

Extras 511

Chapter 511 Sacrifice [Pt 2]

Forced Magic Activation.

It was the a forbidden technique among Mages, but for some... it could be considered something of a trump card—albeit a temporary one.

Once a Mage's Mana was depleted, they could never use Magic no matter how hard they tried. The Spell just wouldn't activate regardless of the means.

However, Forced Magic Activation bypassed this by inducing one critical element into the mix.

—Sacrifice.

Just as there was a way for Martial Artists to exponentially increase their abilities by sacrificing their Life Force to grow stronger, Mages could also let go of something incredibly important to attain a temporary burst of power.

They would have to let go of Mana itself.

Despite what was displayed by the system, every Mage—no, perhaps every human, really—had a secret stockpile of Mana within them.

This stockpile of Mana was what made it possible for anyone to grow Magic and develop Skills and Classes if they practiced over time. Many considered it a representation of latent abilities embedded in everyone, waiting to be manifested.

It was trite that zero multiplied by zero was still zero, and that it was impossible for something to emerge from nothing. So, once a Mage depleted their Mana, where did this refill over time come from?

From this same stockpile of Mana.

Without it, Mages would have no way to grow any further than they already had, and they would likewise be crippled if they drained everything at once.

In essence... they would never be able to use Magic again.

This was why Forced Magic Activation was a forbidden technique, but the Otherworlders still learned it during their compulsory education.

The hidden stockpile was an essential part of Magic learning, so Lucielle and their other Magic Tutors had to reference it one way or the other. They never went in-depth on it, though.

Being the inquisitive one, however, Eric went and asked Lucielle all about it after classes.

She did him the service of properly explaining everything about the latent stockpile of Mana and Forced Magic Activation to him, just as he wanted.

However, she told one thing after—something like a word of warning.

"Don't ever use it, Eric. You'll completely ruin your prospects as a Mage."

As those words now echoed in the mind of the young Mage who closed his eyes and channeled that hidden power within him, more tears flowed down his eyes.

'I'm sorry, Lucielle... but I have to disobey you.' Sparks of Mana began to emerge from him as he focused everything on his wand.

He ignored the jagged blade that approached him at a rapid rate, instead focusing on the flow of Mana that coursed through his body.

It was possible to eliminate only his own arrow and not completely drain the Mana that was within him, but Eric knew he couldn't stop there.

He had to save everyone—stop all of the arrows that emerged from the Curse Magic.

And so, he released all the energy that he had pent-up within himself in one swift and powerful burst.

[Absolute Interference] instantly activated, dissolving all the jagged blades the moment his wave of energy was sent forth.

"Ahh..."

This release of pure, unfiltered Magic, sent the entire area around Eric into a state of absolute lull. It felt like time had suddenly slowed down, and the tension around him was completely gone.

Everything felt like an illusion, and the fleeting essence of Mana began to depart from him.

He was in bliss, but he also felt something else.

'I won't be able to use Magic anymore. It seems... all my dreams end here.' A sad smile played on his face as he looked at the faces of his allies.

Justin was still falling, so Eric decided to use his last ounce of Mana to protect him.

The boy in glasses raised his hand, pointing his wand in the direction of the rapidly descending boy.

Everything felt so slow... so surreal.

Eric felt like he could take his sweet time, and that this moment would last for an eternity.

But he didn't.

"Wind Cus—!" Before Eric could complete his Spell, he suddenly felt something.

... Something very ominous.

~SQUELCH!~

He felt something pierce him from behind, ripping apart a hole in his chest.

Eric's surreal state could not properly process pain, or almost any sensation, so the moment he felt a complete hole dug through his chest, the first thing he did was look down.

He saw a hand protruding from his chest—almost like that of a female, with scaly skin and massive claws.

His entire chest was ripped open by this arm, and before he could even process why and how, blood burst out of his chest.

"Ahh..." Eric realized it at that moment.

"Annoying pest. You're the one shutting off my Skills, aren't you?"

As he heard the disgruntled voice of the Dragon General, also listening to the splashing sound that his blood made as it poured on the ground before him, he understood it all.

Dragon General, Kar'en had pierced him with her hand, causing fatal damage that not even he could hope to reverse at this point.

His blurry vision turned to Alicia, but she wasn't even looking in his direction.

She was completely lost.

'It's too late, huh...?' Eric had no idea why his consciousness remained despite his heart being crushed and his body losing too much blood.

Perhaps it was because he still had some of that remnant Mana left inside him.

With its power, he raised his trembling arm and aimed his wand at his falling friend. A brilliant light shone from the stave, instantly generating a gust of wind to cushion Justin's descent so he wouldn't die.

'I didn't even need to chant or cast the Spell...' Eric smiled.

Who would have thought that he would attain such a level at this point—right when he was about to die.

As his consciousness faded, and the final vestiges of his Mana left his body, Eric decided on what would be his final legacy.

The last of his energy sparked brightly, and he whispered words only he could hear.

"[Absolute Explosion]"

And so, the last thing that he witnessed... was his glorious manifestation of destruction as it consumed both himself and the one who killed him.

A perfect explosion.

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMM!!!~

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Chapter 512 Sacrifice [Pt 3]

"ERIC, NO—!!!"

As Adonis stretched out his hand, the moment he saw that Eric had been stabbed by the Dragon General, he felt a dangerous crackle around the boy.

Then—

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!~

—An overwhelming explosion surged through the area, covering all of Eric's immediate vicinity.

The blast stopped short before reaching the positions of Clark, Alicia, Billy, Trisha, and Justin. Instead, it ascended high into the heavens—like a blazing pillar.

The inferno swirled around and within each other—almost like a torrent of unstoppable power.

"E-Eric..." As Adonis witnessed this, the roaring heat reflecting in his eyes, he had a dazed expression on his face.

He felt instantly ashamed of this thought, but the first thing that came to his mind once he saw the blazing display of power was awe, rather than sorrow.

'To think... he had this much power... so much potential.'

Not all Mages had an equal allocation of latent Mana within them. This pool of dormant Mana was varied in quality and quantity; theorized to be based on the potential of a person.

As such, various Mages harness their respective pools by casting Forced Magic Activation, yet their output would be varied from one another.

Based on what Adonis was seeing alone, Eric could have very well reached the S-Tier as a Mage.

But... all of that was in the realm of memory.

Once the awe wore off, the only thing Adonis felt at that point was grief.

Tears flowed down his eyes as he watched the burning pillar of flames slowly die out, reducing to mere vestiges of sparks and miniature explosions.

"I'm sorry, Eric..." He was reminded by Eric's warnings.

"... I'm so sorry!"

If it wasn't for his hubris, his obsessive desire with saving everyone, then perhaps this wouldn't have happened.

