the blimp wasn't theirs. With that being said, all of them hurriedly left the palace to check on the blimp. It was as the priestess said, there was no crest, no identity of the blimp. Aurelia chose to let the blimp land to find out who they were, and why they came to the Holy Nation.

The moment the blimp landed, the door opened slowly. When Alexander showed himself out of the blimp, Aurelia's eyes widened. She immediately approached the blimp with Lenin by her side. Lenin couldn't believe what she saw, but there was a smile on her face.

"Alex? What are you doing here?" Aurelia asked, still in disbelief.

"We came to help," Alexander answered with a huge smile on his face as he walked down the ladder.

"We?" Aurelia asked with her brows furrowed.

Alexander grinned and slowly turned around, waiting for the next person to come out of the blimp. When they saw Marina, the Sorceress, everyone raised their brows, surprised to see her.

"Good evening, Lady Aurelia. From here and out, I will be joining your crusade," Marina smiled gently as she walked down the stairs.

Chapter 395 - 395: A friend.

Alexander sat down on the couch and watched the priestess pour tea into his teacup. He gave the priestess a gentle smile and thanked her, then watched the priestess leave the room. He then looked at Aurelia grabbing a journal from the drawer of her desk, wondering what she wanted him to see.

Aurelia sat across from the coffee table and put down the journal in front of Alexander. She looked at him and nodded, telling him to grab it and read it.

Alexander grabbed the journal and opened the book, reading the first page thoroughly. He realized it was Aurelia's plan to unify Central Neva, and it was similar to the assignment that she made during their time at the academy. He smiled as he nodded with understanding, knowing what she was trying to tell him. It took him a while to read the whole plan, wanting to understand everything.

"So you have prepared this far, and you have plans for every outcome," Alexander smiled as he closed the book and gave it back to Aurelia. "Thank you, for showing me this, Lady Aurelia. I'm honored..." he said as he looked into Aurelia's eyes.

"We made a promise, Alex... all of us made a promise," Aurelia said as she looked down at her journal on her lap. "I'm grateful that you're here, and I still can't believe it that you're here," she slowly looked up at Alexander with a soft smile on her face.

Alexander nodded and then took a sip of his tea as he looked out the window.

"What about, Isador? Did he know?" Alexander asked with his brows raised, putting down the teacup. "But seeing the current situation, it seems he can't do much, can't he?"

Aurelia nodded, looking out the window and looking at the stars and moonlight that light the room.

"We might go against him, Alex. He has a responsibility to be the future emperor, and we both know how strict his parents are. I don't think he can do much about this, and he has to follow the tradition, to maintain the legacy," Aurelia answered as she sighed deeply.

"So he's in a really bad spot..." Alexander sighed as he crossed his arms and leaned back.

"Have you heard anything from Valari? We are completely blind and have barely any information on what's happening right now in East Neva. I'm a bit worried since he's from the Ashenvale family," Aurelia asked, looking at Alexander with a worried expression.

Alexander smiled and pulled letters from his spatial ring, and then showed it to Aurelia. Those letters had the Ashenvale family seal on it, and then he gave it to her since the answers to her questions were all written in the letter.

Valari and Alexander had been sending letters to each other, sharing the situation in East and West Neva. Aurelia read how bad the situation in East Neva was, but she chuckled when she read how laidback and relaxed Valari was in the letter. The Ashenvale family was so wealthy and important in East Neva that nobody wanted to be on the Ashenvale's bad side.

Aurelia began to understand the big picture of the current situation in East Neva. So many wars were on-going, and almost all of them were instigated by the Asghar family. The battle between the siblings to take the seat of the Asghar's throne was the cause of it, especially after what Anastasha did in South Neva. The Ashenvale family had chosen to stay neutral, making their territory the safe haven for refugees

In the latest letter, Valari was a bit worried with the current power shift between the Ashenvale family and the Urion family. Valari found out that the Urion family, the only family that was slowly climbing in power to where the Ashenvale was had gained support from the Asghar family, to be exact, they got support from the eldest son of the Asghar family. With the power shift, the Urion family gained a lot of support from nations that supported the eldest son of the Asghar family.

"Valari believes that the Urion family might have gained support from the demons as well because their influence grew too fast, especially when suddenly the Asghar family decided to take in the Urion family in. Valari and his father was shocked by that because not in a million years that the Asghar family needed a merchant family because they already have their own," Alexander said, knowing that Aurelia was reading the last letter.

"But the Prime Lords over there, what are they doing? There's not much information about them," Aurelia asked as she looked at all the letters on her lap.

"Hmm, because it's East Neva, Lady Aurelia," Alexander answered as he sat straight and took a sip of his tea. "East Neva doesn't believe in religion like we do, they have their own beliefs. There, they worship evil entities and good entities. The demons presence there is like a blessing for some of them, and they treat those demons like allies. Something what they call the Unorthodox and Demonic clans," he explained and put down the teacup.

Aurelia hummed and nodded, remembering the reason why the Angelis family and the Sancticus couldn't gain any influence in East Neva. There was a reason why East Neva was called a warmonger continent and why the naval fleet was there to maintain peace.

"What about West Neva? Is it a lot better than here?" Aurelia looked at Alexander.

"We still can't find the Prime Lords. There's no sign of them and we are currently on the edge because we don't know when they are going to make a move. Our only problem is the Demonic Beasts that have been coming down the mountain, spreading across the continent. More and more casualties, but at the moment we managed to set a parameter to protect every city, every town, and every village," Alexander answered, resting his elbows on his knees and staring down at the teacup.

