

Evil 511

Chapter 511 - 511: Bad Omen.

Aris, Rasmus, Serena, Videl, and Yur arrived at the meeting point outside the Brithia Kingdom's territory. Rullein was with them as well, but she chose to stay inside Rasmus' body because she wanted to protect him from Videl in case that Videl would do anything to him. They were the last one to arrive because Doloran and the others had arrived long before them. Other than Dolora, Agnesia, and Marina, it was their first time meeting Aris, an Aristoria of Orthias. They could feel the immense energy around her that it made them realize what made humans feel insignificant compared to an Aristoria.

One of Doloran's friends was a berserker, a title that was given to people who dealt with demonic beasts and had at least 100 confirmed kills. The berserker's name was Lance, and he was a lot younger compared to Doloran who seemed to be in his mid thirties. The other friend of Doloran was a druid, a title given to a sorcerer that solely exists to maintain and protect nature. Druids were connected with spirits because druids were said to be blessed by spirits and got the privilege of becoming their companions. The druid's name was Raizen and he was a bit older compared to Doloran.

The three Sorcerers from the League of Sorcerers were Agnesia and Marina's students, Miguel, Gilsus, and Cierra. They were the top three Sorcerers in the League, making them responsible for handling and finding new potential sorcerers in the whole of West Neva. They were powerful enough that they were just one step away from reaching the same level as Agnesia and Marina. However, the gap was quite big even though they were one step away.

The remaining two were a Witch and a Warlock, which surprisingly they both were siblings. There were two categories for Witch and Warlock, which were White Witch or White Warlock and Black Witch or Black Warlock. Those two were White Witch and White Warlock, their names were Soleil and Belgar. They were similar to Druids because they were associated with Spirits but the more powerful ones.

Rasmus looked at the group and he didn't expect all of them to be powerful individuals based on his draconic eyes' vision. Lance the berserker could be on par with a Swordmaster, above Thailor in terms of raw strength. The three Sorcerers were on par with Novia in terms of Mana capacity within their bodies. Raizen, Belgar, and Soleil, the three of them were below the Sorcerers, but he wouldn't know if they were weaker or stronger because he knew so little about Druids, Witches, and Warlocks.

All of them knew who Rasmus and Serena were because one was infamous from the rumor of destroying a whole kingdom and massacred the royal family while the other one was famous for coming back to life. They showed their hostility toward Rasmus while they were being neutral toward Serena. The only one they respected from the group was no other than Aris.

"We have decided that Lady Aris should take the lead because Great Spirit Yur is by your side," Agnesia said as she looked at Aris. "We will be in your care, and we will do everything you tell us to do," she added.

Doloran and the others nodded in agreement, believing in Aris' judgment since she was an Orthias. Aris on the other hand accepted that responsibility without any resistance. She didn't mind it when it came to this small group of powerful people who knew what they were doing.

"Let's move, the journey is going to take a while. We might arrive in two days if we move fast," Aris said as she rode her horse and let Yur, in owl form, scout the area from the sky.

Aris was at the front with Agnesia and Marina while the rest were following them from behind. Rasmus was at the far back with Serena and Videl because they chose to. The reason was because Videl and Serena could sense a demonic energy that had been following them, but they couldn't find out what or who it was. Even when Rullein stayed far behind, she couldn't find anything at all.

"It still follows us?" Rasmus asked as he looked at Videl. Although he was already sensitive in sensing energies, he couldn't detect demonic energy at all.

"Yes, faintly..." Videl answered as he glanced over his shoulder, still couldn't track where it came from. "It seems to be following us at the same pace. I don't think it's a demon, but something else," he pointed out.

"We should deal with it when we take a short break later," Serena suggested as she rode her horse, trying to keep up with the group. "Whatever it is, we need to find out its intention of following us," she added.

When Aris decided to let the horses rest, Rasmus, Serena, and Videl decided to go on a walk. Aris knew what they were doing, but chose not to follow them because she didn't want the others to realize they were being followed. Even until then, Rullein couldn't find what it was even though she could feel it as well.

"It's gone now..." Serena furrowed her brows as she looked around. "It's as if it knows when we are going to after it," she hummed as she crossed her arms.

"Yes, it's gone. I can't feel it anymore," Videl nodded in agreement after he tried to use his power to trace that demonic energy. "That thing is an elusive one. Or perhaps that demon is an elusive one," he smirked as he scoffed, intrigued by whatever it was.

"Demon?" Rasmus furrowed his brows. "You know what that is?" He asked.

"There's only one demon that could even escape my grasp, it's Belial. I remembered his demonic energy now," Videl answered, confident with his guess. "To be honest, I have no idea when was the last time I saw him, but now I know that he's here in this world," he revealed, and he seemed a bit disturbed by that.

Rasmus tried to remember anything about Belial based on his knowledge back on Earth. Belial wasn't depicted as a being but rather one of the many names and terms of evil. However, Belial began to become a figure and was called as the leader of darkness, a personification of lawlessness.

"Now that I think about it, I remembered when was the last time I saw him. It was the day after Lucifer fell, and he witnessed everything unfold the moment Adam and Lilith were made. He saw everything, the sole witness of what happened. I saw a glimpse of him when Satan took Lucifer and his brethren," Videl said, his gaze turned cold.

"Should we be worried?" Rasmus asked, his gaze moving to every corner that his eyes could see. "If Belial is that elusive, and has been keeping an eye on us ever since we arrived, that means he has an objective," he said as he looked at Videl.

"You learned a lot from those religious books, but I'm pretty sure you failed to understand what kind of being Belial is," Videl said still with that cold gaze and expression. "Among demons, Belial's presence is a bad sign, a bad omen in higher beings' scale."

"Is that why you're anxious?" Rasmus asked, wondering if Belial could affect the devil himself.

"Yes, because he's known for always being there to see bad things unfold and he's never been there to witness good things happen. Something about him that makes him eerie even for demons and angels," Videl answered as he nodded, admitting it without hesitation.

Hearing that, it made both Rasmus and Serena a bit anxious because the words came from a being that could be said to be the king of demons. Even for Lilith who had spent her whole existence in hell, she knew nothing about Belial.

"Do you think he's joining Satan?" Serena asked Videl.

"No, I don't think he is," Videl shook his head, and once again, he was confident with his answer. "The reason is because Belial is a loner, even the demons that are under his command also didn't bow to me or Satan. He's just an observer, but also the harbinger of bad omen, and I can assure you, Satan wouldn't love to see him anywhere near her," he added.

Rasmus also had a hunch about this expedition, and Aris was the one who knew about this. He didn't know why, but he knew there were a lot of things that he wouldn't be able to control, and sooner or later, it would go against him.

"What's your call?" Rasmus asked and glanced at Aris, who had been listening to them even though she was so far away and had gathered with Doloran and the others.

Aris turned her head over her shoulder when Rasmus called her out. She took a moment to think, but based on what Videl said that Belial wasn't Satan's ally, she knew that it shouldn't bother them that much. However, she knew she couldn't take it too lightly and had to consider the situation.

"Let's keep moving and if Videl felt that this expedition needed to end, we will leave immediately," Aris answered, making sure Rasmus, Serena, and Videl heard his voice.

"She's the leader, let's do as she said," Rasmus said as he looked at Videl and Serena before he walked back to the group.

Chapter 512 - 512: The butler.

Rasmus and the others were still a day away from reaching the mountain's foot, but the demonic beasts had welcomed them with hostility. However, the three Sorcerers, Gilsus, Cierra, and Miguel were the ones who dealt with every demonic beast that they encountered. They wanted to let the others reserve

their strength and energy for later because the closer they were from the Efiva Mountain, the more demonic beasts there were and also a lot stronger.

Belial's presence still followed them, and Rasmus began to feel Belial's presence even though he barely felt it. He tried to trace where Belial's energy came from with his draconic power, but he couldn't as if it didn't exist. At one point, Videl, Serena, Rasmus, Aris, and Rullein decided that they didn't want to think about it anymore and just let it be.

"These demonic beasts, is there any document or record about where and how they become one?" Rasmus asked out of curiosity. "I tried to find an answer from many books on why the Efiva Mountain became the source of where the demonic beasts came from but without any explanation," he added, looking at everyone in front of him.

"We don't have the answer for that, but beasts aren't animals as you know. Beasts are creatures that have existed long before humans. With that logic, that means the demonic beasts have existed long before us, and to find out that origin would be impossible," Raizen answered as he looked back at Rasmus. "Even for the spirits here, they don't know much about it either because the reason why spirits almost extinct here was because they tried to uncover the truth behind the demonic beasts that ended up killing them," he explained.

Rasmus hummed and he also remembered Yur's story as to why Yur's kin disappeared from West Neva, and it was because of the demonic beasts that hunted them down. He did ask Yur and Aris about it, but neither of them knew the answer either, and the only one that might have known the answer would have been Sanya since she was the oldest being after True Dragon that had lived in Neva.

"Halt..." Aris said as she raised her right hand.

Doloran and the others suddenly held their breath as they became quiet and looked at Aris and their surroundings. They all slowly felt something ominous coming toward them from the front, and there were a lot of them.

"Did they smell our scent?" Marina glanced at Lance, who was a master at this kind of thing.

