

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

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The Stuff Of Legends |

Chapter 417: The Stuff Of Legends

"You bastard! You gave my name to a Ranker that was out to kill you!" Randolph hollered as soon as he saw Lux come inside his Smithy.

The Half-Elf had no choice but to apologize to the raging Dwarf who already raised his Adamantium Hammer, which he used to forge weapons and armor, and was about to smack his shameless Disciple silly with it.

"Sorry, Master," Lux said with an apologetic look. "I was facing off against a Ranker. How could I possibly use my name? What if he looked for me just to kill me?"

"You damned brat! If that's the case, then why did you give him my name? Did you even think about the fact that the Ranker could search for my name and come to kill me?"

"Relax, Master. I already have everything figured out. Even if he found you, how can a Ranker mistake you for a chubby Human? My Master is so handsome and so awesome that a Ranker would even apologize to you for mistaken identity."

"... You do have a point." Randolph had no choice but to accept Lux's logic because he really wouldn't pass as a chubby Human teenager.

With his good looks, wouldn't it be an injustice for him to be mistaken for Lux's chubby persona?

After calming his Master, Lux asked him to come with him to the Village Head's house to discuss the plans he had for their Guild.

When everyone was gathered, he mentioned Thoram's proposal to first open a General Store and sell consumable items like pills, potions, and medicines to the public in order to raise funds for building their Guild Facilities.

Grandma Annie's ears perked up when she heard that Lux would buy an Advanced Alchemist Recipe Book so that she could craft higher quality pills, potions, and medicines that they could sell. Also, Keelan had promised to look for suppliers that would provide her with the raw materials for her work.

The remaining funds in Lux's possession would be used to purchase the raw materials because the General Store would need capital before it could take off.

"This is a good plan," Cedwyn said as he rubbed his beard. "It will also raise the quality of the items that we can sell in our village. As you may already know, Leaf Village is on the very outskirts of the Kingdom of Gweliven. You can even say that it is its farthest outpost in the Southern end of the Kingdom.

"The village was founded to be used as a base for Dwarves sent to explore the Savage Lands farther South. If we can raise the quality of goods we sell here, it is not impossible for our Village to send our own expedition team to explore the Savage Lands. Right now, the only active explorers in those parts are Cadmus (Draconian Kobold) and Sid.

"Since the village is now a safe haven from Monsters thanks to the Guardian Crystal, this is also a good opportunity to venture Southwards, and maybe, this will also pave the path for our Village to become a Town."

The Elders of Leaf Village nodded their heads in agreement because they also wanted to see their Village grow and prosper. Since they couldn't actively recruit members for their Guild at the moment, that didn't mean that they couldn't expand their scope of operations, allowing their brand to be known throughout the Kingdom.

"Everyone, I will now go to Karshvar Draconis to build our Guild Headquarters," Lux said. "When it is finished, all of you will be able to instantly teleport there once every three days, but I have something very important to tell all of you."

Everyone inside the Village Head's house were members of his Guild, so he didn't hold back and told them everything he had learned about the floating Island.

When they heard that it was actually the Legendary City where the Dragon King himself lived, Cedwyn, and the Elders of the Leaf Village, felt their legs turn into jelly, making it hard for them to remain standing.

"The Dragon King..." Randolph's eyes twinkled. "It is said that weapons and armor that are forged with Dragon Fire would have a Mythical Rank at its bare minimum. I wonder if I can go there to train as an apprentice to one of their Blacksmiths..."

"That is a good idea," Grandma Annie said. "The highest Rank a craftsman can attain in this Kingdom is the Grandmaster Rank. There were rumors that there were Mythical Ranked and Legendary Ranked Alchemists that existed in the past, but since no one has seen them, they just became the stuff of legends."

Randolph and Grandma Annie could feel their blood boiling at the possibility of advancing their rank to the next stage after studying in the Legendary City of the Dragon King.

"Since we will be visiting an unknown land, it will be wise for us to be on our best behavior," Lux stated. "First impressions last, so we must make them look at us favorably when we go there."

Cai, who was also inside the room, narrowed its eyes as it gazed at the red-headed teenager.

"That's right. You should make sure that they look at us favorably," Cai said. "If it was me, I'm sure that I'd become best buddies with them in less than a minute. It's quite unfortunate that only you can go there."

Lux rolled his eyes at the Boar who was talking a bunch of nonsense. The only way that it would become best buddies with the Dragons was when they saw the Boar as food.

Since Lux would be gone for a few days, Cai and Keane decided to return to Solais for the time being and return to the Rowan Tribe.

Cai wanted to know if its Grandpa had succeeded in creating a cure using the White Lotus that would be used to treat those who were infected with the Purple Plague.

Holding the Dragon Token in his hand, Lux and Eiko bid everyone goodbye before they were bathed in a radiant light.

A second later, the Half-Elf and the Baby Slime appeared in what seemed to be a temple that was overlooking a majestic city where Dragons flew in the sky, making the Half-Elf take a deep breath due to how surreal it was.

"So, this is Karshvar Draconis," Lux muttered as he gazed at the Legendary City, where his Guild's first steps would finally begin.

Chapter 418.1: Troublemaker Meets Troublemaker [Part 1]

"So, this is Karshvar Draconis."

Lux couldn't believe what he was seeing.

A floating city in the sky, and all of its inhabitants had dragon blood flowing in their veins. Lux knew that being able to step into an SSS-Ranked Kingdom wasn't a simple task.

Usually, these Kingdoms didn't allow just any random stranger to enter their Domain, but due to the Half-Elf's circumstances, he was able to reach the fabled city of the Dragons through the power of the Dragon Token that Keoza had given him.

"It has been hundreds of years since I last saw this place."

A familiar voice reached Lux's ears, as the Dragon Token in his hand glowed faintly.

"Keoza?" The Half-Elf took a closer look at the Dragon Token in his hand. "There are a lot of things I want to ask you."

After the Crystal Dragon gave him the Dragon Token, the Grotto of the Forbidden Guardian was destroyed completely, leaving nothing behind.

The Half-Elf thought that he wouldn't see the Crystal Dragon again, but to his surprise, the Dragon that he could summon using the Dragon Token was none other than Keoza itself.

Also, there was an incident where Keoza materialized by itself without being summoned when Lux's Abyssal Powers had gone out of control.

Lastly, the Dragon Token, which he used to create a Guild, had unknowingly given him an unexpected surprise, granting him the one and only Mythical Guild in the world.

"I'm sure you have a lot of questions, but I don't plan on answering any of them," Keoza replied. "If you want your questions to be answered, do your best to meet the Dragon King. Depending on his mood, he might answer your questions or... you can become his lunch."

Keoza chuckled and not long after that, the Dragon Token stopped glowing.

No matter how much Lux called out to the Crystal Dragon, no one answered him, making him sigh helplessly.

"Well, I guess I'll go to the city first," Lux muttered as he gazed at the city in the distance.

However, before he could even take three steps from where he stood, dozens of Dragons roared in the sky and flew in his direction, making the Half-Elf wonder if they came to welcome him to their city.

Unfortunately, the warm welcome he envisioned didn't happen and, soon, the Half-Elf found himself surrounded by not only Dragons, but DragonBorns, who wielded spears that were pointed in his direction.

"Who are you and how did you come to the Sacred Land of the Dragons?" a DragonBorn, whose entire body was covered in blue Dragon Scales, asked.

Lux observed the DragonBorn, and almost choked when he appraised the blue armor that the latter was wearing.

< Frozen Flame >

Dragon-Forged Armor

Rarity: Legendary

– An Armor made from the scales of an Elder Blue Dragon that grants the wearer immunity to extreme cold, and cold weather conditions.

+500 to all stats

100% Resistance to Ice Element

100% Mana Regeneration

100% Health Regeneration

100% Stamina Regeneration

30% Magical Resistance to all kinds of Magic.

This was the first time he had seen Legendary Armor and he almost started to drool after seeing the information that appeared in front of him.

The Half-Elf was gazing so intently at the DragonBorn Captain, which made the Dragons, including the DragonBorn Captain, look at Lux in a weird manner.

"Are you deaf, Half-Elf?" the Dragon Born Captain shouted. "Answer my question!"

The loud shout broke Lux out of his daze and he remembered that he was in a very delicate situation.

"My name is Lux Von Kaizer, and I was brought here by this token," Lux replied as he showed the Dragon Token in his hand to the DragonBorn Captain, who seemed to be the one in command of the dozens of Dragons, and DragonBorns, who currently encircled him.

The Captain frowned as he approached Lux and snatched the Dragon Token in his hand to give it a better look. However, after he saw the runes embedded on its surface, as well as the faint imprint left in it, the DragonBorn Captain almost dropped the token in his hand.

"I-Impossible!" the DragonBorn Captain gasped as he scrutinized the Dragon Token in his hand. After taking a second look and confirming that he wasn't seeing wrongly, the DragonBorn Captain signaled his guards to come closer.

"Take this suspicious person to the barracks, while I go to the Palace," the DragonBorn Captain ordered before glaring at Lux. "If I find out that you stole this thing, I will make sure that you will rot in our prison, Half-Elf. Men, take him away!"

At first, Lux wanted to resist but after realizing that the dozens of DragonBorns surrounding him were all Rankers, all attempts of resistance vanished without a trace.

Eiko, who was perched on top of Lux's head, glared at the DragonBorns as they tied up her Papa.

The DragonBorns ignored her because, in their eyes, a lowly Slime wasn't a threat. Because of this, Eiko wasn't separated from the Half-Elf and both of them were taken to the barracks, located inside the city, to await the Dragon Born Captain's return to decide their fate.

Dragon King's Royal Palace...

The King of all Dragons, who had taken a humanoid form, sat on his golden throne, as he listened to the report of the Captain of the Guards that he had stationed near the Temple.

"Where is this Half-Elf?" the Dragon King asked with an amused expression on his face.

"Your Majesty, he is currently being detained in the Barracks," the Guard Captain reported. "Should we imprison him for stealing His Majesty's Token, or should we execute him right away?"

The Dragon King glanced at the Dragon Token in his hand and flipped it over, and over again, as if wondering what orders he should give the Guard Captain.

The token was the personal insignia of the Dragon King, and it was the emblem he created after succeeding the throne from the previous Dragon King.

'Keoza, even now you refuse to show yourself in front of me,' The Dragon King held the token firmly in his hand as if willing the Crystal Dragon, to explain why he made such a decision.

Several minutes of silence passed, as the Dragon King pondered what to do with the Half-Elf that had inherited Keoza's will.

He already expected that the one that was bestowed the Dragon Token would appear sooner or later, so he sent a special unit to watch over the Temple's location.

The Dragon King had given them strict orders not to kill whoever appeared in the temple, regardless of their race, and capture them alive.

The Guard Captain remained kneeling on the ground as he waited for the Dragon King's orders. For them, being in the presence of the Dragon King was an honor, so he didn't mind waiting, until the Half-Elf's fate was decided.

"Cethus, come," the Dragon King ordered.

Immediately, a DragonBorn with black scales covering his entire body appeared and knelt before him.

"Return this token to the Half-Elf, and take him to the Outer Reaches. He is here to build a Guild Headquarters, so let him do as he wishes," the Dragon King said. "From now on, your job is to supervise him. Do not interfere with what he does, and simply report it to me. However, if he does anything suspicious, you are free to apprehend him, and punish him in any way that you please. Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Cethus replied. "I will not let you down!"

The Guard Captain who was kneeling behind Cetus was surprised that the Dragon King had assigned the most notorious member of the Royal Guard to supervise the Half-Elf in their custody.

The Guard Captain almost pitied the Half-Elf because Cethus was like a ticking time bomb. If not for the fact that Cethus' grandmother had faithfully served the Dragon King when he was still fighting for the right of succession, the arrogant troublemaker would have long been kicked out of Arshvar Draconis, and banished to the mortal lands forever.

'Although you made your choice, that doesn't mean that I will agree with it,' the Dragon King said telepathically to the Dragon Token before tossing it towards the black-scaled DragonBorn, who caught it with one hand. 'Unless he earns the right to stand in my presence, he will forever stay in the Outer Reaches. Let's see if Fate smiles favorably upon him.'

Cethus bowed to the Dragon King and left the throne room alongside the Guard Captain who had ordered Lux's detainment.

However, before the two DragonBorns exited the throne room, Keoza's faint voice reached the Dragon King's ears.

'He doesn't need your acceptance. In time, you will understand that as well.'

After giving those parting words, the gates of the throne room closed, leaving the Dragon King with a solemn expression, which had not appeared on his face for the last several hundred years.

Chapter 419.2: Troublemaker Meets Troublemaker [Part 2]

"Pa!"

"It's fine, Eiko. Nothing bad will happen to us."

"Pa!"

Lux assured the baby Slime, who was now on his shoulder, that everything was going to be fine. After they were taken to the barracks, he was locked inside a room with two DragonBorns watching over him.

The Half-Elf tried to ask the two guards several questions, but they didn't answer him.

They just looked at him in disdain, which angered Eiko, making her call the two Guards "F*ckers" which amused Lux. However, since he was teaching the baby Slime to not use curse words, he reprimanded her and asked her to apologize to their Guards.

However, instead of apologizing, Eiko only stuck out her tongue to the two Guards, and glared back at them.

Lux had already thought of the possibility of something like this happening. The Elysium Compendium had informed him that the Dragons and the DragonBorn were very proud individuals.

Although not all of them look down on other races, they still thought of themselves as superior, and those who lived on the land below were not their equals.

Again, not all DragonBorns thought like this, but the majority of them did, making the Half-Elf sigh in his heart.

After waiting for more than an hour, the door finally opened and the Captain of the Guards, whom Lux had met before, appeared.

"Unchain him," the Captain ordered.

Immediately, one of the Guards moved to remove the chains that bound Lux's hands and backed away obediently.

"So, this is the Half-Elf who will be under my supervision from now on."

An arrogant voice reached Lux's ears, making him shift his attention to the black-scaled DragonBorn that had followed the Guard Captain inside the room where he was detained.

"As expected of a Half-breed, you are ugly," Cethus said with a smug expression on his face.

Lux, who had just been called ugly, didn't react because he knew that this wasn't true.

A quarter of the ladies his age in Wildgarde Stronghold had a crush on him, so why would he believe the words of an ugly lizard, who told him that he doesn't look good?

Eiko, on the other hand, wasn't pleased with having her Papa called ugly, so she immediately spat a blob of water at the DragonBorn's face, soaking it completely.

The Guard Captain and the two Guards, who knew of Cethus' background almost laughed out loud, but thanks to their discipline, they managed to reign it in.

However, Cethus, who was quite sensitive about how others viewed him, was angered by the baby Slime's disrespect, and was about to slap it to oblivion when the Dragon Token in his hand suddenly became too hot to hold, making him cry out in shock before he dropped it on the ground.

The Dragon Token then rolled harmlessly towards Lux's feet, stopping only when it hit his shoe.

Since the token belonged to him, the Half-Elf picked it up and stored it inside his personal storage before shifting his gaze to the black-scaled DragonBorn, who was glaring at him.

"Listen well, Half-Elf. I am the Great Cethus," Cethus declared. "The Dragon King has assigned me to become your supervisor. If you even do anything funny, I have been given full authority to give you any punishment that I see fit."

The "Great" Cethus, whose rank was only in the middle of the Initiate Rank, pounded his chest proudly before looking at Lux smugly.

"Do you have any questions?" Cethus asked.

Lux nodded and asked the question that was on his mind. "What is going to happen to me? Did the Dragon King say anything?"

"Good question." Cethus smiled. "For now, nothing will happen to you, so you can thank the Dragon King's benevolence for it. As for what His Majesty said, I am to take you to the Outer Reaches, where Humans, and other races, are allowed to live side by side with Dragonkind. They are the people who have been granted special privileges by the Dragon King himself, so make sure to get along with them."

Cethus then smirked before saying the rest of his speech.

"After all, lowly birds of the same feather, always flock together."

The black-scaled DragonBorn laughed loudly as he placed his hands over his waist. The guards on the other hand just looked at him with a fed up expression, informing Lux that Cethus wasn't well liked by everyone.

"Ugly F*cke—"

Eiko wasn't able to finish her words because Lux immediately covered her lips.

For some reason, the black-scaled DragonBorn was annoying the baby slime, which rarely happened because Eiko was someone who liked to get along with others.

Perhaps, she sensed that Cethus was a bad egg, so she didn't want to be around him that much.

Cethus, who was oblivious of the baby slime's contempt, waved his hand and asked Lux to follow him.

Since he had no other choice, the Half-Elf decided to just follow for now, and see what kind of place the Outer Reaches was.

He just hoped that wherever that place was, it would still be on the Floating Island. His Guild Headquarters could only be built in Karshvar Draconis, so anywhere else was bad news for him.

"Ah, before I forget, can you fly?" Cethus asked as he eyed the Half-Elf with a teasing gaze. "If not then I can have one of the Dragons carry you if you ask nicely."

Lux smiled before equipping the Favonius Legacy, which allowed him to fly in the sky.

Cethus was surprised when he saw that the Half-Elf was covered in green armor. However, after sensing that the armor's rank was only at the Mythical Rank the black-scaled DragonBorn chuckled internally.

In his eyes, Mythical Ranked Gear was as good as trash. His armor and weapon, that he had inherited from his Grandmother, were all Legendary Ranked. Because of this, he had long disdained Mythical Equipment, which those who lived on land treated as their family heirlooms.

"Follow me," Cethus said as he spread the Dragon Wings behind his back proudly. "Make sure to not get left behind."

Without another word, Cethus flapped his wings and immediately shot into the air like a cannonball.

He then glanced behind him, thinking that the Half-Elf would be unable to match his speed, but to his surprise, Lux was only a few meters away from him, despite the fact that he was flying faster than usual.

"Not bad, Half-Elf," Cethus said.

The DragonBorn could still increase his speed, but he decided to not show his full strength to the Half-Elf, whom he decided to turn into a lackey.

For DragonBorns, having subordinates of their own showed that they had the ability to lead people.

Among the members of the Royal Guard, which Cethus was part of, he was the only one who didn't have subordinates serving him.

Since he was notorious in the Dragon Capital, no one wanted to work under him, making him a disgrace among those who served the Dragon King.

However, Cethus believed that, as long as he could do something good, he would earn the Dragon King's approval, and the people's opinion of him would change.

Because of this, he was quite happy that he was given the opportunity to carry out a mission for his King.

After seeing Lux, he decided to make the Half-Elf his first underling. He thought that as long as he showed the red-headed teenager how strong, and awesome he was, the Half-Elf would come to admire him.

What he didn't know was that the person he wanted to become an Underling, was someone that didn't want to be bossed around by other people as well.

If Cethus was a bonafide troublemaker then Lux was someone who attracted trouble wherever he went. In short, the Half-Elf was a troublemaker in his own way.

The Dragon King initially thought that making Cethus Lux's supervisor would make the Half-Elf suffer and force him to leave the Dragon Kingdom on his own accord.

However, he didn't know that the Half-Elf was born a different kind of breed.

This meeting of the two troublemakers, who were currently being treated as an eyesore in their own Domains, would give birth to a series of consequences that even the Dragon King wasn't able to foresee.

Although the future was uncertain, Lux was still quite optimistic, even with the challenges ahead.

After all, no matter where the black-scaled DragonBorn was going to take him, he had people who believed in him, and people that would help him deal with the problems that Cethus, and the other DragonBorns, would throw in his direction.

Chapter 420: Mom, Just What Kind Of Madman Is This?!

Lux thought that the Floating Island, Karshvar Draconis, was just a single floating island that was as big as a city.

However, after he and Cethus used several teleportation gates in order to reach the Outer Reaches, he realized that he was greatly mistaken.

Karshvar Draconis wasn't just a single island.

It was a group of floating Islands, and when combined together, they were as large as a Kingdom.

The Floating Island, which was located at the center of the formation, was the Main Island where the Dragon King lived.

The name of the Capital City of the Dragon King was called Rex Lapis, and it was where the majority of the DragonBorns, Elder Dragons, as well as a few Ancient Dragons lived.

The floating islands surrounding it were categorized by the type of Dragon that lived in each of them.

Blue Dragons, Red Dragons, Green Dragons, Earth Dragons, Black Dragons, and the other Dragon Species, which some mortals were unable to see due to how rare they were.

If one were to describe Karshvar Draconis as a whole, it was like a Kingdom that stood above the world, overseeing the affairs of those who lived on land.

Finally, after several hours of travel, Lux and Cethus arrived at the Outer Reaches.

To the Half-Elf's surprise, the Outer Reaches was a thriving city filled with people of different races.

Humans, Dwarves, Gnomes, Elves, Beastkins, Demons, as well as other races that Lux hadn't seen before.

The Outer Reaches were composed of three Floating Islands. The middle island, the biggest of the three, was the center of commerce. This was where the people of other races actively traded with the DragonBorns, as well as the Dragons.

Seeing the look of amazement on the Half-Elf's face, Cethus smirked, thinking that Lux was a country bumpkin who was seeing a thriving city for the first time.

"This is the Outer Reaches, and the Dragon King said that you will be staying here for the time being," Cethus explained. "If I heard correctly, you are going to build your Guild Headquarters, right? I was given the deed to the land where you will be building your base of operations. Come and follow me."

Cethus flapped his wings as he flew to the third island, which was the smallest of the three and seemed deserted.

He explained that the Floating Island was simply referred to as "The Pit", which confused the Half-Elf.

Lux thought that he would be able to build his Headquarters in the Main City of the Outer Reaches which was called Pygmalion. However, Cethus was flying in a different direction, which gave him a very bad feeling.

A few minutes later, the black-scaled Dragon Born landed on a desolate mountainside.

There was nothing special about it aside from the fact that there was a mile-wide crater in the center of the mountains, as if they had been punched by the clawed fist of a gigantic dragon.

The thing that made Lux frown was the smell that was coming from the crater.

One glance was enough for him to know that the crater was used as the dump site for the trash, as well as other wastes, of the City of Pygmalion.

He finally understood why the third island was simply referred to as The Pit.

It was literally a pit where garbage was thrown until it piled up like a mountain.

"Here is the deed granted by the Dragon King," Cethus said as he tossed a scroll towards Lux, which the latter caught with both hands. "From now on, this mountain range belongs to you. You are free to do as you wish with it. However, you are not allowed to build anything outside of it."

The black-scaled Dragon Born was laughing inside his heart because Lux's expression was priceless.

When he first heard the Dragon King's orders, he thought that his King was being generous by giving the Half-Elf a piece of land where he could build his Guild Headquarters. However, after finding out the exact location of where that land was located, Cethus roared in laughter because the land that had been awarded to Lux was similar to a cesspool.

Cethus was even looking forward to seeing what the Half-Elf would do to deal with the garbage that had piled up in the crater, which smelled of rotten eggs and manure.

The longer Lux looked at the crater, the deeper the frown on his face became. Finally, after ten minutes, he glanced at the black-scaled DragonBorn to confirm whether this was really the place that was awarded to him by the Dragon King.

"The Dragon King's orders are absolute," Cethus replied. "Even I cannot defy them. Since he has given this land to you, everything in it belongs to you as

well. Well, if you ask me, it is a very fitting arrangement. Isn't it only natural for garbage to be thrown into the same place?"

The black-scaled DragonBorn laughed out loud, giving Lux the strong urge to smack him. However, since the latter was stronger than him, he had no choice but to bottle up his anger as he stared at the land that was bestowed upon him by the Dragon King.

As if to make matters worse, a dozen dragons flew past them, dropping more garbage into the crater before flying back to the City of Pygmalion.

They even gave a side-long glance at Lux and Cethus, wondering what the two of them were doing at the garbage dump together.

"Earlier, you said that this Mountain Range now belongs to me, right?" Lux asked.

Cethus nodded. "Yes. Everything in it belongs to you as well."

"That trash also belongs to me, right?" Lux pointed at the crater that almost made him want to puke.

Cethus smirked. "Yes."

"Okay." Lux nodded before flying towards the City of Pygmalion.

Cethus thought that Lux had been heartbroken due to the circumstances he found himself in. As the Half-Elf's supervisor, it was his task to give the Dragon King a regular report on what the Half-Elf was doing, so he wondered if Lux was planning to give up and leave the Outer Reaches and go back to the Lower Realm.

(A/N: starting today, I will refer to the lands below the sky as the Lower Realm for now. This is also the term used by the DragonBorn to refer to the land under their Domain.)

It didn't take long before the Half-Elf landed on the City Wall of the City of Pygmalion.

The first thing he did was summon his Doppelgangers and pressed his hands together. He also asked Eiko to help her, and the baby slime also summoned her two Doppelgangers and coordinated with her Papa.

"Skeleton Make...", Lux said. "Megaphone!"

Cethus' eyes widened when he saw the weird looking thing that appeared in front of him. He had never seen a Megaphone before and wondered what it was for.

However, his question was answered right away as soon as Lux shouted on it, magnifying his voice hundreds of times.

"I came here to announce a Decree from the Dragon King!" Lux shouted.

His voice spread across the entire city, making its citizens pause whatever they were doing. A Decree from the Dragon King was the ultimate Law in Karshvar Draconis, and no one in their right mind would dare to defy it.

"My name is Lux and, starting today, The Pit belongs to me!" Lux announced. "Anyone who throws their garbage in here will be fined one hundred thousand gold coins. It doesn't matter if it's just fish bones, egg shells, or anything else. The moment you throw something, you will be breaking the decree of the Dragon King. Not only will you be paying a fine, you will also be subjected to Capital Punishment!"

The citizens who heard it were shocked silly because this was the first time they were hearing such a decree.

Even Cethus, who was standing beside Lux, was looking at the Half-Elf while the corner of his lips twitched like crazy.

He didn't expect that the Half-Elf would make such a declaration, and even used the name of the Dragon King to send an ultimatum to the City of Pygmalion.

'Mom, just what kind of madman is this?!' Cethus thought as he stared at the Madlad who was threatening the entire City of Pygmalion using the Dragon King's order as a base.

However, although the Half-Elf sounded silly, his words were facts and were irrefutable.

The Dragon King had decreed that from this day onwards, The Pit belonged to the Half-Elf, and he was free to do whatever he wanted with it.

After speaking a bunch of threats and bullsh*t, the Half-Elf packed up and left the City of Pygmalion to return to the mountainside that was now under his name.

After hearing Lux's declaration, the Mayor of Pygmalion hastily went to the Capital City in order to ask the Dragon King for an audience in order to confirm if he really sent out a decree that would punish anyone that threw their garbage in the mountainous region that now belonged to Lux.

Dragon King Royal Palace...

"Your Majesty, is it true?" a red-scaled DragonBorn asked while kneeling before the throne of the Dragon King. "Did you really send out such a decree?"

The corner of the Dragon King's lips twitched after hearing the Mayor's report. At first, he wanted to refute it, but after remembering the exact words that he had given Cethus, he finally understood that the Half-Elf had twisted his declaration in a way that would benefit him.

'How bold of you, Half-Elf,' the Dragon King thought as he contemplated what to do with the current situation. 'But, since you dared to use my name in this manner, I need to make you understand how silly you are into thinking that you can get away with this farce.'

The Dragon King smiled evilly as a plan appeared inside his head. Since Lux dared to use his name lightly, he would make sure that the Half-Elf would pay dearly for his wrongdoing.

Chapter 421: You Think You Have The Authority To Order Me Around?

The next day...

"... What the F*ck?" Lux muttered as he looked at the base of the mountain that was now littered with trash.

After confirming with the Dragon King that only the Mountain Range belonged to the Half-Elf, not the entire floating island, the residents of the City of Pygmalion started dumping their trash at the base of the mountain, as if to mock Lux for trying to fool them.

Not only did he have to deal with the mountains of garbage inside the crater, now, he also had to deal with the waste that encircled his entire territory.

"You had this coming," Cethus commented from the side. "Now, you have made the entire City of Pygmalion your enemy."