"Do you think the demons are hiding in the Efiva mountain? After all, that mountain is place where Demonic Beasts are born. Imagining that demons are hiding there, feeding on the demonic energy there, I'm worried," Aurelia muttered as she rubbed her hands anxiously.

"That's what we believe too, but we don't have enough people or strength to do an expedition to the mountain. We can't risk anything right now while the whole continent is basically being surrounded by Demonic Beasts," Alexander answered, nodding in agreement. "We are hoping that people from South Neva would come and assist us, after what had happened there, we couldn't exactly ask for their assistance when they barely survived the war," he added.

"And yet you chose to come here..." Aurelia said with a guilty smile.

"Honestly, I don't think I'm being useful even if I stay at home. I'm no warrior, I'm no mage, and I don't possess divine power. All I have is my brain, and the only place where I can use my brain is here. You can say that I'm going to use my experience here and the knowledge to fight those demons to be used when I'm back home later," Alexander said with a huge grin on his face.

Aurelia nodded with understanding, grateful that Alexander was here with her. She had been surrounded by adults, and having him around made her feel relieved.

"I promise, Alex. As soon as we regain peace here in Central Neva, I'll come to help the West. I promise..." Aurelia said with a serious expression, staring into Alexander's eyes.

"Thank you, Lady Aurelia... we really need your help there," Alexander nodded with understanding.

"Oh, have you heard any news from North Neva? About Max and Monica? Because even after all this time, there's no news about the North," Aurelia asked.

"That, I also didn't hear anything from them. All ships are forbidden to enter the North, and even the only land that can cross from West Neva to North Neva is closed. It seems that they're taking this more seriously than all of us combined," Alexander answered, shaking his head.

"Yes, after all, the North is the closest to the Blackcliffs and where the expedition team met the true horror. The one who lead all Prime Lords is out there in the North..." Aurelia nodded in agreement. "I just hope that they're doing fine..." she prayed with her hands clasped together.

Alexander drank all his tea, and then stretched his neck and arms as he smiled at Aurelia.

"Well, I think we don't have much time to waste, Lady Aurelia. Shall we discuss your plan? Perhaps I can help you through the plan, making it easier for you to gain favor and influence of the people," Alexander asked.

Aurelia looked at the time and it was already later.

"No, we can discuss that matter tomorrow. You must be tired, and I'm quite tired because just earlier we were defending the city," Aurelia answered as she got up from the couch.

"Well then, good night, Lady Aurelia," Alexander nodded with understanding as he got up. "I'll see you tomorrow," he said and bowed down to Aurelia before he left the room.

"Good night, Alex," Aurelia watched Alexander leave.

Chapter 396 - 396: Factions.

Rasmus was sitting on the cliff, watching as thousands of knights and mages marched in the distance. He slowly turned around, looking at Aris, Rullein, Yur behind him and the Blackhands behind them.

"They're marching to take the Refenus Kingdom, ready to claim and fight the territory against the other nations. In total, there will be at least ten thousands armies that are about to clash with each other," Joshua informed as he offered a scroll to Rasmus.

Rasmus looked at the scroll for a moment before he took it from Joshua's hand.

"That's a little less than I have expected. Any reason?" Rasmus asked as he opened the scroll and read the information inside.

"It has something to do with Emperor Suncrown's decree. He forbid nations from waging an all-out wars because the demons might use this opportunity to take their own lands if they chose not to listen to his words," Erdinand answered and offered a scroll to Rasmus.

"So what's the current situation here? How many factions are there now?" Rasmus asked, taking the scroll from Erdinand's hand and reading the content.

Ayla revealed the current factions and alliances between nations in Central Neva. There were a few strong factions that she knew Rasmus would only care about, so she only gave the factions that were worth his attention.

The Suncrown Empire's faction with 5 Kingdoms and 2 Republic nations under Julius' command. Approximately, the Suncrown faction had two million army with half of them belonged to the Suncrown Empire. A few of those nations were led by rulers that were a part of the Council of Neva, making them the most formidable faction in Central Neva.

The Federation with 7 Republic nations across Central Neva, and the leader was Fergus, voted and chosen by the leaders. Approximately more than a million army that were ready to be deployed when needed. These nations chose to form alliances to show the world that they were against nobility and the hierarchy system.

Nemu's faction with 3 small Kingdoms and a Republic Nation that had chosen to follow and support his cause. Approximately more than 200,000 army that were ready to fight for Nemu's cause and would sacrifice themselves in the name of God. Although the number was small, Rasmus knew nothing could stop them.

There were so many kingdoms and nations that hadn't formed any alliances or joined any factions. They were being neutral for as long as they could even though the situation was forcing them to choose a side with every second that ticked by. Most of those nations and kingdoms were used to be the major nations that supported the Holy Nation.

Rasmus looked at the two scrolls in his hands, the scrolls that revealed the location of the Wraiths. He was hoping that the Wraiths might have a lead toward who they served, which royal families they associated with, and who their masters were. He wanted to know what their plans were, how far their connections were, and what their history was.

"Look..." Rullein nodded up as she stared at the marching army.

Everyone squinted their eyes and saw something flying in the sky, something dark with wings. Rasmus and Aris noticed it was a demon, and a high-ranking one, perhaps a Demon King rank. They knew what was about to happen, and they were going to watch, not stop the Demon King from devouring the army.

The general and his army noticed the demon as well, and they began to panic. But the general ordered them to go on a battle formation, ordering the mages and the archers to get ready. They had never fought a demon before nor had they any knowledge of how to fight them.

"Fire!" The general screamed as he pointed his sword at the demon that was flying toward them.