'W-why...? Why did you have to die?'

More tears flowed down Adonis' eyes as he descended and knelt on the ground.

Why did people have to die around him? Why was he constantly protected, even now that he had the power and means to protect others?

'I thought... things would be different this time. I thought, after everything—all those sacrifices—there would be no more...'

He had amassed so much power. He had the knowledge of the future. He had worked so hard to make sure he would be able to protect everyone this time.

—To make sure nobody that he cared about died.

Yet... this was the reward for all his efforts.

"E-Eric... Eric..." More sobs echoed from him as he shuddered with cold stiffness.

This was the battlefield. He could not afford to mourn the dead just yet. He should have known that by now.

Adonis had seen countless wars, and he personally witnessed the deaths of many comrades who fought alongside him. This sort of thing was not meant to move him in the slightest.

But, when he remembered the times he spent with Eric—

those moments when they talked, whether about Magic, Dungeons, or Adventurers—he could not help but feel an overwhelming weight paralyze him.

He could not move an inch.

"I have so many dreams, you know? But after finally arriving here, in this City, I've decided to make a much more concrete goal!" Adonis remembered what Eric told him when they were alone in the Adventurers City.

Every single word echoed in his mind, taking the form of guilt that shackled him.

"I want to explore all the 9 Great Dungeons of the world. We already conquered the Royal Dungeon, so once the war is over... I'll return here and explore the one in this city. After that, there'll be just 7 left."

Adonis remembered the wide smile that Eric made as he talked about those dreams of his; how he craved adventure and desired to advance in Magic.

"I want all of us to do it together, you know? Kind of like some sort of Hero Party..."

They kept coming, overlapping with one another—words that Adonis had smiled and nodded at, promising their fulfillment.

"Then, when we retire... I'll return to the Alliance and become the next Grand Mage."

As Lucielle's disciple in the previous timeline, Adonis had felt a little skeptical about those words. Lucielle indeed seemed unimpressive by Otherworlder standards, but she was considered the greatest Human Mage of all time for a reason.

Succeeding her was by no means a feat just anyone could achieve.

But, after seeing Eric's glorious eruption, Adonis realized that those words—at least, the intention behind them—was no mere joke.

Eric... he had the potential to do it.

He could have surpassed Lucielle and become the greatest Grand Mage in human history.

'But now... all of that is gone.' There was no longer any more tear left in his moist eyes as he stared at the charred crater that oozed smoke and tiny fragments of burnt ash.

'I couldn't do it. I couldn't do it like you, Rey... Lucielle...'

Just as his best friend and master did for him, he thought he could help everyone around him. He became a Hero to save the world, but also prevent the tragedy that would befall his friends.

So why...?

"Why can't I get this right?!" He screamed.

"Why...?"

Adonis felt his mind breaking as he recollected the past—or rather, a future that once was.

He remembered the faces of his two surviving comrades; Rey and Lucielle.

"Don't look so gloomy, my friend. We're going to change everything!" Those were the words he was told to by Rey.

When he heard them back then, there was a certain comfort it gave him.

Seeing his friend give such a heartwarming smile, filled with confidence and encouragement—like a hero—Adonis felt saved.

But... those words were soon followed by chaos.

~BOOOOOOOOM!!!~

The distant explosions began to get closer to the Chamber of the Ancients, signaling the imminent approach of the enemies.

"They've caught wind of us, damnit! Looks like the others weren't able to hold them off for too long..."

The pained tone that Lucielle used to utter those words made it clear what the fates of their comrades were.

... What their own fates would be.

Adonis, trembling and cowering in a corner, did the only thing he could do at moments like this.

He gazed upon the face of his only friend—Rey Skylar.

"Looks like I have no choice..." He brandished his blade, revealing his heroic form as he stepped away from the rest.

"The both of you should stay here and complete the Magic."

As Adonis watched him leave, his hand powerlessly raised to stop him, he watched as Rey stopped in his tracks and turned his head backwards to stare at him.

The confident, heroic smile was yet to fade away.

Something glowed deep within Rey's eyes that resonated inside Adonis. They were the same age, yet they seemed miles apart.

"Take care of yourself." Rey said with a smile, nodding slowly before casting a quick glance at Lucielle.

"You too, babe."

"You take care of yourself too. I'll be joining you soon enough." She responded with a short laugh, her eyes still focused on the task at hand.

"Haha! I look forward to that!"

Back then, Adonis did not know what they meant by those words. But... he was eventually going to find out.

—The fact that the Ancient Magic could only accept one person.

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Chapter 513 Sacrifice [Pt 4]

~BOOOOOOOO MMM!!!~

Thunderous echoes burst from the world outside that even the safe interior of the chamber began to tremble.

The unspeakable violence—shouts and countless crackles of energy—made it difficult to believe in the sanctity of the sanctuary that enveloped them.

Unfortunately, Adonis was not even afforded the luxury to properly think or process what was happening outside.

No, perhaps this was a good thing.

Being distracted by the ritual with Lucielle—perhaps that was the better alternative than to continuously contemplate the fate of his dear friend.

As Lucielle's disciple, he had learned a lot about Magic, as well as Runes, but compared to her knowledge on Magic—especially one this ancient—he could only assist her in little ways.

Following her instructions here and there, they both worked together to complete the equation as soon as possible.

Until finally...

"I think we're all set."

Lucielle's brilliant smile, as she waved her short white hair, caused Adonis' breath to leave his lips in relief.

Finally, they were done.

"L-let's call for R-Rey! We can go together—!"

"No... he's not coming with." Lucielle shook her head as she placed both hands on her waist.

The piercing gaze she gave Adonis was a serious one. The Grand Mage wasn't joking—not that this was any situation to do such.

"W-what are you... saying? We're abandoning him...?" Adonis felt his chest tighten as he even uttered those words.

Rey had protected him all this time. He lost his eye in order to save Adonis' life, and even right now... he was risking it all to buy them time to complete the ritual.

"We don't have time for this. Rey is fighting! We have to—!"

"Indeed. We do not have time for this..."

Before Adonis could move his trembling feet towards the entrance in an attempt to rendezvous with Rey, he felt his entire body turn numb.

"H-huh...?"

One moment he was in his previous position, and the next he found himself at the center of the Magic Circle that they tried so hard to work through.

The entire thing gleamed with multifarious colors, but mostly gleamed with brilliant white.

Several ancient symbols and undeciphered Runes littered the ground in layers, all of them pulsating and resonating with one another.

The fact that Lucielle was able to augment these runes made it an impressive task that only she could have accomplished.

Sure, Adonis helped, but this was mostly due to her efforts and expertise.

The young blonde didn't have time to marvel at his Master's work, though. He was still in a state of confusion—paralyzed through most parts of his lean body.