The black-scaled Dragon Born witnessed how the Mayor of Pygmalion came to look for Lux and handed him a scroll, informing him that he was now banned from entering the City of Pygmalion.

If the Half-Elf were to even step foot anywhere inside the city, he would be captured by the guards and locked up in jail for Capital Offense.

The Half-Elf looked at the Dragons who were happily throwing garbage at the base of the mountain while sneering at him. Clearly, they were mocking him for his futile attempt to make them stop their dumping activities on the floating island they had treated as, The Pit.

'I wanted to resolve this peacefully, but since you guys want to play dirty, there's no need for me to hold back,' Lux thought as he discussed with his guildmates the problem they were facing.

Heaven's Gate Guild Chat...

"Um? Are you sure that the land given to us by the Dragon King is a garbage dump?" Cai asked.

"Yes," Lux replied. "It's so smelly that it is enough to wake up the dead. Do you guys have any solution to this problem?"

Cedwyn, who was the Village Head of Leaf Village voiced his opinion.

"It seems that we are facing a big problem right from the beginning of being able to found our Guild," Cedwyn commented. "However, I believe that there is a way to resolve this. Are you sure that there is no room for negotiation?"

"I don't think this is negotiable," Lux replied. "They have long regarded this island as their garbage dump. Also, the Mayor banned me from stepping foot on the City of Pygmalion. Even if I asked to talk with him, I believe that they will just ignore me."

"Why should we negotiate?" Cai interjected. "Since they want to throw filth at us, we should throw filth at them as well!"

"That's right!" Thoram, who was the Dwarf Commander of Norria, agreed with Cai's bold words. "How about you burn it? Trash and Manure burn easily. It will be even better if the wind takes the smoke to that damnable city, so that they will breathe in sh*t!"

"Yes! Burn them!"

"Make them breathe sh*t!"

"Show them who's boss!"

"For the Horde!"

After getting a unanimous decision from his Guild Members to counterattack, Lux decided to proceed with the operation they had named, Operation Deep Sh*t!

Lux hovered above the massive crater with his arms crossed over his chest.

He had been waiting for hours for the wind to blow in his favor. Finally, just before sunset, the wind picked up and blew towards the direction of the City of Pygmalion.

Cethus, who was wondering what Lux was up to, simply watched from a safe distance, far away from the stench that filled the mountainside.

Suddenly, the Half-Elf as well as the baby slime on his forehead opened their mouths and fired two Dragon Breaths at the center of the crater, igniting a blaze that caused an eruption similar to a volcano.

The floating island shook as the waste materials inside the crater combusted, raising flames and black smoke that extended for hundreds of meters upwards.

Those who were in the city also heard the loud explosion and felt curious about what was happening to the Pit, which was now emitting a dense black smoke that was now headed in their direction.

Due to the strong winds, the black smoke traveled quickly, allowing the smoke to travel faster than usual.

Several minutes later, the smell of something foul and rancid washed over the city, making everyone's eyes water and their throats burn.

The Mayor immediately ordered those who specialized in Wind Magic to deflect the smoke that was being blown in the direction of their city before summoning the City Guards to follow him to the floating island where the dense smoke was coming from.

"What in the blazes is happening?!" the Mayor shouted as he looked at the burning crater, which was spreading the filthy smoke in their direction.

"Those who know water spells, extinguish those flames right now!" the Mayor ordered.

However, before his orders were carried out, Lux appeared in front of them and blocked their path.

"This mountain range belongs to me," Lux said with his arms crossed over his chest. "All of you are trespassing my private property."

"You bastard! It was you who caused this, right?!" the Mayor shouted as he pointed his clawed fingers at the Half-Elf who was covered in green armor.

"Cause of what?" Lux replied. "Are you talking about this sweet fragrance that I am sharing with you guys? Don't worry. I'm not going to charge you anything, you can all smell it for free."

The Mayor wanted to slap the Half-Elf silly for even saying something so ridiculous. Who in their right mind would want to smell burning trash and manure, even if it was for free?

"Look, you are causing problems to other people," the Mayor said icily. "If you don't get out of the way, I will order my guards to capture you and lock you in prison for life!"

"Well, you can do that, but I will send a petition to the Dragon King, saying that you trespassed on my territory," Lux replied with a sneer as he showed the deed with the insignia of the Dragon King. "Are you going to violate the Dragon King's orders? If you want me to step aside, then I will.

"However, I will immediately report this to the Dragon King and tell him that you infringed upon my rights. I will also ask for compensation because you are interfering with the renovation that I am working on right now."

Lux even stepped aside and made a gesture for the Mayor and his Guards to extinguish the flames he started.

In his previous life, he watched a documentary about a mountain of manure that had once caught fire and how it burned for weeks. Even the firefighters hadn't able to fully extinguish the flames due to how powerful the blaze was.

Of course, the people of this world were powerful so they could easily summon powerful Water Spells in order to douse the flames inside the crater. However, what Lux needed was only an excuse to file a complaint to the Dragon King.

This was also his way of telling the King of Dragons that if he wanted to play dirty, he could play dirty as well.

The Mayor almost gagged after hearing Lux's threat. He was really tempted to order his Guards to capture the Half-Elf and lock him up in prison. However, if he did that, he would have to face the Dragon King and come up with a good excuse for his action.

Although he was confident that the Dragon King would side with him due to the current situation, there was still a chance that he would be punished for interfering with the new owner of the mountainous region that they had been treating as their garbage dump for years.

"What do you want?" the Mayor asked.

"A truce," Lux replied. "From now on, you are not allowed to dump garbage anywhere on this floating island. Although I only own the mountainous area, I dislike smelling garbage that has been placed right in front of my doorstep."

The Mayor glared at the red-headed teenager while making cracking sounds with his clawed hands. "You really think you have the authority to order me around, Half-Elf?"

"Well, you really think you have the authority to order me around?" Lux replied. "You might be the Mayor of Pygmalion, But I am the owner of the Pit. This is my homecourt, and you are the one trespassing on it."

The Guards who were escorting the Mayor found this whole conversation silly. If they had their way, they would have instantly knocked the Half-Elf unconscious, bound him in chains, and taken to their prison without even bothering to talk to him.

However, Cethus, who was Lux's supervisor, stood not far away from the Half-Elf with his arms crossed over his chest.

The Half-Elf was his responsibility, and if anything happened to him, the Dragon King might punish him for not doing his job properly.

The Mayor and the Guards might be able to deal with the Half-Elf, but they couldn't possibly attack Cethus, who was notorious in their Domain for being spoiled by his Grandmother, who was one of the Dragon King's most steadfast supporters.

Right now, they were in a pinch, not knowing how to proceed.

The standoff lasted for several minutes as both sides glared at each other.

Cethus, who originally didn't know what the Half-Elf was thinking, gloated in his heart. Although he disliked the Half-Elf, he also disliked the Mayor of Pygmalion because there was a time when the latter chastised him for not living up to the name of his family, shaming their family's history.

'Damn, I don't really know how this is going to turn out, but this Half-Elf sure has guts,' Cethus thought as he looked at Lux who stood alone, facing hundreds of DragonBorns that belonged to Pygmalion's City Guards.

Soon, more DragonBorns and Dragons showed up on the third island because the Wind Mages were about to reach their limit.

They wanted to know what the Mayor was doing because the smoke wasn't receding in the slightest. In fact, it was becoming denser, turning the Wind Mages' efforts to keep the smoke from entering the city a city-wide concern.

"Guards! Capture this bastard!" the Mayor shouted. "Don't worry. I'll take all the responsibility. Extinguish those flames now!"

The weakest among the Guards of Pygmalion were Initiates, but there were dozens of Rankers mixed in with them. Knowing that he was at a disadvantage, Lux didn't have any intention to resist.

However, something unexpected happened.

The Dragon Token suddenly shot out of Lux's Storage Ring and emitted a beam of light towards the heavens.

The sun had just set, so the brilliant radiance could be seen even from miles away.

A moment later, a loud dragon roar, filled with rage, reverberated in the sky.

Keoza's visage that was nearly a hundred meters tall appeared behind Lux, eyeing the Dragon Borns with great hostility.

He had seen how the Dragon King treated the person he chose, and he was very dissatisfied with the arrangement the King made for Lux.

However, he didn't say anything and let the Half-Elf to think of a way to manage the situation himself. Keoza thought that Lux had resolved to let himself be bullied, but he was wrong.

After seeing the Half-Elf's defiance against those who wished to trample on his right, the Crystal Dragon decided that enough was enough and made his appearance.

Although he couldn't materialize his entire body and could only appear as an apparition, he still decided to make an appearance. He felt that it was not only Lux's right that was being trampled, but also his own dignity as an Elder Dragon.

Capital City of Rex Lapis...

The Dragon King heard a Dragon Roar in the distance and shifted his gaze towards the East.

The nostalgic roar filled with defiance resonated inside his head as his gaze moved through his castle walls until he saw the stand off in the Outer Reaches.

As the Dragon King, he could see everything inside his Domain if he wanted to.

The moment Keoza's visage appeared in the sky, the King of all Dragons narrowed his eyes as he gazed at the Crystal Dragon who had gotten into a huge argument with him hundreds of years ago.

'Now you show yourself,' the Dragon King snorted before standing on his throne. 'Keoza, you don't have the courage to show your face to me, but you appear so easily when that mortal is being threatened. Looks like you really don't have the guts to face me.'

A moment later, the Dragon King disappeared from his throne.

Since the Dragon that he had been waiting for had finally made his appearance, he decided to come and see him, so that the two of them could have a proper talk.

Although hundreds of years had passed, the Dragon King still wanted to see and talk to the Crystal Dragon, who had given up the right for succession for the throne of the Dragon King.

Chapter 422: Do You Dare?

Keoza's visage stood behind Lux with his wings spread wide.

His angry features looked down on the Dragon Borns, who were about to capture the Half-Elf, intimidating them into stopping their actions.

"A Crystal Dragon?" the Mayor frowned as he looked up at the giant apparition. "Wait, you look a little familiar."

As the Mayor was trying to recall where he had seen Keoza's form before, a gust of wind suddenly blew from behind him.

"It's been hundreds of years, Keoza. Have you been well?"

A humanoid golden dragon with golden eyes gazed at the Crystal Dragon with a smile.

"Y-Your Majesty!" The Mayor, as well as the other Dragon Borns, all knelt down as they paid tribute to their High King.

Keoza ignored the Dragon King and simply glared at the Mayor of the City of Pygmalion, making the latter flinch due to the concentrated anger and hostility that the Crystal Dragon directed at him.

Seeing that the Crystal Dragon was ignoring him, the Dragon King glanced at the blazing crater in the distance, as well as the black smoke rising up in the air, before frowning.

"Cethus, what happened here?" the Dragon King asked.

Cethus respectfully pressed his hands together as he narrated exactly how the events transpired. As a member of the Royal Guards, he had sworn an oath not to lie to the Dragon King, so he reported everything, without missing a single detail.

The Dragon King listened to Cethus' full report before shifting his gaze to the red-headed teenager who had caused the incident. He never thought that the one that Keoza chose would be so bold as to openly cause hardship for the city that turned his territory a garbage dump.

The Mayor listened to Cethus' report and frowned. However, he wasn't too worried. It was the Dragon King that had told him that it was fine to throw garbage on the third floating island, as long as it wasn't on the mountainous region that belonged to Lux.

Since that was the case, the Mayor ordered that all the wastes of their city be dumped at the foot of the mountain, surrounding the Half-Elf's domain with filth.

However, he didn't expect Lux to retaliate in a manner that would cause a city-wide pollution outbreak and make his citizens suffer.

"This is our first meeting," the Dragon King said to the red-headed teenager who was standing with his arms crossed over his chest. "So, why aren't you kneeling?"

As if making his point, he released a pressure that forced the Half-Elf to kneel, making Lux's head touch the floor.

"You're still the same. Whenever you don't get your way, you don't hesitate to use force to make others submit. How childish."

Keoza snorted as he gazed at the Dragon King, whose lips rose slightly after hearing the Crystal Dragon's words.

"Feel like talking to me now?" the Dragon King asked.

"Your attempt is quite laughable," Keoza replied. "Wouldn't it stain your reputation if rumors start to spread that the King of All Dragons visited a garbage dump to take a piss?"

The Mayor and the Dragon Born were surprised because the Crystal Dragon seemed to not have a single shred of respect for the Dragon King. However, what surprised them more was that the Dragon King didn't seem to be offended by how the Crystal Dragon treated him.

In fact, from their perspective, the Dragon King even seemed amused that the Crystal Dragon was mocking him.

"It pains me to look at you, dear Brother," the Dragon King stated. "The undisputed genius of Dragonkind, reduced to a spirit without a real body. It seems that Fate wasn't kind to you."

"It also pains me to look at you." Keoza sneered. "The reigning Dragon King and still needed to play these childish games to get my attention. What's wrong? Your wife doesn't pay attention to you and makes you sleep on the floor? Wait, don't tell me... you can't get it up anymore? How pitiful. This is what you get for being vain."

The Dragon Borns at the scene almost choked after hearing the Crystal Dragon's reply. No one in Karshvar Draconis would dare ridicule the Dragon King because this would result in capital punishment.

Although the Dragon King was very strict and ruled with an iron fist, he also made their kingdom prosper, preventing anyone from breaking the order of the Dragonkind.

"You still speak brazenly without considering the consequences," the Dragon King's tone was still calm, but his gaze became sharp like a sword about to decapitate his foe. "Did it ever cross your mind that I might punish this Half-Elf in your stead? It has been a while since we had a public execution. Maybe you want to commemorate this day with his head getting chopped off?"

Keoza chuckled before giving the Dragon King a look of ridicule.

"A public execution?" Keoza smirked. "Do you dare?"

The question "Do you dare?" reverberated in the surroundings, making all the Dragon Borns feel a chill run down their spine. They knew that their King didn't like to be challenged in an arrogant manner, and those who had dared to do so in the past found themselves dying before they even knew what hit them.

'This Half-Elf is dead.'

That was the general consensus of the Dragon Borns and the Dragons who were at the scene.

The Dragon King and Keoza stared at each other with contemptuous gazes that lasted for several minutes. Everyone remained silent. They didn't know the consequences of making a sound, disturbing them and suddenly creating a spark that would light a bomb.

Finally, after several minutes, it was the Dragon King who broke the silence first.

"Can we not really talk in a civilized manner like we did hundreds of years ago?" the Dragon King asked. "If you wish, I can help you gain a new body that will restore your former glory."

"We have nothing more to talk about," Keoza replied. "As for a new body? I don't need your charity. Also, one last thing..."

The Crystal Dragon gave the Mayor a side-long glance before shifting his gaze back to the Dragon King who was waiting for him to continue his words.

He could tell that the golden dragon who ruled the Dragon Kingdom didn't think much of Lux, but he didn't care.

In time, he will understand. But, that time was not now.

"If you think you can bully this child, then I hate to disappoint you, but he's not the type that takes things lying down," Keoza stated. "He's the same as me. I won't take things lying down. If you don't want your precious city to fall from the sky, make sure to handle this properly."

The Crystal Dragon's body turned into particles of light before returning to the Dragon Token that was now lying on the ground beside Lux.

The Half-Elf was still subjected to a powerful pressure, so he remained in a kneeling position, with his head touching the ground.

The Dragon King remained silent and stared at the Half-Elf, as if trying to understand what Keoza saw in him, making the Crystal Dragon defend him so much.

"Y-Your Majesty," the Mayor said a minute after the Crystal Dragon disappeared. "In what manner should we handle this situation?"

The Dragon King glanced at the blazing crater that was still spewing flames high up in the air, as well as the dense black smoke that was rising towards the sky.

"Handle this matter peacefully," the Dragon King replied. "I believe that you have what it takes to resolve this simple issue, yes?"

"O-Of course, Your Majesty."

"Good."

The Dragon King then shifted his gaze to Cethus, making the latter very nervous.

"After this incident is resolved, return to the capital to give me a full report," the Dragon King ordered. "You are to continue to supervise him, and make sure that this incident does not happen again, understood?"

Cethus patted his chest resolutely before giving his answer.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Cethus vowed. "I will not let you down!"

The Dragon King nodded and gave Lux one last glance before disappearing from where he stood. Since Keoza refused to have a proper discussion, he would wait until the Crystal Dragon's rage was pacified.

For now, he decided to pay a little more attention to the Half-Elf that the Crystal Dragon was nurturing. He wanted to know what Lux was truly capable of.

As soon as the Dragon King disappeared, the pressure that pressed on Lux's body also vanished without a trace.

"Are you okay, Eiko?" Lux asked the baby Slime, who had hidden herself inside Lux's robes the moment the Dragon King appeared.

"Pa!" Eiko replied as she crawled out of Lux's robe and returned to her rightful position, which was on top of the red-headed teenager's head.

The Half-Elf then casually dusted off his forehead and pants to remove the dirt that stuck to them after he had been forced to kneel.

A moment later, a sigh reached Lux's ears as the Mayor of the City of Pygmalion approached him with a serious expression on his face.

"We need to talk," the Mayor said.

Since the Dragon King ordered him to resolve this matter peacefully, he had no choice but to converse with the Half-Elf, whose true origins were not known.

If possible, he wanted to restart their relationship from scratch.

After seeing the Crystal Dragon up close, the Mayor finally remembered who he was.

The Crystal Dragon, Keoza.

The one who should have been crowned Dragon King but vanished before the coronation, leaving the throne to his older brother, who now sat on the golden throne and ruled the entirety of Karshvar Draconis.

Chapter 423: You Must Be Kidding Me...

Four days after the incident...

The flames that raged non-stop and devoured all the filth inside the crater finally came to a stop.

Lux and the Mayor had a talk and, upon the Half-Elf's request, the flames were not extinguished so that all the wastes inside the crater that had piled up for hundreds of years, would be burned completely, leaving nothing behind but ash.

Those who specialized in Wind and Earth magic worked together in order to create a wall, preventing the smoke from reaching the City of Pygmalion.

Fortunately, the direction of the wind changed after several hours, easing the hardship of the citizens of the city.

After realizing that their new neighbor was bat-sh*t-crazy, they decided to not antagonize him anymore and settled with creating a big crater in the wasteland of the lower realm, to dump their trash into.

The filth that had been dumped at the base of the mountain was also cleared out, making the Half-Elf sigh in relief. When everything was over, he then shared this news with his Guild Members, who celebrated after hearing that the issue was finally resolved.

"Hahaha!" Cai laughed. "I knew it! It was right to let them eat sh*t!"

"Lux, we might have won today, but make sure not to do anything reckless in the future," Cedwyn said. "Use negotiations first, but if negotiations fail, only then can we start blowing things up. It wouldn't be too late to do it then."

"It's good to know that we can finally have our headquarters built without worrying about filth and our neighbors," Thoram replied. "I'm itching to visit the Outer Reaches and see how they manage the order of their city."

"I'm also very curious as well," Keelan commented. "Do they also have an Adventurer's Guild? I'm dying to form connections with its Guildmaster!"

All in all, the replies of his Guild Members were positive. Lux was also very eager to start building his Guild Headquarters. However, even though the fire had been extinguished, the crater was still spewing out white smoke, so it was impossible to start the construction right away.

The Half-Elf would have to wait another day or two before he could look for a good location for his Guild Headquarters to be built.

Cethus, who was Lux's supervisor, temporarily left the Half-Elf to report to the Dragon King in the Capital City of Rex Lapis. Since Lux wasn't doing anything at the moment, the black-scaled Dragon Born decided to visit home. He proceeded to tell his grandmother about the crazy guy that he was in charge of supervising after his meeting with the Dragon King was over.

Eiko, who was humming on top of Lux's head and swaying side to side while the Half-Elf cooked their lunch, suddenly paused and gazed at the crater that was still spewing white smoke.

The baby slime blinked a couple of times before jumping up and down on Lux's head in excitement.

"Pa!"

"Don't worry. Lunch will be cooked soon."

"Pa!"

"The Mountain? What's wrong with the mountain?"

"Pa!"

The Half-Elf was confused because Eiko kept on telling him to go inside the giant crater to take a look.

"What is inside the mountain?" Lux asked as he picked up the baby slime, who was jumping up and down his head, to have a better understanding of what she was trying to say.

"Pa... Pa.. Pa..."

Eiko then told Lux that she could sense some treasures inside the crater, making the Half-Elf's eyes widen in shock.

The baby slime had the Treasure Hunter Title, which allowed Eiko to sense if there were any treasures near her location.

It didn't have a definitive range, so Lux didn't know how far this treasure detecting ability reached.

Perhaps, due to the filth that had been piled up like a mountain, the baby Slime hadn't been able to detect anything at first. However, now that the trash was reduced to ashes, the baby Slime was now able to pick up the faint traces of treasures that had been buried under garbage for hundreds of years.

Since Eiko was adamant that they go to the crater, Lux decided to put their lunch on hold and do as she said.

Wearing the Favonius Legacy, the Half-Elf flew towards the crater and used the power of wind to create a dome of air around him, shielding him from the smoke that would make his eyes water and throat itch.

Since there was nearly zero visibility, Lux's descent was very slow. The heat didn't affect him much because he was immune to flames, just like Red Dragons.

Eiko, on the other hand, was surprisingly resistant to heat as well, as she sat on top of Lux's head with a determined look on her face.

Finally, after several minutes, Lux's feet finally landed on the bottom of the crater. He looked around, but the white smoke was quite dense, preventing him from seeing past a meter in front of him.

Only the dome of air that surrounded his body kept the white smoke at bay, allowing the Half-Elf to breathe easily.

"Where do you sense it, Eiko?" Lux asked.

"Pa!" Eiko summoned a small ball of fire that hovered in front of Lux. A moment later, the small flame started to fly away slowly as if telling the Half-Elf to follow it.

Understanding what Eiko was trying to tell him, Lux followed the small flame and waded into the smoke-infested crater.

Ten minutes later, the flame landed on the ground in front of the Half-Elf.

Using the power of wind, Lux blasted the dense smoke away to better see what was on the ground.

There, he found a small purple gemstone the size of a fist that glowed faintly.

Out of curiosity, the Half-Elf picked it up and used his appraisal skill to identify it. However, after seeing the information that appeared in front of him, the red-headed teenager almost dropped the purple gemstone in his hand, which was actually not a gemstone, but a kind of extremely rare metal that would make the blacksmith's, Randolph's, eyes turn bloodshot if he saw it.

< Draconium Ore >

Type: Metal

Metal Rank: S

- This purplish ore that resembles a gemstone is very sturdy and is said to be as hard as dragon scales, making it impossible to melt unless a special kind of flame is used.
- If a small portion of this ore is used as a crafting ingredient, the minimum rating of a successful finished product is of the Mythical Rank.
- According to researchers, this type of metal can only be found in places where Dragons live. No one knows how this metal came to be.

The cold hiss escaped Lux's lips as he glanced at the information in front of him. However, before he could regain his composure, the baby slime on top of his head drew in a breath of air then blew it outwards, creating a gust of wind, making the white smoke in front of them disperse for several meters.

"You must be kidding me..." Lux muttered in disbelief as he looked at the ground in front of him.

Dozens of purple ores, similar to what he was holding, glowed faintly on the ground.

The extremely rare metal, which was said to be as hard as dragon scales and could create Mythical Ranked equipment at the bare minimum, were scattered in front of him.

Lux had a feeling that what he was seeing now was only a pitiful amount compared to what was still hidden behind the white smoke that covered his vision.

'Good thing, Cai isn't here,' Lux thought as he looked at the glowing ore in his hand.

He was sure that if the shameless boar was with him, the latter would no doubt go crazy and fight with him to collect the ores, which he was seeing for the first time in his life.

Chapter 424: Cadmus' Proposal

"What did you say?! Did you say Draconium?!"

Randolph, who saw Lux's report in the Guild Chat, immediately went bonkers after hearing that the Half-Elf had found a dozen of the extremely rare ore that was said to be as hard as Dragon scales.

Not even self-respecting Blacksmiths would be able to remain calm after knowing that there was a chance for them to get their hands on the fabled ore that could only be found in places where Dragons made their nests.

"Yes, Master," Lux replied. "I see dozens of them. But, I am certain that there are probably hundreds, even thousands of them lying in this crater. The smoke is just simply too thick, so the visibility is very poor. I just reported it here to let you know that I'll get as many as I can and give some of them to you once the Guild Headquarters is finished."

Randolph couldn't sit still after hearing Lux's reply. If not for the fact that he couldn't teleport to where the Half-Elf was currently at, he might have already left everything behind in order to help him collect the precious ores, which was something every Blacksmith would fight for.

Cai, who liked every kind of treasure, was also unable to keep still.

Its grandfather, Maximilian, was a Blacksmith and a Jewelsmith. He was very fond of rare ores, and he would often go to auction houses to bid for these rare metals. Cai knew that if its grandfather heard that its Guildmaster was in possession of hundreds, perhaps thousands of rare ores, the Saint would definitely go to where Lux was currently at without a second thought.

"My Daddy! Remember to give me some of them as well!" Cai pleaded. "I will give them to my grandpa, and I'm sure that he will be very happy to receive them. No need to give me a hundred ores, a thousand will do."

Lux, who just read Cai's shameless message, chose to ignore it completely. At first, he thought that the Boar wanted to only ask for a few dozens because it didn't want hundreds of them. However, after seeing that it wanted thousands of the rare metal, the Half-Elf decided to pretend that he didn't see its message.

"Draconium... I smell good business, Lux," Keelan commented. "You mentioned that you are low on funds, but do you know how much a pound of Draconium costs on the blackmarket?"

"No. How much does it cost, Master Keelan?"

"A million gold coins at the minimum, and three at the maximum. If you sell it in an auction house, the price might go even higher."

"What?!" Cai cried out loud after seeing the message on its status page, which made the member of the Rowan Tribe look at it in confusion.

The Boar was currently back in its Tribe, along with Keane, because it was feeling a bit homesick.

Also, it wanted to know if its grandpa had finished preparing the medicine for those that were suffering from the Purple Plague, but unfortunately, its grandpa was still in his special domain and hadn't come out since it received the Sacred White Lotus from Cai.

"Hehehe... don't mind me," Cai said as it gazed at the people around it. "I just dozed off and daydreamed a bit."

The people around it nodded their heads in understanding and continued to barbecue pork chops for it. They knew that Cai loved pork chops, and the

members of the Rowan Tribe were more than happy to satisfy the Boar's every wish.

Keane, who was seated at the side, remained silent as he read the heated exchange that was happening inside the Guild Chat.

As someone who was raised in the mountains, he had no idea how significant or precious the Draconium Ore was. Only after seeing Keelan's message, which said that the price it could fetch was millions of gold coins, did the skinny swordsman finally understand what kind of good fortune Lux had stumbled upon.

Suddenly, someone whom Lux didn't expect to join the conversation joined, making the other members look at his message in surprise.

"Draconium Ore? If you need help mining them, the Kobolds will be more than happy to help you mine for them," Cadmus said.

The Draconian Kobold was currently with Sid in the Savage Lands and doing some exploration. However, after finding out that Lux had found some Draconian Ore, his racial memory kicked in, allowing him to better understand the situation.

"If I remember correctly, Draconium can be used to create extremely sturdy armor and powerful weapons," Cadmus commented. "The records of our race said that those who were proficient in crafting them would be able to make Mythical and even Legendary Weapons as long as their proficiency reached a certain threshold."

Cai, who was reading the message, ignored the Mythical part and just focused on the word Legendary. If earlier it only felt as though it was unable to sit down properly, now, it was pacing back and forth, unable to keep itself calm.

"My Daddy! Is there really no other way for us to be there? I will definitely get everything—I mean, I will help you pick up everything and divide it evenly amongst our Members. Um, don't you have the skill, Guild Summon or something to summon all of your Guild Members beside you? How about you summon us right now? We will definitely help you gather those treasures!"

"Cai, I can see your greed all the way from here," Lux replied to the shameless Boar who was currently itching to get its hooves on the precious Draconium Ore.