The arrows were shot at the demon, and yet the demon didn't try to dodge the hundreds of arrows that were flying toward it. Before the arrows could hit the tar-like skin of the demon, the arrowheads melted and the wooden arrows turned into ashes in almost an instant. The magic spells dispersed into thin air before they could hit the demon, and that was when they noticed they were powerless in the presence of that demon.

"Retreat!" The general shouted as he kept his eyes on the demon.

The demon stopped flying and floated in the sky with its massive black wings that looked like a bat's wings. The demon's skeleton and skinny like body with its grotesque and nightmare fuel face and its glowing red eyes were like death that was about to devour them. The demon watched as the thousands of soldiers ran for their lives, throwing their bows, shields, and weapons on the ground.

The demon raised its left hand and snapped its finger, releasing a ring of hellfire that surrounded the army. A few of the soldiers didn't care about the dark flames and tried to walk over it, but before they could even reach the flame, their armor and helmet melted into their skin and their faces. The rest of the soldiers watched as their comrades died in the most painful way.

"We are stuck here? No! Mages! Get rid of the flame, now!" The general shouted as he glared at the mages behind him.

The mages cast water and ice magic, but before they the spell could hit hellfire, they vaporized into mist. Their magic was powerless against hellfire, and they knew it was pointless to resist anymore. Their fates were in the hands of the demon that was watching them with amusement like a man watching ants struggling.

The demon landed behind them, watching how the thousands of soldiers went down on their knees, begging for their lives. The demon watched and listened to their pleas as tears filled their terrorized widened eyes. However, the demon didn't say a word nor did he react to their pleas until he suddenly snapped its fingers and a huge portal appeared on the ground behind it.

The soldiers could hear the kind of screams where they could feel the pain, agony, and desperation in those screams. They didn't know what was underneath that portal, and what kind of things that caused such screams. However, when they saw ghost-like shadows flying out of the portal, they saw it, the ones that produced such screams. The shadows began to fly toward them, entering their bodies, possessing them and devouring their souls from within.

Such fear was enough to make the remaining soldiers run toward the flames, killing themselves rather than watching themselves being possessed by demons. However, the Demon snapped his finger, removing the flames so the soldiers couldn't kill themselves. The demon put on a wide grin with its razor-sharp teeth, finding it thrilling when it watched humans run for their lives, delaying the inevitability.

The soldiers screamed for help in desperation when they were in the middle of a vast field and the closest city or town was miles away. Their screams slowly faded away until there was no more scream

coming out of their mouths. Thousands of soldiers had been possessed, turned into a demon army for Nemu to deploy.

Rullein walked to the edge of the cliff with her arms crossed as she stared at the demon in the far distance. The moment she shot a glare in that direction, all the possessed and the demon noticed her presence. The possessed bodies got chills all over their bodies, even the demon felt death breathing on its neck. They all looked toward where such a terrorizing feeling came from and saw Rasmus, Aris, and Rullein in the far distance, watching them from the edge of the cliff.

The Demon's eyes widened, filled with fear as it began to open a portal. It knew how dangerous those people were, especially when Nemu warned them about Rasmus and the people behind him. The demon and the possessed entered the portal, retreating like ants running away from danger.

"Pathetic," Rullein chuckled mischievously as she turned around and walked away from the edge. "If it's not for the treaty that you made with Nemu, I could devour all of them..." She sighed, sounded a bit annoyed and disappointed.

Rasmus could easily break the promise, but he knew that he needed Nemu to grow stronger. He needed the demon forces to be so significant that they didn't have to hide themselves anymore.

"Nemu has 200,000 forces? But it seems there's more of them now," Rasmus said as he watched the portal close and the vast field become peaceful again. "Let's assume that he's also doing that to the other thousands soldiers that are marching to take over the Refenus Kingdom. Slowly but surely, he's going to have an army that no factions can stop him, both in number and in strength," he said as he got up and brushed off the dirt from his trousers.

Erdinand, Joshua, and Ayla realized how terrifying the demons actually were. They began to think that Rasmus was a war hero in South Neva, and they thought about what kind of war he fought when a single demon could obliterate thousands of soldiers in an instant.

"Let's move. We don't have much time to spare," Rasmus looked at the Blackhands with a serious expression.

All of them nodded with understanding and followed Rasmus like his shadows.

Chapter 397 - 397: A Raid.

Rasmus stood in the middle of the woods, looking at his wristwatch where the time showed it was past midnight. He looked at the city in front of him as he raised his right hand and swung it down forward as a signal. Dozens of Blackhands moved around him without making any noise, not even the sound of the wind could be heard. They ran in the dark as they approached the city wall where the guards had just finished their half an hour's patrol on the top of the wall.

Joshua gave hand signals to the other members and immediately they all went their separate ways. The gatekeepers noticed the movements from the corner of their eyes, and when they saw dozens of people in all-black clothes, an arrow hit in between their eyes. The gatekeepers collapsed, but before their bodies hit the ground the Blackhands grabbed the bodies, pulling the arrows from the guards' foreheads and gently making them lean against the wall to make them look like they were sleeping on the watch.

Erdinand released wind magic under Joshua and Ayla's feet, making the two of them float and land on top of the wall. Erdinand could hear the sound of muffled gasps and groaned as he pushed himself up onto the wall. When he landed, he saw the guards had been taken care of by Joshua and Ayla. He signaled to the other members that were still hugging the wall to use the gate to enter.

The three of them eliminated the guards without using any weapon but their bare hands, snapping their heads without the guards noticing any presence. Ferdinand and Ayla jumped down, entering the city and took care of the remaining guards that were near the gate while Joshua kept an eye on the surroundings, pretending to be a guard on top of the wall by wearing the attire and armor of the guard.

