

## Paragon 79

### Chapter 79 - 79: Master as Reasoning [Bonus]

Emily stood between Klaus and Lawrence, her expression serious as she raised her hand for silence. The crowd, eager for the verbal duel, quieted down, all eyes locked on the two competitors.

"The case study is simple," Emily began, her voice clear and firm. "Imagine a small village is being terrorized by a dangerous monster. This monster is too powerful for the villagers to defeat, and they have no way to call for help.

As a warrior, you must decide whether to fight the monster alone, risking your life, or train the villagers to defend themselves, which will take time but might save more lives in the long run."

She paused, giving them both a moment to think before stepping back. "Lawrence, since you're the challenger, you will begin."

Lawrence smirked confidently and stepped forward. His posture was relaxed, and he spoke with authority.

"In this situation, the logical choice is clear," Lawrence began. "You fight the monster yourself. As a warrior, it's your duty to protect those who cannot protect themselves. You act quickly, eliminating the threat before it can cause more harm. Training the villagers would only waste time, and by the time they're ready, more lives could be lost.

A true warrior takes responsibility and acts swiftly to protect others. That's what sets us apart from ordinary people."

A few nods of agreement rippled through the crowd. Lawrence's argument made sense on the surface, and many seemed to agree with his reasoning. He crossed his arms, feeling satisfied with his opening statement.

Klaus, however, remained calm, his golden eyes thoughtful. He stepped forward and began speaking in a measured tone.

"Lawrence's point sounds noble," Klaus said, glancing briefly at his opponent, "but it's short-sighted. Sure, you might be able to defeat the monster yourself, but what happens when you're not there next time? Another monster comes along, and the villagers are defenseless again. The real solution isn't just saving them once. It's giving them the tools to protect themselves in the future."

A few murmurs of approval spread through the crowd as Klaus's argument began to sink in.

Klaus continued, his voice gaining strength. "If you go in and defeat the monster, sure, you're the hero for a day. But you leave them just as vulnerable as they were before. Training them may take time, but it creates lasting change. The villagers can defend themselves not just against this monster but any future threats. You empower them instead of just saving them."

Lawrence's confident smirk wavered slightly. He hadn't expected Klaus to come at the problem from this angle. Still, he wasn't ready to back down.

"That's idealistic," Lawrence retorted, trying to regain control of the argument. "But not practical. In the time you spend training them, how many lives could be lost? What if the monster attacks while they're still learning? A true leader doesn't take risks with innocent lives. You act decisively to remove the threat."

Klaus shook his head slowly, a knowing smile tugging at his lips. "It's not about taking risks," he said, his voice steady. "It's about long-term solutions. Yes, you might lose a few lives during the training, but how many lives will you save in the future by teaching them to defend themselves? You're thinking like a warrior, Lawrence, but not like a leader."

The crowd began to shift in favor of Klaus. His argument had depth, and he was slowly chipping away at Lawrence's initial confidence. Even some of Lawrence's supporters were beginning to look uncertain.

Lawrence narrowed his eyes, trying to push back. "You're putting too much faith in ordinary people," he argued. "Not everyone is cut out to be a warrior. Some are simply too weak, too afraid. Training them might be a waste of time and resources. You can't expect them to be able to fight like we do."

Klaus met Lawrence's gaze steadily, his expression firm. "I'm not expecting them to fight like we do," he said. "I'm expecting them to fight like themselves. Everyone has strengths, and it's a leader's job to bring

those strengths out. Maybe they won't become warriors, but they can still defend their homes and their families.

The point isn't to make them like us—it's to make them the best versions of themselves."

Lawrence's frustration began to show as he realized Klaus wasn't budging. "That's naïve!" he snapped. "You're underestimating the danger. The monster could wipe out the entire village while you're busy giving speeches about empowerment!"

Klaus didn't flinch at Lawrence's outburst. Instead, he took a step closer, his voice calm but powerful. "And you're underestimating the power of people when they believe in themselves. When they know they can make a difference, they'll fight harder than you ever could alone. That's true leadership, Lawrence. Not just being the hero, but helping others become their own heroes."