Even so, Lux felt that the Boar's proposal wasn't a bad idea. If he had more hands to help him, gathering all the precious ore wouldn't take too much time.

Just like Cai had said, Lux had a special privilege as the Guild Master of the only Mythical Guild in the world to summon all of his Guild Members to his side.

This ability could be used in various ways, allowing Lux to instantly call forth powerful fighters when the right condition was met.

Because of this, Lux glanced at his Skill Book to look at the Guild Summon skill that was available to him.

< Heaven's Call >

– This skill can be used once a day to summon all of your Guild Members to instantly be right beside you.

< Requirements for using Heaven's Call >

– The Guild Master must be standing inside a village, town or city.

– The Guild Master must be standing inside his own Guild Headquarters.

– Members have the right to accept, or reject the summoning of their Guild Master.

– Those who reject the summons will remain where they are.

After reading the information, Lux pondered for a bit if it was really a good idea to summon his Guild Members in the City of Pygmalion so that they could help him harvest the Draconium Ore while Cethus wasn't around to supervise him.

"Cadmus, I think your proposal is good. How long will it take you to recruit the Kobolds that are proficient in mining?" Lux asked.

"At least half a day," Cadmus replied. "Sid and I are currently in the Savage Lands, but if we use the teleportation scroll we have in our possession, we

can immediately arrive at the Stronghold of Norria. From there, it will take me a few hours to reach our nest. However, once I have invited them to our guild, there will no longer be a problem in their transportation because you can summon them instantly."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. Right now, the Kobolds and him shared a very beneficial relationship, and he had no problem recruiting them to his Guild.

Unlike people, Kobolds usually stayed inside their nest and expanded it by digging in the ground. Since they didn't have much interaction with other races, Lux's secret would be kept without any problems.

Also, after coming to know about the benefits of his guild, most of the Kobolds, who wanted to become strong, had already told Cadmus their intention of joining Lux's guild.

Currently, there were over fifty Kobolds who had joined Heaven's Gate and were helping Cadmus explore the Savage Lands alongside Sid.

These Kobolds were Rank 3 and Rank 4 Monsters, and they were getting stronger by the day thanks to the special buffs that increased their Health, Mana, and Stamina regeneration, as well as the boost in experience points, allowing them to gain stat points faster.

"Very well," Lux stated. "Inform me as soon as you have gathered all of your brethren. For the time being, I will collect as much as I can before others discover this great boon that fell on our heads."

Cadmus agreed and told Lux that he would message him as soon as he returned to his nest to recruit the other Kobolds.

"Well then, Eiko. Let's get to work," Lux said.

"Pa!"

The Baby Slime jumped towards the ground and immediately crawled away, devouring all the Draconium Ore she came across.

The white smoke didn't affect her much, and she didn't have any problems breathing. Also, her Treasure Hunter ability allowed her to pinpoint the exact

locations of the ore, so despite the thick white smoke, she was able to collect the Draconium Ore without too much hardship.

Lux, on the other hand, summoned his Skeleton Army to help him collect the ores lying on the ground. Since they didn't need to breathe and could faintly grasp the location of things imbued with heat and magic, the Undead had no problem wading around in the thick smoke as they picked up the ore along the way.

The Half-Elf didn't stand idle either and assisted them in collecting as much ore as possible.

This work continued for two hours, until Lux and Eiko left the crater to have lunch.

Both of them were quite hungry, so they left the Undead to handle the collection of the Draconium Ore while they ate and waited for the Kobolds to join their ranks.

Chapter 425.1: Dragon Borns And Kobolds [Part 1]

The sun was just about to set when Lux received Cadmus' message, informing him that all of the Kobolds who were willing to join his Guild had been successfully recruited.

Since time was of the essence, the Half-Elf immediately flew toward the City of Pygmalion in order to summon them using his Guild Skill, Heaven's Call.

After the incident, the Mayor and Lux had come to a truce. Both sides would no longer do anything to harm each other's interest and would cooperate with each other during times of need.

Because Lux had the backing of Keoza, the Mayor of Pygmalion thought that it would be in his benefit to give the Half-Elf an opportunity to grow and develop his Guild. After all, whether he liked it or not, the two of them were neighbors now.

Since that was the case, it would be in their best interest to form a friendly partnership as no one knew what the future held.

Of course, the Mayor's opinion was not shared by the majority of the Dragon Borns, as well as citizens of Pygmalion. For them, Lux was an eyesore and should be banned from entering their city.

But, since the Mayor had already said that the Dragon King wanted this matter to be settled peacefully, no one dared to voice their opposition out loud.

Lux went straight to the Mayor's house to inform him that he would be summoning his Guild Members inside the city and asked for his permission.

The Mayor, whose name was Jorinn, agreed to Lux's request and gave him permission to summon his Guild members in the plaza, where the teleportation gate that allowed the citizens of Pygmalion to return and arrive from the Lower Realm was located.

Since the city was a hub for people of different races to mingle with each other, a teleportation gate was created to allow those that had been given permission by the Dragon King to travel from the Lower Realm to the Outer Reaches of Karshvar Draconis.

The other races were also not allowed to leave the Outer Reaches unless they were summoned by the Dragon King or given official permission to travel to the other parts of Karshvar Draconis.

Although Lux's Guild Members hadn't receive the permission of the Dragon King to enter the Outer Reaches, Jorinn decided to give them temporary gate passes to enter and leave his city, but warned Lux that he should tell his Guild Members that they were forbidden to go anywhere outside of the Outer Reaches.

Lux promised to obey this rule, and he was escorted by some of Jorinn's Personal Guards to the Plaza.

The Mayor did this because of one simple reason. He was very curious to know what kind of people Lux's Guild Members were like, but he didn't want to appear to be overly curious, so he decided to let his guards accompany the Half-Elf with the order to report everything when they returned to his residence.

After arriving at the Plaza, Lux chose a place that wasn't too crowded and pressed his closed fist over his chest.

"Heaven's Call!"

Several flashes of light illuminated the surroundings as Lux's Guild Members appeared in the plaza one by one.

"Is this the Legendary City of Dragons?" Cai asked as it looked around with great curiosity. "Fei Fei do you sense any treasure around? Just whisper it to me quietly so we can get it when no one is looking!"

"..."

Fei Fei scanned her surroundings before shaking her head. Clearly, she didn't detect any treasures nearby, which made Cai slightly disappointed.

Aside from Cai, there were also others who decided to accept the invite to come sightsee for the time being.

Randolph, Keelan, Keane, Cadmus, and his Kobold brethren all looked around their surroundings with great curiosity.

The others also wanted to come, but since they had responsibilities to attend to, they decided to put their visit on hold until the Guild Headquarters was built.

Suddenly, a commotion started as soon as the Dragon Borns around them noticed the Kobolds that had arrived in their city.

"What are these pieces of trash doing here in our city?!" a Dragon Born shouted. "You filthy Kobolds are not welcome here. Go back to where you came from and stay there!"

The Kobolds, who had been called pieces of trash, glared at the Dragon Born and shouted back.

"Yuck! What is this? A wannabe Dragon?!" one of the Kobold Warriors shouted.

"Do they really think that just because you have dragon scales, dragon horns, and dragon wings, you are dragons?" another Kobold commented. "What a bunch of fakes!"

"Calm down, brother. This is why they are Dragon Wannabes not Dragon Borns."

"Um, you make sense brother. These pieces of sh*t should just smash their heads on a rock or boulder and get it over with."

As if a spark had been ignited, the Dragon Borns and the Kobolds started to hurl insults at each other, making Lux blink his eyes in confusion.

"I forgot to tell you, we don't like Dragon Borns much," Cadmus commented as he glared at the Dragon Borns who were talking crap about his brethren. "Kobolds worship Dragons, but for us, Dragon Borns are just fakes. Naturally, Dragon Borns think of us as lowly creatures because we are born weak and aspire to become Dragons. This is why we don't get along well."

"I see," Lux nodded his head in understanding. Thinking that the situation might get worse and end up in a fistfight, the Half-Elf asked Cadmus to pacify his brethren and make them stop hurling insults at the Dragon Borns.

Right now, they were only visitors to the city, so they should not antagonize the people that lived in it.

Cadmus did his best to pacify the Kobolds, and since their Guild Master and Leader had spoken, they did their best to reign in their anger and endure the insults that the Dragon Borns were still shouting in their direction.

Even the Mayor's Guards, who had come to escort Lux, were looking at the Kobolds in disdain, making Lux shake his head helplessly.

"Let's go," Lux ordered as he led the way outside of the city. "The sooner we leave, the better."

Due to the commotion, many spectators gathered at the scene to see what was happening.

However, after seeing that the source of the problem was Kobolds, they joined the Dragon Borns in making fun of them, thinking that they would get into their good graces in the process.

Cadmus glared hatefully at these people who just couldn't keep their mouths shut but didn't do anything aside from that.

Lux was right. They were the visitors to the city, so it was only natural that they behaved themselves if they didn't want to risk being kicked out or, worse, exiled from the Outer Reaches.

After leaving the City Gates, the Kobolds finally managed to breathe a sigh of relief.

However, just as Lux was thinking about how to get the Kobolds to fly towards the third island, several dragons landed in front of them.

"Wow! A real dragon!"

"God! My prayers have been answered. I am not worthy!"

"Your Excellencies, we are not worthy of standing in your presence. Please, allow us to kneel and pay tribute to all of you!"

One by one all the Kobolds prostrated themselves in front of the Dragons, making the corner of Cai's lips twitch.

However, to Lux's surprise, even Cadmus was looking at the Dragons with great respect and adoration, which reminded the Half-Elf of how much Kobolds worshiped dragons.

"These little ones are funny," one of the Dragons laughed as they looked at the prostrating Kobolds who did their best to flatter them.

"It's been a while since we've been treated in this manner," another Dragon commented. "Such novelty."

In Karshvar Draconis, although Dragons were revered, no one would go so far as to treat them the way Kobolds did. Because of this, they looked at the Kobolds fondly and thought that having them around wasn't such a bad idea.

"This is the first time I am seeing Kobolds in the City of Pygmalion," a Wind Dragon approached the Kobolds with a smile. "Speak. What is your purpose for coming here?"

The Dragons were talking to them using telepathy, which was the special blessing bestowed upon them by the God of the world, allowing them to communicate with all of the creatures regardless of their race, gender, and language.

This was similar to Eiko's speech ability. As long as they were talking to sentient creatures that were able to communicate, having a conversation was not a problem.

Judging by the tone of its voice, the Half-Elf assumed that the Wind Dragon was the leader of the young dragons, all of whom were just as big as Bedivere's Dragon Mount.

"Great One, we came here due to the summons of our Guild Master," Cadmus replied to the Wind Dragon's question. "We are planning to build a Guild Headquarters on the third floating island of the Outer Reaches."

"Ah. So it was you," the Wind Dragon shifted its attention to the Half-Elf, who was one of the people that weren't kneeling in front of them. "I heard that there was a bold Half-Elf that had made The Pit his new home. It seems that you plan to build your Guild Headquarters there, how interesting."

The Wind Dragon then glanced at the prostrating Kobolds on the ground then back at Lux.

"Well then, how are you planning on bringing these little ones to the third floating island?" the Wind Dragon asked. "Aside from that Draconian Kobold, none of them can fly."

Lux scratched his head because this was the problem he was facing.

"Your Excellency, truth be told, I haven't thought that far," Lux replied. "I needed a lot of help, so I thought that bringing them here wasn't a bad idea. But, now that they are here, I am having trouble thinking of ways to bring them to the third island."

The Wind Dragon chuckled before looking down on the Kobolds who were still bowing their heads in worship.

"Well then, since we are in a good mood today, how about we offer you guys a little help?" the Wind Dragon said before it flapped its wings, summoning a gust of air, making the Kobolds who were kneeling in the ground float.

"Your help is greatly appreciated, Your Excellency," Lux bowed respectfully to the Wind Dragon. "Once our Guild Headquarters are complete, feel free to visit us. We will do our best to provide you with our best hospitality."

"Hoh... very well. I'll come and visit one of these days." the Wind Dragon smirked before glancing at its comrades.

Half an hour later, all the Kobolds, as well as Lux's other guild members were transferred to the third floating island with the help of the Wind Dragons.

Allowing them to see the place where their Guild Headquarters would be born.

Chapter 426.2: Dragon Borns And Kobolds [Part 2]

Even after the Dragons left, the Kobolds were still giddy from the shock of being able to meet Dragons for the first time.

They were similar to the fans of idols who had just been given the opportunity to shake their idols' hands, still stuck in Lala Land.

Even Cadmus, whom Lux had thought to be the most stable of the bunch, wasn't able to stop himself from grinning, showing just how happy he was.

'If they are acting like this just by meeting Dragons, I wonder if they will all faint once they get the chance to see the Dragon King,' Lux mused as he looked at the bunch of happy Kobolds.

However, just as he was about to tell them to snap out of their daze, he faintly heard the sound of running, making him turn his head to the direction it was coming from.

"We're rich!" Cai shouted as it ran full speed toward the crater. "Fei Fei. Just tell me where the treasures are, okay? I'll grab them as soon as I can!"

"Da Wae!" Fei Fei replied positively as she pointed in the direction of the crater.

After arriving near the crater, the baby golden slime started to sense the treasures that were present inside the crater. Because of this, it informed Cai about its discovery, prompting the Boar to run full speed in an attempt to grab as many treasures as it could before the Kobolds got to them.

"Cadmus, take care of THAT please," Lux said in a fed-up tone as he pointed at the boar who was making a mad dash towards the crater.

Truth be told, he didn't want to invite Cai to come, but since the Guild Summon affected all of his Guild Members, the boar decided to come along and look for treasures as well.

Soon the loud squealing of a pig being slaughtered resounded in the surroundings as Cadmus grabbed hold of Cai's body to prevent it from going inside the crater.

"Cadmus, keep watch over that troublemaker." Lux gave the Boar a disdainful glance before ordering the Kobolds to enter the crater to start their mining operations.

"Noooooo! I want treasures too!" Cai wailed as it was held down by Cadmus, whose current strength was at the peak of Rank 5 Alpha Monster.

Lux was sure that it was only a matter of time before the Draconian Kobold became a Deimos-Ranked Alpha Monster, becoming the strongest fighter in his Guild.

Cai had no chance in hell to beat Cadmus, even if it took on its Hildivisni Form or even if it activated its Third Gear, which specialized in countering Magical Attacks.

"Calm down, Cai," Lux said. "I'll give you a share of the Ores when it's all collected. I know that your grandpa is a Grandmaster Blacksmith and a Jewelsmith. I also owe him a favor, so I will not be stingy when it comes to him."

"Oh, then in that case, can I look for treasures in other parts of this island?" Cai asked in relief after knowing that its grandpa would also get some Draconium Ores that he could use to craft items for it. "I promise that I won't go inside the crater."

Lux pondered a bit before reluctantly nodding his head. Only the mountainous regions of the third floating Island belonged to him. If Cai were to look for treasures away from the mountains, the Half-Elf didn't mind allowing it to go treasure hunting.

"Okay, but make sure not to go near the crater, okay?"

"You can count on me! Fei Fei, let's go!"

Cai, who had regained its freedom, ran in the opposite direction of the crater, with the golden slime perched on its head.

Now that it had secured its grandpa's share of the ore, it decided to just go look for treasures somewhere else, giving Lux some peace of mind as well.

The Kobolds worked alongside the Skeletons who were also inside the crater and carried out their roles well.

The majority of Kobolds that joined Lux's guild were already Rank 3 and Rank 4 Monsters. Those that had accompanied Cadmus and Sid to explore the Savage Lands had the highest levels among the bunch because they had their share of battling stronger monsters alongside Cadmus and Sid.

What Lux didn't know was that his guild was quite special. In truth, monsters like Kobolds couldn't become members of just any Guild.

It only worked in his Guild because its rank was Mythical, allowing even monsters to become Guild Members.

The mining operation lasted all through the night until morning came.

When the first rays of sunlight appeared over the horizon, the last traces of white smoke inside the crater disappeared.

Lux almost didn't believe his eyes when he saw the amount of ore that had been collected from inside the crater.

There were over a hundred thousand Draconium Ores in the temporary Guild Storage, which the Kobolds had made as a place to dump the Ores they had collected.

The inventory slots of all the Skeletons were also full, allowing Lux to see 99 stacks of Draconium Ore in their inventories.

Each Skeleton was only able to carry a hundred Draconium Ores, which was a very pitiful number. But, if the fact that this precious metal was worth a million gold coins per pound was taken into consideration, each Skeleton was like a walking treasury overflowing with gold coins. The Half-Elf smiled at that thought.

'143,879 Draconium Ores. Not bad,' Lux thought as he got the final total of the ore that was taken from the crater.

Also, the Kobolds informed him that they could sense other precious ores and gemstones buried underneath the mountain range, making the Half-Elf consider moving Cadmus' entire Kobold Nest to the floating island.

Four hours later, when the sun was almost at its Zenith, a black-scaled Dragon Born descended near the crater.

It was none other than Cethus, who had just returned from the capital city of the Dragon Race.

He was Lux's supervisor, so he couldn't stay away for a long time due to the order given to him by the Dragon King. However, as soon as he landed near the crater, he saw over a hundred Kobolds, roasting meat over bonfires.

'Kobolds? Just what are these lowly creatures doing here?' Cethus frowned after seeing the Kobolds on the third island of the Outer Reaches. 'This must be that Half-Elf's doing.'

Just like the other Dragon Borns, he had an inherent dislike for the Kobolds. For their race, Kobolds were just delusional creatures who aspired to become Dragons even though they were just a bunch of lowly monsters.

Without wasting any more time, the Dragon Born went to find the Half-Elf, who was currently discussing the possibility of having more Kobolds join his guild with Cadmus in order to help mine the mountains to look for resources.

Cadmus thought that this idea was good because it would allow his race to be close to the Dragon Race whom they worshiped.

Also, now that Lux could sell the Draconium Ore for a hefty price, he could build a Teleportation Gate that would give him access to Leaf Village, as well as the underground Nest, where the Grotto of the Forbidden Guardian had been located.

That was also where Lux had met Keoza, and where he received the Dragon Token from him.

Just as the two were about to decide how many more Kobolds would join the Guild, Cethus appeared in front of them with a displeased expression on his face.

"Oi, Lux. Why are there filthy Kobolds in the Outer Reaches?" Cethus asked. "Just what were you thinking? Don't you know that we hate these lowly monsters second only to Abyssal Monsters?"

The Dragon Born didn't even bother to hide his contempt even though a Draconian Kobold was sitting right beside Lux.

In his eyes, it didn't matter if a Kobold grew horns and wings. Kobolds were still Kobolds, no matter how much they tried to aspire to become a part of the Dragon race.

"This is?" Cadmus frowned as he pointed at the Dragon Born who was starting to annoy him.

Lux scratched his head before introducing Cethus to him.

"Cadmus this is Cethus," Lux said. "He is the supervisor assigned by the Dragon King to ensure that I don't do anything troublesome in the Outer Reaches."

The Half-Elf then paused and made a gesture to Cethus. "Cethus, this is Cadmus. He is the leader of the Kobolds that are part of my Guild. I hope the two of you can get along we—"

"I refuse."

"I don't like Wannabes."

Cethus and Cadmus glared at each other, which made the Half-Elf sigh in his heart.

"Okay, I don't mind if the two of you don't get along, but just try not to get in each other's way," Lux gave up trying to patch up the relationship between the Dragon Born and the Draconian Kobold because they were like water and oil.

"Lux, let me remind you that I am your supervisor," Cethus stated icily. "I am here to ensure that you don't do anything troublesome and jeopardize the safety of Karshvar Draconis as a whole. You bringing these... lowly insects to

our land is like bringing a stain to our dignity. I want you to expel them at once from this island and never allow them to set their measly foot in it ever again!"

Lux frowned before he stood up and stared at the Dragon Born with his arms crossed over his chest.

"Let me remind you that this Mountain Range is my domain, and I have every right to allow anyone to step foot in it," Lux replied. "If you have a problem with it, go and report me to the Dragon King. Your words alone are not enough for me to change my mind."

"Very well. I hope you're ready for the consequences!" Cadmus sneered before flying away.

Although he had just arrived at the Outer Reaches, he didn't mind going back to the Capital City of Rex Lapis to report the latest fiasco that the Half-Elf had caused.

"Are you not worried that you will be punished by the Dragon King?" Cadmus asked.

Even though he hated Dragon Borns, the Dragon King was an existence that was like a God to them. They would obey his command even if that command was for them to be exiled from the Outer Reaches.

"It's fine." Lux shrugged. "I'm sure the Dragon King wouldn't mind having a few Kobolds around."

Kobolds usually served Dragons, and Dragons were quite aware of this as well. Unlike the Dragon Borns who hated Kobolds, the Dragons treated the little Monsters as servants who would do miscellaneous things for them.

Lux wasn't too worried about the Dragon King's decision on this matter because he planned to keep the Kobolds inside the Mountain Range. If the DragonBorns didn't want to see them, all they needed to do was avoid the third Island, and there would be no problem at all.

"Forget about him," Lux waved his hand as if to end the matter with Cethus. "Let's look for a place to build our Guild Headquarters."

Cadmus nodded and followed behind Lux.

Now that the crater of the mountain had been cleared, it was time to build their Guild Headquarters and officially start the activities of their guild.

Chapter 427: Are All Of You Ready To Hear My Performance?

"Y-Your Majesty, are you sure about this?" Cethus asked in disbelief after hearing the Dragon King's reply.

He had traveled as fast as he could to return to the Capital City of Rex Lapis in order to inform him about what was happening on the Third Island of the Outer Reaches, but the answer that the Dragon King gave him wasn't the answer he was hoping to hear.

"Let him do as he wishes."

That was what the Dragon King told the black-scaled Dragon Born, which shocked not only him, but the Dragon Borns that were serving as his Ministers in the throne room.

Just as Lux expected, the Dragon King didn't really care if he brought some Kobolds inside his Domain. For Dragons, Kobolds were similar to cute pets that followed their every order. As long as the Kobolds belonging to Lux's faction wouldn't do anything to cause harm to his Kingdom, he was willing to give them permission to stay in the Outer Reaches.

"W-Won't you reconsider, Your Majesty?" One of the Ministers asked. "If the Kobolds are here, there will be unrest within the Kingdom."

The Dragon King shifted his attention to the minister he spoke up, making the latter flinch.

"Are you defying my order?" the Dragon King asked in an icy tone.

"N-No! Of course not, Your Majesty!"

"Then shut your trap."

The Dragon King's words resounded inside the throneroom making all the Dragon Borns, as well as Dragons inside it, bow their heads in submission.

Due to their innate hate for the Kobolds, they had forgotten that the person who was sitting on the golden throne was the King of all Dragons.

His words were law, and no one in Arshvar Draconis had the right to question his orders.

"This is why Kobolds are better than you lot," the Dragon King snorted. "At least they know their place. It seems that all of you have gotten too comfortable in the positions you hold at the moment. Should I weed out those who are not willing to carry out my orders?"

"Please forgive us, Your Majesty!"

"W-We have erred. Please, have mercy on us."

""Have mercy on us!""

The Dragon King smirked before giving his orders. "Return to your duties, and don't question my orders a second time!"

""Yes! Your Majesty!""

All the ministers left the throne room as if they had been given the Royal Pardon. Even Cethus hurriedly left because he was afraid that if he stayed for a second longer, the Dragon King would ask him to remain in the throne room and punish him for reporting something so petty.

When the Dragon King was left all alone in the throne room, a door appeared behind the throne, revealing a secret passage that was only known to the Royal Family.

The Dragon King smiled because he already knew the identity of the person that came to see him.

"Father, did I pick the wrong time to visit you?"

A young lady, whose skin was as white as cream, and eyes as red as rubies asked.

Her long purple hair that rested behind her back swayed faintly as she sat on her father's lap and looked up at him with an apologetic look on her face.

"You can visit me anytime, love." The Dragon King looked fondly at his daughter as he playfully poked the two small, golden dragon horns that were only an inch tall on her head. "What brings you here?"

She was his pride and treasure, and very few individuals had managed to gaze upon her beauty because the Dragon King was overprotective of her.

"Mother asked me to tell you to visit her soon," the young lady said with a smile. "My little brother is about to be born, and she wants you to be there when he hatches from his egg."

The Dragon King's eyes widened because he thought that it would still take a week before his latest child would hatch from his egg. Even so, his surprise didn't last long before a chuckle escaped his lips.

"Looks like our family has grown a little bigger," the Dragon King said softly. "Valerie, make sure to take good care of your little brother, okay?"

"Un! I'm so excited to play with him!" Valerie nodded her head.

"Alright. Since I finished my work early, let's go see your mother, okay?"

"Yes!"

The purple-haired beauty happily grabbed hold of her father's right hand and dragged him towards the secret passage. Now that her little brother was about to hatch, their family of six, would soon become a family of seven.

Third Island of the Outer Reaches...

"Hmm... I think it will be best that we build our Guild Headquarters on that mountain over there," Kellan commented. "The height is just right and it overlooks the crater."

"That's a good idea." Randolph rubbed his beard in agreement. "The crater can be used as the training ground, or we can also build a town there in the future. Since we can also construct our own Teleportation Gate, we don't need to go to the City of Pygmalion for transportation."

Keelan nodded. "If the town grows big enough, we can even start trading with the other cities of Karshvar Draconis. I think we'll need to revise our marketing strategy in the future."

Lux crossed his arms over his chest as he looked at the mountain that was ideal to build his Guild Headquarters on.

Suddenly, an image appeared inside his head of a white marble castle, overlooking a prosperous city that even surpassed the City of Pygmalion.

'I'm just building a Guild, and not a Kingdom,' The Half-Elf mused as he set aside the image that appeared inside his head. 'One step at a time, Lux. There's no need to bite off more than you can chew.'

Grabbing the waists of the two dwarves, the Half-Elf carried them towards the mountain where they would be building their Guild Headquarters.

A few minutes later, they safely landed on the ground and gazed down at the crater, taking in the view in front of them.

"Not bad." Keelan nodded. "This place is perfect."

"By the way, how are we going to build our Guild Headquarters?" Randolph asked. "Don't tell me that we will be the ones to do it? That's impossible!"

Lux blinked once then twice before Randolph's words sank into him.

He had never built a Guild Headquarters before and had no idea how to build one from scratch.

"In the case of other Guilds, they've usually hired one of those Merchant Guilds to build their Guild Headquarters for them," Keelan said as he shared his knowledge. "Have you already asked the Mayor of Pygmalion to recommend some Merchant Guilds to you?"

Lux shook his head before opening his Soul Book. According to the new information that was added to his Elysium Compendium, the Guildmaster of a Mythical Guild can simply choose a location, and pay the necessary gold for the Guild Headquarters to be built.

"Let me try something first," Lux said as he clicked the Build Guild Headquarters option in his Soul Book.

A moment later, several rows of text appeared in front of him, which Keelan and Randolph also saw, making them come closer to take a better look.

< You are now one step away from building your Guild Headquarters! >

< Please, select one of the Merchant Guilds listed here to commission the construction of your Guild Headquarters. Take note that they don't accept credits. All transactions must be paid in full before the constructions starts! >

(Leading Merchant Guilds of Elysium)

- Do It Yourself Merchant Guild
- Ama-Soon Merchant Guild
- E-Bae Merchant Guild
- Zavarudo Merchant Guild
- ZAPOS Merchant Guild
- One Peace Merchant Guild
- My Hero Merchant Guild
- Full Metal Merchant Guild
- Faith Stay Merchant Guild
- Gunslinger Merchant Guild
- League of Ley-gends Merchant Guild
- Kanpai Collection Merchant Guild
- Game-shin Impact Merchant Guild
- XXXXXX
- XXXXXX

– XXXXXX

– XXXXXX

– XXXXXX

Nearly fifty Merchant Guilds appeared on the list, making Lux, Randolph, and Keelan ponder which Merchant Guild to pick from the choices listed in front of them.