"W-what are you doing...? We're supposed... to be helping Rey..." He barely whispered as he cast his blurry gaze on Lucielle.

"Rey isn't coming with you. The same applies for me."

"W-what?!"

At this point, Adonis' eyes widened in shock. He couldn't believe what he was hearing.

Why...? What was Lucielle saying? Now that they have gotten to such a crucial juncture... after sacrificing the lives of so many of their comrades... why was she saying these things?!

"It is as I suspected. The energy required for accepting more than one person is too fraudulent. We can't afford it—not even with all the Mana Cores and Crystals we brought with us."

"W-wha...?"

"Rey and I already discussed this ahead of time. It's fine, Adonis."

"N-no..."

Seeing Lucielle give her signature smile, the kind that usually put him at ease, didn't make her words easier to digest.

"A-after coming all this way together... you can't just... I can't do this... by myself."

Tears began to fall from his wide open eyes as he stared at his Master's distant smile.

"Rey... Rey should be the one to go. He's stronger. Or maybe you... you're smarter. You know this stuff more than the rest of us! Why me? Why choose someone like me?!"

It made no sense to Adonis! If they wanted a better shot at saving the world, then wouldn't it be better if one of them did it instead of him?

This burden... it was too much for him.

"I'm... not good enough. I can't do it like you can..."

Sobbing and whimpering, he cried out as he looked at Lucielle. He knew what fate awaited her and Rey.

Even now, it wasn't like he wanted to die. No, he badly wanted to live, and a part of his cowardly self was grateful that he wasn't going to meet his end here.

But... more than that, he felt miserable.

"Yet again... you're saving me. I thought... I thought I'd finally be able to do something for you. To help... but once again, you're saving me..."

Powerlessness mixed with frustration—all directed at himself
—echoed out.

Then, Lucielle's voice emerged.

"Neither Rey nor I could go due to our power being too much. If either of us were to take your place, it would compromise just how far back we'd be able to travel to."

"I-I don't..."

"You're the weakest of us, Adonis. Your relatively weaker force makes it so that more can be changed and the world can stand a better chance in the new future that will be made."

"A-ah..."

"Remember the Dragonfly effect, Adonis. You can't go around making silly changes that do not benefit the future, okay? That means you can't tell anyone—not even the past me and Rey—about this future."

"B-but..."

"There isn't enough time to explain everything in details, but just remember everything the Oracle said about the only way to defeat the Dragon Emperor. The Hero Class and the Divine Blade... you must obtain those two..."

"B-but my Karma is...!"

"I'll be activating the Ancient Magic now. We're counting on you..."

It was at this point, for the first time, that Adonis witnessed Lucielle leak out tears from her eyes.

Throughout their time together, she always had to be strong for everyone. Her cheery personality and happy demeanor shone light into the hearts of everyone around her.

But now... Adonis could see that mask fall off.

She wasn't happy at all.

"... Adonis. Please save this world."

Upon hearing that last request from his Master, and feeling the sacrifice of his friend in his heart, the weight of all the sacrifices that were made to reach this point fell upon his shoulders.

At that moment, he no longer lived for himself.

He lived for everyone.

And so, with a stifled, whimpering voice, he let out his response.

"I will!"

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Chapter 514 Sacrifice [Pt 5]

"[Magic Surge]."

A sudden blast of power burst from within the Chamber of Andients, causing the entire area to vibrate and the Dragons that gathered around the struggling swordsman to be pushed back.

In that instant, Lucielle teleported right beside the muscular man who gripped his blade with sheer resolve.

He smiled the moment he felt her presence, though he couldn't afford to look at her face due to the intensity of the battle.

"It's finally done?" He asked.

"Yeah... he's gone."

For a moment, there was silence among the two of them.

Then—

"How far back?" Rey asked, slightly glancing at the tear-filled face of his beloved.

"As far as he could go—to the very beginning."

Upon hearing that, he smiled. Using his unoccupied hand to wipe away the tears on her face, he nodded slowly.

His hand was rough—hardened by the constant battles that had been fought—but Lucielle found solace in his touch.

Rey Skylar and Lucielle; these two stood before the horde of Dragons before them, yet their display of affection was not stifled.

"Thank you, Lucielle." Rey smiled as he slowly removed his hand from her face, his fingers caressing her soft skin for what would be the last time.

His trembling voice made it clear that he was holding back the tears that would have overflowed.

Lucielle was never allowed to show weakness in front of everyone. She was the best—the strongest in this world.

So, the only one she could be vulnerable with was someone who could hide their own weakness and embrace hers.

That person was Rey.

He took on her fears, insecurities, and pain—even at this very moment—and made them all his.

"Why are you thanking me, stupid." Lucielle laughed, her eyes growing moist yet again.

"Who knows..."

As Rey said this, he cast his gaze into the distance, watching as the Dragons halted in their advancement.

It was clear that something was coming.

—Something ominous.

"... I guess I'm just happy to have you by my side at the very end."

Another moment of silence echoed in their midst. But this time, it was very short.

"I'm happy too."

At this point, there really was no reason to fight any longer. They had completed their mission, and this world was already too doomed for success.

These two were exhausted. They had been fighting day and night—struggling to reach their goal, and now it was all over.

With aching bones and tired souls, it was better to just let go of everything and accept their inevitable demise.

But no... not a chance!

"You ready for one last collab?" Rey said with a smile, tightly gripping his blade with his two hands.

His single eye flowed golden, and a bright burst of gold light burst forth all around him.

"Bet!"

Lucielle's grin was wide as sparks of silver lightning flashed all over her and her body began to glow.

The entity in the distance was none other than a Dragon Lord

—a being that no human had ever managed to defeat throughout the years of war.

Rey and Lucielle didn't know why, but now that they were at the end of their life, they desired to break that record.

"I love you, Lucielle." Rey's whispers echoed in the air as Lucielle's voice also sounded.

"I love you, Rey."

And then—

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!!!~

—Their mixed energy sprang forth.

A requiem of lovers.

Adonis indeed returned to the past.

However, it wasn't what he expected. The first thing he witnessed as he tried to open his eyes was darkness.

Sheer, complete darkness.

Everything felt uncomfortably squishy, wet, and strange.

He didn't understand... until his body was forcibly thrust out of the place that occupied him, and he found himself in a hospital room.

It was at that point, after hearing words from the doctors and nurses, and hearing the heavy breathing of his own mother, that he realized what happened.

Something must have gone wrong with Lucielle's Magic Formula... because Adonis didn't return merely five years ago.

No, he had returned over twenty years into the past.

... As a baby.

The world seemed different for him this second time around.

It had to be!

A battle-hardened man, stuck in the body of a toddler, and then an adolescent... it was all a strange experience for him.