The crowd fell silent, hanging on Klaus's every word. Lawrence, for all his bluster, seemed to be losing ground. His initial confidence had crumbled, and now he looked unsure of how to proceed.

Klaus pressed on, his tone now almost gentle. "You can kill the monster, Lawrence, but what happens after that? Who will protect the village when the next threat comes? You can't always be there. But if you leave them with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves, you're ensuring their safety long after you're gone."

Lawrence opened his mouth to respond but hesitated. The crowd was clearly on Klaus's side now. Even those who had supported Lawrence earlier were nodding in agreement with Klaus's logic. Lawrence's argument had been based on short-term thinking, while Klaus had shown a deeper understanding of leadership and responsibility.

With no more retorts left, Lawrence stepped back, his face tight with frustration. He had lost this battle, and he knew it.

Emily stepped forward again, a small smile on her lips as she glanced between the two. "It's clear that Klaus has won this verbal duel. His argument was not only well-reasoned but also inspiring. The goal of leadership isn't just to solve the problem in front of you—it's to ensure a better future for those you protect."

The crowd erupted in applause, cheering for Klaus. Lawrence, still seething, could only stand by as Klaus graciously accepted his victory with a humble nod.

Klaus turned to face Lawrence one last time, his expression softened. "It's not about who's stronger with words or swords, Lawrence. It's about understanding what truly matters in the long run. Maybe you'll see that one day."

The crowd, still buzzing from the duel, turned to Klaus with renewed interest. One young man stepped forward, his face full of curiosity.

"Brother Klaus," he asked, "you talked about thinking of the long run as a leader. But what if the situation doesn't allow for that? What should a leader do then?"

Klaus paused, considering the question carefully. His gaze swept over the attentive faces in the crowd.

"That's a great question," Klaus began. "In some situations, you might not have the luxury of time. Immediate threats or crises sometimes demand quick action, even if it means making tough choices."

He took a breath, continuing. "When you can't plan for the long run, you focus on the most pressing needs. First, address the immediate danger to ensure survival. Protect those who are in the most danger and stabilize the situation as best as you can."

A few people nodded, clearly following his reasoning.

"Next," Klaus said, "once the immediate threat is managed, start working on a plan for the future. Even in a crisis, you should be thinking a few steps ahead. After dealing with the current danger, begin to set up measures that will help prevent similar issues from arising later."

He paused for a moment, allowing his words to sink in. "In essence, you handle the emergency first but always keep an eye on long-term solutions. It's about balancing immediate needs with future goals."

A woman in the crowd raised her hand. "Can you give an example of how this might work in real life?"

Klaus smiled, appreciating the question. "Sure. Imagine a town is under attack by a band of raiders. As a leader, you'd first need to defend the town and protect the people. Once the raiders are driven off or defeated, you then focus on rebuilding and strengthening the town's defenses to prevent future attacks."

He looked around at the crowd, making sure his message was clear. "In a crisis, you act decisively to ensure survival. After that, you plan for long-term improvements. Both are important. It's about finding the right balance between immediate action and future preparation."

The crowd seemed satisfied with his answer, their expressions reflecting a deeper understanding. Klaus had once again demonstrated his intelligence and leadership, earning even more respect from those around him.

At first, they all doubted him knowing he was a school dropout, however, after sharing his perspective, he earned back his reputation and even added more, making Lawrence appear like an idiot.

"Interesting perspective you have there, Mr. Klaus," a voice rang out across the room. Keen Felin, the patriarch of the Felin Great Family, entered with a group of others, each showing formidable strength.

"I really admire how you outline your reasoning with real-life scenarios," Keen added, making everyone look at Klaus in a new light. Even the leader of a great family was impressed by his reasoning.

"I was just speaking my mind," Klaus said with a polite smile.

"Well, your mind really contains some interesting reasoning. Care to share more?" Keen Felin said, not waiting for Klaus to respond. He continued, "Mr. Klaus, what do you think the essence of battle is?"

As soon as Keen asked the question, all eyes turned to Klaus, trapping him in a situation he couldn't easily escape.