Regardless of which one they chose, they would need to pay ten million gold coins for the building of their Guild Headquarters. However, since they haven't heard any of the names listed on the list, they were not sure which ones were the best in the industry.

"It's all up to you, Lux," Keelan said. "I haven't heard of these names before. Perhaps they are Merchant Guilds outside of the Kingdom of Gweliven."

Randolph also nodded his head. Someone like him, who hadn't even seen the entirety of the Dwarven Kingdom, couldn't compare to Keelan, whose connections far surpassed him.

After several minutes of pondering, Lux chose one of the Merchant Guilds that was on the list.

< You have chosen Game-shin Impact Merchant Guild >

< Are you sure about your choice? >

< Yes / No >

Lux chose yes, and the name of the Merchant Guild he chose glowed faintly before disappearing in front of him.

A moment later, a loud roar reverberated in the sky.

The wind picked up, and black clouds appeared in the skies above the Outer Reaches.

Suddenly, a giant blue dragon with four wings protruding from its back appeared in the distance, flying towards the mountain where Lux, Randolph, and Keelan were currently standing.

The Giant Blue Dragon circled the mountain twice before landing several meters away from the Half-Elf and the two Dwarves.

The sound of a lyre playing spread in the surroundings as a young man wearing a green robe, and green feathered cap stood on the head of the Dragon, and gazed down on Lux with a smile.

"Give me a moment to compose myself," the young man said with a smile as the green cape on his back fluttered in the breeze. "My name is Bentley. Are all of you ready to hear my performance?"

Lux, Randolph, and Keelan glanced at each other in dismay.

They were looking for someone to build their Guild Headquarters, and not a performer who would play an instrument for them.

However, Bentley, who was still standing on top of the Giant Blue Dragon merely chuckled, and happily strummed the strings of his lyre, creating a beautiful melody that chased away the dark clouds in the sky.

Chapter 428: Game-Shin Impact Merchant Guild

"Allow me to formally introduce myself again," Bentley bowed respectfully. "My name is Bentley and I am the Vice-Guild Master of Game-shin Impact Merchant Guild. Pleased to meet your acquaintance."

"Nice to meet you too," Lux replied as he looked at the Vice Guild Master who looked like a tone-deaf-bard, wandering the land looking for the best alcoholic drinks available.

Bentley smiled before nodding his head. "Since we have made our introductions, let's get down to business. You want your Guild Headquarters built on top of this mountain, right?"

"Yes," Lux nodded. "I'd like it to be built over there."

Lux pointed at the ideal spot where he wanted to have his Guild Headquarters built.

Bentley looked at the location and rubbed his chin.

"You will have to pay additional fees for the creation of a clearing on that mountain peak," Bentley stated. "As you may already know, we can't possibly just build your headquarters on that spot without a proper foundation, so we need to do some demolition."

"How much will it cost?"

"You will need to add 500,000 Gold Coins to the original price. So the total will be 10,500,000 Gold Coins."

"That's fine."

If it was before, Lux would try to bargain with Bentley to lower the price of the demolition services, but since he was now rich, he didn't bother to bargain.

"But, I have a condition," Keelan, who was standing beside Lux, started. "during the demolition, any precious metals, ores, or gemstones that are unearthed will belong to us."

Bentley chuckled after hearing Keelan's condition. "I have no problem with that. Well then, you will be paying us upfront, yes?"

"Of course," Lux said as he tossed Bentley a storage ring containing 10,500,000 Gold Coins.

He had already prepared 10,000,000 Gold Coins in the ring in advance, but since they needed to pay more, he added the remaining balance before giving it to Bentley.

After seeing that the payment was paid in full, Bentley snapped his fingers and a portal, similar to a wormhole, appeared behind his back.

"Glee, Kenneth, and the rest of you guys, come here," Bentley said. "Time for some Boom Boom Bakugan Remodeling."

A little girl with pink hair, wearing little red riding hood clothes, popped out of the wormhole, followed by a silver-haired teenager with crimson eyes. Several other figures appeared before them, wearing fashionable clothes, and, with a glance, the Half-Elf could tell that they were strong.

"Hello, I am Glee," the little girl with the red riding-hood said. "I'm really good at fixing things!"

"Uhh, are you an Elf?" Lux asked. "You look like a child. Isn't this child labor?"

"Huh? What do you mean child labor?" Glee tilted her head innocently. "What even is child labor? Does that mean I can't help?"

Bentley chuckled as he patted Glee's head. "Don't worry. Although she looks young, she's actually a Knight. Knights are allowed to work, so it's not child labor."

"... Well, okay. I look forward to a job well done, Glee."

"Un! You can count on me! So, where is the place that needs to be demolished? I like demolishing things!"

Bentley then pointed at the mountain in front of them, making the little Elf jump happily.

"Wow! So big! This is going to be fun!" Glee said as she ran towards the location that Bentley pointed at.

"Kenneth, look after her okay?" Bentley said. "Make sure to not let her get carried away."

The silver-haired teenager gave a thumbs up before raising his fist high up in the air.

"Kenneth's Adventure Team, assemble!"

Several of the people that accompanied Kenneth and Glee posed beside Kenneth, putting the Power Rangers to shame. This scene also made Lux wonder if he had chosen the right people to do the job.

"Relax, we might be an easy-going guild, but we will get the job done," Bentley assured Lux who seemed to be having doubts about their abilities.

Before the Half-Elf could even reply, a powerful explosion sounded in the distance, making everyone in the vicinity look in the direction where Glee had run off to.

"Boom Boom Bakugan!"

The little-red-riding hood threw some red bombs on the mountain peak, creating powerful explosions that shocked not only Lux, but Randolph and Keelan as well.

"T-That little girl is a Ranker?" Randolph's mouth hung open in disbelief. "J-Just how?"

Originally, they couldn't figure out how Glee would be able to demolish an entire mountain peak on her own. However, after seeing how powerful her bombs were, Lux's, as well as the two Dwarfs', impression of the little girl took a ninety degree turn.

"Boom Boom!" Eiko happily jumped up and down on Lux's head as she watched the powerful explosions in front of her.

Ever since she planted the Bone Bombs inside the Twilight Ship, the little Slime developed a fondness for making things explode.

The entire peak was covered with dense smoke as consecutive explosions were heard in the background.

Lux had already informed his guild about what was happening in the Guild Chat, preventing them from thinking that they were under enemy attack.

Half an hour later, the explosion stopped, and the smoke that lingered on the mountain top was dispersed by the wind.

"Looks like Glee's done with her demolition work," Bentley commented. "Let's go and see the fruits of her labor."

With Bentley leading the way, Lux and the others followed behind him.

When they arrived at their destination, they saw a very satisfied Glee, whose face was covered in soot but with a very sweet smile on her face.

"Guild Master, Mission Complete!" Glee saluted Bentley who saluted her back.

"Good job, Glee," Bentley said as he took a handkerchief from his pocket, and wiped the soot off the little Elf's face.

Lux looked at his surroundings, and nodded his head in satisfaction. The entire Mountain Peak was destroyed properly, and they only needed to level the ground to make it even.

"Everyone stand back!" Kenneth shouted as he jumped high in the air and pulled back his arm. "Teamwork is dreamwork!"

The silver-haired teenager punched the ground, creating a shockwave that was imbued with the power of flames.

The rough surface of the mountain peak became somewhat even, as if it was an asphalt road paved by a Road Roller.

"By the Earth Goddess! Another Ranker," Keelan gasped. "Is this really a Merchant Guild that specializes in construction projects?"

Bentley, who heard Keelan's comment, patted his chest with confidence before boasting about his Guild's specialty.

"All of my guild members are experts in the field of construction," Bentley commented. "They even have licenses to prove it."

"Umm... that is not what I'm trying to say." Keelan chuckled, but decided to not voice what was really inside his head. 'All of you are Rankers and you guys are doing construction work? All of you must be very bored.'

"Well then, now is the fun part," Bentley said as he handed Lux several scrolls for the design of their Guild Headquarters. "What design do you want your Guild Headquarters to be modeled after?"

Lux accepted the scrolls and checked them one by one.

Randolph and Keelan did the same and voiced their opinion on the matter. Several minutes later, Lux gave Bentley the design that he chose for their Guild Headquarters.

After seeing the design that Lux chose, a smile appeared on Bentley's face, making him give a side-long glance at the Half-Elf.

"You're quite ambitious huh?" Bentley commented. "Very well, but this design will cost more than the others. Originally, your budget is 10,000,000 gold coins, but if you choose this design, it will be doubled."

"I don't mind, but do you accept other currencies aside from gold coins?"

"Of course. There are times when our clients don't have enough cash on hand, so they settle the rest using their valuables like gemstones, etc."

Lux smiled as he took out a Draconium Ore from his storage ring and handed it to Bentley, making the eyes of the tone-deaf-bard widen.

"Well, well, well... I didn't expect you to trade something like this," Bentley took a closer look at the Draconium Ore in order to confirm if it was authentic. "Draconium Ore, and it is of high quality! You are one big customer, My Friend."

"Will that be enough?" Lux asked.

"No, but if you give me four more of these, it will be enough."

"Okay, we have a deal."

Lux didn't bat an eye as he took out four more Draconium Ores, all of the same size as the first one he gave the other party, and handed them to him.

Parting with five pieces of Draconium Ore didn't hurt him one bit because he still had over a hundred thousand of them in his storage. As long as the design he chose was built properly, he was sure that it would create a great commotion, making those who lived in the Outer Reaches change their opinion of his Guild.

Chapter 429: The Name Of Our Guild Is...

The construction of Lux's Guild Headquarters would be completed in ten days, so Randolph and Keelan decided to return to the Kingdom of Gweliven for the time being.

Cai, who was busy hunting treasures with Fei Fei, was busy touring the floating island, while the Kobolds were starting to build a temporary nest inside the crater of the Mountain Range.

Cethus, who only returned to the floating Island three days later, was surprised to see that the construction of Lux's Guild Headquarters had already started.

Although he had a great dislike for the Kobolds, he had no choice but to endure his irritation as he observed the construction of Lux's guild.

Several Dragon Borns, as well as Dragons, who were also curious about what was happening on the third floating Island also visited from time to time.

The days passed slowly, and Lux's Guild Headquarters was starting to take shape.

Thousands of Guild Members of Game-Shin Impact had come using Bentley's wormhole on the first day and worked hand in hand to speed up the construction work.

Even the Blue Dragon could be seen carrying big slabs of white marble and placing them in the right places, doing the heavy lifting by itself.

While all of this was happening, Bentley just drank cider with Lux, as he told the Half-Elf the tale of his adventures across the many distant places in Elysium.

"Our Guild Headquarters can be found at least eight-thousand miles away from Karshvar Draconis," Bentley explained as he lightly shook the bottle of cider in his hand. "Fortunately, I had visited Pygmalion City once before, and saved its coordinates using my ability. As a Merchant Guild, we travel to different places, so it is always good to have many waypoints in the various cities that will allow us to travel faster."

"I see." Lux drank a cup of tea as he watched Eiko and Glee play tag in the distance.

Since Glee's specialty is destroying things, she wasn't allowed near the construction site in order to prevent anything from being destroyed.

"But, seriously, I never thought that the one and only Mythical Guild in the world would hire us to make their Guild Headquarters," Bentley commented. "You grant us a great honor. Too bad, I can't add your Guild's name to our Portfolio."

Lux, who wasn't paying too much attention to what Bentley was saying, almost choked on his tea because he never told Bentley the name of his Guild.

While the Half-Elf was having a coughing fit, Bentley just smiled as he gazed at the construction work in the distance.

"Why are you so surprised?" Bentley asked in a teasing manner. "We are a Merchant Guild. Naturally, when I accept a commission to build a Guild Headquarters, I am able to see what the name of the Guild is. I guess you should be thankful that you chose us to build your Guild Headquarters. I am someone who knows how to keep a secret."

Lux looked at the young man with gratitude. He didn't plan on divulging the name of his Guild for the time being to anyone, so having Bentley keep it a secret for him was a good thing.

"After your Guild Headquarters is built, you will be building some other guild facilities, right?" Bentley shifted his gaze to the Half-Elf with a businessman look on his face. "Make sure to call us again when you have the funds to pay for the construction work. Of course, we will accept Draconium Ores as well."

"Good. I did think of hiring you guys again to build other guild facilities when you've finished our Guild Headquarters," Lux stated.

Bentley then asked what other Guild Facilities Lux wanted to be built, and the Half-Elf voiced his thoughts.

A while later, the bard gave the Half-Elf a few more scrolls so that he could choose the design of the Guild Facilities that he wanted to be built.

Now that he had the Draconium Ores to fund his construction projects, the Half-Elf decided to build four things first.

The Alchemy Shop, the Smithy, the Bestiary, and lastly, the Teleportation Gate.

"Bentley, you have a dragon with you," Lux said as he looked at the design of the Bestiary. "Do you think it is a good idea to have Dragons as a mount for my Guild Members?"

"No," Bentley replied firmly. "One, two, or even a dozen dragons will be fine, but having hundreds of them will not only give you a headache, but it might also make Karshvar Draconis your enemy."

The bard then drained the bottle of cider in his hand before giving out a loud burp.

"In the North of Elysium, there is an empire covered in snow all year round," Bentley explained. "They have captured several Ice Dragons and forced them to slavery. The moment the eggs were laid, they would be moved to a different facility where they would be trained to become mounts of their Dragon Rider Cavalry.

Their Emperor ruled his lands with an iron fist, and his Dragon Riders were his ultimate trump card against the other nations that surrounded his borders.

"His circumstances are different from yours. Since your Headquarters is located in the lands of Dragons, making Dragons your mounts will make you an eyesore to the Dragon Borns, as well as the Dragon King. If you want to live long, don't ever plan on taming Dragons to be mounts for your Guild Members."

Lux sighed in his heart because his plan to create a Dragon Cavalry was not possible.

"Then, do you have other suggestions?" Lux asked. "I'd like to have mounts that are able to fly, and can fight when needed."

"Well, you can get Wyverns, Griffins, Rocs, Cockatri, Pegasi, Qilins, etc, or you can build flying mounts like Gargoyles," Bentley replied. "If you're not too picky, giant insects will also do—like Giant Wasps and Butterflies. There are so many options to choose from, but don't tame Dragons in the Kingdom of Dragons. That is just asking for a beating, so make sure to not make that mistake."

A grunt reached Lux's ears, which he believed came from Keoza, whose spirit resided inside the Dragon Token in his possession. Clearly, the Crystal Dragon was voicing his opinion that Bentley was right.

"Your guild is still in its infancy stage, and you don't have any Rankers in your guild," Bentley continued his explanation. "It will be best if you do your best to lie low for a while and focus on strengthening yourselves."

"Also, I don't recommend training or gaining experience in the territories around Karshvar Draconis and the lands under these floating islands. There are many roaming Deimos, Argonaut, and Dreadnaught Monsters in these lands, and Apostles like you will easily become their snack. You can explore this region once you become a Ranker. Before that, you should choose the places where you do your exploration with care."

Bentley shared his knowledge with the Half-Elf, allowing Lux to learn a lot of things about the world of Rankers, which he was very grateful for.

After ten days, his Guild Headquarters was finally built, allowing his guild members to finally step foot in the Outer Reaches and see the place that would become their base of operations.

"Wow! A Castle!" Heidi clapped her hands as she looked at the castle that was perched on top of the mountain.

"Lux, My Boy, I thought you were only planning to build a Guild Headquarters," Cedwyn commented. "Are you planning to build a Kingdom instead?"

"A Kingdom? That's too much work," Lux replied with a smile. "I just want our Guild Headquarters to look good, and a castle has enough space to house our other Guild Facilities, making it the perfect option."

"You have outdone yourself again, lad," Thoram nodded his head in satisfaction. "With this, we can say that we have finally made our mark on the world. We are no longer homeless vagabonds."

Cethus, who was listening to their conversation from the side, snorted.

"By the way, Lux, what is the name of this Guild of yours?" Cethus asked. "I've been with you for nearly two weeks, and I still don't know the name of your guild."

The Half-Elf smiled as he gave his Guild Members a knowing glance before shifting his gaze to the black-scaled Dragon Born, whom the Dragon King had assigned to supervise him.

"Remember this Cethus, and remember it well," Lux said with a devilish smile on his face. "The name of our guild is... Ars Goetia."

Chapter 430.1: A Fantastic Specimen [Part 1]

Ars Goetia.

Also known as the 72 Pillars of Hell, comprised of 72 High-Ranking Demons who commanded legions of lesser demons that would obey their every order without fail.

This was the Pseudo-Guild Name that Lux had decided to use to hide his Mythical Guild's true name, Heaven's Gate.

In order to make it official, Keelan sneakily registered this Guild in the Adventurer's Guild, using Lux's Dragon Rider, Bedivere, as its Guild Master.

Since Bedivere was under Lux's command, it wasn't an issue to make him the proxy Guild Master of Ars Goetia.

The Half-Elf even went as far as to create Guild Badges of his Pseudo-Guild as a disguise to fool the eyes of the public.

Seven days later, the other Guild Facilities were also built.

Since the Teleportation Gate required fine tuning, it took the Game-Shin Impact Merchant Guild more time to run a few tests to ensure that the transfer of the gate was working properly.

After a round of discussion, Lux decided to build one more teleportation gate at the very center of the crater.

Although he didn't plan to do so in the beginning, the thought of building a town inside the crater started to sprout inside his head, making him think of future possibilities.

The teleportation gate at their castle would be exclusive to the Guild Members, while the teleportation gate in the crater would be for their future guests.

"This has been a very profitable business." Bentley shook hands with Lux with a smile. "If you want things to be built again in the future, just contact us. We will be there as soon as we can."

"Thank you. I will call for you guys when we need to build more guild facilities," Lux replied.

Not far from the two of them, Glee and Eiko were having a tearful parting.

"Wuwuwu, Eiko, I will miss you," Glee said as she tearfully held the baby Slime, whose face was rubbing on her cheeks. "We had a lot of fun making things explode while we were together."

"Wuwuwuwu." The baby slime also cried because the red-riding-hood Elf had become a very good friend to her.

Since Glee wasn't allowed anywhere near the construction projects, she and Eiko would go outside the Mountain Range to play, casually throwing bombs at random things together.

At some point, Lux even felt worried that Glee might become a bad influence to his baby Slime. He was afraid that if the baby Slime stayed with the little Elf for a long period of time, Eiko might become an arsonist in the future.

"You guys are amazing," Kenneth said as he shook hands with Cadmus and the Kobolds. "Let's go on an adventure together sometime."

"Sure," Cadmus replied with a smile. "When I become a Deimos Ranked monster, let's go on an adventure together."

After spending some time with the members of the Game-Shin Impact Merchant Guild, the members of Lux's guild learned a lot of things from the experiences they shared.

"If you have time, feel free to visit our City of Monstead," Bentley said before giving Lux a graceful bow. "I'll treat you all to some good food and drinks. Bye for now, my Dear Friends!"

"Goodbye everyone!"

"Nice working with you guys!"

"We're off to our new adventure!"

"Goodbye Eiko! I'll come visit sometime! We can throw bombs at the City of Pygmalion if you like!"

Eiko, who was perched on top of Lux's head, waved with teary eyes at Glee, who was the last to enter the portal. If not for the fact that Lux and Bentley managed to catch the two troublemakers in time, the pair would have definitely started throwing bombs at the City of Pygmalion while riding Glee's small flying ship.

"Things will become a bit quiet now that they are gone," Keane commented as he gazed at the teleportation gate with his arms crossed over his chest.

Lux nodded. "Yes. But I seem to be forgetting something..."

The Half-Elf frowned because he really felt like forgetting something.

"Are you talking about Cai?" Keane asked. "I haven't seen that boar since the day our Guild Headquarters started to get built."

"That's right!" Lux lightly thumped his fist over his palm because he had completely forgotten about the shameless boar that went treasure hunting.

However, as if waiting for that cue, a loud laughter spread across the entire mountain as Cai made its appearance.

"I have returned!" Cai declared.

"Da Wae!" Fei Fei also made her presence known from on top of its Master that had spent many days treasure hunting.

Lux, and Keane looked at the two with amused expressions because the two seemed to be in a very good mood.

"So, did you manage to get a lot of treasures?" Lux asked.

For him, as long as the treasures that belonged to the mountain range weren't taken, he was fine with it, even if Cai robbed the entire Floating Island of its riches. Anyway, it was outside his territory.

"Well, we didn't get a lot of treasures, but we had fun. Isn't that right, Fei Fei?"

"Yes!" Fei Fei replied.

The Boar then approached Lux before whispering something in his ear.

"We found a large dead Dragon inside a cave located in a valley, west of here," Cai whispered. "You're a Necromancer, right? Can you revive it?"

Lux's interest was piqued because he never thought that he would actually find a dead Dragon lying somewhere on the floating island.

Cethus had once told him that there was an Island located on the Eastern Side of Karshvar Draconis which they call the Dragon's Graveyard.

This was the place where Dragons went when they felt that their time of death was near. The majority of Dragons that had gone to the Dragon's Graveyard were Young and Elder Dragons.

As for Ancient Dragons and above, Cethus told him that those powerful dragons would travel the world to find an uninhabited region to die.

Resurrection Magic didn't work on Dragons, but Animate Undead did.

Because of this, they did their best to ensure that their bodies would not be easily found by people, especially Necromancers, who could use their corpse to summon an Undead Dragon that could bring harm to the living.

Naturally, they could also choose to stay in Karshvar Draconis where a special island was dedicated just for them. This island was heavily protected, not only by Dragon Borns, but also Elder Dragons, to ensure that the Ancient Ones would get their eternal rest without worrying about being used as weapons of destruction.

However, most Ancient Dragons lived solitary lives. They were truly powerful individuals and could move unhindered across the land.

"Bring me there," Lux said firmly.

Cai nodded its head and led the way. After nearly four hours of traveling, they finally arrived at their destination.

Just like Cai had said, the cave was located in a valley, and its entrance was well hidden. Actually, it was almost impossible to spot unless one looked at it from a certain angle.

Whoever made the cave had made it so that nobody would be able to find it, unless it was discovered by accident.

Lux and Cai had the ability to see even if it was dark, while both Eiko and Fei Fei could generally sense their surroundings without any problems.

However, since Keane was with them, Lux took out a glowing crystal that people used when they explored dark caves or Dungeons that did not have any kind of lighting.

In the distance, several glowing eyes stared at them, but Cai had said that they were only fruit bats and weren't aggressive Monsters.

However, these fruit bats were nearly four feet tall, and their wingspan reached up to three meters in length.

As they went deeper inside the cave, the Dragon Token that was hidden inside Lux's storage ring came out and hovered beside Lux.

Keoza felt something very familiar, so he decided to take a look as well.

Soon, they stepped into a very large and spacious cavern that was the size of a football stadium.

At the center of it was a giant figure, who seemed to only be sleeping.

"Unbelievable," Keane muttered as he looked at the dragon which he estimated to be at least twenty meters in length. "Is this an Elder Dragon?"

Lux looked at the dead Dragon which seemed to have been frozen in time. Although he was very certain that the Dragon was dead due to his Necromantic Powers, its corpse was so well preserved that it looked like it was only sleeping, waiting for someone to wake it up from its long slumber.

Chapter 431.2: A Fantastic Specimen [Part 2]

The dragon's head rested on its front claws with its eyes firmly shut. The golden scales gleamed faintly as it reflected the light on the glowing stone in the Half-Elf's hand.

Although there were signs of rot here and there, the body was mostly intact, making Lux unable to determine how long the Dragon had been dead.

"This is an Ancient Golden Dragon." Keoza's confident voice echoed faintly inside the cavern. "If I have to make an estimate, it has been dead for only two to three hundred years."

"Do you know him?" Lux asked.

"No," Keoza replied. "I have been away from Karshvar Draconis for hundreds of years, and yet, I don't know who this dragon is despite the fact that he is older than me. Perhaps, he is a vagabond who chose to return to this place in order to look for his final resting place."

Keoza's words were solemn as if he was paying tribute to the dead Dragon, whose name he didn't know.

"So, what are you going to do, Lux?" Keoza asked. "Are you going to turn him into an Undead Dragon?"

Lux glanced at the floating Dragon Token beside him with a troubled face. A part of him wanted to say yes, but the other half was afraid that if he said yes, Keoza would think badly of him.

As if sensing his worries, Keoza chuckled and gave his opinion about the matter.

"I believe this is Fate," Keoza stated. "Just like how you met me, I believe this is also a fateful encounter. I would be offended if other Necromancers took advantage of this Dragon's body, but if it is you, I can accept it."

"You won't get mad?"

"If this was a Crystal Dragon, then yes. However, it is a Golden Dragon, and he reminds me of that standoffish brother of mine. I'm sure that he would be pissed as hell if he ever saw you commanding an Undead Golden Dragon."

"Um, wouldn't that be bad?" Cai, who was listening to their conversation, commented.

Although it still hadn't seen the Dragon King, basing on how he treated Lux, the Boar was sure that the Half-Elf would be in trouble once the Undead Golden Dragon's existence was discovered.

Keoza once again chuckled before saying in an evil tone.

"He doesn't need to know, and even if he does come to know, there is nothing he can do about it," Keoza replied. "Just don't go wagging this dead Dragon in his face, and he can still turn a blind eye to it.

"Since it is an Ancient Dragon, you can just say that you found it somewhere while exploring the lands of Elysium. Our kind is free to go wherever we wish, after all. Even the Dragon King cannot command us to stay in Karshvar Draconis for eternity."

Lux nodded his head before summoning Asmodeus by his side.

"What a fantastic specimen!" the Archlich exclaimed as soon as he saw the dead Dragon in front of him. "You found a great treasure, Master. However, may I offer some advice?"

"Speak your mind, Asmodeus," Lux replied. "The reason I summoned you is because I want to discuss how we should handle this Dragon corpse."

The Archlich smiled as his bony hands caressed the head of the golden dragon, as if trying to better understand its history.

"Frankly speaking, we have three methods we can use in order to utilize this Dragon corpse to our maximum advantage," Asmodeus stated. "The first one is to fuse Keoza's soul with it, allowing this Dragon to gain a fraction of its power. If we're lucky, the Undead Dragon will be revived with Dreadnaught Rank. If not, the lowest it can go is still Argonaut."

The Archlich paused and gave the Dragon Token a side-long glance before shifting his attention back to his Master.

"The second option is to, of course, turn it into an Undead Dragon, and make it a part of your Undead Legion," Asmodeus stated. "It is a shame, but you can't make it part of your Necromancer's Covenant because only sentient Undead Creatures or newly revived Undead that haven't been dead for more than a month can be part of it.

"This Dragon has been dead for hundreds of years now, and the most you can do is to revive it and make it the Commander of your Animated Undead Legion. But, doing so will be doing great disservice to this magnificent creature.

"Master, right now, you are only a Grade A Apostle, and not even an Initiate. If you revive this Monster, its strength would only match yours, which isn't a good thing. Also, knowing you, you'd probably spend a lot of Beast Cores to raise its rank, which is a very normal thing to do, but that is not very cost effective.

"It will be much better if you just upgrade us with those Beast Cores, rather than spend it on this thing."

The Archlich chuckled before leaning on the dead dragon's body with his arms crossed over his chest.

"The last option is to, of course, store this dragon's body inside Blackfire. Although you cannot revive it using its powers, Blackfire can easily store any dead creatures inside it, similar to an enchanted Beast Ring.

"I suggest that you wait until you become a Ranker before you raise it as an Undead Dragon. That way, this Dragon corpse will not be wasted and will be put to good use once you reach that threshold."

After hearing the Archlich's explanation, Lux glanced at the floating Dragon Token beside him.

"No need to concern yourself with me," Keoza said. "I am not interested in having a physical body right now."

Lux nodded his head in understanding before looking at the Giant Corpse in front of him.