"They can smell even blood on a different mountain. They have a very sensitive nose, and as I said before that we will be dealing with lots of them the moment we killed their kin. Now their scent is on

our bodies that we can't get rid off," Doloran answered, seeing the birds fly away. "If we kill all of them, the bigger and the stronger demonic beasts will be attracted to our scent. We have been marked, and the only thing awaited us is danger and more dangerous danger," he pointed out, looking at everyone in the group.

Aris knew that she could deal with it without having to worry about the scent that would stick to her body. She could kill them all easily, but she remembered that Rasmus needed Videl to grow stronger because the enemies were growing stronger as well.

"Videl, can you take care of this?" Aris asked without looking back at Videl, who was at the far back with Rasmus and Serena.

"Oh, with please, Lady Aris," Videl smirked as he got off his horse. "I'll make it quick," he said as he walked to the front as he tightened his white gloves.

"A butler?" Soleil furrowed her brows, staring at Videl in his butler attire walking further into the forest. "What can a butler do?" She looked at Aris with her brows raised.

"You'll see," Aris answered, her eyes never leaving Videl.

Videl looked over his shoulder and snapped his fingers, creating an invisible wall that made him disappear like a curtain being closed. That was when all of them narrowed their eyes, realizing that Videl had just created a wall of illusion, making them unable to see what was happening beyond that invisible curtain. To create a wall of illusion, it would require an unimaginable talent, and none of them in the group could do it. What made it even disturbing was the fact the invisible wall made them unable to sense or hear anything beyond it, so they didn't know what was going to happen.

Videl didn't hesitate to release his demonic energy and his eyes glowed dark red. He could see the dozens of demonic beasts staring back at him, and when he glared at his glowing red eyes, all the demonic beasts trembled in fear. Those demonic beasts were big in size, some looked like a wolf with fins on their necks, some were monkey-like with razor-sharp teeth and muscular bodies, some even like lizards with six legs and blade-like tails. All of them couldn't move a muscle when Videl walked toward them.

Every step Videl took, it covered a quarter mile like he was blinking after he took a step forward. The demonic beasts began to collapse the moment they felt the pressure of Videl's demonic energy. When he arrived, all the demonic beasts cowered in fear that their eyes were shut closed.

"I would love to devour you with my mouth, but fortunately I can't tear my attire," Videl grinned as his horns began to grow and the voice around his pupils made the forest bone-chilling cold. He covered the whole forest with his dark red demonic energy and slowly melted the demonic beasts and merging with the energy he released. He devoured them and it was barely scratching his hunger for power.

Videl didn't stop there and he released his demonic energy further into the forest and all the way to the foot of the Efiva Mountain which was at least a hundred miles away. He could feel thousands of demonic beasts that were smelling his scent, and almost immediately all of them collapsed, cowering in fear.

"Now this is a good appetizer," Videl licked his lips as he began to clench his fists, melting and digesting the demonic beasts with his demonic power.

At that moment, Aris, Rasmus, Serena, Rullein, and Yur shivered by the intense demonic energy. It was only them who felt that and not Doloran or the others, however, Doloran could feel an intense killing intent that made him squirm a little. They realized that Videl wasn't only taking care of the problem ahead of them but also the future problems. They knew that Videl had been starving for power ever since his feast during the war with Satan.

"It's over..." Doloran muttered as he looked at the invisible wall of illusion, which made him see nothing but a calm and peaceful forest ahead of him.

Not long after Doloran said that, the wall of illusion dispersed and saw Videl standing there with not even a dirt on his pants or shoes. It hadn't been a minute since he disappeared beyond the wall of illusion, and it looked like he was just standing there for a minute behind the wall of illusion. He then walked toward the group, acting as if nothing had happened.

"It's done?" Aris looked at Videl with a cold gaze.

"It's done, my lady," Videl smiled as he bowed his head and placed his right hand on his chest. "There won't be any obstacle ahead of us anymore," he said as he walked to the back and got onto his horse.

When Videl said that, all of them tried to use their way to sense demonic beasts. They had been avoiding using their power because that would only attract the demonic beast. However, since Videl said that he took care of the obstacles, they were curious and looked at the far distance for any sign of demonic beasts. After a full minute of silence, they were all in disbelief when they couldn't even sense a single demonic beast, not even the bodies of them. They all slowly turned their heads and looked at Videl with a shocked expression other than Agnesia and Marina since they had seen how capable Videl was.

"Since the danger is gone, we shouldn't move quietly anymore. We can try to rush our way to the Efiva Mountain," Aris said as she gently patted the horse's neck. "Let's move now," she kicked the horse's side and made the horse run as fast as it could.

The others followed Aris from behind while still trying to recheck if Videl had truly erased all the demonic beasts, thousands of them in just a matter of a minute. After rechecking over and over, they didn't want to believe it, but the truth said otherwise. At that moment, they realized that Aris and her group weren't ordinary people, or if they could even call them people anymore.

Chapter 513 - 513: Freedom or Exclusion.

The horses didn't have the strength to move anymore, and it was in the middle of the night. Agnesia and Marina created a small house made of dirt, drying it and turning it into a clay house. The roof was tree branches entangled with each other, giving gaps that allowed the moonlight to enter. The three Sorcerers decided to rest after they had dinner because they were exhausted since they had never been horse riding that far before.

The night was quiet, Rasmus, Serena, Videl, and Aris enjoyed the wine Rasmus brought with him in the spatial ring. Doloran and Lance were outside, guarding the house from any kind of danger since they were close to reaching the Efiva Mountain.

"Hey, muscle head..." Marina tilted her head, peeking out through the door and looking at Doloran. "You said you want to guard the house but you're actually drinking?" She stared at her husband with disappointment written in her eyes.

Doloran coughed, choking on the strong alcohol that made his whole face red both from embarrassment and from getting startled. He slowly turned around and shoved the bottle to Lance's chest as if it would change anything.

"I'm just taking a few sips, that's all," Doloran cleared his throat while his face was still beet red from embarrassment.

Marina sighed as she shook her head, wondering why she had fallen in love with such an idiot like him. She then walked out of the house with Rasmus, making Doloran and Lance look at him with suspicion. They weren't that affected by Rasmus' reputation, but the fact Marina and Agnesia didn't find him dangerous was something worth observing.

"Count Blackheart volunteers to guard for the rest of the night. Both of you should get some rest now," Marina said with her arms crossed, her tone commanding rather than suggesting.

"No, we will stay here. Not sleeping for a night won't affect us in any way," Doloran answered with a firm tone. "If he wants to join us, then let him be," he added as he looked at Marina with a serious expression.

Marina hummed with understanding and went back inside, leaving Rasmus alone with her husband and Lance. She knew that her husband wanted to have some time with Rasmus because she knew what kind of man her husband was.

"Have a seat," Doloran said as he patted on the ground.

Rasmus sat down, and it shocked Doloran that Rasmus didn't hesitate to sit on the dirty ground even though he was wearing expensive pants. Rasmus looked at the bottle that was half empty in Lance's hand and pulled out a high quality whiskey from his spatial ring.

"The night is still long, might as well empty another bottle," Rasmus put the bottle in front of Doloran.

Doloran raised his brows and began to laugh loudly as he nodded in agreement and grabbed the bottle as he opened it without hesitation. He drank it straight from the bottle like it was water before he passed it to Lance.

"That's a fine drink," Doloran laughed as he looked at Rasmus and punched his shoulder. However, when his fist hit Rasmus' body, he felt like he was hitting a thick steel, shocking him to his cord. "What kind of body is that?!" He asked as he rubbed his stinging knuckles because he wasn't prepared to hit something that hard.

"This body of mine is not longer of a human," Rasmus answered as he looked at the two moons facing each other. "You should be careful of not hurting yourself," he said as he watched Lance pass the bottle to him.

"What do you mean by that?" Lance asked out of curiosity as he watched Rasmus take a sip of the whiskey.

"I'm half Orthias, I have a human body structure but with the durability of an Orthias. My body has grown sturdier on its own the more I awaken the bloodline from my mother side," Rasmus answered as he passed the bottle to Doloran again.

Both Doloran and Lance looked at Rasmus like he was a rare species that they had discovered. Doloran remembered when Rasmus released his killing intent and he could tell it was a killing intent that a beast would release, not the human kind. Lance on the other hand knew so little about the Blackheart family, but he knew what happened to them in the end.

"Is that why you're so confident about yourself and have decided to take revenge on the people who killed your family?" Doloran asked after he took a sip of the whiskey, feeling bold after he tasted the finest whiskey he had ever had.

"Perhaps," Rasmus answered, his eyes and expression were unreadable. "Now I wonder why Sorceress Marina warned me about this continent. She said thated wasn't welcomed here. So, I want to know why," he asked back as he looked at Doloran and Lance.

"You made a kingdom disappear in a single night, and you're still asking us why?" Doloran arched his brows. "Also because you're a disgrace in our eyes. You're the product of a human with Orthias blood. You have tainted what we have considered sacred for the longest time," he added.

"Some people don't bother or care about one of the two, but since you have both, they bore hatred toward you for either of the things you have," Lance answered as he took the bottle from Doloran's hand.