Joshua clicked his tongue twice, signaling to Ayla that there were two guards approaching her. She hugged the wall, hiding in the shadows until the guards walked past her and knocked them both out with a kick on their napes. She then dragged the bodies into the dark alley, snapping their heads while they were unconscious.

Joshua clicked his tongues rapidly at Ferdinand, signaling that there were more than three guards ahead of him. Ferdinand decided to use a different route, keeping himself in the darkness as he kept moving.

Joshua watched as seven members of the Blackhands walked up the stairs, wearing the guards attire and armor. They all gave him a nod, and immediately Joshua jumped down the wall, pretending to be a guard on patrol. The remaining Blackhands began to enter the city through the gate and went into the dark alleys like shadows while Joshua began to whistle a random melody.

"Hey, what are you doing here?" A guard looked at Joshua who was aimlessly walking around like a lost child.

Joshua turned around and looked at the guard, his expression cold and unreadable as he watched a Blackhand member approach the guard, snapping the guard's neck from behind and dragging the body into the dark alley. Joshua continued to whistle and walk around the street like a lost child that attracted the guards.

The more guards that got attracted to his act, the more bodies to hide by the Blackhands. The night was still silent to the townspeople who were fast asleep, unaware that the whole city was being purged by the most elite unit in Central Neva.

The Blackhands that were pretending to be guards on top of the wall gave a signal to Rasmus. They signaled that the city was safe for him to enter, and that there wouldn't be any obstacles for him to worry about. Rasmus, Aris, Rullein, and Aider went into the city like nothing had happened when bodies were hidden on top of the walls and in the dark alleys around them.

"There's no sign of demonic energy here. That's surprising..." Rasmus muttered as he kept walking and looked at the sky with no sign of demonic energy.

"They might have left a while ago. I'm assuming that they believed they were going to be targeted by you," Aris said as she looked around, not seeing or feeling any demonic energy as well. "The Wraiths are quite smart it seems," she added.

"Either that or the Wraiths don't get any support from Nemu and the demons. We will know once we go to where they're hiding," Rasmus responded and watched the Blackhands move from one building to another.

"Poor people... they died because they were doing their job," Aider chuckled mischievously as he stared at the stack of dead bodies in a dark alley. "Lucky them who are sleeping right now and isn't their shift to do the night watch," he giggled and went to check if there was any face that was to his liking so he could skin them and use them later.

"You can stay here, Aider. You know where to find me once you're done," Rasmus said without bothering to look at Aider.

When Rasmus arrived at the city square, all the Blackhands were standing on top of the roofs of different buildings. They had surrounded the building that was guaranteed to be one of the bases of the Wraiths. He used his draconic eyes, and he could see heat through solid objects, and found so many people inside the building.

"Looks like you're wrong," Rullein chuckled at Aris.

"Yes, I'm wrong. Is that a problem?" Aris glanced at Rullein with a cold gaze.

Rasmus stared at the door in front of him and could see a man guarding the door. He walked toward the door and gave a unique knock combination on the door based on information that he received from the Blackhands. He waited for a second until he heard the sound of the lock being opened.

When the man saw a man with white hair and blue eyes, his eyes went wide, but his vision went blank immediately. The man collapsed with a hole in his face, Aris and the others saw what Rasmus had done to the man's face, but still couldn't believe it. Aider came back with a sack on his back, and then saw the hole in the man's face, confused by what had just happened.

Rasmus entered the building, then Aris, Rullein, and Aider followed him from behind. He could see a few people on the same floor as his, and he didn't have time to get noticed and create a ruckus, so he let Rullein handle them.

Rullein turned into a puff of black smoke, appearing and disappearing behind those people. Rasmus saw as the heat on their bodies turned cold in almost an instant, and that was how fast Rullein absorbed the life force of her prey.

"The target should be on the second floor, and it seems they're having a meeting..." Mykel said as he looked at the ceiling, seeing the heat of bodies right above him. "You can get rid everyone except those in that room," he pointed at the ceiling above him.

Rullein smiled before she turned into a puff of black smoke while Mykel, Aris, and Aider walked up the stairs so casually. They saw bodies scattered on the floor, completely drained, only bone and skin left underneath their clothes. Rullein was standing in front of the door before she moved away and pointed her hand at it with a smug face.

Rasmus opened the door and found five men sitting on the couch. They saw Rasmus and their eyes widened and were ready to run away, but suddenly they couldn't breathe and their bodies felt so heavy that they couldn't even stand up from the couch. Rasmus took away the oxygen around them and made gravity to be a lot heavier around them.

"Good evening gentlemen..." Rasmus said with a stoic expression, staring at each one of them. "Take their memories, Rullein. Don't do other thing to them," he looked over his shoulder at Rullein.

Rullein nodded, puffing into smoke and appeared behind those five men. She brushed her hand on the back of their heads, taking in all their memories while those men were suffocating. She then puffed out and appeared behind Rasmus after she finished seeing their memories. She pointed at the three people, those people were the important ones.

"Which from the three suits your appearance, Aider?" Rasmus asked.

Aider tilted his head almost ninety degrees when he looked at the three men on the ground, slowly dying from suffocating. He knew what Rasmus was trying to do, and it was for him to take their faces and pretended to be them in the future.

"That one, they have the same height and physique as me..." Aider pointed at the man with slick back black hair and a great mustache.

"You can kill the rest," Rasmus looked at Rullein. "You can skin that man's face and body if you need," he looked at Aider.

Rullein licked her lips while Aider giggled mischievously.

Chapter 398 - 398: Mimicry.