However, despite all of these distractions, Adonis never once forgot his task.

"Save everyone. I must save everyone!"

To do that, he drafted out his plan—a detailed analysis of all that he remembered of the past, and all the things he had to change.

For starters, he had to change his appearance.

By using his future knowledge, he was able to land his parents fortune, which made them rich enough to afford plastic surgery for their terrible-looking boy.

After he fixed how he looked, he maintained a perfect diet and kept his body fit—as perfect as it could possibly get.

Skin care, etiquette, and everything else that mattered in the superficial world of Earth.

All of it was geared towards one goal—

"My Karma Point! I have to make it as high as possible!"

For that purpose, he became the perfect human.

He had to be friends with everyone. He was nice to the very bullies that tortured him in his past life, and he had to accept the many advances that were geared towards him so that no one would hate him.

He dated several girls that he wasn't interested in, maintained a friendly—or at least neutral standing—with everyone around him.

Everything he did... for those sixteen years... was so that he would have the perfect Karma Point.

"The Hero Class... the Divine Blade..."

Those were the thoughts in his mind as he went through the torture of maintaining this facade for years.

And then, finally, after all those years... on their way back from the field trip... the incident occurred.

He, as well as all of his classmates, were transported to the Realm Of God.

He was able to amass 97 Karma Points—a near perfect score.

With it, he got the [Hero] Class and got a discount on the [Divine Blade Summon] Skill.

He had enough Karma Points to afford a few other things, which all had discounts thanks to the Hero Class.

In the end... he was able to do it!

Adonis was able to take the first step in order to save the world.

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Chapter 515 Weight Of Responsibility

"All of this surprises me..."

Adonis was kneeling on the ground when he heard those words from the being above.

It was the Dragon General, Kar'en.

Her single flapped above as a distorted spatial barrier surrounded her. She looked down on everyone with her crimson eyes, and her red hair danced with the wind.

Despite the powerful explosion that just erupted, there didn't seem to be a scratch on her. Perhaps there was a few moments ago, but accounting for her defenses, and the superior regenerative capabilities of a Dragon General, her unharmed appearance wasn't too much of a surprise.

Even Adonis, after hearing her voice, didn't seem too shocked.

He didn't have the mental capacity to wonder about the million ways she could have escaped the blast or recuperated from its effects.

He was simply on his knees, completely downtrodden.

As for his allies, they weren't faring any better.

Justin, Billy, and Trisha had lost consciousness already. Clark was still struggling to cling on to life, and Alicia was completely out of it.

Sure, the Dragon side had also suffered heavy losses, but the most troublesome foe still remained.

Her condescending gaze and overwhelming presence told Adonis that there was no way out.

They were done for.

"Humans with such capabilities... I never would have imagined they existed." Kar'en went on to say.

Adonis didn't respond.

"To think you could resist my Curse Magic-something on the Absolute Tier-and the rest of your comrades could put up such a decent fight..."

The reason Adonis was only mildly affected by the Curse Magic- which soon faded away-was due to one of his Class Privileges.

As the Hero, he was immune to most negative Status Conditions, and his body was to remain healthy at all times.

Even in the case of curses and debuffs that were immensely powerful, their effects would be mitigated by this Privilege, and their duration would be cut short.

If Adonis wasn't the Hero, he too would have fallen unconscious at this point.

"It's too bad all your actions are for naught. In the end, no matter how hard you struggle, you can not win against the might of the Draconic Empire."

Adonis gritted his teeth as he heard that. He wanted so desperately to reject the General's claims and charge towards her, but what was the use?

He would lose.

Even with [Limit Transcension], he couldn't possibly win against her.

The variety of skills that Kar'en possessed, as well as her Stats, made it an impossible task.

'I made a mistake. We shouldn't have come here...'

Adonis recognized his wrongs at that moment.

But... wasn't it too late?

His goals-everything he worked so hard to achieve for sixteen years -was evaporating before his very eyes.

'I failed...'

Adonis felt his grip on the Divine Blade loosen, and his will to fight began to dwindle.

His old self began to emerge, and his body began to shake. The burden that he carried for so many years became too much for him to carry.

He couldn't stand. He couldn't move. He could only wait... for the death that was coming for him.

"I was ordered to capture you all, but you're too dangerous to be kept alive." Kar'en said with a decisive tone.

A brilliant glow of crimson began to flash from her outstretched hand.

"I'll simply capture that broken girl and the barely alive man over there and kill the rest of you."

The orb of bright red was done, and the ray of destruction was complete.

"Now then, let's start with you." She set her aim on Adonis, a sadistic smile on her face.

"Di-"

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WHOOOSH!~

A silhouette suddenly appeared right behind Kar'en at that moment, causing her senses to instantly detect it.

'Huh...?!'

Her eyes widened as she felt the blur's emergence from seemingly out of nowhere.

Still, since she was much faster than whatever went after her blind spot, she easily evaded the slash of the blade that would have hit her.

However...

~SWISH!~

An invisible slash sliced off her wings at that very moment.

... What?!

As her mind struggled to comprehend what just happened, the brilliant blast that she was beginning to prepare suddenly began to spiral out of control.

It no longer listened to her command.

Instead, it began to expand and grow in power... almost as if it was about to-

"The he-?!"

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!~

This blast of crimson decorated the sky as two figures appeared on the ground, almost at the same time.

"Looks like we made it in time... thank goodness." A gruff voice murmured out loud as the buff owner took a couple of steps forward.

Behind him was a much smaller lady, with long white hair and crimson eyes.

"What in the world happened here...?" She whispered.

As Adonis heard those two distinct voices-especially the latter-he raised his head and gazed upon the two people who made their sudden entry.

"B-Brutus... Lucielle...?" As he whispered those words, they both looked in his direction.

The Grand Mage of the Alliance, as well as the Head Warrior-the two strongest humans in H'Trae-now stood amidst the chaotic outskirts of the Capital.

A place that was once smooth had become a site of devastation. With everyone out of commission, Adonis was the only one to witness their return. The moment he set his sights on them, the overbearing weight suddenly began to dwindle.

"My goodness, is that...?"

Lucielle swiftly rushed to the scorched and bloody mess that was Clark, while Brutus walked towards the kneeling Hero.

"Adonis... can you stand?" He stretched out his hand, not saying much else.

The current battlefield was not a place for needless questions or pointless conversations. They could have all of that after the crisis had been averted.

Right now, there was only one matter of concern.

Adonis gave a slight nod, reaching out for Brutus' outstretched hand while smiling.

"Yeah!"

Staggering a little, he finally found his footing and stood upright. His Divine Blade instantly flew into his grasp and he wielded it with both hands, alongside the Head Warrior who also had his blade unsheathed.