"Why do I ask? I need to confirm it and it's because I want to know what kind of people I'm dealing with," Rasmus answered with a straight face. "With that being said, you two hate me for the second reason? That's quite illogical to hate me for something I have no power to change it compared to hating me with logic because I did take revenge on the Refenus Kingdom," he looked at them with his brows raised.

Doloran rolled his eyes out of annoyance because he never liked politics and royal families. He lived in the forest and befriended beasts for that reason because other than humans, they never lied or faked their feelings and emotions.

"You sounded just like them. You ruined the night," Doloran snatched the bottle from Lance's hand and emptied it out of annoyance. "I don't care about any of that bullshit. People like you are the reason why I chose to live in the forest. Your fancy logic and all that nonsense," he scoffed as he crushed the bottle with his grip.

"With that kind of reason, aren't you basically giving up on humankind by letting those people take control over the people?" Rasmus asked as he looked at Doloran. "Doesn't that makes you as bad as I am?" He raised his brows.

Doloran chose silence while Lance stayed out of it because he knew if he joined in with the conversation, he would fall into the same hole as Doloran. Both of them didn't care enough about what kind of world that had become. However, they knew Rasmus was wrong about one thing, and that they were giving up on humankind because the reason they fought demonic beasts was enough to prove him wrong. Yet, they chose to be quiet because they knew Rasmus was wrong, and there was no need to argue with someone who failed to see that.

"I know that you're not giving up on humankind in the slightest," Rasmus said as he pulled out another bottle of whiskey, a different one but as expensive and as good as the previous one. "I apologize if I ruined the night, but I just need to understand what kind of people the two of you are. Now that I know, I won't pry on it," he put the bottle in front of Doloran.

Doloran glanced at the bottle and he had never seen that brand before, and he could tell by the look of it that it would be as fine as the previous one. This time he hesitated at first until he took a sip of it and tasted the fine and rich flavor of the whiskey.

"And what kind of a person am I?" Doloran asked and passed the bottle to Lance to taste.

"An honest one, both of you," Rasmus answered almost immediately. "I like that kind of people because they're easy to manipulate," he pointed out with a straight face.

"Nonsense, because we don't desire power," Doloran scoffed.

"That's the point," Rasmus smiled as he looked at Lance who offered the bottle to him.

Both Doloran and Lance furrowed their brows, not understanding what Rasmus meant by that. However, this time Doloran didn't pull away from the discussion because he knew he wasn't stupid enough to ignore this kind of understanding.

"What do you mean by that?" Doloran arched his brows.

"To put it simply, because you lack desire, they make sure you never develop one. Lack of desire creates opportunity to be manipulated, and by manipulated meaning to be controlled because you're so easily to predict," Rasmus answered and took a sip of the whiskey. "Those powerful figures never tried to shackle you into their agendas, and what they did is actually the opposite. Power and manipulation don't need to control those who refuse to participate, it just steps around you and make you believe you're free while in truth you have become insignificant and irrelevant," he pointed out and passed the bottle to Doloran.

Doloran and Lance never thought of that before, and thought their freedom was earned until Rasmus revealed it otherwise. Their freedom wasn't truly earned, it was given to them and made them believe they had achieved a privilege of being free when in truth they were pushed away. That realization left something bitter in their mouths, more bitter than any alcohol they had ever had.

"See how I can easily manipulate you just now? You believed my words because of your honesty and I took advantage of it to create tension and conflict," Rasmus said with a smile on his face. "Freedom

without relevance is not freedom, it is exclusion that feels merciful," he said as he slowly got up. "Enjoy the rest of the night, gentlemen," Rasmus fixed his suit before he excused himself and walked back into the house.

Chapter 514 - 514: Mountain dwellers.

The horses neighed, refusing to go further from where they were because the horses could see the Efiva Mountain ahead of them. Doloran could speak with the horses and he explained to the others why the horses were terrified and begged them not to go further to the Efiva Mountain. Without any other choice, they decided to go on foot from there and it would take them at least two hours to reach the foot of the mountain.

"This is an enormous mountain..." Serena looked at the Efiva Mountain that made the other tall mountains beside it look so small in comparison.

"Yes, and this mountain has its own ecosystem that it doesn't need anything from the outside world," Doloran nodded as he looked at the mountain, still in awe by the magnificent Efiva Mountain even though he had visited that mountain more than a dozen times. "But I heard the Immortal Mountain in the East is bigger than this, four times bigger," he pointed out.

Rasmus had heard about the Immortal Mountain from Javi and Daryus, who were from East Neva. They said the Immortal Mountain was the place where the strongest martial artists lived and called them the Immortals who were said to have the same power and authority as the Yu Empire, an organization called the Heavenly Martial Alliance. The Asghar family was one of the few closest allies of that Alliance, and based on what Anastasha said, it was because of the Asghar family that weakened the Yu Empire and allowed the Heavenly Martial Alliance to form and become the empire's formidable opponent.

Before they could even reach the ten steps after they got off their horses, the ground trembled gently and everyone could feel it. The horses ran out of fear, not listening to Doloran's orders out of their primal fear, death.

"That's not a good sign," Doloran said as he looked at the peak of the mountain. "We are now marked as threats by the mountain, and the worst-case scenario is that the demonic beasts that dwell in the mountain will come out to get rid of us," he explained.

Based on information that Doloran had after he infiltrated the Evifa Mountain, the demonic beasts that roamed outside the mountain were just ants compared to the giants that lived inside the mountain. The mountain dwellers, the demonic beasts that said had been living inside for the longest time with the hierarchy of power where they would kill each other for a greater spot in the mountain.

"Out of curiosity, Count. You can destroy the mountain with your magic, right?" Agnesia asked as she turned around to look at Rasmus.

"Yes, I could. But I would rather not to use my power to destroy something unnecessary," Rasmus answered as he nodded. "This is Yur's home, and I would rather this mountain to stay intact so spirits can take this place back from the demonic beasts," he explained.

"That restraint of yours is admirable," Agnesia smiled as she chuckled, still capable of having a light and teasing conversation in that situation. "But I guess you're right about that," she hummed in agreement.

Nobody in the group believed that Rasmus' magic could destroy that enormous mountain because they had never witnessed the calamity-level destruction of his magic. Agnesia and Marina were the only ones in the group that had seen it with their eyes on how his magic could disintegrate everything without leaving a trace in almost an instant.

"Yur, lead us the way," Aris looked up at Yur in its owl form, flying in circles in the sky above the group.

Yur descended and turned into a spirit form, invisible to the naked eyes and only those who were blessed by spirits could see them. They all followed Yur toward the mountain where they wouldn't get detected by the demonic beasts. It was a path that only Yur knew, a path that no living creatures would find it safe.

The forest turned out to have countless illusions that spirits used to place around the mountain to prevent living beings from passing them. Yur destroyed those illusions until they suddenly arrived at the foot of the Evifa Mountain where the atmosphere was enough to make them suffocate.

"I'll take away your scent for a moment, this will feel uncomfortable for all of you," Yur pointed its tiny hand at Doloran and the group.

The group felt like something within them were being sucked into and made them dizzy and weak. Rasmus, Aris, Videl, Serena, and Rullein could make them invisible by not oozing their energy, sucking them deep within themselves until it couldn't be identified or sensed by anything but a powerful being.

"Okay, let's move now that all of you have lost your identity," Yur said and floated toward the cliff.

Everyone climbed the tall cliff with only pure strength, and that was where Doloran had to carry both Agnesia and Marina on his back while Lance carried Miguel and Gilsus. Rasmus had to carry Serena on his back and let Rullein reside inside him while Aris carried Cierra and Soleil on her back. Raizen had to carry Belgar on his back, and even though he was a druid, his body was almost as strong as Lance's.

It took them almost an hour to reach the top, and they were only a tenth of the mountain's height. It was hard for everyone because they were stripped of the power they had gained from accumulating Mana within their bodies.

"Do we have to do this ten more times, Great Spirit?" Doloran asked, his forehead was covered with sweat and his breathe was heavy.

"No, maybe four more times," Yur answered nonchalantly. "But for now we will just walk from here and go to the west side of the mountain," Yur added.

Everyone nodded their heads, thinking that it would be easier until they realized walking around Efiva Mountain would take hours.

The path that Yur led them was a dangerous one where they had to hug the wall so they would fall off the cliff and die. It was a path that Yur decided on the spot because Yur could sense everything better than anyone and the reason was because Yur was in its homeland. However, Yur also used the path that Doloran had suggested because they were the perfect paths to take.

They barely reached the quarter of the mountain's height and it was already nighttime. They decided to take a rest because they were exhausted, and that was when they realized that Aris, Rasmus, and Videl were different from them. They were suspicious of Videl, a butler with that handsome face and lean body that could withstand the harsh terrain of the mountain where Doloran and Lance were struggling to stand straight after all that.

"We got company," Yur felt as something emerged from the inside of the mountain. "They seem to be looking for us. The good thing is that they can't detect us, but they will find us eventually," Yur pointed out as Yur looked up at the giant mountain.

With the group's conditions and limitations, they couldn't fight something that powerful. Yur suggested that they should hide, but the problem was that the hiding place was nowhere near them and it would take them hours to reach there. That also increased the chance of them getting found.

"I will handle them," Rasmus said as he looked at the spatial ring on his middle finger. "I will distract them away from everyone here so they can rest," he added.