"Blackfire, swallow it," Lux ordered.

Immediately, a black coffin materialized behind Lux's back and sucked the Dragon's corpse into itself by turning it into particles of light.

The Half-Elf knew that Asmodeus' words were right. Currently, he had neither the rank nor the ability to maximize the Dragon corpse to its fullest potential.

Since that was the case, he would just wait until he became a Ranker before summoning one of the strongest Undead Creatures that every necromancer wished to have under their command.

Chapter 432.1: The Path Of Myths [Part 1]

After retrieving the corpse of the Golden Dragon, Lux, Cai, and Keane all returned to their Guild Headquarters using teleportation magic.

Since their Guild Headquarters had finished construction, the members of Heaven's Gate could freely teleport to it once a day.

There were, of course, other methods. As long as they entered any kind of teleportation gate, they could teleport to their Guild Headquarters as often as they wished.

"Since this is a special occasion, I personally gave Boreas and his men a day off, so they could also come here to celebrate the construction of our Guild Headquarters," Thoram said with a smile. "They will be here in a while. I asked them to get some good booze and food from the Stronghold."

"Aron is doing the same," Cedwyn said. "All the Guards that are part of the Guild will be bringing foods and drinks here as well."

"Hahaha! Good. It's been a while since I had a good drink. I usually have too much work."

"Indeed. Having a day off once or twice a month is good for our health."

The Commander of the Stronghold of Norria as well as the Village Head of Leaf Village laughed together as they temporarily escaped from their duties for a day.

"We're here!" Laura shouted as she approached, carrying a basket of sandwiches.

Livia, her twin, was also carrying a similar basket as she followed behind her sister.

"Be careful, both of you," Sid said with a helpless smile as he looked at his two little sisters fondly.

He returned to Leaf Village temporarily to look after his sisters since Cadmus and the Kobolds had gone to help Lux in Karshvar Draconis.

Bedivere, Heidi, and her mother, Lilia, also arrived because they were also registered as members of Heaven's Gate.

Two hours later, all of the members of Heaven's Gate had appeared in the Guild Headquarters to take part in the grand celebration of the construction of their Guild Headquarters.

"Everyone, thank you for coming on such short notice," Lux said.

"Constructing our Guild Headquarters is merely the beginning of our journey. In time, we will rise and make a name for ourselves, placing our mark in the history books! Everyone, I ask you to do your utmost to increase your abilities in order to help our guild grow."

Lux then raised the mug of fruit juice in his hands before breaking into a smile.

"For the Guild!"

""For the Guild!""

Cethus, who was also holding a mug of mead in his hands, looked at the rowdy bunch with disdain.

'Placing your mark in the history books?' Cethus laughed internally. 'What a delusional bunch.'

The black-scaled Dragon Born didn't think much of Lux. In his eyes, a castle made of marble wasn't that impressive.

The palace of the Dragon King was more impressive, so even though he was a little surprised that Lux decided to build a castle in the region that was given to him, he still looked down on him and his guild. For him, they were nothing but people from the lower realm.

Lux and his guild members, who were not aware of the Dragon Born's disdain for them, all drank happily.

However, after only taking a few sips, all of them froze as they heard the sound of a notification inside their heads.

A moment later, several rows of text appeared in front of them, making all the members of Heaven's Gate gasp in shock.

< The Path of Myths >

< Mythical Guild, Hidden Quest Completed! >

< Building your Guild Headquarters and Guild Facilities! >

< This is a chain quest. As you continue to grow your guild, you will continue to receive bonuses and great rewards! >

< Reward >

+1,000 Free Stat Points

– The Bonus Stat Points will also apply to all Beast Companions, Summons, and Mounts that belong to the Guild Members!

– Guild members who join in the future will also receive this reward. If they leave the guild, this reward will disappear.

Lux blinked once then twice as he read the information in front of him.

He didn't expect anything like this to happen. However, the unexpected reward was something that put a smile on his face.

Without further delay, the Half-Elf added the free stats points to his Soul Book, allowing him to step a little closer to the Initiate Rank.

Name: Lux Von Kaizer

Age: 16

Race: Half-Elf

Rank: Grade A Apostle

Health: 123,000 / 123,000

Mana: 49,000 / 49,000

Strength: 650

Intelligence: 850

Vitality: 660

Agility: 600

Dexterity: 600

Special Abilities: Skill Evolution [EX], Mana Drain [EX], Item Transmutation [EX], Warrior's Luck [EX], Doppelganger [EX], Air Strider [EX], Dragon's Fear [EX], Elemental Shield [EX], Abyss Touch [EX], Guardian's Call, Dragon's Heart [EX], Dragon's Scale [EX], Corpse Explosion [EX], Undying Fervor [EX], Decaying Touch [EX], Animate Undead [EX], Skeleton Make [EX]

Special Body Constitution: Immortal Dragon Conqueror's Legacy

Summoning Skills. Summon Diablo, Summon Ishtar, Summon Pazuzu, Summon Orion, Summon Asmodeus, Summon Skeleton Gang Bangers, Summon Skeleton Grand Archers.

Necromancer's Covenant

– Dragon Knight Bedivere

Active Skills: Power Shot, Dark Arrow, Void Arrow, Fury Slash, Double Fury Slash, Battle Cry, Improved Jade Body (Mass Buff), Spinning Blades, Bone Wall, Barbed Bones, Sky-High Rush, Gale Storm,

Passive Skills: Enhanced Fortitude, Expert Parry, Tempest Fury, Last Stand, Sticky Foot, Very Tough.

Title: Apprentice Blacksmith, Negotiator, Outbreak Survivor, Eternal Guardian, Princess Knight

To reach the Initiate Rank, one had to have a combined stat points of 5,000.

Right now, Lux's combined stats had surpassed 3,000, inching closer to the goal he wanted to reach.

According to Thoram, once someone stepped into the Initiate Rank, they would be given the opportunity to upgrade their Profession to its next advanced grade.

Currently, Lux was a Necromancer. Once he upgraded his Job Profession, he would be able to gain more skills, stats, and abilities that would make him stronger.

His Thunder Warg King, Jed, had also been upgraded to a Rank 4 Monster, alongside the other wargs that were currently serving Lux.

The Half-Elf also checked the stats of his Skeleton Army, as well as his Named Creatures, and found out that all of them had received the additional stat points as well.

The most surprising part was Eiko's personal page in Lux's Soul Book. The baby Slime's rank didn't change, even though she had received a great boost in status points.

< Eiko >

"The world is my oyster!"

– Named Slime Monster

– Princess Slime

– Rating: E+

– Progress (0 / 40,000)

Health: 29,100 / 29,100

Mana: 55,000 / 55,000

Strength: 322

Intelligence: 1,100

Vitality: 382

Agility: 322

Dexterity: 322

< Diablo >

"Finally a worthy opponent. Our battle will be Legendary!"

– Named Skeleton

– Death Knight

– Rating: S

– Progress (0 / 20,000)

Health: 72,400 / 72,400

Mana: 36,200 / 36,200

Attack Type: Ethereal Damage

Strength: 363 (+21)

Intelligence: 342 (+20)

Vitality: 371 (+22)

Agility: 375 (+22)

Dexterity: 342(+22)

< Pazuzu >

"Have no fear! Pazuzu is here!"

– Fortress Defender

– Rating: S

– Progress (0 / 20,000)

Health: 243,000 / 243,000

Mana: 30,000 / 30,000

Attack Type: Bludgeoning Physical Damage

Strength: 300

Intelligence: 300

Vitality: 810

Agility: 300

Dexterity: 300

< Ishtar >

"Let the living beware."

– Nightstalker

– Rating: S

– Progress (0 / 20,000)

Health: 76,000 / 76,000

Mana: 36,500 / 36,500

Attack Type: Ranged Ice Damage

Strength: 360

Intelligence: 365

Vitality: 380

Agility: 365

Dexterity: 325

< Orion >

"Where there is no struggle, there is no Strength."

– Named Golem

– Jade Golem

– Rating: S

– Mana 100

– Progress (0 / 20,000)

Health: 350,000 / 350,000

Mana: 25,000 / 25,000

Attack Type: Earth Elemental Damage

Strength: 500

Intelligence: 250

Vitality: 500

Agility: 250

Dexterity: 300

< Asmodeus >

"I stopped fighting my inner demons. We are on the same side now."

– Named Skeleton Mage

– Archlich

– Rating: S

– Progress (0 / 40,000)

Attack Type: Necrotic Damage

Health: 42,000 / 42,000

Mana: 440,000 / 440,000

Strength: 325

Intelligence: 1,100

Vitality: 420

Agility: 325

Dexterity: 325

Aside from the great boost that his baby Slime, as well as his Named Creatures received, Lux was also extremely happy that his Skeleton Gangbangers, Skeleton Grand Archers, Skeleton Mages, and Rock Golems had now become Rank 4 Monsters, making them quite formidable.

Naturally, it was not only Lux who received this grand upgrade. All of the members of Heaven's Gate received it as well, making the old Dwarves Cedwyn, Randolph, and Grandma Annie feel like they had been given a new lease on life.

Chapter 433.2: The Path Of Myths [Part 2]

"Oh My God! My Fei Fei is now stronger than ever!" Cai praised the baby golden Slime that was perched on its head, Fei Fei also felt happy since her stats was now equal with a Rank 4 Monster's, despite the fact that she had been born not long ago.

"Da Wae!" Fei Fei shouted, making its Master, Cai, continue praising her.

Not far from them, Laura and Livia looked at Sid in surprise, and their dependable older brother only smiled and patted their heads.

"Just because the two of you have gotten a little stronger doesn't mean that you girls can be careless when you go on adventures around Leaf Village," Sid said with a serious look on his face. "Since both of you are apprentice Alchemists, make sure to listen to Grandma Annie so that you will be able to wield these newfound powers. This reminder also applies to your Beast Companions, Cora and Nora."

Laura's and Livia's Slimes had also become Rank 4 Monsters thanks to the unexpected upgrade that they received.

"Wow!" Cora, who was Laura's baby slime, exclaimed.

"Yay!" Nora, who belonged to Livia, jumped happily beside her Master.

"Cora, you can now talk properly!" Laura picked up her baby Slime and spun her round and round.

"Nora, good job," Livia also picked up Nora and patted her head, making the baby Slime smile.

Bedivere was part of Lux's Covenant, and his Master's strength was his strength. The higher Lux's personal stats were, the higher his stats would become as well.

Heidi and Lilia were just as shocked as Laura and Livia because they didn't expect that they would also receive a status upgrade, but after Lux gave everyone a reminder that Cethus was observing them, they decided to talk using the Guild Chats special function, which was through telepathy.

"Cedie, you've become stronger as well," Heidi said as she picked up her baby Slime, whom she had chosen on the same day that Cai had chosen Fei Fei as her own Beast Companion.

"Un!" the baby Slime nodded, rejoicing the fact that it had grown stronger.

Cethus, who was observing them from the side, frowned.

He felt a sudden surge of power that lasted for a few seconds, and yet, something seemed to have instantly changed with the members of Lux's Guild, making him wonder if he was just overthinking things.

'Must be my imagination,' Cethus thought as he sipped the mead on his mug and continued observing the Guild that belonged to the Half-Elf.

The party lasted all through the night, but the children retired early. Since the castle had plenty of rooms, Lilia took Laura, Livia, and Heidi to a room where the three of them could sleep together.

While the children slept, the adults gathered and discussed the next course of action for their guild.

"There is a very dangerous Domain that I want to visit," Lux said through the guild chat, informing his guild members. "It is called the Domain of the Fallen. Its location is far from the Kingdom of Gweliven, so I can't take all of you with me."

Lux paused as he looked at Cai, Keane, and Sid, which were the only ones he could bring with him to his journey to challenge the Domain that was coveted by the Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, as well as the Xynnar War Pact.

This three-way power struggle had become a problem as of late, but for Lux, it wasn't a problem.

As one of the people who could freely enter the Domain at any given time, the restrictions that were imposed on the others didn't affect him.

"This Domain has a Dungeon, which we call the Sacred Dungeon," Lux continued his explanation. "There are five gates in it, and each of them is respectively marked with the words Death, Famine, War, and Conquest. So far, we have conquered two of them, which were Death and Conquest."

Lux's guild members listened seriously to him because they had a feeling that there was a reason why the Half-Elf was telling this information to them.

"Everytime I conquer one of the dungeons, I receive a key that will allow me to go to an SSS-Ranked Kingdom," Lux stated. "Currently, I have two of these keys that would allow me to visit two of these Legendary Kingdoms. Do any of you know about the Kingdom of Agartha and the Elven Kingdom of Espoir Frieden?"

Cedwyn, Randolph, Grandma Annie, Thoram, Keelan, Boreas, and Aron, looked at the Half-Elf in shock.

"D-Did you just say Kingdom of Agartha?" Cedwyn's body shuddered from the surprise and excitement that he was feeling at the moment.

"Yes," Lux replied. "Do you know of it, Sir Cedwyn?"

"Of course we know of it!" Randolph interjected in the discussion. "Agartha is the legendary kingdom that was said to be located near this world's core that has stood since time immemorial. For us, dwarves, it is the Holy City that we would never see in our lifetime. Are you sure that we are talking about the same Agartha?!"

Lux nodded his head firmly, making the Dwarves look at him as if he was Santa Claus, who had come to give them presents.

"Due to various restrictions, I can only visit Agartha after reaching the Initiate Rank," Lux explained. "As for the Kingdom of Espoir Frieden, I can only go to it after I become a Ranker."

Grandma Annie, who was chewing on fried peanuts, raised her head to ask Lux a question.

"According to what I know about the Kingdom of Agartha, this is a kingdom that was founded in order to protect this World's Core from danger," Grandma Annie stated. "It will not be an exaggeration to say that its inhabitants are incredibly strong. Perhaps, just as strong as those who live in the capital city of Karshvar Draconis, which is under the protection of the Dragon King."

Lux nodded his head in agreement. When he just arrived in Rex Lapis, all of the guards that encircled him were Rankers.

This meant that the military might of the Dragon Kingdom was very high, dwarfing the power of the Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, as well as Xynnar War Pact combined.

Simply put, they were Kingdoms which must not be offended no matter what, or one would risk their own nation's annihilation should any of these SSS-Ranked Kingdoms decide to retaliate.

"Us, Dwarves, know of its existence, but we don't know where it is," Keelan commented. "You know, I once told myself that if I can see the walls of Agartha, I can die happily afterwards. I guess I'll just have to wait until you become an Initiate, right?"

Keelan chuckled, making the other Dwarfs smile. If they could hitch a ride with Lux to see this fabled kingdom, they would definitely jump at the opportunity once it presented itself.

"I can't make any promises, but if it is possible, I'll take you guys with me," Lux said with a smile.

After talking for a bit more, the Half-Elf didn't gain much information about Espoir Frieden.

The Dwarves had interacted with elves, but they had never seen High-Elves. Also, they didn't really care much about the Kingdom of the Elves because, for them, they had no reasons to visit the Elves and appreciate their culture.

"If you are going to challenge those three remaining Dungeons in the Domain of the fallen, make sure to take extra care," Thoram commented. "According to what you told us, the members of the Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, and Xynnar War Pact are desperately trying to clear the dungeons themselves. This means that the slots that you, Cai, and Keane possess are something that they would fight for, which will cause a lot of strife, possibly endangering the three of you as well."

Cedwyn nodded. "I advise that you no longer hold an auction for them. Just let them enter the dungeon for free and get it over with."

"Eh? But getting free resources is good!" Cai commented. "Isn't that right, Fei Fei?"

"Right," Fei Fei replied.

After getting her stat boost, all the Slimes' ability to talk was upgraded as well. They were now able to form words properly, but Fei Fei would still say "Da Wae!" from time to time.

"Right now, we need to grow and not make enemies," Keelan said. "Also, politics is a nasty thing. It is best that we stay clear from it for now."

Lux agreed with what his guild members were saying. There was also an issue with letting the members of the Storm Dragons enter the Sacred Dungeon in order to pay back the Wildgarde Stronghold for taking care of Lux when he was young.

He didn't mind doing this because he owed them a lot. The only reason why he didn't want to cooperate at the beginning was due to his grudge against Nero, but he had already decided to not let this affect his decision when it came to the stronghold's growth as a whole.

"Understood," Lux stated. "For now, I will leave the matters of the Ars General Store to you, Sir Keelan."

The Half-Elf then glanced at his Master, Randolph, and gave him a thumbs up. "Master, the smithy is ready for you to use anytime. I will be gone for a month or two, so I will not be able to be here in the Guild Headquarters during my expedition in the Dungeon.

"Grandma Annie, the Alchemy Room is also ready and waiting for you. I already bought an Advanced Alchemy Recipe Book and placed it on the bookshelf of the Alchemy Room."

"Thank you, Lux," Grandma Annie replied. "I will do my best."

Since Lux was planning to take Bedivere with him on the Dungeon Expedition, he would not be able to put the Bestiary to good use. For now, he decided to ask Cethus if he could find him a Beast Breeder or Beast Tamer who could help him look for flying beasts in the areas surrounding Karshvar Draconis.

He hoped that when he returned, the flying mounts of the Guild would be ready, waiting to be used by his Guild Members.

Chapter 434: Mischievous Little Bombardiers

In a place where the adults weren't looking, several baby Slimes huddled together.

Eiko looked at her friends with a smile as she took out several red Beast Cores from her storage bag.

Fei Fei, Cora, Nora, and Cedie looked at the cores in front of them with curious gazes.

"This?" Fei Fei asked as she looked at the Beast Cores that Eiko wanted to give them.

"Boom Boom!" Eiko replied with a mischievous smile.

"Boom?" Cora asked.

"Boom Boom?" Nora tilted her head.

"Boom..." Cedie blinked in confusion.

Eiko nodded. "Boom Boom Boom!"

While their Guild Headquarters was under construction, Eiko spent her time playing with the Bomb Lover, Glee.

The two hit it off right away because Eiko had also developed a fondness for things that exploded. As if finding her soulmate, Glee decided to share dozens of Beast Cores with Eiko, which were all from the same Monster.

The name of the Monster was the Bombardier Gorilla.

The Gorilla was a Rank 4 Monster and lived in mountainous regions, especially near volcanoes.

The thing that made this Monster dangerous was its ability called "Blast Bombs", which was its one and only skill.

This Monster hurled red metallic balls at its enemies which exploded upon impact. These red balls could also be detonated remotely, allowing the Bombardier Gorilla to ambush unwary adventurers and prey, who traveled deep inside its territory.

Wanting to share her hobby, Glee was always on the lookout for like-minded people who had a passion for destroying things using bombs. Because of this, she hunted Bombardier Gorillas on a regular basis, taking their Beast Core, in

the hope that she would be able to spread the skill "Blast Bombs" to the people who shared the same hobbies.

Eiko knew that the baby Slimes didn't have any powerful skills that they could use to attack other Monsters.

That was why she decided to share with her friends some of the Beast Cores that were given to her by Glee, which Eiko planned to share with the other Slimes in Leaf Village as well.

Fei Fei, who had long wanted to acquire a strong attacking ability, didn't hesitate and swallowed the Beast Core before chewing it like it was a piece of candy.

After seeing Fei Fei eat the Beast Core, the other Slimes no longer hesitated and ate the Beast Core in front of them.

Since they were the Beast Companions of the members of Heaven's Gate, all of them benefited from the 100% chance to acquire skills through consuming Beast Cores.

While the baby Slimes were chewing the Beast Cores, a shadow descended upon them, which made them all raise their heads at the same time.

"What are you little ones doing?" Cai asked in curiosity. "What are you guys eating?"

"Boom Boom!" Eiko said as she took out a Red Beast Core and rolled it over to Cai's hoof.

"Boom Boom?" Cai tilted its head before looking down on the Beast Core in front of it.

"Un!" Eiko nodded her head.

Cai, who still didn't know what Boom Boom meant, decided to absorb the Beast Core in front of it.

Although the Boar didn't know what Eiko meant, she knew that absorbing the Beast Core wouldn't bring it any harm.

< You have acquired the skill Blast Bombs. >

Out of curiosity, Cai looked at the information of the skill in its Soul Book.

A moment later, loud explosions were heard near the crater, making everyone, who wasn't aware of what was happening, come out of their Guild Headquarters with their weapons drawn.

"What's wrong?! Are we under attack?!" Randolph was one of the first people to emerge from the castle, carrying his war hammer, ready to smash anyone that dared to invade their headquarters.

Lux had also arrived at the scene and was about to summon his Skeleton Army when he noticed that Cai, as well as the baby Slimes, having fun throwing exploding bombs, while riding on top of the shameless boar.

"False alarm, everyone." Lux sighed in relief as he placed his arms over his waist as he looked at the laughing Boar, who was running around the crater while carrying the baby Slimes on its back, who were like small terrorists, throwing bombs in their surroundings and setting off consecutive explosions.

It was the day after the party, and all of them were about to return to their respective duties, leaving only some of the Kobolds behind to mine the mountains around their Guild Headquarters.

Lux, Cai, and Keane would return to Solais and head straight to Wildgarde Stronghold, while Thoram and Keelan would return to the Stronghold of Norria.

Cedwyn, Grandma Annie, the Elders, Bedivere, Lilia, Heidi, Laura, and Livia, would return to Leaf Village as well.

As for Randolph, he decided to stay at the Guild Headquarters to experiment with forging the Draconium Ore that Lux had given him.

The Dwarf said that he wouldn't be able to sit still unless he tried to craft using the rare ore at least once, so Lux decided to let him do as he pleased.

"Cai, we're leaving!" Lux shouted to catch the Boar's attention.

Knowing that their play time was now over, the little Bombardiers that sat on the Boar's back stopped throwing bombs and looked innocently at their owners as if nothing had happened.

Lux knew that this was Eiko's doing because he had seen the baby Slime use the same skill when she was still playing with Glee.

However, since no harm was done, he decided to turn a blind eye to Eiko's mischief and talk to her at a later time about the proper use of explosives.

"Everyone, I'll inform you if something unexpected happens," Lux said as he faced his Guild Members. "If there comes a time that I need everyone's help once again, I will not hesitate to ask."

"Hahaha! As long as we are able to, then we will certainly help," Thoram said. "It has been a while since I gained some stats. Doing office work has made me a little rusty."

"Indeed," Keelan commented. "Handling the paperwork without stretching our muscles is not good in the long run."

Grandma Annie smiled. "As long as it will not break my old bones, I am willing to lend a hand."

"Me as well," Cedwyn declared as if he had regained a second wind, allowing him to return to his youthful glory. "Right now, I feel like I can even fight Dragon Borns."

"Oh really?" Cethus, who was standing not far away, arched an eyebrow. "How about we put your words to the test?"

"It was just a joke, Sir Dragon Born. Doesn't your race have some sense of humor?"

"Tch!"

Cethus clicked his tongue at the old Dwarf and decided to ignore him. When Lux told him that he would be leaving Karshvar Draconis for a month or two, he didn't believe it right away.

Because of this, he decided to keep watch and see for himself if the Half-Elf was really going to leave for a long time, or if he would sneak back inside his Guild Headquarters when the Dragon Born wasn't around.

Since he was tasked to become Lux's observer, he would not allow the Half-Elf to sneak past him. If the red-headed teenager were to cause trouble

somewhere in the Dragon Kingdom, the one who would carry the blame was none other than him!

Lux, who was unaware of what Cethus was thinking, bid his goodbye to everyone and stepped into the portal.

His destination was none other than Wildgarde Stronghold, whose coordinates had already been registered in the Teleportation Gate of his Guild Headquarters.

Chapter 435: If They Want A Fight, They Will Have A Fight!

After Lux had disappeared from Wildgarde Stronghold, his friends and the elderly that had a good relationship with him and Vera had become quite worried about the two of them.

Vera's disappearance had caused a great stir, since even her fellow Guardians didn't know her current condition, except for Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer, who had been told by Alexander that his mother was in critical condition and was in an intensive care unit that forbade any visits from anyone who wanted to see her.

The moment the Half-Elf stepped out of the Teleportation Gate with Cai and Keane, news of his arrival traveled all over the entire Stronghold like wildfire.

It didn't even take ten minutes before Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer came to look for him to ask about Vera's current condition.

"Grandma is recovering well," Lux replied. "I'm sure that the next time you see her, all of you will be very surprised."

The trace of mischievousness in the Half-Elf's tone didn't escape the three Rankers, which made them breathe a sigh of relief.

If Lux was able to joke about his grandma's condition, it meant that Vera was no longer in danger and would soon return to the Stronghold.

Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer, followed Lux back to his home because they still had a lot of sensitive questions to ask, which were not meant to be heard by the public.

A few minutes later, the three Guardians, along with Cai and Keane, entered Lux's home.

There they sat in the living room, while Lux prepared to serve them some snacks and tea. When the preparations were done, the Half-Elf also sat and waited for his seniors to ask him the question that had been bugging them for quite some time.

"After you founded your Guild, you left to go to Elysium again, but no one knew where you were," Gerald said. "The Skystead Alliance and the Xynnar War Pact have been looking not only for you, but for Cai and Keane as well. The three of you hold the precious slots to enter the Domain of the Fallen, and they badly want to negotiate with you for the opportunity to enter it once more.

"Emperor Andreas had even sent his Ambassador to formally apologize for what happened in their territory when you were still doing your Trial of Leadership."

Lux snorted after hearing Gerald's words.

If it weren't for his Grandma, he would have been seriously injured in the City of Dainsleif, which belonged to the Vahan Empire.

To this day, Lux still held a grudge against Emperor Andreas for setting up a farce just to teach him a lesson.

Vera was still recuperating inside Blackfire because she had forced herself to appear despite the fact that she still hadn't fully recovered.

Although Lux wasn't too worried about her Rank going down, he still didn't want his Grandma to suffer because of him. For him, Vera and Iris were his only family in the world, and he would kill anyone who dared to hurt them.

As for Alexander, the Half-Elf didn't have to worry about his safety because his Stepfather was a Saint.

He would be more worried about the people who were foolish enough to get on his bad side.

"Einar, Val, and Xander must be feeling pretty anxious right now." Lux chuckled. "Sucks to be them."

Natasha shook her head. "You have no idea. Those three are at their wit's ends because they didn't want to offend anyone. Right now, they have implemented a rotation system where the Six Kingdoms, the Skystead Alliance, and the Xynnar War Pact would take their turns exploring the Domain of the Fallen and Sacred Dungeon, one after the other.

"This is working at the moment, but I'm sure that all of them are getting impatient by the lack of opportunities to explore the Dungeon in full. It will still take at least seven or eight months before the Domain reopens for everyone, and when that happens, everyone would definitely fight for the quotas to enter it."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. "If I remember correctly, only 500 slots are available each time the Domain of the Fallen opens to the public, right?"

"Right," Gerald replied. "By then, everyone might get a better chance to explore freely, but now, it is only you kids who hold the key to enter the Domain of the Fallen. All of you are like hot potatoes that everyone wants to take a bite out of."

Lux smiled because he understood that what Gerald was saying was true, however, he had other plans for the time being.

"I came here because I plan to go to the Domain of the Fallen with Cai and Keane," Lux stated. "Also, I plan to keep my promise to the Stronghold about sending fifteen members of the Storm Dragon Guild to explore it."

Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer looked at the Half-Elf as if he was an ancestor who had come back to life to give them gifts for being good boys and girls.

"This is indeed good news, but I'm afraid that the Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, and Xynnar War Pact wouldn't like it," Rainer said as he rubbed his chin. "The entrance to the Domain is being managed by the combined forces of the three factions, and no one would be able to go inside without their approval."

Lux arched an eyebrow after hearing this development. However, he already had a plan in mind to pacify the three factions.

"Tell the Ambassador of each faction that I plan to let them use our slots for free after Wildgarde Stronghold has had their turn," Lux stated. "We will no longer hold an auction for the limited slots and allow everyone in each faction to enter it once a month.