"Good." Brutus smiled, casting his gaze on the dwindling explosion in the sky.

"Let's save the small talk for later. Right now, we have to beat that thing, right?"

Adonis didn't know when the rest of the burdens vanished. The sorrow and pain in his heart remained, but they seemed stifled-like distant echoes that had been blocked off by the walls of responsibility.

Right now, he had no right to mourn or dawdle in regret.

He had one duty and one duty alone.

"Yeah!"

-To be the Hero!

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Chapter 516 The Last Bout [Pt 1]

"You..."

~BWUUSH!~

An instant lash of powerful wind surged from Kar'en, instantly parting the crimson blast that surrounded her.

The immense heat from the explosion caused smoke to rise from all over the area-including a portion of her body-but all in all, she wasn't badly damaged.

Her wings, which had been cut off just moments prior, were now present once again, and her four horns gleamed under the sunset.

"You annoying pests..." Kar'en growled as she stared down at the humans who refused to die and be trampled underfoot her mighty power.

Every single time that she thought they would finally crumble, an intervention would always occur. It was fun at first, but Kar'en was beginning to get pissed off.

"Those two... where the hell did they come from?' She narrowed her gaze on Lucielle and Brutus.

The former was right beside the burnt-up, bloodied Clark, utilizing Healing Magic on him. As for the Head Warrior, he was standing right beside Adonis, both their stances depicting a readiness to fight.

"They fit the description of the strongest humans in the world. I can't remember their names, but they're the trump cards of the pathetic Alliance..."

Despite their title, it wasn't like they were of any major threat to the Dragons.

None of them had S-Tier Skills, from what she knew, and their pathetic Stats were lacking compared to hers and the rest of the top-tier Dragons.

Heck, even Dragon Commanders ought to have better Stats than these human vermin.

'But, if that's the case, how were they able to catch me by surprise and even damage me?'

Kar'en was sure that she evaded the man's strike, yet she still managed to get hit. That didn't make sense unless some kind of Skill was involved.

'And that woman... she hijacked my Skill, didn't she? How? It was an S-Tier Skill, so shouldn't that be impossible unless she has an S-Tier Skill as well?'

At that moment, Kar'en was reminded of the boy in glasses, the one who had just perished recently. He was able to shut down her Skills, but it seemed this woman was able to take it a step further and hijack control of them.

'Either way... they're dangerous! Kar'en thought to herself as she narrowed her gaze.

If she wasn't careful, she would suffer for it.

"Then..." A wide smile appeared on her face as she gazed upon her adversaries. 'Let's stop holding back, shall we?'

~VWUUSH!~

In a brilliant flash of scarlet, the humanoid before them transformed into something colossal. Her slender body and pristine form grew much larger-far more majestic.

Scales that shone like rubies appeared and decorated her skin. Her four horns were like pristine jewels that sprang out of her head. Her eyes glowed crimson, and steam kept rising from within her glowing mouth.

In this form, Kar'en was at least thirty meters tall, with her massive wings flapping behind her to create a powerful pressure all around. Her tail dangled like a fat, sturdy rope, and as she maintained this form, she folded her arms and gazed down on the pathetic humans who were forced to raise their heads to watch her.

A crimson dragon, glowing like the most precious red gem in the world; that was how she looked like at that moment.

Steam and scarlet energy kept dancing and crackling around her, all so her power became even more evident. At this point, all her passive skills were now active, and her Stats had pretty much doubled from their initial numbers.

In essence...

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: Kar'en
- Race: Dragon (Death Species)
- Class: General (A-Tier)
- Level: 290 (56.99% EXP)

- Life Force: 19,000/21,800 (+10,000)
- Mana Level: 21,300/25,400 (+10,000)
- Combat Ability: 30,000 (+10,000)
- Stat Points: 0
- Skills (Exclusive): [Copy].
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): [Absolute Curse Magic]. [Absolute Crimson Ray]. [Grand Mana Recovery]. [Grand Regeneration]. [Greater Claw Attack]. [Dragon Breath: Negative]. [Grand Draconic Flight]. [Grand Draconic Resistance]. [Grand Draconic Power]. [Greater Fear Inducement].
- Alignment: Chaotic Evil

[Additional Information]

... She was currently invincible.

"Alright, humans! Come on! Entertain me some more!" She yelled, her monstrous voice causing vibrations to echo all around her.

Her eyes shone brighter, and so did her throat. In no time at all, she opened her jaws and poured out her Dragon Breath.

[Dragon Breath: Negative] was a mix of sheer destruction and Negative Status Conditions. Being hit by it was the same as being doused with all kinds of curses.

The victim would be affected by a plethora of these Curses that could even overwhelm their resistance and downright cripple them.

Of course, it wasn't a fatal attack-but that was because it was never designed to be one.

'You will all suffer! All of you!' She grinned as she poured it down. "[AVALON]!" Adonis yelled, creating a counter to the breath.

As soon as he said this, a brilliant explosion of light filled the area, causing even Kar'en to squint, and eventually close her eyes.

She was pushed back a little, only due to the intensity of the light, but being stunned like this gave the humans the perfect window of opportunity.

~WHOOSH!~

Before she realized it, they were both in her presence-Adonis in front, and Brutus behind.

'Pfft! How pathetic!' Kar'en grinned to herself.

"Too slow!"

She launched her own [AVALON], sending the energy flying around her so it would undoubtedly blow away the two humans before her.

-VWUUUUSH!~

As the crimson wave of energy rose from her, spreading all around,

Adonis' blade shot up in power and created a powerful storm of immeasurable energy that seemed to gather at a single point.

"[LANCELOT]!"

-BOOOOOOOOM!~

Instantly, [AVALON] was ripped to shreds-broken apart by the single-point attack that Adonis made.

'H-huh...?!' Kar'en's eyes widened as she stared at the impossible sight.

She was definitely a lot stronger now than she was just moments ago. The quality of her Skills, and the efficiency of her abilities, made it so that they would be nigh impossible to deal with.

Yet, with just one thrust, Adonis was able to break through.

And now...

"[MORDRED]!"

... There was an opening to strike.

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Chapter 517 The Last Bout [Pt 2]

Dragons are considered the strongest in all of H'Trae, and for good reason.

Their strength, speed, power, and a multitude of other aspects, place them above any living being in the entire world.

They are considered unstoppable.

As a result of this esteemed position, being blessed with some form of Passive Magic Skills from birth, the Dragons have no use for Skills like [Combat Application], or developing tactics like other weak races do.

Their power is often more than enough to raze their enemies to the ground and decimate any who stand in their way.

Teamwork. Strategy. Counterattacks; these are the things that these all-powerful Dragons do not possess.

The hubris of the strong... one that could prove fatal when a dire situation emerges.

"[MORDRED]!"