Aris and Videl looked at Rasmus with confused expressions because Rasmus never act like that and usually he would bring someone else with him. This time he said that he alone would do it until Aris realized that he wasn't the leader in the group, it was her and he wanted her to let him go to deal with the problem.

"Okay," Aris nodded with understanding.

"Alright, show me where they are, Yur," Rasmus looked at Yur.

"Okay..." Yur nodded and flew past Rasmus, guiding him where the demonic beasts were going.

Rasmus ran and followed Yur going to the other side of the mountain, trying to intercept the demonic beasts. It only took them a few minutes because of how fast Rasmus ran even with only his body's strength. They ended up in a small open space where the steep cliff was right in front of them.

"What are you planning to do?" Yur asked and looked down at Rasmus.

"Attract them," Rasmus answered as he used Mana to pull out the Black Swords from the spatial ring. "Was that enough to attract them?" He asked as he looked up at the steep cliff.

"Yes, it was more than enough..." Yur nodded, its gaze pointed at the demonic beasts that were charging toward where they were because they sensed that Mana Rasmus had been released. "They're coming. They're coming fast..." Yur pointed out.

Rasmus looked up at the steep cliff where he began to see big shadows lurking in the complete darkness. He could see the pairs of glowing red eyes and felt the ground shaking because every step those demonic beasts took was like a stampede.

"They're big..." Rasmus said as he held both swords tightly and finally saw the demonic beasts that looked like Wyrms and Drakes.

"Uhh... they're really big..." Yur hid behind Rasmus, feeling like Yur was reliving the memory of when the demonic beasts hunted the spirits.

"Let's see if I can fight them with just pure strength..." Rasmus said as he readied his stance.

Chapter 515 - 515: Strength wasn't enough.

Rasmus watched the wyrm slide down toward him and struck him with its massive jaw that could eat him whole like a piece of candy. Rasmus dashed to the side, dodging the big mouth and its razor-blade fangs. He drove his sword into the ground to redirect his momentum. Stone cracked as he kicked off the blade from the ground, wrenching it free and launching himself back toward the wyrm. He swung his other sword right on the wyrm's neck, cutting through the thick scale and flesh but not deep enough to kill it.

The wyrm hissed and roared, wiggling its head from the pain. Rasmus was about to strike the wyrm once again, but the drake charged toward him and tilted its head, lunging toward the lower half of his body. Rasmus immediately swung both swords toward the terrifying mouth of the drake that was right in front of him. He released a powerful slash wave that was enough to cut the drake's mouth all the way to its neck in half before it could bite him.

The wyrm used that opportunity to use its tail, smashing through the drake's head that had been split by Rasmus. Rasmus blocked it but he was thrown off the cliff because he wasn't strong enough to overpower the momentum. He landed on the sharp and steep boulders, but instead of his body getting impaled, the boulders were crushed by his durable skin and bones.

"You're not strong enough with just pure strength. Demonic energy molded their bodies, and you can't overpower them with just pure strength," Rullein's voice could be heard inside Rasmus' skull.

"Learned the hard way..." Rasmus stood up and cut all the boulders around him in half with a single swing of his swords.

The remaining wyrms and drakes jumped down from the cliff to follow Rasmus. With the lack of an ability to dodge mid-air, Rasmus used that opportunity to release dozens of slash waves, cutting those free-falling demonic beasts. The black and gooey blood of the demonic beasts was like a pungent waterfall. Rasmus had to jump away and release more slash waves for the remaining wyrms and drakes that survived his attacks earlier.

Since they were demonic beasts, they could regenerate their missing limbs except when their heads were decapitated. Many survived and didn't hesitate to charge toward Rasmus. With their size, they were quite agile, and that they didn't care about what was beneath them or what kind of obstacles were in front of them. They were mindless and raging beasts, and that was terrifying for Yur to watch.

Rasmus was busy dodging and trying to decapitate those demonic beasts, but those demonic beasts didn't wait, didn't hesitate, making their moves unpredictable. While he was busy, some of the demonic beasts chose to devour the dead ones, making them stronger after consuming the demonic energy that lingered on the corpses.

"You want to push yourself to the limit?" Rullein asked. "Your chance of winning with just pure strength is extremely low, but you won't lose either because I don't think they can chew your body," she added.

Rasmus was too busy looking at his surroundings at the random attacks of the demonic beasts. He had to be aware of the claws, fangs, and tails of those creatures. He could easily defeat them by using Aura, but he didn't know what would come after him next if he revealed himself. The mission was not to eliminate the threat but rather to eliminate the source.

Aris and the others could hear the growls, roars, and screeches of the demonic beasts that echoed throughout the quiet night. They could feel the tremor under their feet, realizing that the numbers of the demonic beasts were at least a dozen. Aris couldn't sense any Rasmus' Mana, but she could smell his scent and she knew he was fine.

"He's fighting those creatures with just pure strength," Videl said, his arms crossed while listening to the terrifying sounds those creatures made. "Hope he didn't die," he said with a straight face.

Rasmus was covered in black gooey blood, losing friction of the swords' handles. The ground became slippery, and his body became heavy because of the blood that stuck on his clothes. On the other hand, the demonic beasts had surrounded him, observing him so they could launch a sneak attack.

Although Rasmus was surrounded, he was protected by the corpses around him. The corpses that acted as walls to protect him and gave those creatures so little space for them to find an opening. He took a deep breath and decided to close his eyes, showing his vulnerability to those mindless demonic beasts. In that moment, all of them charged at the same time, pushing and clawing each other so they could be the first one to feast on his body.

Rasmus stayed put, listening to how close they were from reaching him. The moment he opened his eyes, two of the wyrms lunged toward him but Rasmus immediately cut their heads in half simultaneously. More and more demonic beasts stacked on top of each other while Rasmus dodged and cut their heads one by one. He was stuck inside the pile of demonic beasts, but the less space he had, the less space for those gigantic creatures to reach him.

Yur watched as a massive pile of demonic beasts, shrieking in fear and concern for Rasmus' safety. However, in just a matter of minutes, the horrifying scene became quiet because all of the demonic beasts stopped moving. Yur was too scared to approach the pile until suddenly the pile was cut in half and Rasmus came out of it with the flood of black gooey blood.

"I'm not just using pure strength, but also my brain..." Rasmus stood up as he looked at his body soaked with pungent corrupted blood.

"I forgot that you were a dangerous killer back on Earth, the difference is just that you're unimaginably stronger here and the enemies too," Rullein chuckled, still nesting inside Rasmus' body. "But this is all such a waste. I could devour them, turning them into my own power, but I couldn't because we are restricted from using our power," she sounded sad and annoyed at the same time.

"You'll find your opportunity later..." Rasmus said as he removed his suit and shirt. "Let's head back to the group, Yur," he looked up at Yur who was relieved but still trembling in fear.

The silence made everyone worried until suddenly they saw a silhouette of a man in front of them. They were relieved that Rasmus was alive, but what shocked them was the fact he was fine, not even a single scratch on his body. However, the pungent smell made everyone lose their appetite because it was unbearable where they could taste it in their mouths.

"There's a river near... I suggest we go there so he could wash himself while we rest?" Doloran looked at Yur.

Yur agreed and led everyone to the river which was only an hour from where they were.

Rasmus dipped himself in the cold water and watched the black gooey blood being washed away. Lance lent his clothes to Rasmus to wear since they almost had the same body size. He was deep in thought as he washed his body when suddenly Aris came to see him.

"How was it?" Aris asked, sitting on the edge of the river.

"It was quite overwhelming," Rasmus answered as he splashed water onto his face. "My body wasn't strong enough to overpower their nature," he added as he rubbed his face. "You might be able to kill them all a lot faster and easier," he looked at Aris as he pulled his hair back.

"You haven't fully awakened your Orthias blood. You're only two steps away from becoming like me," Aris said as she looked at her reflection in the water. "Although, the problem isn't about why I haven't let you awakened, but rather if I should let you awaken," she looked at Rasmus.

Rasmus hummed as he nodded with understanding, knowing exactly what worried Aris.

"You're afraid of the Overlord's power within me," Rasmus said, revealing Aris' concern.

"Yes, and once it realizes your body is befitting to be consumed and conquered, I don't know if you can fight against it. That time when you first tried to exert its power, you were losing control of your body. Aristoria said that was nothing, not even worth mentioning compared to what that thing could do," Aris explained as she looked at Rasmus' body, imagining when that body would become the Overlord's vessel.

"Did my mother say anything? About how to control it?" Rasmus asked out of curiosity since Aris had been communicating with his late mother and at the same time Aris' predecessor.

"No, she hasn't said anything about it. But I know one thing that she doesn't want you to try to use that power often," Aris answered as she shook her head.

"I see," Rasmus nodded and then looked at the group that had been resting for quite a while. "I think we should start moving again. We can't be here for too long," he said as he walked out of the river and took the clothes off.

"I'll inform the others," Aris nodded as she stood up and then walked back to the group.

Rasmus stood there, putting the clothes on as he stared at Aris for a moment longer before he looked at his palm.

Chapter 516 - 516: Like ants in the room.