Rasmus watched Aider's skill at cleaning the faces and skin that he took from the people's bodies near the river. He didn't say a word and observed and learned because he had never seen anyone do that back on Earth. Aider on the other hand, he was fine being watched, casually cleaning the skin from the blood as he hummed a song like it was a daily chore to him.

"You're a man who could manipulate the air, kill a person with a gaze, and have both an Orthias and a Dark Spirit by your side, and yet here you are, watching a man doing something less, fascinating..." Aider said with an eerie chuckle as he dipped the human skin into the river, carefully not to ruin its body hair.

"Where did you learn to do this?" Rasmus asked, watching all the faces that Aider had collected, spreading on the rock after Aider had washed them.

"I didn't learn this from anyone, I was a farmer, Count," Aider said as he pulled the human skin from the water, staring at it with his narrowing eyes and sharp gaze. "I skinned cows, chickens, deer, and all kinds of animals. I processed their hides, and I knew how to preserve the quality and how to maintain the furs. So, I thought, what if I did it with human skin? All skins are the same, and I realized that I could use a human face, a human skin to hide my... appearance..." He explained and slowly wiped the skin with a clean cloth.

"Every job that a human did with such expertise, and given them a reason to hate the world, they would be a genius in their own way to make sure the world burns by their hands," Rasmus muttered as he stared into Aider's eyes.

Rasmus learned something new, something that he knew he might not need it, but he appreciated the knowledge nonetheless.

Aider put on the face of the man named Krus Stevano, one of the ringleaders of the Wraiths, the man with slick back black hair and an amazing mustache. Rullein had given Krus' memories into Aider's mind, and it etched into Aider's mind as if it was his own in a way. Aider cleared his throat, trying to remember how Krus spoke, the pitch of his voice, his behaviors and the ticks of Krus.

"What a day..." Aider's voice changed almost drastically, to be a lot deeper and more breathy. "This feels, oddly comforting..." Aider used his voice back, but he used Krus' behavior that kept twirling and twisting his mustache.

Rasmus was amazed by Aider's talent, a farmer that turned into a mad Jester with a set of assassination skills. Aider's voice could easily imitate Krus' because of his wide vocal range from years of singing and countless street performances. There was nobody but Aider who could pull something like this, to mimic others, a perfect role for infiltration.

"Do you need more time to adjust?" Rasmus asked with his brows raised.

"Yes, I need time to adjust..." Aider answered as he removed Krus' face and looked at it in his hands. "I need a time alone, at least for three days if that's alright with you, Count," he glanced at Rasmus with a cold and sharp glance.

"Take your time. We aren't in a rush," Rasmus nodded with understanding. "Ayla will bring your foods in the next few days. If you need anything, ask her and she will give you what you need. When you're ready, come and find me," he said and walked into the forest.

Aider stared at Rasmus's back with cold and killing intent, but then he giggled mischievously before he continued to wash the skin and faces in the river.

Three days had passed, Rasmus was sitting on a log in front of a campfire with Erglade's journal in his hands. He read about how both their parents began to feel the growing intimacy between them. He had been trying to understand his mother, Aristoria and why she seemed unique compared to the other Orthias. He had shared the journal with Aris about Aristoria, but she also found her predecessor weird in her behavior.

"Does Orthias really don't feel emotion or something like that?" Rasmus asked Aris, who sat across from the campfire.

"We do, but we aren't attached to it and we don't dwell on it either. It's like a steel surface trying to absorb water. It's impossible and the water can be easily removed by tilting the surface until the water drops. Unlike humans that they're more like a piece of cloth and absorb water if you let it sit for too long," Aris explained as she stared at the campfire.

"So that means Aristoria did love Erglade, and she clung to it, making sure that droplet of water stayed on that steel surface. Or perhaps she just pretend that she was," Rasmus tilted his head as he looked at the book in his hands.

"I don't know, and that might apply to you as well. She might use both Erglade and you as a tool, to make sure things go to what she wished for even though she was no longer alive," Aris responded, staring into Rasmus' eyes. "That also applies to me too. Who knows that she's still influencing my very existence since I'm made from her essence," she added.

Rasmus hummed and noticed that Aris had changed quite a lot from the first time he met her. He remembered that Aris wasn't the type who spoke her mind, not the type that cared much about what was going on. However, lately, her silence was filled with weight compared to before that seemed hollow.

"You're starting to question yourself," Rasmus said, staring into Aris's blue eyes that mirrored his. "There are so many questions with no answers, isn't it? Do you want to go and meet her again?" He asked.

Aris hesitated to speak, something that she had never done before. She never considered anything at first since she always knew what she wanted, but at that moment, she didn't know what she wanted. She glanced at the spatial ring that Rasmus wore, and knew how to reach Aristoria, and that was through the Dragon's Breath.

"I don't know if she will give you the answer you want to believe or the answer she wants you to believe," Rasmus said as he pulled out the Dragon's Breath from the spatial ring, staring at the frozen breath in a glowing sphere. "To trust means to let yourself be fooled in a way. Do you want to accept that or do you want to keep feeling the void in your head?" He asked as he offered the Dragon's Breath to her.

Aris looked at the glowing sphere in Rasmus' hand and there was something that made her think that she shouldn't do it. She listened to Rasmus and she knew that he had been nothing but truthful to her. There was no trust between the two, respect and honesty, something that was worth more than anything she could ever know. She knew that she couldn't trust Aristoria or prove Aristoria's honesty, after all, they were the same being but a different mind.

"As long as the void doesn't bother you, why are you so bothered looking back at it?" Rullein asked as she sat down beside Aris.