As Kar'en heard those words, she knew yet another attack was about to unfold.

So far, every new word that the human uttered gave rise to a new pattern of assault and a new ability.

[AVALON] was a defensive ability, and [MORGAN] was an immensely destructive assault.

'It seems [LANCELOT] is for piercing and shattering attacks or defenses.' She thought to herself, watching as the Hero grew closer.

'But... what in the world could this new attack be?'

Depending on what it was, defense could be ineffective against it. That meant, according to Kar'en's calculations, the best move to make was to attack.

... Attack before he could cook up whatever attack he was about to unleash!

'[Absolute Crimson Ray]' The bright burst of red energy appeared in front of Adonis, ready to erupt in his face.

Then—

~SHIING!~

A bright golden barrier formed around him that very instant.

'A-ah!' Kar'en's eyes widened in realization as she recognized the Skill he just used. 'I forgot he had another defense Skill other than [AVALON].'

Her plan was to either force him to use [AVALON] to protect himself, which would automatically cancel out this new attack he was about to unleash, or more preferably... for her [Absolute Crimson Ray] to hit.

Either way, she would emerge victorious from the next attack.

'Curse Magic doesn't seem very effective on him, so... why don't I use something else...?' Kar'en searched within the confines of her [Copy] Skill's arsenal and found the perfect move to utilize.

"[Gravity Crush]"

Her grin widened as she observed both of her opponents, waiting for them to fall under the pressure of intense gravity.

But...

"Guh!" A loud groan echoed from her as she felt her body suddenly assailed by the full might of her own Skill.

'W-what?!' Her bulging eyes nearly popped out of her socket as she found herself descending to the ground at an astronomical pace.

At that very moment, Kar'en instinctively knew which direction to look at. She knew precisely the cause of the attack.

'It's YOU!' Glaring deeply at the Grand Mage of the Alliance, the crimson Dragon gritted her teeth in fury.

Lucielle had both hands pointed towards Kar'en, with her eyes glowing with a strange mix of colors. The boy beside her looked perfectly normal in his naked form—healed from his burns and the squished state he was in.

'W-what?! She's already done healing him?!' The Dragon General's eyes widened even further.

No, that wasn't the important thing at the moment.

'She hijacked my Skill's effect again, didn't she? That bitch!' Kar'en didn't have the luxury to get too fixated on Lucielle, however, considering the two warriors who were hot on her trail.

She was tempted to use a Skill to blow them all away, but a sudden thought of caution stopped her from acting.

'What if it backfires...?'

She didn't want to take such a risk, considering how averse to pain or damage she was.

And so, her instinct rang in.

'Let's get away for now. I'll take the higher ground.'

Swiftly undoing the Gravity Skill, as well as activating her Spatial Skill very quickly, she prepared herself to teleport.

However...

~ZZZTZZ!~

The Spatial Magic didn't activate at all. No... more like it could not activate.

'What?! Did she do this too? Even though I activated it too quickly for the human mind to process?!' Kar'en glared at Lucielle once again.

However, she was mistaken in this assumption.

Lucielle was not the one responsible for the failure of her Spatial Magic. It was simply due to the influence of the Divine Blade, which warped space and prevented it from being stable enough to ensure Spatial Travel.

As a result, Kar'en had nowhere to run to.

"Tch!" Gritting her teeth, she decided to simply not rely on Skills and solely use her physical abilities to destroy her targets.

Her Combat Ability was over 30,000, after all... and most of it went into strength. One move from her would completely squash all of her enemies.

"DIE!" Aiming her claws towards Adonis, while lashing her tail towards Brutus, she prepared to at least push them away from herself—even if killing them was too ambitious.

All of a sudden, the energy rushing from the Divine Blade ceased, creating a stable spatial template around them.

Then—

~WHISH!~

The Hero and the Head Warrior suddenly swapped places—with Adonis now ready to receive the attack of the Dragon's tail, while Brutus braced himself to receive the claw.

Neither were fast enough to properly evade her attack, neither were they strong enough to parry the strike.

However... they didn't need to.

~WUUUSH!~

Adonis' [Absolute Defense] covered Brutus, causing him to be safely entrapped in a compact golden layer of protection.

The attack from Kar'en sent the sphere flying downwards, but Brutus was saved from being absolutely mutilated.

Then, as for Adonis—

"Huuu..."

The moment the tail was about to slap and completely crush his whole body, something began to flicker from his blade at an immense rate.

It was pure energy.

~VWUUUUUUSH!~

The outburst of that energy created such a powerful torrent that it pushed the Dragon's tail away, causing the massive thing to fly upward.

The moment the tail was out of the way, Adonis was greeted with an opening that he could not refuse.

... An opening that would probably never present itself to him ever again.

—Kar'en's buttohole!

'This is my chance!' Adonis thought to himself, ready to thrust his Divine Blade into her rectum.

'I won't fail!'

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Chapter 518 The Last Bout [Pt 3]

Adonis already knew it would be near impossible to beat the Dragon General.

Not only was she much faster and stronger than he and Brutus combined, but she had a multitude of Skills that would render their efforts useless.

Thankfully, with the appearance of Lucielle, a part of that problem was solved.

"I can only stop one or two of her Skills at a time. The rest will be up to you!"

That was what she told him through a Message Transmission Spell.

As for Brutus, while he was incredibly strong and fast, there was no way he would be able to deal substantial damage to the Dragon General.

"I can serve as a decoy or a fall guy, so use me as you see fit." Brutus ended up signaling to him.

In essence, from the very start, it was only Adonis that could damage the General and eliminate her once and for all.

But how...?!

Even if Lucielle shaved off her Skills and Spells, and Brutus successfully fulfilled his role as a diversion... how was he supposed to land a decisive hit?

'Her scales are incredibly dense, and her flesh is bound to be impossibly tough.'

Dragons had the most natural and unnatural kinds of defenses.

It was why they hardly relied on Enchanted Items or Armor.

In their Dragon Form, they were unstoppable monsters.

'Just how high is her Combat Ability? Around 30,000? Maybe a little higher...?!'

If this Dragon had a Skill like [Combat Application], or was more adept at battle, there would be no battle to even begin with.

Dragons were, however, usually not faced with confrontations like this, so Adonis and his allies somewhat had an edge.

But for how long?

'She'll eventually acclimate to the strangeness of the situation and learn to counter us. The longer this battle drags out, the more dangerous it will be for us!'

That meant they had to end it in preferably one move.

But what kind of move...?!'

'Nothing I can do now will be able to get through the defense and grant fatal damage to her at the same time...'

It was during this intense brainstorming session that Adonis was finally able to see the light!

His mind expanded beyond the normal trail of thought, and he found himself gazing at a specific part of the Dragon he was facing.