Their expedition was stopped many times because of the demonic beasts that had decided to come out of the mountain to hunt the down. Rasmus was the one who dealt with all of them on his own, and at that point they couldn't ignore his skills anymore. The more they knew about him, the less they thought of him as someone evil, arrogant, and full of himself. They realized that he didn't have any desire, not even a shred of ego in his words just pure intention to get rid of problems so they could achieve efficiency.

Doloran was the first one who understood why his wife, Marina and her twin sister Agnesia didn't mind Rasmus at all even though he had done many questionable deeds. He realized that Rasmus wouldn't hurt him or anyone in the group as long as he had no reason to. It was similar to the beasts that he had been accustomed to his whole life that Rasmus didn't hurt others for no reason, and if he did hurt someone, that meant he had his reason. However, that understanding also made him and everyone open their eyes that if Rasmus had decided to erase them, they wondered if they could be safe from him.

"You took care of them already?" Doloran asked out of curiosity. For the first time he struck up a conversation first with Rasmus.

"It's done, but something was off about them," Rasmus answered as he removed the gloves that Miguel had lent to him that had been covered in corrupted blood. "They're getting smarter," he added as he looked at Doloran and Lance since they were the experienced ones in dealing with Demonic Beasts.

"Smarter?" Lance furrowed his brows.

"They didn't attack aimlessly, they waited and they coordinated with each other," Rasmus explained as he cleaned the blades of his swords. "It was like they were being guided by something," he added.

"We don't know anything about that," Doloran said with a worried expression. "Does that mean those things have leaders? Just like any animals and beasts..." He slowly turned to look at the mountain where the peak was hidden by the thick clouds.

"But they weren't like that before," Yur said, floating beside Aris. "Back then, those demonic beasts were mindless and they were savages that killed everything that lived. Spirits couldn't stop them because they were many, not because they were smart," Yur added.

"I also don't sense anything different from the mountain. It feels the same as before, not even a slight changes," Yur looked at the mountain and listened to it since a Great Spirit like Yur could listen to anything.

"If Yur can't sense it, then how can we?" Marina muttered, her blank gaze pointed at the spot on the cliff with her brows raised.

At that moment, everyone looked at each other and they felt fear begin to crawl on their backs. Rasmus, Aris, Videl, and Serena shared the same look, a sign that something ominous lived among the demonic beasts. With that being said, they assumed that a powerful demon, one of the Prime Lords or something else was inside the Efiva mountain.

"Any guesses?" Aris asked as she looked at Rasmus, Videl, and Serena.

The three of them shook their heads, not knowing what kind of danger was ahead of them.

"Should keep doing this cat and mouse play?" Cierra asked as she looked at everyone. "I have a bad feeling about this. I feel like we are being played and being lured toward something that we can't handle," she added.

Aris couldn't stop thinking about what Rasmus had said before the expedition, about them making a mistake for going here. Not to mention that a being called Belial also appeared out of nowhere ever since they started the expedition to the Efiva mountain. As a leader, this put an undeniable pressure on her, realizing that it wasn't easy because she would be responsible for everything that happened here.

"What should we do? I believe everyone feels the same way," Agnesia looked at Aris.

Aris looked everyone in the eye, from the left all the way to the right. Her gaze lingered at Rasmus longer than it should as if she was hoping that he would give her something for her to consider. However, Rasmus didn't even make a single facial expression, not even a single movement of the muscles on his face.

"We are so close from seeing the source of this corruption. We will see what it is and we will leave after. We need to understand what we are dealing with before we can find the solution," Aris answered without a single doubt on her face. "Yur, lead the way," she turned to look at Yur.

Everyone nodded with understanding since Aris was right that they needed any kind of information about the origin of demonic beasts. With that being said, they followed Yur to the cave where it used to be a path that only spirits used to enter the mountain.

It took them two hours to finally arrive, but they were shocked when there was just a small crack in the wall. It was so small that only ants could enter the crack, and they wondered how they could fit into that.

"I hope this still works..." Yur said and placed its tiny hand on the crack.

The wall slowly vaporized like dry ice being heated, allowing the crack to widen until the wall turned into a mouth cave. It was big enough to fit Doloran inside, and so they all went inside the crack in complete darkness. Thankfully, Yur's body could glow in the dark, acting as a guide and a light for them to follow and see around them.

It was a safe tunnel just like Yur had predicted since both ends of the tunnel could only be opened by spirits. They were safe there, but the further they went, the less they felt calm. They could feel the ceilings tremble and could hear faint sounds of demonic beasts.

After they walk that felt like an eternity, they finally arrived at the other side of the tunnel. They watched Yur stare at the wall, trying to check if it was safe on the other side of the wall. When Yur placed its hand on the wall, everyone unconsciously held their breath.

The moment the wall evaporated, Doloran and the others immediately covered their noses. The pungent smell was so bad that it hurt their nostrils and they could feel the headache inside their skulls. The damp air with the pungent smell and the extreme heat made it unbearable, but they tried their best to endure it without gagging.

Doloran and the others had to wrap a thick cloth around their faces, but even so, the smell was still strong. They looked at Rasmus, Videl, and Serena who were unbothered by all that, shocking them even further.

"Come follow me, but be very quiet..." Yur's voice was barely above a whisper as Yur placed its tiny index finger on its lips.

Not a single of them made a sound as they followed Yur because their lives depended on their own ability to not make a sound. The place was still dark, but not pitch black and their eyes had gotten used to the darkness, allowing them to see a little. When the right wall was no longer covering them, that was when they finally saw the mountain's dwellers with pale faces, even Aris, Rasmus, Yur, Videl, and Serena were unsettled by it.

They were like ants walking on the side of the ceiling, looking down at a room filled with hundreds of thousands or even millions of powerful demonic beasts. They knew and had seen how big the Efiva

mountain was, but they didn't expect the inside was full of those gigantic demonic beasts, swarming and fighting each other. The sorcerers, the witch, the warlock, and the druid, all of them felt it when their knees gave up out of fear. Doloran and Lance almost lost their strength, but they managed to grab the wall behind them.

"If these things were released..." Rasmus paused, trying to calculate the damage, but it was too much for him to calculate.

"No humans could survive. These things would swarm the whole continent," Serena added with her eyes narrowed.

Videl's eyes scanned through countless wyrms, drakes, and even wyverns that had been corrupted. He was looking for it, the Womb of the Mother, the cause and the source of those abominations. Suddenly, he saw it, a glimpse of it that was hidden underneath an odd wall formation, a big slimy glob that looked like an organ that was pulsating slowly, releasing a black substance with a pungent smell.

"There..." Videl pointed at the Womb of the Mother.

Everyone averted their attentions toward the spot where Videl pointed at. They finally found it, the source of the demonic beasts that had haunted Neva long before humans existed. They witnessed the birth of a demonic beast that they didn't know it was possible. They watched a wyrm come out of the Mother of the Womb, covered in black gooey substance and began to drink and eat the substance on its body and on the ground.

"You said it couldn't produce anything," Rasmus muttered next to Videl.

"Now we know it can," Videl narrowed his eyes, finding it disturbing because something felt wrong about everything in this place.

Chapter 517 - 517: The leader of all leaders.

They observed for as long as they could because they wanted to understand how a creature that looked like a slime could give birth to demonic beasts. They were safe up there, so they gathered as much

information as they could. They also remembered what Rasmus found out that someone or something might have controlled the demonic beasts.

"I don't see any of them that looked like a leader," Doloran whispered, and looked at thousands of tunnels where demonic beasts moved in and out. "If there's a leader, they should be here because that blob thingy is here. They should protect it," he added.

They couldn't use their abilities because the demonic beasts would sense them. The only one who could do it was Yur, but even so, Yur couldn't find anything.

"There's nothing, I can't sense anything different from any of them," Yur said with a confused look. "Are you sure about that, Rasmus?" Yur looked at Rasmus with furrowed brows.

"I'm—" Before Rasmus could finish his sentence, his eyes looked at Aris' spatial ring. "Your ring is blowing," he said as he looked at Aris.

Everyone looked at Aris' hand and saw the ring glowed light blue. They realized it emitted Mana, and knew that the demonic beasts could sense it. Aris didn't know what had happened and she didn't know what to do because it wasn't her doing.

"I can't stop it..." Aris said as she covered her finger where she wore the ring, trying to suppress the Mana that it emitted. "We need to get out of here, now!" She said, even though she knew it would be too late.

The moment the light passed through Aris' hand, that was when everyone stood there frozen. The lair of demonic beasts that was filled with roar, hiss, and growl suddenly went quiet. Rasmus and the others slowly moved their eyes to the side and looked down. Millions of glowing red eyes were pointed at them, glaring and showing off their razor-sharp teeth.

"Run!" Agnesia said loudly as she watched the swarm of demonic beasts climb the walls so quickly.

Rasmus, Aris, Serena, and Videl stayed behind, and even Rullein had decided to come out to join them. They were going to deal with those demonic beasts and let the others escape safely. However, they

thought the demonic beasts were going to chase them, but it turned out the demonic beasts entered the tunnels as if they were running in a hurry.

Doloran stopped running when he also noticed that the demonic beasts weren't chasing them. Everyone decided to stop as well and went to look at what was happening and why the demonic beasts didn't chase after them.

"Aris, the energy that your ring emitted..." Rullein said, her eyes fixated on Aris' ring.