"We will go with the rotation system that Einar, Val, and Xander are implementing right now. If we follow this format, each faction will be able to send thirty of their members inside the Dungeon, which is a sizable force, allowing them to clear one of the gates in Hell Mode. I'm sure they would like this offer very much."

Gerald, Natasha, and Rainer glanced at each other before nodding their heads in agreement.

"Very well, we will go with this plan," Gerald said as he stood up from his seat. "I will contact their people right now and discuss the conditions that you have presented. What should I say if they try to impose other conditions before they agree to your proposal?"

Lux smirked as he gazed at the commander of Wildgarde Stronghold, who was unable to sit still knowing that their own force would be able to monopolize the Domain of the Fallen for a time.

"Simple," Lux replied. "Just tell them that the deal is off. If they want to block our way then we can always ask Cai's Grandpa and my Stepfather to escort us to the entrance of the Domain. That way, even if they want to say something, they will have no choice but to hold their tongue. Cai's Grandpa is notorious for being a hot-head, and I'm sure that not even the Skystead Alliance wants to be on his bad side."

"Ahem!" Cai raised its snout proudly because, for it, its Grandpa was its idol. "Those little sh*ts won't dare to say anything once my grandpa is there. If they want a fight, they will have a fight!"

Keane, who was calmly drinking his tea on the side, was quite impressed by the Boar's unwavering confidence to its grandfather.

Gerald also thought that this was a good countermeasure in case the other parties decide to ask for something unreasonable.

After finalizing the details with Lux, the Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold went to Elysium to have a meeting with the Ambassadors of all sides.

Meanwhile, Natasha and Rainer summoned Nero to tell him the details of the expedition to the Domain of the Fallen.

Now that Lux had decided to let their Stronghold take the spotlight, they must do everything in their power to ensure that they would return home with as many gains as possible by the time their expedition was over.

After the three adults left, the Half-Elf told Cai and Keane to rest for the time being because they would be going to the Domain of the Fallen the following day.

Back then, they had entered the Gate of War, while the representatives of the Vahan Empire entered the Gate of Conquest.

The Half-Elf was very curious whether he would meet Watson and Sherlock again if he entered the Gate of Conquest this time around.

'I hope I see them there again,' Lux thought as the image of the two leading figures of the Gnome Kingdom appeared inside his head.

If his hunch proved to be true, then it might allow him to gain a better understanding about how the Gates of the Sacred Dungeon worked, and the possibility of predicting what would happen the next time they enter its doors.

Chapter 436: The Vahan Empire's Proposal

Gerald, the Ambassadors of the Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, as well as the Xynnar War Pact, met at the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen to discuss the contents of Lux's proposal.

"So, in exchange for allowing your own faction's brats to explore the Domain of the Fallen, and challenge the Sacred Dungeon, we no longer have to pay for the slots of that Half-Elf and his two lackeys, right?" the Ambassador from the Vahan Empire asked.

"Yes," Gerald answered. "That is what Lux told me."

"Hoh... this sure is a tempting offer, but it doesn't sit well with me," the Ambassador from the Xynnar War Pact said. "Since the Wildgarde Stronghold are our allies, wouldn't it be better if you just give those slots to us instead?"

That way the relationship between us and the Six Kingdoms will remain strong. Isn't that right, my friend?"

The Ambassador of the Xynnar War Pact glanced in the direction of the Ambassador of the Six Kingdoms, which was composed of the Kingdoms that belonged in Solais.

"Hahaha, our relationship has always been good," the Ambassador of the Six Kingdoms replied. "This is why I believe that you should allow us to explore the Domain first. Also, need I remind everyone here that we have already compromised a lot when we gave the larger portion of our quota to both of your factions?"

Although the Ambassador of the Six Kingdoms didn't like the fact that the Wildgarde Stronghold would monopolize Lux's slots to enter the Domain of the Fallen, he simply couldn't allow the two other factions to always get their way.

"Out of the 500 slots that were allowed to enter the Domain of the Fallen, the Six Kingdoms only took 100, giving 200 each to the Skystead Alliance and the Xynnar War Pact," the Ambassador continued. "With this, you guys have the advantage in numbers when the Domain opens for everyone in seven months time.

"Didn't you hear the Half-Elf's proposal? The Wildgarde Stronghold's monopoly will only be a one time thing, and the next sessions will be given to all of us in rotation for free. I say that this is a good opportunity to increase the number of explorers that we can send into the Dungeon. After all, the monsters inside it are very strong."

The Ambassador made sure that he said the last words firmly, reminding the two factions that they had already lost a significant number of elite teenagers inside the Domain of the Fallen.

While it was true that dying inside the Sacred Dungeon wasn't a permanent death, the trip to reach the Dungeon was a dangerous one.

In fact, it was so dangerous that sometimes, more than half of the people they sent were killed before they even reached the location of the Sacred Dungeon, and their deaths were a permanent one.

There were no second chances.

There were no Redos.

Each Faction had already lost dozens of promising members of the young generation, making them understand how merciless the Domain of the Fallen was.

A brief silence descended upon the meeting as the other Ambassadors digested the words that were said by their colleague.

"Tell me, will that Half-Elf also enter the Sacred Dungeon and try to conquer one of its gates?" one of the Rankers asked.

"... You're Aron, right?" Gerald asked the Ranker who also served as Emperor Andreas' right-hand man.

He was also the High-Ranker who had faced Vera in the Coliseum when Lux's Grandma was about to deal with the Ranker that tried to harm her grandson.

"Yes," Aron replied. "I was sent here by His Majesty to supervise the negotiations. So, will that boy, Lux, once again challenge one of the Gates in the Sacred Dungeon?"

Gerald nodded. "That is his intention."

"Good then how about we do it like this," Aron stated. "Currently, Xander, Einar Mordosk, and Vallaki Meitar are scheduled to bring our people to the Sacred Dungeon in a week's time. Why don't we bring five people from the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, and the Six Kingdoms, to accompany Lux to clear the Dungeon he plans to challenge? That way, not only will it become easier, the chances of clearing it will also be higher, right?"

The Ambassadors and the Rankers of the other Kingdoms, who were also present in the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen all realized what Aron was suggesting.

Lux, as well as his friends, were the only people that had managed to clear two of the five gates of the Sacred Dungeon.

Since he was going to challenge them a third time, Aron believed that the Half-Elf had the confidence that he would be able to clear it.

If the Half-Elf managed to clear it with their own elites working alongside him, they would also gain the recognition of the Sacred Dungeon, allowing them to bring their own people inside it, similar to what Lux, and his friends were doing right now.

Of course, if Aron only said that only the members of the Skystead Alliance would enter alongside Lux, he would be facing harsh opposition from their counterparts.

However, since he said that they would each send five of their members to accompany Lux, that meant that all of them would gain five people that could potentially bring their own faction inside the Domain of the Fallen, without needing to wait for the Half-Elf to bring them inside.

Of course, this would only work if the Dungeon was cleared. But, Aron believed that Lux would be able to do it.

This was also the opinion of the others, making Gerald reconsider sending the Storm Dragons to explore on their own.

'If Nero's Guild also accompanied Lux, and they managed to clear one of the dungeons, that would mean that the people on our side could gain the authority to bring more people from our faction inside in the future,' Gerald thought. 'This Aron is very devious, trying to gain an advantage even in this situation, but his idea isn't bad. If everyone were to work together to clear a dungeon, I believe that our chances of success would indeed be higher.'

All the Ambassadors were smart individuals, so they already grasped what Aron was hinting at.

"I agree with this proposal." The Ambassador of the Skystead Alliance nodded. "How about the rest of you?"

"I have no objections," the Ambassador of the Xynnar War Pact replied.

"No objections from me as well," the Ambassador of the Six Kingdoms smiled, agreeing with this arrangement.

"Good, it's settled then," Aron said as he shifted his gaze towards Gerald, who was the Commander of the Stronghold that Lux was currently living in. "Tell Lux that we accept his proposal. Also, Emperor Andreas felt truly sorry for what happened back in our Empire. He told me that he was willing to

compensate Lux for his traumatic experience, and give him a Silver Token that would allow him to make a Silver-Ranked Guild.

"We will also shoulder the expenses of building his Guild Headquarters, and are more than happy to have it built in one of the best locations in our Empire. Please, pass this message to him, won't you?"

Gerald smiled and nodded his head. "I will pass your message to him."

"Thank you."

"It's not a big deal."

Gerald was doing his best to keep the sneer on his face from appearing.

'A Silver Token so he can make a Silver-Ranked Guild? What a bunch of Fools,' Gerald mused. 'If you only knew what rank Lux's Guild was, you'd probably regret the farce you put on in your Empire.'

A Guild could only raise its rank if the Kingdom where the Guild was founded recognized that their performance had reached a standard where they could be promoted.

This was similar to Aina's Silver-Ranked Guild, Eternal, where Colette, Matty, and the other Dwarfs who had become Lux's friends were staying.

The Storm Dragon Guild, which Nero led, also fell under this category. They had achieved feats that gained the approval of the Kingdom that they belonged in, allowing them to get promoted.

Simply put, it was the Kings and Emperors of the World that decided whether a Guild could be promoted or not. Those they favored could be promoted without encountering any hardships, allowing them to rise above their peers in a heartbeat.

The Old Lux might have jumped at the opportunity to own a Silver-Ranked Guild, but now, the Half-Elf would only spit at the offer of the Vahan Empire.

Naturally, Gerald wouldn't say these things and only kept the friendly smile on his face as he, and the other Ambassadors wrapped up their discussions.

Three hours later, Gerald returned to the Wildgarde Stronghold and informed the Half-Elf of the agreement that all parties had decided to make for the next Dungeon expedition.

"Oh? So they plan to hitch a ride?" Lux arched an eyebrow after hearing the outcome of the negotiations. 'They also want to give me a Silver Token to create a Silver-Ranked Guild? It seems that Emperor Andreas thinks that I am very desperate to create a Guild. Good, maybe I can use this to my advantage.'

The Half-Elf didn't expect Aron to give such a daring proposal. However, since he was growing tired of dealing with the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, as well as the Six Kingdoms, he decided to go along with what they suggested, so that they would leave him alone.

Although he could go to the Gweliven Kingdom, and Karshvar Draconis to do some exploration, he felt very restricted because he couldn't explore the places in his own backyard, which was the territory of the Xynnar War Pact in Elysium.

Vera had told him in the past that there were some interesting places to be found there, and Lux planned to check them out.

However, after getting on the bad side of the different factions, he was banned from spreading his wings in the Human kingdoms, causing him to resort to flying back to the Dwarves, where he was forced to face the Monster of Ruin, whose strength made him shudder every time he thought about it.

'This is just a one time thing,' Lux thought as he contemplated his next course of action. 'This will not change what I needed to do. But, if they think that they can leech off me, they have another thing coming to them.'

The Half-Elf wasn't someone who let others take advantage of him, so he decided to squeeze the leeches for what they were worth until they puked blood, making them understand that he wasn't a soft persimmon that they could pinch anytime they wanted.

He had already decided to enter the Gate of Conquest, which the members of the Vahan Empires had challenged last time.

If his hunch was right, he might be thrown onto the same battlefield as last time, allowing him to meet Sherlock and Watson, giving him some advantage for whatever the Dungeon would throw at him.

Chapter 437: Hello, Villager A. Nice To Meet You

One week later...

Lux, Cai, and Keane, stood at the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen with the members of the Storm Dragon Guild.

Nero had already been briefed of his mission to support Lux.

The handsome young man didn't show any signs of dissatisfaction on the surface, but deep inside, he didn't like the idea of teaming up with Lux.

However, since this was the order of the higher-ups he had no choice but to nod his head and agree to obey his orders without fail.

"I haven't seen the three of you in ages," Einar said as he walked towards Lux with a smile.

In the past, the proud Barbarian Prince had fought with the Half-Elf, who had disguised himself as a chubby Human teenager in the tournament.

After fighting side by side with Lux in the Gate of Death, the Barbarian finally threw his grudges to the side and accepted Lux as one of the strongest members of the young generation, whom he had set as his goal to defeat.

Also, after conquering two Gates with the Half-Elf, the Barbarian had subconsciously made a decision in his heart to always go with Lux whenever he was going to challenge one of the Gates in the Sacred Dungeon.

"Yo, are you guys ready to conquer the third Dungeon?" Val said as he approached the Half-Elf and his friends. "This will be another walk in the park, right?"

"You bastard! What walk in the park?" Einar lightly pounded Val's chest in mock anger. "I still haven't forgotten what you did to me last time."

Val patted his chest before glaring at the Barbarian.

"It's not my fault you are weak," Val replied. "Next time, do better, and don't blame others for your shortcomings."

Einar only shrugged after hearing Val's futile attempt to taunt him.

Xander shook his head as he looked at everyone who was going to conquer another Dungeon. Their small group wouldn't be entering alone this time.

"We meet again, Half-Elf," Malcolm, who was the party leader that led the elite members of the Vahan Empire on the last expedition, said in a teasing tone. "Have you grown a little stronger since the last time we met?"

Lux glanced at the arrogant, young man with dark-blue hair and eyes.

"Who are you?" Lux asked.

"Surely you jest?" Malcolm asked back. "How can you forget someone like me?"

"Cai, do you know who this is?" Lux asked the Boar who was busy talking to Laura and Livia in the Guild Chat.

Cai frowned before shifting its attention to the Initiate that was standing in front of them.

"Sorry, I don't know the name of Cannon Fodders," Cai replied. "How about we call him Villager A for now?"

"Sounds good." Lux nodded. "Hello, Villager A. Nice to meet you."

Malcolm laughed, but his laughter was filled with irritation. He could still remember the time when the Half-Elf had thwarted his plans.

If not for the fact that Lux had used such a diabolical skill to wipeout the army he was serving during the war, he would have been one of the most important figures in the young generation after conquering the Gate of Conquest, and have his name placed among the conquerors who managed to beat the Dungeon.

After his defeat, Malcolm had trained very hard and raised his Rank by a small margin. Even though he was already an Initiate, he wanted to become a

Ranker as soon as possible in order to gain a higher position in the Vahan Empire, where his father served as its Great General.

"We'll see who's the Villager A later," Malcolm replied before taking a few steps back. He knew that this was an important mission for his Empire, so he didn't want to cause any problems before they entered the Domain.

He only planned to give Lux a greeting and a warning that he wasn't the same person that the Half-Elf had fought in the past.

Malcolm was confident that if he and the Half-Elf met again on opposing sides, the one who would lose this time would be Lux and his friends.

Half an hour later, all of the members for the expedition had arrived. However, before anyone started, Lux decided to take the initiative to tell everyone what he had in mind.

"I will be the one to lead this expedition, so I want everyone to listen to my orders," Lux announced. "If you cannot listen to my orders then you should back away. I don't have time to deal with deadweights, and those who just plan to leech off of me.

"All of you are carrying observer crystals so your superiors can see what you're doing inside the dungeon. Don't blame me later if you get killed inside for not following orders. I have no use for useless people."

Nero frowned but he didn't say anything. Since he had already agreed with Gerald's orders, he would cater to the Half-Elf's whims for the duration of the expedition.

As for the members of the Skystead Alliance, Xynnar War Pact, as well as Six Kingdoms, they wanted to complain, but after getting a glare from their superiors, all of them held back their words, and simply glared back at the Half-Elf who was standing at the entrance of the Domain of the Fallen with his arms crossed over his chest.

The reason why Lux was confident in challenging the Domain was due to his Summons getting an upgrade.

All of his units were now Rank 4 Monsters. In short, Lux could summon forces that could easily match a Bronze Guild in terms of quality and quantity. Because of this, he was confident that he could challenge the Gate of

Conquest even if he only brought Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, and Xander with him.

This was something that the other factions didn't know, so they were still underestimating his abilities.

Depending on how the situation turned out, the Half-Elf would not hesitate to leave everyone behind, bringing only those who had fought alongside him to conquer the Gate of Death and the Gate of War a few months ago, with him.

Chapter 438.1: The Expedition's Temporary Leader [Part 1]

"Look at you, acting like a big shot," Henrietta, the Guildmaster of Serenity, which represented Barbatos Academy said as she elbowed the Half-Elf's side playfully. "To think that the sickly caterpillar whom Iris loved would emerge into a handsome butterfly. You've surely made her proud."

Lux smiled as he looked at Henrietta, who served as one of Iris' close confidants in Barbatos Academy.

He didn't expect Henrietta to be one of the five members that would represent the Six Kingdoms on this Dungeon expedition.

"What made you come here?" Lux asked. "Aren't you supposed to be doing a mission somewhere?"

Henrietta covered her lips and chuckled before giving Lux the "I knew you'd say that" gaze.

"The Headmaster told me to keep an eye on you and make sure that you didn't do anything stupid," Henrietta replied. "Also, I wasn't present at the tournament, so I didn't see how awesome you were. This time, show me a bit of that awesomeness, okay?"

Henrietta gave Lux a playful wink, making the Half-Elf roll his eyes. For him, Henrietta was that Big Sister he never had, always protecting Iris and him from those who said bad things about them.

"Okay, Sister," Lux replied. "I will show you how awesome I am. Just make sure you don't fall in love with me, okay?"

"Fool. Did you forget that I already have a fiance? Even if you are stronger than my man, I will not exchange him for you. Otherwise, Iris would definitely give me a good nagging."

"Speaking of your fiance, where is Hector?" Lux asked.

"Managing the Guild in my place."

"I already knew that he is going to be a henpecked husband, but hearing it from your own lips confirms my guess."

The two exchanged several playful jabs at each other while the Half-Elf gave the other representatives of the Six Kingdoms a side-long glance.

The Prince of the Elves, Enlil Neifion, who had escaped during the tournament in fear of his life, was there to represent the Elves.

Gilmore Faisal, the young sword prodigy, who had fought against Keane in the tournament, was there to represent the Axton Kingdom.

Two other teenagers, whom Lux didn't recognize, were also there to represent the rest of the Six Kingdoms. According to Henrietta, both of them were also prodigies, who were known in their circle as Brett and Rhett.

The two of them were twins, and both had short black hair. The only difference between them was the color of their eyes. Brett had blue eyes, while Rhett had green, allowing others to tell who was who.

As for the representatives of the Xynnar War Pact and Skystead Alliance, Lux didn't really care who they were.

"Let's go," Lux said. "Remember, follow my orders. Those who don't want to obey can just solo the Dungeon on their own."

The Half-Elf, alongside Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, and Xander, placed their hands and hoof on the Gate of the Domain, allowing them and their party members to enter the Domain of the Fallen.

The people that accompanied Lux had all entered the Domain at least once, making them very familiar with their surroundings.

Everyone knew that the hardest part of the journey was the trek to the entrance of the Sacred Dungeon.

Several powerful Monsters that were Deimos-Ranked and above wandered in the vicinity, always on the lookout for the flesh and blood of the weaker teenagers, who were starting to become a regular part of their diet.

Lux, who was paying attention to his Soul Book that was hovering beside him, frowned.

Right now, his Soul Book was invisible to everyone because the owner of the book had the option to only allow those whom they trusted to see it and keep it hidden from those whom they didn't trust.

'This is bad,' Lux thought. 'The moment we entered, the monsters positioned themselves to ambush us along the way.'

While the Half-Elf was deep in thought, Malcolm and his group had started to walk in the direction of the Sacred Dungeon without waiting for Lux's orders.

"Aren't we going to follow them?" Henrietta, who stood beside Lux, asked as she tapped his shoulder.

"If they want to die so badly then let them die," Lux replied. "I'm not here to babysit them. They've been inside this Domain numerous times already, and they still don't know the basic rule that there is safety in numbers. Maybe they think that the five of them can beat an Argonaut Ranked Beast by themselves."

After entering the dungeon, Einar, Val, and Xander didn't move from their spot and waited for Lux to give his orders.

Although they were the leaders of their own Guilds, they already treated Lux as their temporary leader whenever they entered the Domain of the Fallen.

The members of the Six Kingdoms, as well as the Xynnar War Pact, also stood by his side. Although they didn't know what the Half-Elf was waiting for, they had been given strict orders to follow him whether they liked it or not.

Malcolm, who was leading the representatives of the Skystead Alliance, glanced behind him and frowned.

"What are you all waiting for?" Malcolm asked. "Do you plan to stay there for the entire day? Hey, Leader, what's wrong? Did you suddenly get cold feet?"

The members of the Skystead Alliance all laughed after hearing Malcolm's words.

They were already very annoyed by the fact that they had to follow the Half-Elf's orders, but now that Lux wasn't moving from his spot, their annoyance turned to irritation.

"Let's go," Lux said as he walked in a different direction, stepping away from the established route that those who entered the Domain of the Fallen had always used to head towards the Sacred Dungeon, catching everyone by surprise.

Cai and Keane followed behind Lux, as did Einar, Val, and Xander.

They had complete trust in the Half-Elf, so even though they weren't sure where he was going, they still followed him due to their previous experiences when they fought alongside him.

'This is interesting,' Henrietta thought as she followed behind Lux.

She was sent there by the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy to keep an eye on Lux, so she would do as she was commanded.

Enlil clicked his tongue, but he also followed behind the Half-Elf despite his innate hate for filthy half-bloods.

Gilmore also followed, not because he trusted Lux, but because he trusted the judgment of the person whom he deemed as his rival, which was Keane.

He believed that the mysterious swordsman could make sound decisions, so he decided to follow his hunch and tagged along.

One by one, the representatives of the different factions followed the Half-Elf, leaving Malcolm and his group staring at them from a distance.

"Captain, what should we do?" one of Malcolm's subordinates asked.

Malcolm narrowed his eyes before making a gesture that they should follow Lux.

Since they were all wearing artifacts that allowed their superiors to observe what was happening inside the Domain, they couldn't defy Lux's orders, or they would be punished if their mission ended early due to their stubbornness.

As the teenagers took a detour, the Monsters that planned to ambush them remained. They were not aware that the Humans were already heading in a different direction instead of following the path they had always taken whenever they entered the Domain of the Fallen.

Chapter 439.2: The Expedition's Temporary Leader [Part 2]

Each time people entered the Domain of the Fallen, the Monsters inside it would sense a faint ripple in the air.

This told them that the Humans had once again returned, and it was time to take a bite out of some of them once more.

All the monsters inside the Domain of the Fallen had their own agendas, and they were not allied with each other. All of them were hunters and preyed on each other, which meant that they mustn't engage in a drawn out battle and injure themselves, or else, their rivals would prey upon them.

Everytime the teenagers entered, the Monsters would hide in different places along the route they normally took to ambush them.

Also, they made sure to stay a fair distance from each other, preventing the other monsters from taking advantage of them.

Lux had a serious look on his face as he led the teenagers on a path that was void of Monsters. Since the majority of them had decided to ambush them, some places were left wide open, allowing the Half-Elf to exploit them.

"Hey, when are we goin—" Malcolm wasn't able to finish his words because the Half-Elf glared at him, making him flinch.

"We are deep in the Monsters' territories," Lux stated. "Unless you want to announce our location to them, feel free to talk, but we're kicking you out of the team."

The Half-Elf no longer bothered with Malcom, despite the latter being an Initiate, and thus, stronger than him.

Nero, who was observing this exchange, kept a calm look on his face, but made sure to take note that Malcolm and Lux didn't get along.

Outside of the Sacred Dungeon...

"If this mission fails, it will be the fault of the Skystead Alliance," a Ranker of the Xynnar War Pact said with a smile. "Damn bastard doesn't know when to shut up."

The Rankers and Ambassadors that belonged to the Skystead Alliance glared at the Ranker who spoke up, but they didn't say anything in return.

They were also very displeased with how Malcolm was conducting himself, making them reconsider whether he was fit to lead their representatives the next time they entered the Dungeon.

Aron, who was King Andreas' right hand man, simply observed the teenagers for now.

Although the only thing he could see was the Half-Elf's back, the earlier exchange allowed him to glimpse Lux's serious expression, making him understand that the red-headed teenager wasn't fooling around when he chose to take a different route.

Back at the Domain of the Fallen...

The Half-Elf suddenly raised a hand, stopping everyone from moving.

He then turned around to place a finger on his lips, and motioned for everyone to crouch down.

He then pointed at their left side and made a gesture of slicing his neck, telling them that there was a Monster on their left side that could potentially kill them.

The Half-Elf then crouched beside a nearby tree and made a hand signal for everyone to hide.

Everyone followed his orders because they had also sensed a strong presence in the surroundings.

All of them were Grade A Apostles and Initiates. They were at the rank when their perceptions of their surroundings had reached a certain threshold, allowing them to instinctively feel if danger was near.

Soon, the ground started to shake as heavy footsteps were heard in the distance. Everyone used their skills to make their presence as small and as unnoticeable as possible.

Some slowed their heart rate, some used a spell to remove their scents, while others used artifacts to blend in with their surroundings.

Eiko hid inside Lux's robes, and Fei Fei huddled with Cai.

The Boar had decreased its size, making it difficult for anyone to spot it.

Soon, the footsteps came to a complete stop as the Argonaut-Ranked Gorilla looked around.

A minute later, it caught the presence of a weaker Monster, whom it deemed perfect for a snack, and headed in that direction.

Only when the Gorilla left did everyone breathe a sigh of relief.

However, Lux still had his hand raised in a stopping motion, telling everyone to hold their position.

Only when the Argonaut Monster had distanced itself from their location did the Half-Elf motion for everyone to follow him.

After that incident, everyone had become more obedient to the Half-Elf and silently followed him as they waded through uncharted territories, in a jungle that was infested with Monsters stronger than them.

Six agonizing hours later, they finally arrived at their destination without losing a single member.

A special barrier surrounded the Sacred Dungeon, repelling the monsters around it.

It was also considered a "Safe Zone", giving the teenagers an opportunity to catch their breath and rest.

"We'll stay here for a few hours to rest," Lux ordered. "Until then, all of you are free to do whatever you want, just as long as you don't wander far from the barrier."

Malcolm walked away as soon as Lux had given that order. He was quite exhausted from the long trek, and even though he was one of the strongest members in their group, the close encounters along the way still took a toll on his physical and emotional state.

After the Argonaut Ranked Gorilla, Lux and the others had encountered six more Monsters of the same rank, making them fear for their life each time it happened.

Fortunately, the Half-Elf was able to warn them in advance, allowing them to hide and erase their presence and preventing the Monster from detecting them.

Just as he expected, the members of the Xynnar War Pact, Skystead Alliance, Six Kingdoms, as well as the Storm Dragon Guild, all went to different locations to rest, with the exception of Henrietta, who decided to stay with Lux's group.

"How were you able to know where we were going?" Henrietta asked. "We have never seen anyone take that route before, so how did you do it?"

Lux looked at the beautiful lady in front of him with a serious expression on his face before giving his answer.

"Half-Elf's intuition," Lux replied, which made Henrietta shake her head bitterly.

Unlike Iris, who treated her as her confidant, Lux kept his secrets close to his heart, only telling those whom he deemed to be trustworthy.

Although he trusted Henrietta to a certain extent, his trust in her wasn't as strong as the trust he had with Iris and his grandmother, Vera.

On top of that, everyone had the artifacts that allowed those who were outside the Domain to see and hear what they were talking about, making it impossible for the Half-Elf to tell anyone the truth.

"Still, to think that all of you could get along is something new to me," Henrietta glanced at the Barbarian Prince, Einar, the Spiderboy, Val, and Xander, who was also one of the most outstanding members of the young generation.

She had noticed that all of them always took Lux's words to heart, making her sense that they had developed some kind of bond that was hard to explain.

"It's normal to have a little faith in the people who have shared life and death battles with you," Einar, who was sharpening his Great Axe, commented when he heard Henrietta's words.

"We have conquered two of the Gates of this Dungeon together, so isn't it normal for us to stick together?" Val stated. "We have witnessed how capable everyone is, so we'd rather be with them than those who are stronger but lack the attitude to conquer the challenges of the Dungeon together. Even that pig over there is better than the Initiates of the Vahan Empire."