—The massive buttocks of the beast!

'Her tail is in the way, but if I can get rid of it, I should be able to... ah, yes!' At this point, his eyes were already beaming and a wide smile formed on his face.

'Penetrating it should do the trick!'

Even if they had the perfect external defenses, surely Dragons would be vulnerable from the inside.

It was the same with humans. No matter how tough a creature's skin or scales were, their internal organs had to be soft and weaker.

For optimal penetration, he would need an incredible amount of energy, so he was ready to burn through even more of his Stats in order to achieve his goals.

And so...

"Huuu..."

... After seeing his enemy's pinkish butthole spread in front of him, Adonis strengthened his muscles to the fullest, causing veins to appear all over his flesh.

Thrusting with all his might, propelling his entire body forward, he sent his Divine Blade charging in.

'First... [LANCELOT]!'

All the accumulated energy instantly converged in one single point, allowing for optimal penetration in his glorious charge.

~SQUELCH!~

His Divine Blade successfully lodged itself into the General's buttohole, causing the creature to bellow out in a twisted expression of pain.

He must have done considerable damage to her lower regions, and the mere fact that she spasmed in shock and agony proved that.

But...

'Not enough! This isn't enough!' Adonis gritted his teeth, hardening his muscles even further as he went on to pull out a little. The friction caused the mighty beast to beg for mercy, completely helpless under the mighty attack of the mighty blade.

At this point, Adonis had two options.

'Should I go for [MORGAN], or...'

If he used [MORGAN], his blade would enlarge and create a massive destructive form.

That would definitely deal a lot of damage to the enemy. But, it would probably not reach all of the spots in her insides, considering how linear the growth would be.

Adonis needed something that would completely destroy her insides.

And so... with beads of sweat dripping from his face, and a fierce expression of resolve, he chose the second option.

'... [MORDRED]!'

~VWUUUUUUSSSHHH!~

A massive storm exploded from the Divine Blade as Adonis thrust it inside the General once again.

"Rahhhhhh!!!" He growled, letting out his fury and the last vestiges of his power out to devastate everything within the Dragon General.

[MORDRED] was a form that stood in direct contrast with [LANCELOT].

While the latter one concentrated all the energy in a single spot and formed a lance-like attack, the former was vastly different.

The form known as [MORDRED] was an unstoppable storm that scattered the divine energy of the blade all around the target.

It poured out white energy, scattering its contents into everything that surrounded it.

The power filled up the area it occupied, instantly coursing through everything it had access to... until anything and everything was engulfed in its nature.

As such, when Adonis thrust his Divine Blade into Kar'en, lodging its full length into her ass, the pure white energy of [MORDRED] burst out in all directions, scattering energy into all the reed of her body in a single instant.

The result?

"GUAARRRCKK!"

All the openings in Karen's body leaked out white fluids.

Her nostrils, her eyes, her mouth... everything exploded with what was supposed to be blood, but was now tainted with the brilliant white explosion that Adonis wrought.

The internal explosion was complete.

~BOOOOOOOM!~

In a descent of destruction, the mighty Dragon General created a massive crater as she powerlessly crashed onto the ground.

The man who stood above her, completely conquering and dominating the fearsome creature, was the one known by all to be the Hero.

He dislodged his blade from her buttocks and raised it high into the air.

Leftover fluids and sparks of energy flowed out, but that didn't matter.

The Hero was bathed in it all... the glory of victory.

"We did it..." Adonis declared as he looked at his comrades.

"We won!"

*

Chapter 519 The Last Bout [Pt 4]

"Uuu..."

Kar'en felt pain unlike anything she had ever experienced in the past.

All the time at the academy, all of her experiences in the military... everything she had been through paled in comparison to this brief moment.

It felt like her entire body was on fire; especially the asshole that now spread wide open, bleeding white fluids instead of blood. Saliva, mixed with the white blood that burst from her lips littered the ground underneath her, and she was forced to drown in it all.

She could hardly move her body after that attack.

'All my nerves... my Mana... everything has been disturbed.' Her thoughts trailed as she lay on the ground, completely defeated.

Never in her life would she have predicted such a fate would befall her—one of the Dragon Generals with promise.

She was a true prodigy, yet... yet...

'I got violated like this... by a human.' Kar'en felt beads of tears fall from her moist eyes as she cast a blurry gaze on the surviving humans before her.

In an unexpected turn of victory, they actually bested her. Despite being far weaker than she was, they interfered with her Skills, read her attack patterns, created countermeasures, and finally... brought her crashing down.

'I shouldn't have underestimated them... these humans...' It was too late now, though. Kar'en, the mighty Dragon General, had fallen into the hands of the primitive and weak humans. Unable to activate her Skills or move her body, she could only wait for her passive recovery to occur—which the humans would never allow—or wait for help.

'A-ah! That's right... I'm not alone!' At that moment, Kar'en's eyes showed a slight beam of hope.

She remembered that there was one more subordinate that was present. 'S-Ser'th! If he arrives on time, he should be able to teleport the both of us to a safe distance!' Her thoughts echoed.

Kar'en highly doubted that the humans could interfere with Skills that took them by surprise. Plus, since they would have let their guard down after beating her, they wouldn't be able to see her subordinate coming.

There was only one issue, though... 'Come on, where are you?' Kar'en shuddered, feeling the weight of the Hero on top of her.

Any moment now, and her execution would arrive. Right now, her Life Force was incredibly low, and while she still had a lot to offer in terms of natural defenses, if they kept chipping at her health, she would perish.

'I don't want to die! I really don't want to die!' Snot oozed from her draconic nostrils as her thoughts kept pounding in her head.

She sent her gaze up and prayed very desperately for the aid of her only ally at this point.

'Please hurry and come, Se'ri—!'

~BOOOOOOOM!~

Before Kar'en could complete her thoughts, a humanoid figure suddenly crashed onto the ground. It was right in front of her, so she felt the shockwave from the impact, and a few of the scattered debris rained upon her.

None of that fazed her, however, since she was currently faced with a more shocking sight.

'E-eh...? D-don't tell me...' Her blurry eyes squinted as she stared into the short distance to observe the being that had just descended to the ground.

—It was Ser'ith.

"Ser'ith...?" Kar'en's croak leaked out in a very hoarse voice as she stared at her subordinate's battered and bloodied form in nigh disbelief.

His dark outfit had been ripped to shreds, leaving mere vestiges that barely covered his genitals. His well-built body was exposed, along with the scales that covered portions of his skin... though they were stained by his own blood.

One of his wings had been ripped out—no, more like blown away.

In all honesty, based on appearance alone, Ser'ith seemed to be a lot worse off than Kar'en... and that was saying something.