Aris and Rasmus looked at the glowing blue light around Aris' ring. They felt and saw the familiarity of the energy it emitted, and that was when they both realized it was the energy that the Dragon's Breath emitted. The only answer to why it suddenly acted that way, was revealed the moment the whole mountain trembled and seemed like it was about to collapse.

The weirdly formed wall behind the Womb of the Mother suddenly moved. They thought it was going to collapse, but instead it rose up as the rocks crumbled from it. They slowly saw a glowing dark orange eye with its slit pupil that glared at the energy of the Dragon's Breath. The eye that was so big it made the gigantic drakes look like small ants in front of a human eye.

"Is that a True Dragon?!" Cierra's eyes widened in disbelief, her pupils trembled in fear. "A True Dragon still exists..." She slowly covered her mouth, couldn't comprehend what she saw.

"It's not..." Rullein's eyes glowed dark orange and stared back at the dragon's eye as if she was staring at the mirror. "That thing is an undead, soulless. This whole mountain is its final resting place..." She revealed as the mountain began to collapse.

At that moment, they found out that the mountain's root was different compared to the other mountains. The root of the Efiva Mountain wasn't just crusts that stacked on top of each other but rather a body of a dragon that lay beneath it. Since the dragon had awakened from its slumber, the mountain was in the brink of collapsing.

"This is bad! The demonic beasts are leaving the mountain and they seem to be running toward where the humans live!" Yur shouted after Yur sensed the vibration outside the mountain.

"We have no time for this..." Aris pulled out Aristoria's sword and was immediately imbued with her energy as she turned and stared at the thick wall.

Aris swung her sword upward vertically, cutting the mountain open and then slashed rapidly around the cut. The wall crumbled and created a big opening for them to leave the inside of the mountain faster. Without thinking for a moment, everyone followed Aris out of the mountain to stop the demonic beasts.

"That Dragon's Breath reacted to that dragon. Now we know how the spirits possessed that Dragon's Breath in the first place," Rasmus said as he ran beside Aris. "We just brought his soul back, and now he wants it back," he glanced over his shoulder as the Efiva mountain began to collapse.

"You were right, we might have caused something unnecessary here," Aris said as she saw the outside in the distance.

Once they breathed the fresh air and saw the starry night sky, they saw hundreds of thousands of demonic beasts crawling out of the mountain from different exits. The swarm of gigantic demonic beasts with their big steps ran toward where the Brithia Kingdom and the neighboring nations were. They also didn't have time to wait because the mountain was sinking rapidly, and they had to leave the mountain's ground as soon as possible.

Yur, Agnesia, and Marina flew up high into the sky and immediately reformed the terrain, creating a natural massive wall that surrounded the mountain. They tried their best to prevent the demonic beasts from going any further, but that was when the corrupted wyverns flew toward them and released dragon breaths and tried to tear them into pieces with their razor-sharp teeth and claws. Thankfully, Yur's Mana barrier was too powerful for the wyverns to destroy and allowed Yur, Agnesia, and Marina to deal with the swarm.

Rullein and Videl didn't let the opportunity go to waste and immediately jumped off the mountain to hunt the demonic beasts. The three sorcerers, the witch, and the warlock also tried to help Agnesia and Marina to keep the demonic beasts with them while the rest ran down the mountain as fast as they could.

Rullein and Videl landed as their feet stomped onto the ground harder than it already was. The ground moved like a tidal wave before it sunk and made a few demonic beasts trapped underneath. Rullein released black smoke around her arms before the smoke solidified and became two greatswords in her hands. She moved and attacked like lightning, zapping from one side to another rapidly that the naked

eyes couldn't see her movements at all. On the other hand, Videl released slashwaves by swinging his hands as he went to the opposite side of Rullein's and feasted on the demonic beasts.

"My God, those two could kill demonic beasts like they were flies..." Lance watched how Rullein and Videl massacred demonic beasts without any sign of fear or hesitation as he ran down the mountain with the others. "Thankfully everyone is capable of preventing the swarm from leaving."

Not long after Lance said that, the wyverns stopped attacking and suddenly they all flew up high into the sky and flew toward the human nations, spreading so it would be impossible for Yur, Agnesia, and Marina from catching them all. Not only that, the drakes had to dig the wall of rock that blocked their paths while the wyrms burrowed into the ground, creating tunnels that allowed them to move beyond the wall. That was when everyone saw what Rasmus meant that something was guiding and commanding those demonic beasts. They finally found out that the True Dragon was the one who commanded them, the leader of all leaders.

When the colossal mountain of Efiva collapsed and sunk into the ground, the magnitude of the earthquake was felt across the whole continent. It was late at night when everyone was awoken by the earthquake and most of the buildings collapsed due to the intensity of the earthquake. They were terrified of what was going on and they had no idea why a massive earthquake suddenly hit the continent.

"What's going on over there..." Erlina hugged herself, standing outside the palace because it was unsafe to stay inside while Carrion stood behind her, protecting her.

"Whatever is happening there, I have a bad feeling about this," Carrion said as he held Erlina's upper arms tightly.

Erlina hummed in agreement while everyone around them were panicking because they were afraid that the palace might collapse.

The earthquake only got intensified as the minute went by, and if the people saw what Rasmus saw, they all would faint because the Efiva mountain had turned into a pit of abyss with a pair of glowing dark orange eyes that stared at him from it. That was when a True Dragon finally revealed itself, a body that had been hardened and molted by rocks that had surfaced from the abyss and flew up high into the sky. A dragon that spread its wings that were wider than the mountain itself. That was when they saw the Womb of the Mother, many of them that had merged with the dragon's body like tumors that had spread all over its body.

"That's the same dragon that we saw in that void realm..." Rasmus said as he looked up into the sky where the True Dragon flew in between two moonlights. "Now we are certain the owner of that Dragon's Breath."

"Yes, and I'm not confident that I can defeat it on my own..." Aris muttered as she clenched the sword tightly. "We need to get rid of it no matter what," her gaze was cold and sharp as she stared at the True Dragon who was majestically spreading its wings, roaring and bringing storms in its wake.

Chapter 518 - 518: Primeval.

East Neva suddenly turned into chaos because after the earthquake stopped, they saw a silhouette of a dragon behind the storm. They were petrified when flashes of lightning in the distance revealed the magnificent and the terror of a primeval being. Their shock, awe, fear, and terror shattered when they heard the sound of a True Dragon's roar.

The primal fear of all living creatures surfaced when a True Dragon showed itself to the world. It was a sight of how all living creatures bent down and realized they were inferior beings. That fear made everyone panic and tried to leave the continent as fast as they could.

It was similar to the group, everyone was trembling in fear, their strength suddenly disappeared. They were powerless not because of primal fear, but because the Mana within their bodies were being absorbed by the True Dragon. At that moment they all had their existential crisis, realizing they were a speck of dust in the scale of a True Dragon. The only ones who could stand tall in the presence of a True Dragon were Rasmus, Aris, Rullein, Videl, and Serena, the five individuals that were outside of human logic.

Serena went to save Agneisa, Yur, Marina, and the three Sorcerers, using her divine power that made tentacles-like energy. She caught them and flew toward where Doloran and the others were because they had to protect them as well from the danger that was about to come.

"(Let some of them leave)" Rasmus telepathically spoke with Rullein.

"(You want to let these demonic beasts free?)" Rullein asked as she butchered and devoured the demonic beasts that she had slain.

"(This is a chance to pull the Prime Lords out in this continent. We'll create problems for them to see it as their chance)" Rasmus answered as he glanced at the demonic beasts that were about to escape from the wall that isolated them from the outside world. "(We don't have enough power to stop a True Dragon. So I need you here, Videl as well)" He added and looked up at the True Dragon controlling the weather as the lightning struck its colossal body, breaking the stones that had formed on its body.

Rullein hummed with understanding and decided to wipe a third of the swarm. She turned into her true form, a black smoke that formed like a dragon that grew bigger and bigger. She used her wings and absorbed all the emotions of the demonic beasts and their life force. She never feasted on this scale, even the war against Satan's army was nothing compared to this.

Videl on the other hand also subtly released his power, blending in with the demonic energy that the demonic beasts oozed. He devoured the demonic energy from them until they all dried up in just a matter of seconds. He also received the same words from Rasmus telepathically, and he had his fill for the day.

After both Videl and Rullein took care of more than half of the swarm, they went back to Rasmus' side. Aris had worn Aristoria's armor, and she was ready to fight the True Dragon with everything she had. Rasmus looked over his shoulder at the swarm leaving the mountain area and heading toward the human nations. Agnesia and the others were furious at themselves that they were overwhelmed by fear and couldn't stop the swarm. They knew that Rasmus and the others had to prioritize the biggest threat, the True Dragon, so they couldn't blame them for ignoring the swarm.

The True Dragon hadn't flapped its wings once, and it floated in the sky by using Mana that it had absorbed. Once its body was freed from the molten rocks that were weighting it down, the True Dragon finally flapped its wings once. The mountains could be blown off by the storm and hurricane that the True Dragon's wings created. The trees and their roots were blown off like dandelion's seeds while the ground folded and the wall of rock shredded into pieces.