Cai, who heard Val's words, glared at the pale-faced boy who seemed to be suffering from a lack of sunlight.

"Oi! I'm a Boar not a Pig!" Cai shouted. "Spiderboy, you better correct your attitude towards me, or I'll not help you in the Dungeon later."

"Who needs your help?" Val arched an eyebrow. "The only thing you are good at is taking advantage of opportunities."

"Ahem! Taking advantage of opportunities is a good trait to have," Cai replied. "It is that one small opening that separates winners from losers. I am a winner, unlike you Spiderboy, who lost to My Daddy in the tournament."

"Stop calling me Spiderboy," Val glared at the boar. "Didn't you lose as well? You are one to talk!"

"At least, I was second place," Cai replied with a smug look on its face. "Unlike you who lost before even getting into the Finals."

"You want a piece of me, Pig?"

"Hah! Bring it on, Spidey! I eat Spiders like you for breakfast!"

Henrietta watched the two bicker with an amused expression on her face. Originally, she thought that everyone in Lux's party got along, but after seeing Cai's and Val's exchange, she felt like her assumptions were a bit off the mark.

Even so, for now, she had determined that Lux was qualified to be the temporary leader of their group.

'I will observe him more for now, so I can give a proper report when I get back,' Henrietta thought. 'Iris, I thought that I knew Lux well, but it seems that the image of the sickly boy in my head is no longer an appropriate way to describe your fiance.'

Just like everyone else, Henrietta was carrying an artifact that allowed Alexander to see what was happening inside the Domain of the Fallen.

Iris and Alicia were also in the Headmaster's office, watching the expedition in real time.

In truth, Alexander wanted to see how much Lux had grown since the tournament. Because of this, he assigned Henrietta to stick close to him so that he would be able to observe what other secrets the Half-Elf was hiding from him.

Chapter 440.1: Ars Goetia Mercenary Group [Part 1]

Lux and his entourage rested for a full six hours before finally regrouping to challenge the Gate of Conquest.

This particular gate was strongly requested by the Vahan Empire, which made Lux wonder if the gate had something inside that Emperor Andreas wanted.

Since his original target was also the Gate of Conquest, he had no problems with their request.

However, he made it look like he was very reluctant to agree to their condition, which forced Aron, who was Emperor Andreas' right-hand man, to talk to him in private.

The High-Ranker secretly passed a storage ring to the Half-Elf, which contained a silver token, half a million gold coins, as well as a deed of a plot of land that was located near the capital of the Vahan Empire.

Aron told him that Emperor Andreas wanted to fix their shaky relationship and promised the Half-Elf that, if he built his Guild Headquarters in the Vahan Empire, he would get the Emperor's full support.

Lux thanked Aron and even showed interest in the plan to build a Guild Headquarters in the Vahan Empire. Of course, this was only on the surface. Deep inside, Lux was sneering at them for their futile attempts to butter him up after what they had done to him in their capital city of Dainsleif.

"We are going to challenge the Gate of Conquest this time," Lux said as he looked at the people around him. "I'm sure you have already experienced what it was like to challenge the Hell Mode of the Sacred Dungeon. I don't have to remind you all how hard it is. With that said, I want everyone to listen to my orders, no matter how weird it may seem."

Seeing that all of them still had a reluctant look on their faces, the Half-Elf decided to brag a little bit to make them step up their game.

"As someone that had conquered two of the Gates of the Sacred Dungeon, I already know what I'm talking about," Lux stated. "None of you have done it, despite the fact that some of you are stronger than me. Clearing a dungeon doesn't only require having a high rank. It also requires everyone to work together to achieve a common goal, just like I, and my comrades here, have achieved.

"If you don't choose to cooperate, that is fine with me. However, don't forget that you are now being watched. If this expedition fails then, hehehe..."

The Half-Elf gave the Factions of the Six Kingdoms, Skystead Alliance, and Xynnar Warpact a devilish smile, making all of their livers itch.

Even those who were watching them from the outside could feel the pressure because their counterparts were observing their representatives as well.

If the mission truly failed, everyone would know who was to blame, and that would put them at a disadvantage when future negotiations for the exploration of the Domain of the Fallen, as well as the Sacred Dungeon, were held again.

Malcolm knew that if he f*cked this up, he would lose Emperor Andreas' support, making him unable to climb up in the ranks of nobility because of his lackluster performance.

Although he didn't like Lux, he would hate it if his future prospects became dim because of a personal grudge against him. So, for the time being, Malcolm made a vow to himself to do what he was ordered to do, even if it meant obeying the Half-Elf's orders to the dot.

Seeing that his point had been carried across to everyone, the Half-Elf nodded and pressed his right hand over the Gate of Conquest.

Everyone on the expedition was now in his party, so they would accompany him as members of his group.

A moment later, all of them bathed in a radiant light, momentarily blinding them.

Not long after, they found themselves standing at a hill, overlooking a fortress.

"That's the flag of the Ammar Kingdom," Malcolm stated as he pointed at the flags that were fluttering on the ramparts of the fortress. "There is no mistake about it. This is a fortress that belongs to the Ammar Kingdom."

Several months ago, Malcolm and his team entered the Gate of Conquest, while Lux, and his friends entered the Gate of War.

Malcolm's team joined the Ammar Kingdom, which was backed by Dwarven Technology.

Lux's team, on the other hand, joined the Yelan Kingdom, which was supported by Gnome Technology.

That was also when Lux was given the Pseudo-Legendary Item, Map Projector, which he had merged with his Soul Book, allowing him to see friends and foes within a three-mile radius around him.

For some unknown reason, the two teams found themselves on the same battlefield but on different sides and were forced to fight against each other, with Lux and his team emerging victorious.

Since then, Malcolm had suffered many setbacks every time he tried to reclaim his honor.

Unfortunately, his recent expeditions hadn't been successful, and now, this was probably the last chance he had to redeem himself.

'Just as I expected, we are still brought to this place,' Lux thought.

Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, and Xander, who fought against the Ammar Kingdom in the past all had frowns on their faces because they had already labeled the enemy of the Yelan Kingdom as their enemy.

"Let's go to the Fortress," Lux said after pondering for a minute. "If someone asks, tell them we are a Mercenary Group called Ars Goetia. I'll do the talking, so make sure to not say anything out of place. Do you understand, Cai?"

Lux smiled as he patted the Boar's head, making the latter shudder.

"O-Of course! Hahaha! You know me, I'm very tight-lipped!" Cai replied. "You can count on me!"

"Fei!" Fei Fei, who was perched on top of Cai's head, looked at Lux with a pout.

The Half-Elf chuckled and also patted the baby Slime's head, making the latter smile.

"Follow me," Lux ordered as he walked towards the Fortress.

After what happened in the Domain of the Fallen, everyone followed his orders to the dot, as if afraid that some random Argonaut-Ranked Monster would appear and gobble them whole.

Chapter 441.2: Ars Goetia Mercenary Group [Part 2]

"Ars Goetia Mercenary Group?" the Commander of the Fortress frowned as he looked at the smiling Half-Elf, who was seated across his table. "I've never heard of you guys."

"Well, there's a first time for everything," Lux replied. "Now, you have heard of us."

The Commander narrowed his eyes but didn't comment. He had already had a good look at the Half-Elf's entourage, and although they were all in their teenage years, all of them were already Grade A Apostles and above, which was already considered decent for members of a Mercenary Group.

"So, you wish to offer your services to us for a good amount of money, right?" the Commander asked.

"Of course." Lux nodded. "Everyone needs money, especially a Mercenary Group. We need to eat and buy equipment, after all."

The Commander agreed with Lux's words and took out a scroll to form a contract. "Hmm... very well. Let's talk about the price. If you are able to take out the enemy's commanders, all of you will receive a hundred thousand gold coins. How about it?"

Lux leaned back on his chair before crossing his arms over his chest.

"200,000 Gold coins," Lux replied.

"150,000," the Commander proposed.

"Okay, that is acceptable," Lux nodded. "You have a deal."

The commander then made a draft and made Lux sign it.

Naturally, the Half-Elf didn't sign it right away. He made sure to read every word to make sure that he understood the content of the contract before signing it.

According to the contract, Lux and his Mercenary Group would only get their rewards after the Commanders were killed, or they had won the campaign against the Yelan Army.

Those were the two conditions written there, and seeing that the conditions were acceptable, the Half-Elf signed it before passing it back to the Commander.

Suddenly, Lux heard a notification sound. A second later, several rows of text appeared in front of him, informing him about his mission.

< Ding! >

< The Mission, War of Lions has been accepted! >

< War of the Lions >

Mission Rating: S

The war between the Ammar Kingdom and the Yelan Kingdom has escalated after the Ammar Kingdom's defeat a year ago.

After failing to conquer the adjacent Kingdom, the Gnomes' and their allies' morale had been boosted, prompting them to mount a counterattack. Due to their momentum, they were able to push the Ammar Kingdom back and even managed to conquer a few border towns along the way.

The Ammar Kingdom had always been the conquerors, so their latest defeat forced their King to issue a draft order to summon every able-bodied man to fight for their kingdom.

The Dwarves have also amassed a great number of weapons and armors for the battle that could break out at any moment.

< Mission Objectives >

- Kill the Two Yelan Army Generals, Watson and Sherlock.
- Destroy the Yelan Main Headquarters and capture their flag.

< Rewards >

- Each member will receive 150,000 Gold Coins
- Each member will receive one random Mythical Equipment

< Bonus Rewards >

– Bonus rewards can be obtained depending on your performance on the battlefield. Great rewards await those who managed to excel in this military campaign.

'So this time, we are their enemies,' Lux thought as he looked at the information of the mission in front of him.

After shaking hands with the Commander, Lux and his group were immediately ordered to march to the front lines.

Since they were a Mercenary Group, they were given free reign as to how they would fight on the battlefield. The only condition the Commander asked, which both sides agreed upon, was that Lux's Mercenary group would not do anything to get in the army's way.

"Did you guys also receive a quest after I passed the contract to the Commander?" Lux asked when his group was a good distance away from the fortress.

"Yes!" Cai replied in a heartbeat. "Do we really have to kill Watson and Sherlock? Those guys are good people. I don't want to hurt them."

Lux sighed because he shared the same opinion as Cai. He then glanced at Keane, who also nodded his head, informing him that he received the quest as well.

"How about you, Malcolm?" Lux asked. "Did you get the quest?"

Malcolm nodded, which confirmed the Half-Elf's suspicion.

Anyone that is in the same party as me gets a quest. It seems that this wasn't just my imagination.

"This is weird. I've never gotten this kind of quest before," Henrietta commented. "Usually, I only get quests from the Adventurer's Guild. This is the first time I've received a quest in this manner. Nero, have you ever gotten something like this in the past?"

"Just once," Nero replied. "It was when I fought against an Abyssal Creature."

Henrietta suddenly remembered the conversation he had with one of her older brothers about quest notifications that would appear at random times.

Although it wasn't unheard of, it was quite rare, which made her wonder what conditions triggered such events.

"This is my third time receiving something like this." Malcolm decided to share some information regarding the special quest that had appeared in front of him. "I received the first quest when my father took me to an A-Ranked Dungeon to teach me how to fight one of the Bosses there.

"Since then, I've been looking for ways to trigger a similar event because the rewards from the mission would go directly inside your personal inventory."

Everyone that had a Soul Book had their own personal inventory inside it.

The space wasn't that big, only allowing up to twenty items to be stored, but it was decent enough storage if one didn't have the money to buy storage bags or storage rings.

"Is that so..." Henrietta nodded her head in understanding. "It seems like we got lucky this time. Not only will we get 150,000 Gold Coins, we will also get a Mythical Equipment. The Bonus Rewards depending on our performance is also good. I wonder what we will get when we finish this mission?"

Due to the conversation, Lux realized that he was not the only one who received these random quests from time to time. However, compared to others, his chance of triggering them was higher because he didn't have the Leveling Feature that Elysians and Solaians had.

Lux rented six wooden wagons to accommodate his Mercenary Group, which was composed of less than forty members.

Although he didn't want to admit it, he was a little excited about commanding a sizable force, which was comprised of elite members from the young generation.

All of the people with him were talented individuals in their own right, and Lux believed that if he were to know what they were capable of, he would be able to assign them to various tasks, which would make the mission easier.

'I need to have a talk with them once we arrive at our destination,' Lux thought. 'Although they might be reluctant to tell me what their abilities are, I can use the fact that we are being observed to make them comply.'

The Half-Elf closed his eyes and began to ponder what his next move should be. Right now, he had accepted the quest to kill the two Generals who had a connection with him in the past.

Truth be told, he wasn't looking forward to doing the job, so he planned to see what the current situation of the war was before making his final decision.

Chapter 442: Fine, You're The Boss

Three days later, Lux's group finally arrived at the forefront of the battlefield.

The first thing they did was to report to the Grand General who was in charge of the campaign in order to drive the Yelan Army off its borders, and reclaim the lands that had been taken from them.

Truth be told, this was the greatest humiliation that the Ammar Kingdom had suffered ever since it had conquered two of its neighbors some years past.

The King of the Ammar Kingdom even vowed that as soon as the Yelan Kingdom fell into his hands, he would declare the birth of the Ammar Empire, uniting all the lands that surrounded its borders.

"So, you are a Mercenary Group," the Great General, who seemed to be in his early forties, scanned the faces of the teenagers in front of him and snorted. "All of you still smell like breast milk. Are you sure you are qualified to be on the battlefield? How about you lads just become part of our Logistic Team and help us carry the supplies on the battlefield.

"The ladies on the other hand can become the bed warmers of the other Generals to ensure that they are in top condition. Of course, if you'd like to warm my bed, I would be more than happy to receive you girls."

Henrietta, as well as the five other ladies that belonged to the Storm Dragon Guild, Skystead Alliance, and Xynnar War Pact, all frowned after hearing the General's words.

They could tell that the Great General was very serious, which proved that he wasn't taking them seriously.

Lux understood why the General was acting as arrogant as he was, because the man talking to them now was a High-Ranker.

'At least Rank A or Rank S,' Lux mused as he gazed at the silver-eyed man with platinum blonde hair in front of him.

Standing behind the Great General were also two other Rankers, who seemed to be his close aides. Although their rank was lower than the Great General, the Half-Elf assumed that their ranks were somewhere between Rank C and Rank A, making them very formidable fighters.

"Your offer is good, but I am afraid we have to pass," Lux replied with a smile. "We are mercenaries, so if we die on the battlefield, that only means that we lack the abilities to survive. I would appreciate it if you didn't mock our resolve to fight in this war."

The Great General snorted, but judging with how he looked at the Half-Elf, he seemed to be satisfied with Lux's answer.

"Very well." The Great General who goes by the name, Rafael Watts, gave the members of Lux's Mercenary Group a side-long glance before shifting his attention back to the Half-Elf. "Since you want to prove yourselves in battle, I will give you a chance."

The Great General made a gesture for the Half-Elf and his group to follow him at the large table where the map of the battlefield was laid out.

Several wooden pieces, representing the various units of the Ammar and Yelan Armies, were scattered in different places.

"Right now, we have four battlefields," Great General Rafael said. "The battle in the Forest, which was led by General Revon, the Mountain battlefield led by General Herodes, the battle in the Plains led by General Gideon, and the Marshland Battle led by General Phobus."

The Great General pointed at the different places on the map and told the Half-Elf about the number of soldiers, as well as the number of mercenary groups that had joined each battlefield.

"As you may already know, the Ammar Kingdom is bigger than the Yelan Kingdom," Great General Rafael stated. "Because of this, we decided to fight them on four fronts, thinning out their manpower, and allowing us to break past their defenses. However, these bastards have proved to be quite tenacious, and managed to hold their strongholds against our relentless assault.

"Right now, this is a battle of attrition, so every small victory on the battlefield is important. They have the geographical advantage, but we have the advantage in numbers. As long as one of our Generals is able to break past their defenses, their entire formation will crumble, and all of them will be routed out."

Lux didn't say anything and simply listened to what the Great General was saying.

He wanted to know everything about the battlefield, so he committed all the information that was shared to him and his Mercenary Group to memory.

"Do you have any questions?" Great General Rafael asked.

Lux nodded as he scanned the different battlefields on the map.

"Among these locations, which one has the highest chance of a breakthrough?" Lux asked, which made the corner of Great General Rafael's lips rise slightly.

"Here," Great General Rafael replied as he pointed at the Marshlands. "Unlike the other battlefields, they don't have as firm a foothold in the marshes, and the fog that rises up during the early morning, and late evening reduces the visibility by a good margin. It will be very easy for a small elite unit to navigate in the marshland, taking them by surprise."

Lux narrowed his eyes as he looked at the estimated number of troops of the Yelan Empire in the marshes.

According to the report, the Yelan Kingdom has placed at least 50,000 to 100,000 troops in the Marshlands to defend against the Ammar Kingdom's advance.

The Ammar Army stationed there, which was led by General Phobus, was 60,000 strong, posing a great danger to the defenders due to the extremely low visibility during certain times of the day.

"Understood." Lux looked at the Marshland with a determined gaze. "We will go to this battlefield."

Great General Rafael nodded his head as he took out a letter of recommendation from his drawer, and wrote the name of Lux's Mercenary group, Ars Goetia, in it before stamping it with his seal.

This scroll would serve as Lux's and his Mercenary Group's documents, allowing them to pass through the several checkpoints along the way.

When they were a good distance away from the Main Headquarters of the Ammar Kingdom, Henrietta patted Lux's shoulder and gave him a curious gaze.

"Why did you choose the Marshland?" Henrietta asked. "The numbers that the Great General gave us weren't verified, so there might be more enemy troops stationed there. Fighting in the marshland is also difficult because it would slow our advance. Did you decide to choose this because the Great General subtly urged you to choose this location?"

Lux smiled after hearing Henrietta's inquiry. What she asked were all valid questions, but for now, he didn't have any intention of telling her anything.

In the end, the Half-Elf only told her that it would be a surprise, which made Henrietta shake her head helplessly.

"Fine, you're the boss," Henrietta said. "I'll just wait and see this 'surprise' that you are talking about."

The red-headed teenager only chuckled as he looked at the scenery, while they rode the wagons headed towards the Marshland.

There was something he wanted to try, and he didn't know if it would succeed. However, if it did, he might be able to break the current stalemate of the war, and help his "Allies" win one of the battlefields that was currently suffering from a stalemate.

Half a day later, they arrived at their destination, just in time to hear the sound of explosions caused by the spells that were being unleashed across the battlefield.

"Both sides are just using long range attacks," Einar said as he crossed his arms over his chest. "I guess I can understand why they are doing this. The one who crosses the marshland will be at a disadvantage and will become sitting ducks."

Lux nodded in agreement to Einar's words. The marshland did pose a hurdle against land units who would be susceptible to spells, arrows, and cannon fire from the opposing party.

"Strange, why aren't they using flying mounts to attack from the sky?" Henrietta mused as she looked at the dozens of hippogriffs that were lazing around on the Ammar Army's Main Camp in the Marshlands.

"Maybe they are afraid that they will be shot down from the air?" Cai answered with a doubtful expression.

Lux ordered everyone to just observe the battle for the time being. He didn't want to approach the General in command while the skirmish was happening, because he was afraid that it would leave a bad impression.

Since that was the case, he just opened his Soul Book and checked the map, and examined it properly.

He was looking for possible routes that he could take in order to cross to the other side, and scout the true number of troops that the Yelan Army had.

Right now, he needed all the information he could get.

He had a hunch that Watson's and Sherlock's Ranks were no different from the Great General's, whom they had just met, which would prove to be vital in the plan that was slowly hatching inside his head.

Chapter 443: Big Game Hunters

Three hours later, the battle finally stopped as both armies retreated to their respective strongholds in order to rest.

The Half-Elf waited for one more hour before he, and the others reported to General Phobus, telling him of their intention to join the war.

"Rafael sent all of you here?" General Phobus asked as he eyed Lux while eating his meal.

"Yes, General," Lux replied.

Lux was about to say more, but stopped because he saw the sudden change in General Phobus' expression, which made the words he was about to say stay inside his chest.

"That bastard! He is belittling me!"

General Phobus cursed out loud, which made Lux and the others feel as if General Phobus was displeased that more people had been sent to him by the Great General in order to help him fight his war.

"Fine, since you're already here, make yourselves useful," General Phobus said before placing the fork and knife in his hands aside. "Hunt some game for the army. Having more people means more mouths to feed. Go, and make sure that you, and your mercenary group, earn your keep."

The General shooed Lux and his group away with his hands, making them leave the General's tent while wishing that the General would choke on the food he was eating.

"That bastard! How dare he treat us like this?!" Malcolm said through gritted teeth. Clearly, he was very annoyed about how they were being treated by the General, who was currently having no success in his campaign.

"Calm down," Lux said as his finger poked something in the air, making everyone hear a familiar notification sound inside their head.

< Ding! >

< You have accepted the Sub-Quest Big Game Hunters! >

< Big Game Hunters >

Rating: B

– The War between The Ammar Kingdom and Yelan Kingdom is being fought on four battlefields. Currently, the supplies of the Marshland front are dwindling at a rapid pace because of the reinforcements that Great General Rafael has been sending to support General Phobus' campaign.

– In the eyes of others, this may seem like a responsible superior sending aid to his subordinate. However, is that really the case?

General Phobus believes that Great General Raphael was purposely sabotaging his campaign by making things difficult for him. However, since he has no proof about his assumptions, he is forced to endure and not voice his irritation to their commanding General.

– Help General Phobus by replenishing the food supplies of his army. Take note that the bigger the size of the game you bring to the camp, the better the rewards you will receive.

< Rewards >

– Dependent upon the quality, quantity, and size of the Beasts that you bring back to the Camp.

"Did you all receive it?" Lux asked after he finished reading the information of the quest.

Earlier, when the General ordered them to bring some game to their camp, the Half-Elf heard a notification in his head, as several rows of text appeared in front of him, asking him if he would accept the mission called Big Game Hunters.

Since he didn't know if the others would receive it, he decided to wait until they had exited the General's tent before accepting the quest.

Everyone looked at Lux in surprise, which confirmed his guess that everyone in his team would receive the same quest he had as long as they were in the same party as him.

"For now, we should take this opportunity to get some rewards," Lux stated. "The leaders of each faction will lead their members to hunt. However, we are not familiar with the beasts that roam these lands. Make sure to take caution,

and don't fight Monsters that surpass your current ranks. I want to finish this mission with as many members as possible."

Everyone nodded their heads and began to discuss where they would hunt their prey. For a brief moment, Lux thought that he could see a bit of excitement in their faces because the unknown rewards they would get from completing this mission had piqued their curiosity.

Naturally, Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, and Xander, didn't leave Lux's side and waited for him to give his orders.

The Half-Elf herded his group to a corner of the camp, while looking at the map in his Soul Book.

Currently, there were green, red, and yellow dots on his map. The green ones were allies, the red ones were enemies, and the yellow dots were neutral entities.

Seeing that some of these yellow dots were alone, or traveled in groups, the Half-Elf assumed that they were Monsters.

This discovery actually surprised Lux because he thought that all the Monsters in the area would have already escaped due to the war that was being held in their territories.

After taking a closer look, the Half-Elf discovered that some of the yellow dots on the map were located in the rivers, which meant that they were River Monsters, who used the waterways to travel around the marshlands.

But, since they were close to the battlefield, their numbers were quite few.

'Maybe these Monsters are Rank 5 Alpha Monsters or above,' Lux thought. 'They could even be Field or Wandering World Bosses.'

Lux looked at the sun above the sky and calculated how many hours it would take before it set. Since it was still early, he decided to hunt some monsters first and complete the Sub-Quest, while waiting for the opportune moment to initiate his plan.

Outside of the Domain of the Fallen...

'Not bad, this Half-Elf is more capable than we thought,' Aron mused after seeing Lux's current performance.

Unlike the other factions, Lux, Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, and Xander, refused the artifacts that would allow others to see what was happening in their surroundings.

For them, this wasn't compulsory, and it also breached their privacy. They also didn't want others to see how they operated alongside Lux, which made the Half-Elf applaud them in his heart.

However, since the other factions were being ordered by their superiors, they had no choice but to wear the artifacts, and allow all of their actions to be scrutinized by the people watching the projections in the outside world.

Lux understood this, so he assigned the different factions to hunt their own game, which the other teenagers believed to be a sound decision.

What they didn't know was that the Half-Elf had planned this all along, so he could do things without worrying about the others minding his business.

Back in the Marshlands...

When Lux and his friends were safely far from the Army Camp, as well as the other members of his "Mercenary Group", the Half-Elf summoned Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, and Asmodeus.

He also summoned a dozen of his Skeleton Gang Bangers and told them the plan he had in mind.

After hearing his plan, his Named Creatures, as well as his Skeleton Summons moved into action.

Cai chuckled after hearing Lux's true motive, which made it give the Half-Elf two thumbs up in its heart.

Truth be told, Cai, Keane, Einar, Val, and Xander, were quite worried about the details of their main mission, but they didn't voice it out loud because it might make the other factions look down on them.

Now that they understood that Lux was on the same page as them, they were able to breathe a little easier knowing that the Half-Elf already had a plan in mind.

"Let's go hunt us some Big Game," Lux said with a smile. "I want to see what kind of rewards this mission will give us."

Everyone nodded their heads enthusiastically as they climbed onto their mounts and followed the Half-Elf.

They didn't plan to hunt near the Marshlands because they didn't want to provoke the Yelan Army, who was guarding the border, and start a misunderstanding that they didn't want to happen.

Chapter 444: Shared Rewards

General Phobus nodded his head in satisfaction as he looked at the monsters that Lux's Mercenary group had dumped near the warehouse, waiting to be dismantled.

They were running out of food to be rationed to the army, and most of the time, he had to send his men to look for beasts to kill in the surroundings to serve as their food supply.

"At least you proved that you're qualified to be here," General Phobus said as he looked at the Deimos-Ranked Monster Alligator that Malcolm's party had shown him.

All of them were Initiates and were given the best equipment by their Kingdom, which allowed them to fight against any Deimos-Ranked Monsters they encountered on the expedition.

The beast was at least six-meters long, and its skin was quite popular among adventurers because of its toughness, which was used by blacksmiths to craft light-weight leather armor.

Henrietta's Team, on the other hand, (Six Kingdom Faction), managed to defeat a Rank 5 Field Boss Monster known as the Rainbow-Colored Anaconda, which was seven-meters long.

Just like the alligator skin, the Anaconda's skin was quite popular to merchants due to its exquisite coloration and quality.

The members of the Xynnar War Pact brought back a Rank 5 Alpha Monster that was called Crowned Egret.

Although its rank was lower than what the Skystead Alliance and Six Kingdoms brought to the encampment, General Phobus and the dismantlers were very happy to see the dead creature.

Aside from its white feathers, which could be used to make fashionable cloaks, its meat was the most delicious among the Monsters within the Marshlands.

Unfortunately, it could fly, which made hunting it very difficult.

Nero's team brought down two Ruthless Minks which were Rank 5 Alpha Monsters, making them the only team that brought two Monsters back to the camp.

Lux's party on the other hand, presented a Rank 5 Alpha Diving Beetle, which made General Phobus, the dismantlers and Malcolm look at him in disdain.

Henrietta, on the other hand, hid behind the Half-Elf, finding bugs completely disgusting.

Truth be told, the meat of the Diving Beetle was edible. However, its taste wasn't the best. Some of the soldiers in the camp even jokingly said that they would only eat the meat of Diving Beetles as a last resort.

"... Good work all of you," General Phobus said as he looked at the monsters that Lux's Mercenary group had brought him. "I now officially acknowledge all of you as part of my campaign's mercenary troops. Go and rest. I will discuss more with all of you tomorrow."

General Phobus left the dismantling area and returned to his tent, leaving Lux and the others behind.

A moment later, all of them received a notification inside their heads as rows of text appeared in front of them.