Aris and Rasmus looked at Rullein, and then Rasmus looked at Aris, finding that question to be a good question for her.

"It's not that it does bother me, but I want to know what Aristoria's plan is. For what reason do you exist, why she sacrificed herself for you and Rasmus. I know that it's because of the threat that killed hundreds of True Dragons, but why us, what made her see that the solution to that problem is in our hands?" Aris asked as she looked up at the stars. "Did she predict the future? Is that even possible?" She added.

Rasmus had that same question, especially when he awakened his Orthias' bloodline. He was brought to the past, to his baby self where Aristoria spoke to him, knowing that he was from the far future. Something bothered him, and wondered how many times or moments where Aristoria realized that her child was from the future, and until at what point that she stopped seeing her son from the future. All those questions, he had no answer to that, but it didn't bother him because he had only one goal and that was to turn this world upside down, a challenge by God himself.

They heard a snap behind them, but none of them bothered to turn around since they already knew that Aider was listening to them in the past few minutes.

"You look great in those, Aider," Rasmus said as he stored the journal and the Dragon's Breath.

They heard a soft giggle that would give chills to anyone that listened to it, but not them. Aider then moved aside from the tree he was hiding behind it, revealing the all-black attire with gold ornaments that decorated his attire. He looked exactly like Krus and Rasmus couldn't believe that what he saw was the skin of a dead man being worn by someone else.

"I believe it's time for me to do my job," Aider said as he held his chin high with the gaze of someone that held authority. "Where to, Count?" He smirked as he twirled his mustache.

"To meet with the remaining ringleaders..." Rasmus answered as he got up. "Let's move."

Aris and Rullein got up then Yur hooted on the tree branch before Yur flew away to be the eye in the sky.

The Blackhands had been waiting for Rasmus and the others in a city called Kiersev, one of the biggest cities in Central Neva, which belonged to the Sun Empire. In the past four days, they had fabricated letters to the other Wraiths' ringleader, bringing them all to Kiersev for Rasmus. They had been keeping an eye on all the ringleaders and their movements until they all arrived at Kiersev.

Rasmus arrived, changing his appearance as one of Krus' trusted aide, an old butler of his while Aris changed her appearance like a maid. Rullein turned into a completely invisible spirit, floating in the air around Rasmus. Yur turned into a stray cat, already roaming around the city for fun.

"Remember the plan?" Rasmus stared at Aider, who was sitting across from him in the carriage.

"Revealing their plans and moves, to reveal the other ringleaders from the other continent, and lastly to find out who's their master," Aider answered as he tightened his white gloves and crossed his legs. "Ah, of course the most important part, to reveal their intention with Count Rasmus Blackheart," he smirked as he stared into Rasmus' eyes.

"But something bothers me, Count. Why Krus didn't have any memories or knowledge about the one he and the other ringleaders called as their Lord? As a ringleader, doesn't he supposed to know who he served?" Aider asked with his brows furrowed.

"But something bothers me, Count. Why Krus didn't have any memories or knowledge about the one he and the other ringleaders called as their Lord? As a ringleader, doesn't he supposed to know who he served?" Aider asked with his brows furrowed.

"That also apply to those vassal nations that said to serve the Zevrathi family. None of them know where the Zevrathi family members are, but they know they're alive out there. Their loyalty worth noting and to praise, and it doesn't bother them at all that they have almost no knowledge about their masters," Rasmus answered as he watched the carriage move in a busy street. "They're preventing from getting exposed by doing this, and that's the reason nobody knows about them to this day," he added.

Aider hummed as he twirled his mustache, looking out the window at the children playing hide and seek. His gaze was cold and stoic, and when someone stared into his eyes, they immediately averted their gaze in fear.

"What's the chance that one of those ringleaders know who they serve?" Aider glanced at Rasmus.

"One of them should know, but we don't know which one. If there's no choice, I'll ask Rullein's help to get that for me," Rasmus answered and saw the building where the meeting will be held. "Get ready, Aider. I can see demonic energy in there, so play safe..." he warned as he straightened his sleeves.

When they arrived, Aider was welcomed by a servant and guided him inside. Rasmus and Aris didn't say a word and followed from behind, trying to find out where the demonic energy came from. However, they could feel it below them, and that was where the meeting room was.

"You two stay here..." Aider said in a deep and authoritative voice as he kept walking toward the long hallway. "Someone will call you if I need you," he added.

Rasmus and Aris lowered their heads, but Rasmus muttered to Rullein, to stay by Aider's side. Rullein's presence was undetected by the naked eye, and low-ranking demons wouldn't be able to detect her energy as well because she could almost completely erase her presence.

Aider walked to the door and through another until he felt like inside a maze. However, on the last door, he saw a path to the basement, and he didn't hesitate to walk down into the darkness. He wondered if he could know this place if he didn't have Krus' memories etched in his brain.

The moment he opened the door widely like how Krus always was, so arrogant and full of himself in a dignified way. He looked at the other ringleaders, five in total, the faces that and their wrinkles that somehow he remembered like the back of his hand.

"Always late even though it was you who wanted us to come here," Vergeus said, his gray long hair and long beard stared at Aider. "Don't waste our time like last time, Krus," his voice was cold with a hint of threat.

"Not this time..." Aider said as he settled in the chair at the round table in a dim room. "The reason why I brought you all here is because I'm afraid that Rasmus Blackheart has sniffed us," he revealed, resting his elbow on the armrest as he twirled his mustache.

"Ahh, you were worried because those dozens of dead guards in your city, was it? We all know that, and we all are aware of that as well," Mira said, staring at Aider's fingers that played and groomed his

mustache. The red lips, heavy make-up, and dyed brunette hair to hide her wrinkles and hair that had started to gray out.