Serena created a divine barrier that protected Agnesia and the others as they witnessed the true power of a primeval being. They watched giant boulders of rocks flying around into the sky along with the giant trees like feathers. Cliffs and the ground were shredded by the fierce hurricane, and if it wasn't for Serena, they had turned into juice.

"What's the plan?" Rasmus asked as he looked at Aris.

"I don't know," Aris shook her head.

Rasmus glanced at Serena, and when their eyes met, he tilted his head to the side. He signaled to her to bring Doloran and the others away from the battle because Videl wouldn't be able to use his power if there was anyone watching. Serena nodded with understanding. Instead of wasting her time escorting them away from danger, she used her divine energy that made all of them feel at ease until they slowly grew tired and exhausted that they couldn't resist. All of them collapsed and fell unconscious, and she made sure they wouldn't be able to wake up in their dreams unless she woke them up.

"Then, we should stop whatever it's trying to do. We can't let this creature to fall in Satan's hand," Rasmus said as cold mist began to come out of his pores. "Kill it if it's possible," he looked at Aris, Rullein, and Videl.

They all nodded their heads and prepared themselves to fight the strongest being in Neva.

Videl didn't hesitate to show his one of his many forms, a devil that was three times taller than Aris with its long horns on his forehead and the abyss in his eye sockets. His arms were longer than his legs, so that his hands reached all the way to the ground. He ripped his back and let his fleshy red wings spread widely, pulsating like they were breathing. He had three sharp bone tails, rattling when they were dragged and brushed against the rock, leaving clean cuts like the rock was made of butter.

Rasmus wrapped his body in ice armor, his black swords turned cold, making them unimaginably denser and sharper. His eyes glowed bright blue as tears fell because of the immense pain he felt inside, the tears that suddenly froze and spread across his face, turning into a mask.

Aris was in a trance state where she was being connected with Aristoria's consciousness. She felt that her body was no longer hers, and her mind was no longer hers. Her hair grew longer and her silver hair had a hint of light blue color that moved like flowing water as her eyes began to glow bright blue just like Rasmus.

Rullein didn't hold back either, she used the power she gained after feasting on the demonic beasts. She grew bigger and bigger as a shadow, floating on the far back with her massive shadowy wings that waved like flags. She looked like the angel of death with two swords in her hands that could easily cut

the mountain in half with a mere swing. Her size was a third of the True Dragon's size, and she could be the answer to the threat in front of them.

"Four instead of three, or perhaps five..." Aristoria whispered into Aris' ear. "A Devil, a Saint from Hell, a Dark Spirit, an Aristoria, and Rasmus, my child, a man from another world..." She hummed, glancing at each individual that could withstand the True Dragon's presence without wavering.

The True Dragon finally glanced down at the four of them, realizing that they had become a treat to its existence. When it roared to show dominance, everything was flattened, the mountains, the hills, the mess, the storms, and the hurricane, all of them disappeared. That roar was enough to make them all feel the danger in their heads, but Videl and Rullein couldn't suppress the grin on their faces.

"Follow my lead, Aris," Aristoria whispered. "If you want to kill it, I can help you," she offered.

Aris glanced at Rasmus, noticing that he was slowly being forced to use the Overlord's power. She was worried and concerned for Rasmus, she then thought to herself what if she was the one who let herself become one with Aristoria instead of Rasmus being devoured by the Overlord. She didn't want her life to be predetermined, to prove that Aristoria was right all along that she was meant to be taken away by Aristoria. She wondered what would be the problem in becoming one with Aristoria, what if her fear was just an illusion, and that wouldn't affect her at all.

"You can take control of my body, Aristoria," Aris said as she stared coldly at the True Dragon.

Rasmus who heard Aris' words slowly turned his head to look at her. Aris knew that Rasmus was staring at her, but she didn't want to look at him. She felt fear for the first time, fear of seeing his reaction, expression, and what kind of stare he gave her.

"I will give your body back..." Aristoria's voice that was from next to Aris' ear slowly moved into her skull. Her voice was no longer a voice, but turned into a thought.

Aris felt like she was being pulled away from her body until she was completely outside her own body. She then watched Aristoria take her body, and slowly turned her head toward Rasmus.

"She's safe, I can promise you that," Aris's voice turned into Aristoria's voice that gave Rasmus goosebumps. "Finally, we can see each other, Rasmus, my child," she smiled softly at Rasmus.

Chapter 519 - 519: The World's Will.

"A dragon has no weakness. Their bodies don't decay, their scales are unbreakable, they have infinite Mana, and they are capable of doing something called reverse creations," Aristoria revealed to Rasmus and the others. "What you're facing isn't just a powerful being, but a manifestation of the world's will," she added and looked at Rasmus. "I know what you are, but with your current power, that's impossible to kill that thing," she turned her head to look at Videl.

Videl had never been looked down upon before, but there was something about Aristoria that made him accept his inferiority in the face of a True Dragon. There was something about her that made Videl attracted to her than he wanted to admit.

"It's invincible?" Rasmus asked, his voice suppressed and rough as if something constantly wanted to take over his mind and body.

"They are, but not this one, not when the soul is in my hand," Aristoria glanced at the spatial ring she wore where the Dragon's Breath was stored. "Without a soul, it has no will over the world. The world doesn't take command of a dead being, so we will find its weakness," she answered as she pointed her sword at the breathing and beating tumors that covered the True Dragon's chest, neck, and back.

Everyone knew what to do and their objective turned from defeating the True Dragon to removing its source of temporary power.

"I'll fight it head on, all of you can help me or find an opening to remove those things from its body," Aristoria said as she readied her stance, her gaze sharp and focused. "Ready?" She asked with her brows raised, her gaze never leaving the True Dragon's eyes, making sure that she was the main threat.

The True Dragon roared as it flapped its wings and slowly ascending even further. As soon as Rasmus and the others nodded, Aristoria jumped and flew toward the True Dragon without hesitation. They were surprised that she would make a move immediately, and so they tried to follow her and try to position themselves.

The True Dragon roared and released a dense and blinding beam from its mouth down toward Aristoria. Aristoria's body glowed bright blue and didn't try to dodge the beam. She blocked it with her sword as she absorbed the energy of the beam, fueling and amplifying her own energy and power. That was Rasmus, Videl, Rullein, Aris, and Serena found out why Aristoria was a powerful race of Orthias. Aristoria was allowed to absorb all kinds of power and turn it into her own power, something that Aris hadn't mastered yet, especially the power itself came from the True Dragon.

Aris watched her own body get exposed by the beam, but the light that her body emitted prevented the beam from hitting the body directly. The radiation from the beam was enough to crack her body, but Aristoria wasn't bothered about it because the more it entered her body, the more powerful the light she emitted.

Rullein who saw that as an opportunity, disappeared and reappeared above the True Dragon, pointing her blades downward at the Womb of the Mother. She thought she had an opening, but it turned out the True Dragon also had a similar barrier that Aristoria had created. Her essence was being absorbed by the barrier, draining her power rapidly. However she immediately pulled her swords away and flew as far as she could when the True Dragon used its tail to protect its back from her. She managed to dodge it by dispersing and reforming again.

Videl found that as a challenge, and so he stretched his right arm toward the True Dragon when a dense dark red energy sucked the True Dragon's and Aristoria's Mana. A white ball of light formed on his palm, a light that was so bright that it turned everything dark rapidly because it absorbed all the light. The night sky became pitch black in just a matter of a few seconds were one blinding light lit Videl's hand.

Aristoria had never seen anything like that before, and she didn't care when her energy was being absorbed at all. The moment Videl released the beam, it was light an instant beam that reached even into outer space. That beam was seen by everyone in the world like a falling star with a tail that seemed to have no end. The beam pierced through the True Dragon's barrier and body. Although it was enough to create a clean hole in the True Dragon's body, it immediately regenerated.

Although it might seem useless and pointless, it wasn't for both Rasmus and Rullein. They flew toward the True Dragon that had lost its barrier, but the True Dragon suddenly nuzzled into its wings, protecting itself and its body. They thought it was an act of defense, but then Aristoria shouted at both of them.

"Get back!" Aristoria ordered.

Rasmus and Rullein glanced at Aristoria for a moment before they suddenly redirected their trajectory without showing any doubt. In almost an instant, the True Dragon's body glowed brightly, releasing gamma rays that turned the whole field into ashes in an instant. Everyone created their strongest barrier to protect themselves from whatever was about to be released.

The moment the True Dragon spread its wings, the gamma rays turned the night into bright daylight. Hundreds of miles from where the True Dragon was had turned into ashes, everything was disintegrated. That was when they found out how terrifying a True Dragon truly was, even Rasmus couldn't help but feel fear that slowly consumed him from within.

Although it looked like they had no chance of winning, they noticed the Womb of the Mother that acted like tumors on the True Dragon's body had been damaged. The True Dragon used that ability to get rid of all the threats around it, but even with that attack, it wasn't enough to kill or even harm them. The True Dragon roared and began to flap its wings relentlessly before it suddenly flew higher into the sky.

"We can't let it leave! Chase after it because this is our chance!" Aristoria ordered as she flew and broke layers of air and sound that gradually and rapidly increased her speed.

They all flew as fast as they could, and even with Rasmus who saw things move very slowly still couldn't catch up on Aris and even the True Dragon. For a colossal being to fly that fast was unbelievable even for him.