< Ding! >

< Sub-Quest Big Game Hunters Completed! >

< Rewards >

- You have acquired Black-scaled Terror Alligator Beast Core (Deimos Rank)
- You have acquired Rainbow-Colored Anaconda Beast Core (Rank 5 Field Boss)
- You have acquired Mad Eager Beaver Beast Core (Rank 5 Field Boss)
- You have acquired Giant Dread Raccoon Beast Core (Rank 5 Field Boss)
- You have acquired Crowned Egret Beast Core (Rank 5 Alpha Monster)
- You have acquired two Ruthless Mink Beast Cores (Rank 5 Alpha Monster)
- You have acquired Bramble Diving Beetle Beast Core (Rank 5 Alpha Monster)

'Cai, and Keane, what did the two of you get?' Lux asked through their Guild Chat because he wanted to know if everyone got the same rewards when their mission was completed.

The Boar, and Swordsman gave their report, which confirmed Lux's suspicion.

'I had a feeling that it would be like this,' Lux thought. 'But the similarities were only in the Sub Quests. They didn't get the same rewards as I did when we did the Main Quest in the previous two Dungeons.'

After clearing the Gate of Death and Gate of War, Lux received the keys that would allow him to go to the Legendary Kingdoms of Agartha and Espoir Frieden.

When he received these rewards, Cai and the others were in the same party as he was, but neither of them had gotten the keys that were directly sent to his inventory.

While the Half-Elf was deep in thought, the other members of his Mercenary Guild looked at their rewards in shock, not expecting to receive the Beast Cores of the Monsters that everyone else had killed as a reward.

Truth be told, none of them had removed the Beast Cores from the Monsters they had slain because this was what Lux had ordered them to do before they went their separate ways. He did this to see how General Phobus would react to the Monsters that they had caught with their Beast Cores still intact inside their bodies.

Seeing that the General was satisfied with their offerings, Lux assumed that he did the right thing, which left a good impression on the General who commanded the Marshland Campaign.

Malcolm approached Lux and asked him the question that was in everyone's mind.

"Did you..." Malcolm didn't need to continue the sentence, fearing that it might be overheard by the people in the camp.

However, it was enough for Lux to understand what he was going to ask.

"Yes," Lux said with a mischievous smile. "Keep it as our secret, okay?"

Everyone, except Lux's team members, gave the Half-Elf a complicated look. Originally, they ridiculed him because the only thing his group defeated was a Diving Beetle, which didn't hold much value.

However, after seeing the rewards from their quest, they saw other entries that weren't supposed to be there.

All of them were prodigies of the young generation, so they instantly understood that the Half-Elf didn't present all the Monsters that his group had hunted down in the Marshlands.

The Mad Eager Beaver as well as the Giant Dread Raccoon were both Rank 5 Field Boss Monsters. If they were to add the Bramble Diving Beetle, which was a Rank 5 Monster, Lux's group had hunted three Monsters, and two of them were Field Bosses!

Although they felt like they had been cheated, they were more than happy to receive the Beast Cores of the Monster that everyone hunted.

For them, this kind of reward was very rare because high-ranking Beast Cores were immediately sent to their Guilds' Treasuries, which could then be used as a reward for outstanding members who had made great contributions to their guild.

Everyone thought of the same thing, and that was to keep the rewards for themselves.

Lux's team, on the other hand, didn't have a problem because, for them, these rewards naturally belonged to them.

Chapter 445.1: The Path Of Ascension [Part 1]

Several hours later, Lux went back to his tent to rest after he finished eating dinner.

The day had been quite exhausting, but he was still satisfied with the result.

He took the eight Beast Cores that he received out of his inventory and put seven of them on the ground.

Eiko didn't approach them and simply gnawed on the eighth Beast Core that was now inside her mouth.

The Half-Elf had told the baby slime that he planned to absorb the seven Beast Cores for himself so that he could gain new skills.

Eiko didn't have a problem with this because she had the ability to copy her Papa's skills anytime she wanted.

Since Nero's team had captured two Ruthless Minks, he didn't mind giving Eiko the other one, allowing the latter to also gain something from their earlier expedition.

Also, with the help of the Mythical Guild's Guild Buffs, which allowed a 100% chance to learn skills from a Beast Core, Lux was quite excited to get new skills after not absorbing any Beast Cores for a long time.

The Black-Scaled Terror Alligator gave Lux the skill Water Ball, which could be upgraded to the skill, Hydro Ball.

The Rainbow-Colored Anaconda gave him the skill Water Steps, which could be upgraded to Water Strider.

The Mad Eager Beaver Beast Core gave him the skill Water Blast, which could be upgraded to Aqua Blast.

The Giant Dread Raccoon gave him the unique title Scavenger, which was immediately upgraded to Elite Scavenger because it was a passive skill instead of an active skill.

The Crowned Egret Beast Core gave him the skill Improved Vision, which could be upgraded to Perfect Vision.

The Ruthless Mink gave him the skill, Ruthless Pounce, which could be upgraded to Ruthless Assault.

Lastly, the Bramble Diving Beetle gave him the skill, Dive, which could be upgraded to Long Dive.

The Half-Elf was quite satisfied with the skills that he gained after consuming the Beast Core, while increasing his stats at the same time.

Then something unexpected happened. The Half-Elf's heartbeat rose as a surge of power washed over his body.

The Free Stat Points he received after absorbing the Beast Core was 2,000, pushing his combined stats to 5,090, allowing him to break through to the Initiate Rank.

Just as the Half-Elf was enjoying the afterglow of the warm feeling that washed over his body, he heard the sound of a notification inside his head, as rows of text appeared in front of him.

< Congratulations! You have now reached the Initiate Rank! >

< Necromancer Job Class is now ready for an upgrade! >

< Choose one of the three options for your Job Class Upgrade! >

– Summoner of the Abyss

- Lord of the Dead
- Blight Monarch

The Half-Elf's eyes widened in shock. He didn't anticipate getting a job upgrade as soon as he stepped into the Initiate Rank.

He thought that his Job Class would only reach the next stage after becoming a Ranker, which was the normal standard for the job professions in Solais and Elysium.

However, since he could feel the pain in his waist after pinching himself, the Half-Elf was sure that he wasn't dreaming.

He then read the information of the three Job Classes to better understand them, so that he could make a better decision in choosing his next Job Upgrade.

< Summoner of the Abyss >

"Battle not with monsters, lest ye become a monster. And if you gaze into the abyss, the abyss also gazes into you."

- Able to tap into the power of the void and summon Abyssal Creatures.
- The Rank of Abyssal Monsters summoned will always be equal to the rank of the Summoner.
- In extremely rare cases, the Summoner might summon an Abyssal Creature whose rank surpasses him by a grade. If this happens, there is a very high chance that the Abyssal Monster he summoned will not listen to him.
- Any Abyssal Monsters that answer your summons will not have a Beast Core, so you won't get anything from killing them.

< Lord of the Dead >

"When there's no more room in Hell, the Dead will walk the earth."

- A Necromancer that specializes in summoning Undead, as well as taking control of other types of Undead.
- Strengthens any Undead minion that belongs to your army and raises their capabilities to their Max Potential.
- Will gain a plethora of curses that weaken foes by draining their health, mana, and stamina.
- Has a very high chance of being able to Tame any Undead Creature equal to, or lower than, your current Rank. You may choose to make them a member of your Necromancer Covenant or make them a Commander of your Animated Undead Legion.

< Blight Monarch >

"Let chaos storm! Let cloud shapes swarm! I wait for form!"

- A Necromancer that focuses on curses, inflicting ailments, diseases, as well as summoning a contagion of Blight insects and Plague Rats that spread diseases to everything they bite.
- Blight Monarchs can Tame deadly Insects equal to or lower than their current Rank.
- It is possible to tame the Queen of a Colony, but the chance of this happening is very low, with the exception of you having two or three Ranks above it.
- The Blight Monarch can transform his entire body into a swarm of blight insects and attack. Any insects that die will regenerate after a time.
- It is said that the only way to kill a Blight Monarch is to kill all of the insects that appear when his body transforms into a swarm. If even one of these insects lives, the Blight Necromancer will be able to revive himself again after he has built his own colony, forming a new swarm.
- This profession overcomes their foes through sheer numbers and is the bane of all those who specialize in Martial Combat.

– Only elemental spells with a wide area of effect can effectively destroy the swarm summoned by the Blight Monarch.

The Half-Elf's expression was serious as he read the three professions that were available to him. He had to choose carefully.

All of them had their own special attributes, making the red-headed teenager think thoroughly about what path he wished to take for his ascension.

Chapter 446.1: Guardian Of Souls [Part 1]

'Summoner of the Abyss... I might have gotten this profession because I acquired the skill, Abyss Touch,' Lux mused as he read the description of the Job Professions that had become available to him for the second time.

'As for Blight Monarch, I have no idea how this profession became available to me,' Lux thought as he looked at the third profession that was presented to him. 'Is it because I spent some time with the ants and mosquitoes back in Leaf Village?'

The Half-Elf knew that both of these Job Classes had their own unique specialties, but after giving it some thought, he found more cons in them than pros.

First off, the Summoner of the Abyss allowed him to summon Monsters from the Abyss.

Although these Monsters would only be of the same Rank as him, they were still Abyssal Monsters, and they had powerful skills that ignored the defenses of their enemies.

But the chance of summoning a higher-ranked Abyssal Monster was a gamble. There was a chance that the Monster wouldn't listen to him and might even attack him.

The only time Lux saw Abyssal Monsters was when they fought one to defend Whitebridge City, and when he fought alongside Bedivere and the Dinosaur

Monster. During that time, he felt so powerless against it because its stats were way off the charts.

Because of that experience, Lux was able to understand why everyone took the matters related to Abyssal Monsters seriously. They were a threat that could easily wipe out entire towns if left unchecked.

The other factor that made Lux very hesitant to choose the Abyssal Summoner was due to how the people around him would react.

Abyssal Monsters weren't seen on a positive note, and if people knew that he could summon them anytime and anywhere, they might treat Lux as a threat to the peace, sending experts to eliminate him before he could cause future trouble.

As for Blight Monarch, just looking at the description made his skin itchy. Just imagining his body suddenly turning into a swarm of insects while making love to Iris made him shudder.

Also, he felt that he would lose something very important to him if he chose this Job Class, which made him even more hesitant to choose it compared to the Abyssal Summoner.

Although he could see how dominating this Job Class could be when raised to the next stage, he knew that he would not choose it unless it was a last resort.

"I guess Lord of the Dead is the safest choice," Lux muttered as he looked at the second listed profession that was available to him.

After reading its information several times, the Half-Elf was sure that this Job Class was the most appropriate for him to use at this point in time.

Not only did it increase the overall strength of his Undead Army, it would also allow him to Tame Undead Monsters that were not part of his army.

The Necromancer Job Class was a rare profession, and not many people had it. Even though not many thought highly of it, it was a profession that was accepted by many.

Vera even told Lux that in one of the Kingdoms she had traveled through in Elysium, they had a Necromancer as their Guardian, protecting them from the invasion of their neighboring kingdoms, who were eyeing their Domain.

After making his decision, the Half-Elf chose the Lord of the Dead Job Class.

< You have chosen to upgrade your Job Class to Lord of the Dead. >

< Are you sure of your choice? >

< Yes / No >

Lux decisively chose Yes, making several rows of text appear in front of him.

< Congratulations! >

< Your Job Class has been upgraded to Lord of the Dead! >

< Job Specific Skills Unlocked! >

– You learned the skill, Tame Undead.

– Due to the effect of Skill Evolution [EX], Tame Undead has been upgraded to "Tame Undead [EX]".

– You learned the skill, Death Ward.

– Due to the effect of Skill Evolution [EX], Death Ward has been upgraded to "Death Turret".

– You learned the skill Turn Undead.

– Due to the effect of Skill Evolution [EX], Turn Undead has been upgraded to "Turn Undead [EX]".

- You learned the skill, Summon Flame Skull
- Due to the effect of Skill Evolution [EX], Summon Flame Skull has been upgraded to a Named Creature.
- Please choose a name for your Flame Skull.

"Flame Skull?" Lux blinked as he saw the new Summon he received after changing his profession to the Lord of the Dead.

Using his Elysium Compendium, he searched for the monster's name and read its information.

< Flame Skull >

- A very rare type of Undead that is born from a spellcaster's dead body.
- These fiery, human-sized skulls float in the air and illuminate their surroundings like that of a torch.
- Unlike a Lich or a Skeleton Mage, whose entire body has been reanimated, Flame Skulls only retain their heads. But don't be deceived by their appearance, these flaming skulls are very proficient spell casters and can teleport short distances during battle.
- Depending on the color of the flame, the Flame Skull can generate different kinds of elemental magic.
- The most common color of the flame emitted by Flame Skulls is reddish orange. These Flame Skulls specialize in Fire Spells, like Fire Balls, Fire Lance, Fire Wall, Fire Shield, and Fire Spray.
- It is possible to acquire Flame Skulls that specialize in two or more Elemental Affinities, making them versatile and deadly spellcasters that serve their Master.

After understanding what Flame Skulls were, Lux began to think of a good name that he could give it.

For him, giving names to his Named Creatures was a very important thing. He had seen many instances where children disliked the names that were given to them by their parents due to their whims because it made them suffer for the rest of their life.

Although his Summons were Undead, that didn't mean that he could just randomly choose a name for them.

'Skully might be a good name?' Lux thought. 'No. It's too generic. Also, does it have a gender? Ishtar is a girl, and the rest of my Summons are all guys. Should I pick a gender neutral name instead just to be on the safe side?'

After thinking for a long time, Lux couldn't think of a good name for his Flame Skull, so he decided to ask for a second opinion.

"Eiko, help me pick a name for our new friend," Lux said as he explained what a Flame Skull was to his baby slime.

The baby slime was a very intelligent creature, so Lux was feeling quite hopeful about the name that she would think of.

'Come to think about it, this is the first time I asked Eiko to help me pick a name,' Lux mused as he looked at the baby slime, who seemed to be deep in thought.

Eiko closed her eyes as she pondered what a good name might be. This lasted for half a minute before the baby slime looked at her Papa with a smile on her face.

"Boom Boom!"

"..."

"Let's think of a better name, okay?"

"Pa!"

The Half-Elf could only smile bitterly at his baby slime's name recommendation. Clearly, Glee had become a bad influence to Eiko, which led the latter to share her explosive hobby with her friends.

Chapter 447.2: Guardian Of Souls [Part 2]

An hour passed as the Half-Elf kept on thinking about what name to give his Flame Skull, but no matter what he did, no fitting name came to him.

"Welp, there's no harm in giving this a try," Lux thought. "Summon Flame Skull!"

Immediately a Skull immolating blue flames appeared in front of him.

"Um, this might be a bit sudden, but can you talk?" Lux asked.

The Flame Skull moved closer to the Half-Elf before looking at him in disdain.

"Duh!" the Flame Skull replied. "Of course I can talk. Do you think I'm one of those lowly Undead that have Low IQ? Why did you summon me, Master? Are we going to burn things?"

"No burning," Lux ordered. "Also, I summoned you because I am having a hard time thinking of a name for you. Do you have any recommendations?"

The Flame Skull tilted itself to the right as if Lux's question jogged a faint memory inside his head.

"Weird, I believe I had a name once..., but I can't seem to remember it," the Flame Skull muttered as it hovered in the air. "Well, I guess since I forgot about it, it isn't important. Let's see, a name huh... Hmmm..."

After several minutes, the Flame Skull approached Lux as if trying to fight off something inside its head.

"T-There is a name that seems to always appear in my head when I think of a name for myself," the Flame Skull said. "The word is not complete and I can only think of the word Laz."

"A name with Laz?" Lux rubbed his chin as he pondered the words that the Flame Skull told him. 'Should I call him Legolaz? But that won't fit him because he isn't carrying a bow...'

The Flame Skull simply hovered a meter away from Lux as it waited for its Master to give it a name.

"I got it!" Lux said as he eyed the Flame Skull who seemed to be deep in thought. "I will name you Lazarus."

"Laz...Lazarus," the Flame Skull muttered. "Yes... this is fine."

The Flame Skull suddenly glowed brightly as the blue flames covering him burned brighter, emitting a light similar to a light-bulb instead of a torch.

(Editor Notes: Tch! you missed the chance to name it Lazada!)

< Lazarus >

"I'm Half Alive, but I feel mostly Dead."

– Named Great Flame Skull

– Guardian of Souls

– Rating: S

– Progress (0 / 20,000)

Health: 50,000 / 50,000

Mana: 300,000 / 300,000

Strength: 100

Intelligence: 1,000

Vitality: 500

Agility: 450

Dexterity: 450

Unique Spell: Cold Flames - Ray attack of Fire and Ice Magic

– Lazarus can use this spell even if he doesn't have any Mana.

Fire Spells: Fireball, Fire Shield, Firebolt, Fire Wall, Scorching Ray, Fire Spray, Fire Storm, and Light

Ice Spells: Ray of Frost, Icicle Spear, Ice Wall, Cone of Cold, Ice Shield, Ice Storm, and Ice Prison

Active Skill: Blink, Invisibility

Passive Skill: Levitate

Special Ability: Cold Fire

– Increases resistance to Fire and Ice Spells by 80%.

– Lazarus is your sixth Named Creature and has been bestowed the title of Guardian of Souls.

– This Named Creature has gained the ability to evolve.

< Guardian of Souls >

– Regardless of what happens in the future, this Named Creature will be forever loyal to you.

– All attacks made by Lazarus will deal Cold Flame damage over time.

– Enemies under the effect of Cold Flame will have their resistances to fire and ice spells decreased by 30%.

– As someone who bears the title, Guardian of Souls, Lazarus can communicate with soul-type Monsters, including Wraiths, Banshees, Specters and Ghosts.

– When you use Beast Cores to upgrade your Named Creature, its effects will be multiplied by 50%.

"I look forward to working with you from now on, Lazarus," Lux said as he looked at the Great Flame Skull, who had evolved after being named.

"Same here, Master," Lazarus replied. "Same here..."

Eiko, who finally saw her Papa's new friend, greeted Lazarus with a smile.

"A baby Slime, huh? And quite a powerful one," Lazarus stated as he flew beside Eiko, who fearlessly approached it and nudged the Great Flame Skull's head with her own.

"And bold as well," Lazarus commented as he nudged Eiko back with his head, making the baby Slime giggle.

Although the flames that burned around his skull could harm others, those whom Lux treated as allies would not be burned by Lazarus' flames.

Eiko instinctively knew that she wouldn't get hurt by the flames that coated the Great Flame Skull's head, so she fearlessly decided to try touching Lazarus to understand what he was like.

"Boom Boom!"

"Oh? So you also like burning things? Great! I have a comrade who understands how to enjoy life."

"Boom!"

"Yes, little one. Boom!"

Lux scratched his head. It seemed that even if Glee was away, Eiko had found another comrade who shared her new hobby.

"It's getting late. I'm going to sleep now," Lux said before yawning. "Let's sleep, Eiko."

"Pa!" Eiko happily laid on the soft pillow right beside Lux's head and yawned.

"Master, I'll keep watch for tonight," Lazarus proposed. "Don't worry, I can make myself turn invisible as long as I don't move. I'm very good at guarding stuff... I think I was guarding something when I died..."

The Half-Elf pretended that he didn't hear what Lazarus had just said. Someone saying that he would guard him but died during a guard duty didn't make him feel safe.

Even so, since they were inside the Army Camp, he believed that he didn't have to worry about his safety.

Lazarus was a Rank 4 Monster, so even though he died in the past during guard duty, his ability as a Great Flame Skull was the real deal.

Even if an Initiate were to enter his tent, they would find themselves faced with a monster, whose sneak attack and spell casting abilities were enough to make them feel a world of pain if they were caught unprepared.

Several minutes later, the glowing embers in Lazarus' eyes intensified for a brief moment as he looked at the sleeping Half-Elf who had become his Master.

Although his memories of the past were vague, he had a feeling that as long as he traveled with Lux, these faint images inside his burning head would eventually find their missing pieces, allowing everything to fall into place.

"Goodnight, Master," Lazarus said softly before turning invisible.

Although he no longer had a body, he could still dream.

Dreams of his past life about a career that ended sooner than planned because of the betrayal of his comrades, whom he had trusted with his life.

Chapter 448: Tampering With The Quest Objectives

While the Half-Elf slept, his Named Creatures were hard at work, completing the mission that he had entrusted to them.

Diablo, Ishtar, and Asmodeus waded across the marshlands under the cover of darkness.

The glowing embers of their eyes within their eye sockets were the only things that anyone could see.

As per their Master's orders, they positioned themselves between the Ammar Kingdom's Encampment and where the Yelan Army had built their defenses.

The Half-Elf ordered them to make their way to the Yelan Camp two hours before midnight to allow the darkness of the night to hide their movement.

When they were only a thousand meters from their destination, they no longer hid themselves and walked leisurely towards the Yelan Camp.

All three of them were wearing a black robe with a hood in order to hide their faces. As Undeads, they didn't need much light to see in their surroundings. They could clearly see the heat that emanated from the living, even from afar, allowing them to pinpoint their location even in the darkness.

Diablo held a white flag in his hand, and raised it high in the air. The one thing they didn't want was to make the Yelan Soldiers start a bombardment of magical spells, forcing them to leave before they could finish their mission.

When they were only five hundred meters from their destination, they heard a humming sound, and immediately stopped walking.

A few seconds later, an arrow embedded itself on the ground, just a meter away from Diablo's feet.

"They have finally decided to greet us," Ishtar said as she looked at the arrow on the ground.

Truth be told, she was tempted to take the arrow, and fire it back at the one who shot it. But, she knew that doing so would just make things complicated, so she stayed her hand, and behaved like her Master ordered her to.

Diablo kept the white flag raised in the air and didn't move from his spot. He simply waited for someone from the Yelan Camp to meet them because they didn't want to create any misunderstandings.

Ten minutes later, they saw dozens of soldiers on horseback, running in their direction.

All of them were carrying weapons and, according to Diablo's estimate, half of them were Initiates, while the other half were Grade C to Grade A Apostles.

The one riding at the center gave a more powerful vibe, which made Diablo assume that he was someone important because he was giving off the aura of a Ranker.

"Are you guests, or are you pests?" the Ranker who sat on horseback asked after he, and his troops, stopped a dozen meters away from the three black-robed individuals that came to visit their camp this late at night.

"Friends," Diablo replied. "I came here on behalf of my Master. I don't know if you know of him, but his name is Lux Von Kaizer."

"Lux Von Kaizer?" the middle-aged man on horseback arched an eyebrow after hearing Lux's name. "I have heard of him, but most of the things I heard are not good. According to the reports, he is a Necromancer that used Corpse Explosion to annihilate the Ammarian Bastards who dared to invade our Western Borders. Are you saying that he sent you here to meet me?"

"Yes, and No," Diablo replied. "I came here to meet with the Commanding Officer of the Yelan Army stationed in this part, hoping that the one in charge was either Watson or Sherlock."

"I am the General stationed here. The two you seek are the Great Generals who are commanding the army at the Central Plains," the General of the Yelan Army replied. "If you plan to meet them then you came to the wrong place."

The General's words were calm and collected, which made Lux's three Named Creatures have a good impression of him.

"Then, can you pass this letter to one of them?" Diablo asked as he took a sealed letter out of his storage ring. "This letter contains important information, and if possible, I want to hear their reply as soon as possible."

Diablo made a gesture of "Please take it" to the General, and the latter ordered one of his men to take the letter from Diablo's hand.

After using some special magic to check if the letter was rigged with any kind of dangerous spells, chemicals, or form of poison, the soldier then handed the letter to his General, which the latter accepted.

"Before I consider taking this letter to our Great Generals, would the three of you remove the hoods covering your heads?" the General asked. "I want to get a better look at your faces."

Diablo nodded and took off the hood covering his head.

The Yelan Soldiers gasped when they saw the Death Knight's true form. They had heard about Lux from the stories that were passed around by their fellow soldiers, but they didn't have the opportunity to see him or his Skeletons up close and personal.

Ishtar and Asmodeus also removed their hoods, showing their true forms to the General who wanted to confirm if they were telling the truth or not.

"Your names?" the General asked.

"Diablo."

"Ishtar."

"Asmodeus."

The General nodded his head in acknowledgement.

"Your names match the Named Creatures serving under the one who calls himself Lux Von Kaizer," the General stated. "As for whether I will believe you will depend on your answer to my questions. For now, follow me."

"G-General? Are we taking them to our camp?" the General's close aide asked in disbelief.

"Don't worry," the General replied. "If they do anything stupid, I'll immediately dispose of them. There's no need to be alarmed. Also... I am very curious to know more about the Half-Elf that helped Watson and Sherlock drive the Ammarians off our lands."

For Diablo, Ishtar, and Asmodeus, this was the ideal situation. If they could talk more with the commanding officer of the camp, and have their letter sent to Watson and Sherlock, the chances of keeping the worst case scenario from happening was high.

If possible, Lux didn't want to fight against his old comrades, despite the mission that was given to him.

He was trying to experiment with something, and if it worked then he would have more leeway in the future when it came to the sudden quests that appeared out of nowhere.

Morning the next day...

Lux woke up feeling refreshed and full of energy.

The first thing he did was to wash his face before lightly rubbing Eiko's head, telling her to wake up.

The baby Slime sleepily opened her eyes before yawning. In the end, the Half-Elf picked Eiko up and placed her on the top of his head, allowing her to continue to sleep, while he looked for something to eat.

However, before leaving the tent, Lazarus suddenly appeared in front of his face, almost giving the Half-Elf a heart attack.

"D-Don't do that, Lazarus," Lux said as he patted his chest in order to calm his heart. "Do you plan to give me a heart attack?"

"I'm sorry, Master," Lazarus replied. "I'll keep that in mind next time. I came here to give you a report about what happened while you slept."

"Okay," Lux replied after regaining his composure. "Did something happen last night?"

Lazarus nodded. "There were several people who peeked through the tent to check if you were sleeping or not. One was Cai, the other was Henrietta, and the third one was Malcolm. They just peered at you from a distance then, after seeing that you were asleep, they left without doing anything else."

Lux blinked because he didn't expect that people would come looking for him in the middle of the night.

"Thank you," Lux stated. "I'll talk to them later and ask them if they need me for anything. Thank you for your hard work."

"I live to serve you, Master," Lazarus replied. "Should I continue to guard here, or should I follow you around? I can remain invisible, while I'm with you."

Lux firmly shook his head because he thought that this was a bad idea. Although ordinary people wouldn't be able to see Lazarus, the General Phobus might.

The Generals of the Ammar Kingdom had heard news from the survivors that the one who attacked them was a Necromancer. If General Phobus saw Lazarus, he might connect the dots and become suspicious of Lux, jeopardizing their mission.

Lux explained his worries to Lazarus, and the Great Flame Skull nodded his head in understanding.

"I understand," Lazarus stated. "Just call me again if you need me, Master."

"Thank you, Lazarus. I'll ask you to guard me again tonight."

"It will be my pleasure."

The Half-Elf unsummoned Lazarus just before he left the tent in order to look for something to eat.

An hour later, the Half-Elf received some good news from Diablo, stating that his letter was now on its way to the Central Plains where Watson and Sherlock were stationed.

'I just hope my assumptions are correct,' Lux thought as he sighed in his heart.

He didn't know if the quests he received could be tampered with, but if the possibility existed, he was more than willing to give it a try in order to not burn the bridges that he had built some time ago.

While he was deep in thought, he saw Cai, Keane, Xander, and Henrietta eating together, so the Half-Elf headed in their direction.

To his surprise, Cai, Keane, Xander, and Henrietta had also broken through the Initiate Rank, just like him, which proved that they had also absorbed the Beast Cores that they received as rewards from their last mission.

'Finally, I have two more strong fighters in my Guild,' Lux thought as he greeted the four people with a smile.

He hoped that his other Guild Members would be able to raise their ranks also, so that all of them could work together in order to protect their Guild from those who would try to overturn it in the future.