"I told you that this whole thing is too risky. Keeping an eye on him for what?" Normen stared at all the ringleaders that were sitting with him. His bald head reflected the light and his double-chin rested on his clasped hands. "I knew this would happen, and we are now being targeted by him, especially when he has an Aristoria and that monstrous woman by his side."

"Are you questioning the Lord's order?" Jurgen stared at Normen with his cold gaze, his muscular and big body was enough to threaten everyone in the room. "Stop talking if you value your life, Normen," he warned.

Normen shut his mouth not because of Jurgen's threat because of what Jurgen said. He stared at Luke, the youngest ringleaders compared to the others in the room. The one who gave the order to keep an eye on Rasmus, and he stared at him with a mix of frustration, anger, and resentment.

Aider stared at Luke, wondering if that person was the one who knew about the Lord that they had been serving. However, he stayed quiet for now and focused on digging up more information about the Wraiths' next move and plan.

"What should we do, Luke? What's the Lord's order now? Are we going to keep an eye on Rasmus when he's already sniffing us out? Sooner or later, there will be no us here," Jurgen asked. Although he had threatened Normen earlier, he had the same worries as him.

"The Lord hasn't spoken to me yet about this matter, but for everyone's safety, I suppose we should avoid poking at Rasmus and focus on stirring chaos on those factions. We should create tension and spread fear among nobles, making them harder to unify," Luke answered, his long and silky smooth blonde hair covering half of his face. "While we are here, let's focus on disturbing their alliance and putting fear into them," he pointed out.

"How?" Aider asked, staring at Luke. He made sure his gaze toward Luke was similar to how Krus looked at Luke. He saw in Krus' memories that Krus didn't like Luke at all because Luke was the youngest and yet he acted like the boss among the ringleaders. "You want us to focus on this matter while our lives are being threatened by Rasmus? You're expecting us to work like we always do when death is breathing on the back of our necks?" He asked, his brows raised.

Normen, Mira, Jurgen, and Vergeus couldn't agree more with what Aider said. They all looked at Luke as a sign that they agreed with Aider's words, wanting to know the answer as well.

"The Lord will protect all of you," Luke answered calmly, his expression as calm and collected as ever. "As we speak, the Lord has sent someone to keep us safe," he revealed.

They furrowed their brows until Luke slowly looked over his shoulder and someone appeared from the shadows. They didn't notice that there was someone standing in the room without them noticing. Aider had already got a warning from Rasmus about demonic energy, and he believed it belonged to that man, the man in a cloak and a hood that hid his identity.

"The Lord sent us this man?" Jurgen stared at the figure behind Luke. Jurgen was a fighter, someone who didn't indulge himself with wealth and power but with brute strength, and he knew the mysterious person behind Luke was stronger than him on so many levels. "Who is he?" He looked at Luke with his brows furrowed.

"Who knows," Luke answered with a straight and stoic expression. "Does that matter? If it does, then ask him yourself," he said, but there was an obvious warning in his words.

Nobody dared to open their mouths to speak with the man behind Luke.

"What now? You want us to rely on this man alone?" Aider asked, crossing his arms and twirling his mustache.

"All of you will come with us, to a place that nobody would know even if you all died and turned into rotting flesh, nobody could even smell it," Luke answered as he slowly got up.

Everyone gulped as he stared at Luke anxiously.

"Come, and you'll be safe, I can promise you that at least," Luke said with a soft smile that didn't reach his eyes. "If you serve the Lord, you will follow us," he muttered as he walked toward the door with the mysterious man behind him.

Aider and the others shared a look, realizing that they didn't have much of a choice. They all got up and decided to follow Luke. Aider was thrilled rather than scared like the others because he had never been in this kind of situation before, and he was close to breaking a character.

Chapter 400 - 400: Beneath the city.

Rasmus and Aris saw Luke and the others walking in the hallway, and they both immediately lowered their heads. They glanced at each other, realizing the demonic energy came from that mysterious man behind Luke. Based on demonic energy, he was at least a Demon Lord rank.

"I want my butler to be by my side. He has helped me with dealing with all the work, and he's quite useful," Aider said as he looked at Luke with arrogance in his eyes.

Luke glanced at Rasmus and Aris, and then he looked over his shoulder at the mysterious man. The man glanced at Rasmus for a few seconds then stared at Aris, which took longer compared to when he was staring at Rasmus. However, the man looked at Luke, giving him a nod.

"You can take them if you want, but they're your responsibility. If they mysteriously died, that would be on you," Luke said calmly.

Rasmus glanced at Aris and shook his head, knowing that Aris was marked by Satan. The fact that the Demon Lord could almost see it, meant that whatever that awaited them, there would be more powerful demons there. Rasmus couldn't risk having Aris with him, not when she was marked and would blow the whole plan.

After Luke and the others left the building, Aider waited at the front door for Rasmus and Aris. He made sure nobody noticed something was off with him or his butler and maid.

"Let Rullein take your spot, stay here with Yur. You can use your free time to explore the city if you want," Rasmus said as he looked into Aris's eyes. "You can regroup with the others since we don't know where we are going."

Aris nodded and slowly changed her appearance and a puff of black smoke appeared beside Rasmus, taking the maid's appearance. Rasmus and Rullein immediately approached Aider and went into the

carriage, leaving Aris behind on her own. Aris looked around for a moment, realizing that used to be fine on her own, but after being by Rasmus' side for so long, she felt something was amiss, but she immediately threw that feeling away and left the building.

"Sounds like something happened down there," Rasmus looked at Aider who couldn't stop grinning.