The True Dragon knew that they were chasing after it, so the True Dragon spread its wings, leaving balls of light and spreading them as it flew away. The moment they were in the proximity of the balls, those balls exploded and created a powerful nuclear destruction level. The world saw a level of calamity that they had never witnessed before.

"A True Dragon, I didn't know it still exist in this world..." Satan glanced at the sky where her eyes could see the magnificentness of God's creation that even she found it unsettling that something like this existed in the world of the living. "This reminds me of the glimpse of power you used to possess, Lucifer," she glanced at Illidan, who finally showed his desire to take back the power he used to possess.

"Yes, it is beautiful..." Illidan muttered, her eyes never leaving the dragon that released endless world destruction power like it was nothing. "Should we intercept it? Take it as ours?" She turned to look at Satan.

"No, we are powerless right now," Satan shook her head. "But I do hate when Videl gain power from this," she hummed, thinking of a solution for an unexpected event.

"Please devour my brethren's power," Illidan lowered her head, there was no hesitation or doubt in her words.

"No," Satan shook her head once again, but this time she was more determined than the previous answer. "That scale of power, if Videl tried to consume it, he would be devoured instead. That being is above our level right now," she explained, thinking that she needed to make a move.

On the other hand, Sanya was currently in the palace with Morigane and the others. She had just arrived at Central Neva and she didn't expect to find out that Aris and the others were hunting a True Dragon. She saw something that she had almost forgotten, something that reminded her of the past.

"Lady Sanya, how can a True Dragon still exists?!" Moriganne asked, her whole body trembled, tears blocked her vision and she couldn't stop the tears from coming out as if it was protecting her from witnessing something that she shouldn't.

"If I knew, I wouldn't let that thing fly free like that," Sanya answered, her expression cold and filled with suspicions. "It seems my answer has been answered, there's no need for me to stay here any longer," she said as she walked past the powerful figures around her.

"What are you going to do, Lady Sanya?" Monica asked before Sanya could leave the room.

"To help an old friend," Sanya answered without looking back as she left the room and closed the door behind her.

Chapter 520 - 520: Aristoria's power.

Aristoria flew above the True Dragon, finally catching up with it after the True Dragon showed a sign of exhaustion. The four of them followed the True Dragon all the way beyond the East Neva and had entered the North Neva continent. Aristoria knew where the True Dragon was heading, and she didn't want it to go to the Dragon's Maw.

"Rullein!" Aristoria shouted as her gaze fixed on the tumor on the True Dragon's back.

Rullein who heard Aristoria's voice immediately dispersed and reappeared behind Aristoria. Rullein gained a new knowledge about her power, and it was Aristoria who taught her. Rullein didn't realize that when someone with strong emotions like anger, hatred, and resentment were released, she could move through space and time to be where that person was to leech and even possess them. Aristoria could manipulate such emotions and release something similar from within her, allowing Rullein to be by her side in an instant.

"Lend me your power," Aristoria said as she pointed her sword at the tumor on the True Dragon's back.

Rullein didn't hesitate and transferred her energy into Aristoria's body. Aristoria purified Rullein's energy and power, turning them into her own. Rullein gave almost everything that she had to Aristoria until the point where she slowly disappeared into thin air and went back to where her core was, which was inside Rasmus' body. The power was so overwhelming for Aris' body that Aristoria had to be careful or Aris' body would be damaged beyond repair.

The whole moment, Rasmus observed Aristoria with a cold gaze, dissecting her like an anomaly that needed to be treated as a threat. Although he knew that Aristoria wasn't trying to take over Aris' body, he also knew that she hadn't told the whole truth about her plan. He wanted to anticipate when the possible future would force him to fight her.

Aris' hair suddenly grew longer and longer to the point her body could be covered with her hair. The light blue translucent color of Aris' body looked both beautiful and threatening. There was another thing that changed from Aris' appearance, and that was when a horn-like crown made of Mana was wrapped around her head. There were a lot of things that Rasmus knew nothing about an Aristoria's kin and what they were capable of.

Aristoria suddenly spun around as her body glowed bright blue, absorbing all the light into her. When she suddenly stopped spinning, there was an explosion that happened inside her body that made her move hundreds of meters in just a blink of an eye, leaving a beautiful light blue trail. The trail showed evidence of her movements from where she was to where she went. The trail showed her sword moves as soon as it was close to the tumor and it went all the way down to the True Dragon's neck until the trail showed where Aristoria was, which was beneath the True Dragon's body.

The tumors were cut off clean from the True Dragon's body, releasing immense demonic energy into the air. Videl didn't hesitate to absorb the demonic energy, making it his before Aristoria decided to purify it.

The True Dragon suddenly lost its power and lost its ability to fly. The True Dragon was free-falling toward the frozen sea below. But it wasn't just the True Dragon that lost its power, Aristoria also lost all her power after releasing such a move. Rasmus flew toward Aristoria and used Mana to pull her toward her until he secured her in his arms.

Aristoria was barely conscious when Rasmus caught her, and she stared into Rasmus' eyes, searching for something in them. There was only silence for a moment before Rasmus noticed a small crack in her face, near her left jawline all the way down to her neck. He could see Mana was seeping out of her body like a stream of water.

"I will apologize to her," Aristoria said with a weak smile as she closed her eyes. "For now, we need to secure the True Dragon," she said weakly, her eyes fluttered open.

Rasmus glanced down and saw the True Dragon's body turn bright right as the atmosphere resisted its colossal body. He watched the True Dragon hit the frozen sea and the whole world could feel the impact. The sea was completely frozen all the way down, so instead of sinking, the True Dragon created a massive crater and cracked the whole northern sea.

Rasmus and Videl landed next to the giant crater, a crater that was at least three hundred meters deep and dozens of kilometers wide. They both stared at the creature that was called the World's Will inside the crater, realizing what kind of world it was back then when there were hundreds and even thousands of them. What made both of them unsettled was the fact that True Dragons were annihilated.

Rasmus was deep in thought, thinking about what kind of unimaginable power he should possess if one day the same event repeated itself. If he couldn't even touch one undead True Dragon, how could he even fight something that could make the whole True Dragon race extinct.

"Put me down..." Aristoria said weakly as she placed her hand on Rasmus' chest. "I'm fine now..." She muttered.

Rasmus slowly lowered his back and let Aristoria stand on her own. He was still under the Overlord's influence when Aristoria suddenly pressed her hand harder against the frozen armor that he wore. Suddenly Rasmus felt warmth all over his body as the frozen armor evaporated and he was no longer in pain. He was surprised that Aristoria could push the Overlord's power away from his body, and that made him even more wary of her.

"You shouldn't rely on that power. Aris doesn't want you to rely on it," Aristoria stared into Rasmus' eyes. "I know you don't want it either, and that's why Aris chose to let me take over her body momentarily," she revealed as she tapped Rasmus' chest gently.

"That was the only choice that could make a difference," Rasmus answered.

Aristoria hummed and nodded with understanding. She knew that, and she couldn't blame him for relying on it when a True Dragon suddenly appeared. She also didn't expect that a True Dragon could be corrupted by something like that. She also had so many questions related to their discovery, and why something like that could exist in this world, a vile thing that went unnoticed by so many civilizations.

The three of them suddenly felt a presence in the distance, and they all turned to look where the presence was. The thick cold mist blocked their vision until suddenly they saw a silhouette of a person wearing a robe walking toward them. When they heard a snap, the mist was dispersed and it was revealed who it was.

"Sanya," Aristoria said as she stared at her with an unreadable expression.

"That voice," Sanya crossed her arms as she stared into Aristoria's eyes. "You came back?" She asked with her brows raised.

"No, this body still belongs to Aris, not mine. I'm only borrowing it for a moment," Aristoria answered as she shook her head.

There was an undeniable tension in the air between the two, even Videl found it intriguing. Rasmus could feel the tension as well, it was a tension between someone who had been betrayed but also longing at the same time. He wondered why those two had that kind of tension even though he had seen pieces of past memories of them that showed nothing like this.

Sanya hummed and then she glanced at Rasmus, her gaze fixed on him, observing him. When their eyes met, that was when Rasmus felt like she had seen everything about him as if he was bare naked in her eyes.

"So? What happened?" Sanya asked as she stared at Aristoria, not taking a step closer and keeping a big distance between them.

"It's a long story," Aristoria answered.

"I'm all ears," Sanya responded with a smile that didn't reach her eyes.

(At the same time near the Efiva Mountain or it used to be)

Serena removed the barrier when she knew it was safe. She was about to wake Doloran and the others up when suddenly she felt a faint demonic energy coming from the pit of the abyss. She narrowed her eyes and decided to walk toward the pit to see what it was.

She carefully walked on the rocks until she reached the edge of the pit. She took a deep breath when she noticed the demonic energy grew stronger the closer she was from the pit. She felt something was off as she slowly looked down to see what it was, but there was nothing but darkness.

"My my..." A woman's voice could be heard from behind Serena.

At that moment, Serena felt chills down her spine and immediately turned around. That was when she saw Satan standing right in front of her with a cold smile on her face.

"That was quite a show, isn't it?" Satan leaned in and suddenly pushed Serena into the pit of the abyss.