The General could not believe that the most shrewd of all her subordinates would have been bested and placed in such a pathetic state—especially by puny humans.

'Ah, I'm not one to talk...' She quickly realized her miserable situation and repented of her thoughts.

It seemed that the only backup she wanted to rely on was useless in the end.

"L-Lady Kar'en... please offer some assistance!" Ser'ith managed to stand despite being a bloody mess, his injuries slowly healing. He looked in front of him, where his superior was, only to find her in shambles herself.

"Dude..." Kar'en whispered, her mouth barely moving as she watched him powerlessly.

At least, he could heal from the damage he was receiving—albeit slowly. It seemed her condition was worse, after all.

"L-Lady Kar'en, what happened to you?!" He yelled, panic coursing through his face.

Based on the expression of desperation he had on, Kar'en deduced that he must have been counting on her help the same way she was counting on his.

In the end, they both ended up being placed in a tight corner with no sign of escape.

'What did this to him, though? I thought all the strong fighters would have gathered to fight, while the weaker ones would be on rescue...'

That was precisely why she sent only Ser'ith to deal with the situation.

"W-where is R'ashu? With his help, maybe I can stand a chance against her..." Ser'ith looked around him in a panic.

"He's dead." R'ashu's face further paled the moment he heard the news from Kar'en. All the life from it seemed to be completely drained.

"Are you serious—?!"

~BOOOOOOOM!~

Before he could complete his question, another humanoid figure came crashing down, though this one stuck a perfect landing.

A small crater formed around the girl that just appeared, with swirls of wind dancing all around her body. She had blond hair, with a somewhat petite form.

The moment she appeared, Ser'ith froze in fear while staring at her in horror.

'So she's the one who put him in that state...' Kar'en took a careful glance at the human girl, getting a better glimpse of her as the smoke around began to fade.

'Ah... I can see why.'

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Chapter 520 The Last Bout [Pt 5]

Belle Vanitas was filthy.

She was covered in blood and bruises, and she even had slight burn marks on her body.

Her dress was tattered, revealing an ample amount of skin and underwear. However, despite this crass appearance, she still looked incredibly intimidating.

Her long hair floated in the air as a deep, crazed scowl was seated on her pretty face. She had the gaze of a madwoman, and the tears that flowed down her face added a layer of sadness to her rage.

"You..." She muttered, her gaze directed at the trembling Ser'ith. "... Where do you think you're running to?"

As she took a step forward, the ground rumbled.

"You think you can just run away after what you did?" Her eyes glowed dark pink—almost purple—as she deepened the glare on her enemy.

Despite being surrounded by her unconscious allies—like Justin, Clark, Billy, and Trisha—and the conscious ones like Adonis and Alicia; even seeing new faces, like Brutus and Lucielle, while missing a few like Eric and Snow... Belle paid them no mind.

Her gaze was only on the Dragon Commander in front of her.

"I'll kill you... MOTHERFUCKER!"

Ser'ith?trembled as he heard the human girl utter those words.

He knew, since it had been ingrained deep inside his body, that she was capable of those very words.

'H-how humiliating. This is... this is not how things are supposed to go!'

He was the one meant to be dishing out the threats and looking down on his adversaries. In fact, he had done just that during their initial encounter.

'When I saw them rescuing those people, I thought for sure that they were easy prey.' His body trembled as he remembered how he approached them from his high estate.

He was still very bloodthirsty back then, so he was looking for any excuse to kill someone—or something. He would have killed the powerless denizens of the city, but what was the fun in that?

Killing defenseless small fry wasn't going to give him the satisfaction he craved.

Instead, the glare of the two humans who stood against him... now that was what he lived for!

He wanted to crush them so badly.

'I-I killed the male brat. But that's only because he startled me!' Ser'ith regretted that decision now, but it wasn't like he did it out of pure satisfaction either.

Yes, he was looking for any excuse to kill, but he hadn't even decided who to execute when the boy acted up and tried to use Skills that were at least in the Absolute Tier.

'He tried to contact someone from beyond the city, and he was also about to use some kind of Spatial Magic.'

Ser'ith could sense this due to his Skills of [Absolute Spatial Magic] and [Damage Precognition]. The latter was a Passive Skill that only kicked in when real danger was about to approach, so he would be able to glimpse five seconds into the future.

That was how he was able to tell that the lad wanted to contact someone. He would have used Spatial Magic or something of the sort to bring the person or thing over, and that would have been dangerous.

It was a reflex action... killing the kid.

He unleashed the full power of his Dragon Breath and burned him to crisps. He also ensured all of that damage was suffered by him in high intensity by ensuring he was entrapped in a closed space.

All of that... just to prevent the worst-case scenario that his [Damage Precognition] sensed.

Back then, Ser'ith was a little curious as to what the human could possibly summon that could damage him. However, he decided to take action before thinking about it.

After all, one of his comrades had just been killed by a human just earlier. It was an ambush, sure, but the death was real nonetheless.

Besides, [Damage Precognition] had never been wrong before.

Unfortunately for him... by killing that boy, he triggered the girl who was beside him.

'This girl... this human... she's a monster!' Ser'ith thought to himself, shrieking as he gazed upon her bloody form.

'She doesn't stop! She won't stop!'

His heart raced as he took a few steps back, looking around him for any alternative to the problem he was currently facing.

'Lady Kar'en is down for the count, and she was my insurance against this monster!' He gritted his teeth as he felt the human's intimidating gaze.

'R'ashu is fast, so I thought he would be able to help me deal with her... but he's dead?!'

Phil'emon wasn't around, so it was safe to say that he was dead too. Still, even if he was present, he wouldn't have been of any help.

... Not against this one.

'I don't know how she does it, but her attacks always land, even if I teleport or use Spatial Magic to warp space.'

It was almost as if her power ignored distance.

Plus, she always seemed to track him down no matter where he teleported to. Sure, he was able to land some hits in the beginning—hence the reason why she looked so disheveled—

but she quickly acclimated to his attacks and started dishing out counters.

'Her attacks are invisible, and they hit with scary precision. They're also too fast!'

It got so bad to the point that Ser'ith couldn't activate his Spatial Magic any longer. The moment he tried to, he would get hit by a powerful barrage that would completely ruin his actions.

'Spatial Magic requires incredible concentration. She's constantly overwhelming me, preventing me from using it properly.'

There was nothing in his arsenal that he could use to diffuse her. If he had a partner, sure, they could tag her and emerge victorious.

But alone? He stood no chance at all!

'Is this all because I killed that guy? Was he her lover or something?' Ser'ith didn't know the nature of their relationship, but he knew something for sure.

Staring deep into Belle's murderous eyes, and seeing how the overflowing energy around her kept undulating, he was well aware of his impending fate.

'I'm going to die at this rate!'