"Yes, we might be going to the beast's den," Aider answered as he looked out the carriage's window, following the five carriages that were ahead of them. "Luke is a mysterious one, and I want to dissect him, I want to wear his face..." He giggled mischievously.

"That would be hard," Rullein pointed out as she looked at her nails. "That man is marked as well, different from Aris' but marked by the demons," she revealed.

"So the ones who have connections are being marked?" Rasmus raised his brows as he wondered where Luke was going to take them.

"That's possible, and I might be able to leave a similar mark on anyone since I have devoured a Prime Lord. If you want Aider to become Luke and tell me to put a mark on him, it won't do anything because they will know when Luke died," Rullein said as she crossed her arms and legs. "Unless we don't kill him and I put him in my spatial space, keeping him in that space for as long as you want," she suggested.

"Yes, let's do that," Rasmus nodded as he closed his eyes.

Aider and Rullein grinned, finding this whole plan exciting. Aider then explained what happened in the meeting room to Rasmus, revealing the Wraiths' plan to disturb peace and trust among the nobles and the people.

It was as Rasmus had expected that Luke was bringing them out of the city, and wondered how far he would take them. He didn't know if Aris was following them or not, but he knew for sure that the Blackhands were following them. On the other hand, Rullein decided to go to Luke's carriage, hiding her presence once again. However, she was surprised that Luke didn't even open his mouth nor the mysterious man that sat across from him the whole journey.

To Rasmus' surprise, Luke brought them to the Sun Empire's capital city, the City of Sun. He was in disbelief that the Wraiths were hiding right under the strongest and most powerful empire's nose. They were brought to the northwest of the city where hundreds of mansions that belonged to the empire's senates were living.

"What a surprise that one of the senates is a part of the this..." Rasmus muttered as he looked at the mansions wherever he looked. "Anybody is innocent until proven guilty," a tug of a smile appeared on one corner of his lips.

"Sounds like a world is doomed if we are living in that kind of world," Aider giggled.

"How so?" Rasmus glanced at Aider with his brows raised.

"How so? Have you ever looked at yourself in the mirror? You're the reason why this world still let someone like you out here, alive," Aider grinned and laughed cruelly.

Rasmus chuckled and nodded with understanding as he leaned back, staring out the window.

They arrived at the mansion made of white marble that looked unique compared to the other mansions. Aider and the other ringleaders were in disbelief, having the same thought as Rasmus that the fact a senate was a part of them, a part of the demonic cult. They wondered who it was, and if that person was the one they had been calling as the Lord.

"Come..." Luke said as he walked toward the door and the butler opened the door for him as if they had expected their arrival.

Everyone walked into the mansion and was immediately welcomed by a big painting of the family that owned the mansion. They saw a man in his senate attire, a gold robe with red cloth rested on his right shoulder down to the floor. The man had gray hair and striking blue eyes, someone that looked so dignified and could be relied on based on his posture and expression.

"Senator Orlean Xerxes..." Aider muttered, knowing who that man was based on Krus' memories. "Who would have thought," he scoffed, beginning to act like Krus.

"Is he the Lord, Luke?" Mira asked, staring at Luke who was walking in front of them.

"Do you think the Lord is someone as insignificant as Senator Xerxes?" Luke asked back without looking back and followed where the butler was guiding them. "Senator Xerxes is just one of us, but he's playing in the higher table than ours, that's all that you need to know," he explained.

Everyone was baffled by Luke's words that someone as powerful as the Senate of the Sun Empire would be insignificant compared to the Lord. They couldn't help but be fully invested in who was the Lord and what kind of person he was. However, their thoughts stopped when they were guided into a big parlor room, a combination of marble white and gold frames for the chair, mirror, and paintings.

Rasmus and Rullein were forced to stay outside the parlor, acting like proper butler and maid. They both looked around the hallway where guards were stationed in every corner of the mansion, and ever since they entered the mansion, they felt a powerful demonic energy, and it was below them again.

"What a place..." Mira looked around, admiring the room. "Why are we here, Luke? Are we going to stay here from now on?" She turned around to look at Luke.

"You'll see," Luke answered, sitting on the couch and looking out the window.

Everyone waited in the parlor for an hour until Orlean came in, and they all stood up to greet him. He didn't say a word to them since he already knew who they were, and he didn't let them speak either as he pulled one of the candle holder that opened the wall in the parlor room. Everyone was shocked when Orlean walked in with Luke, and they guessed that they had to follow them.

They walked down the spiral stairs that seemed to have no end since they had been walking down the stairs for a whole minute. They could feel the sudden chill and dampness in the air, wondering where they were being taken to. After what it felt like five minutes, they reached the bottom, and that was when they were in disbelief of their location. It was a massive and spacious cave with so little light and they could see the massive 30 foot stone double doors in the distance.

"What is this place..." Normen asked, his voice echoed throughout the cave.

"Stop asking question," Luke said coldly as he walked beside Orlean and the mysterious man toward the door. "You'll know when we are there."

The mysterious man stood in front of the door and slowly pushed it open. The way it made the whole cave tremble, they knew the double doors were heavy for anyone to open it. The moment it opened, everyone was stunned, terrified even.

"This thing is right underneath the city?" Jurgen's eyes widened as he stared at statues on the cave walls each more than 50 feet tall. "Who are these people?" He asked as he looked at the statues of men and women wearing weird attires that they had never seen before.

"They're the Zevrathi family members, someone that our Lord knows personally," Luke answered. "All of you have shown your loyalty for decades, and this day has finally come for all of you to join us, to be a part of the bigger picture," he said as he looked over his shoulder at them.