

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

- Chapter 641: Unlocking 2nd Bloodline Lock

Chapter 641: Unlocking 2nd Bloodline Lock

Hnnngggg~

A loud moan resounded in Max's room as Sera came for the second time, her internal walls clamping around his little dragon exploring her cave with gusto.

As the electric jolts of pleasure course through her body, she scratched her claws across Max's back, leaving many lacerations.

Max, about to come, ignored the faint pain, and increased the speed of his strokes.

Thwop! Thwop! Thwop!

"Argh! Fuck!" Then, with a pleased groan, he released his creamy liquid, brimming with his Yang Energy, into her womb.

Nnngh~

Sera moaned, feeling his hot cum filling her.

Ha! Ha! Ha!

Exhausted from half an hour of exercise, Max fell on top of her, his cock still connecting them.

Sera, the perfect image of a satisfied woman, hugged him tightly and closed her eyes.

As they enjoyed the afterglow and each others' warmth, their energies merged and produced the Nascent Energy.

Although it wasn't as much as their first time, it was still quite a lot.

Max wasn't focused on it, though. His full, no half—as the other half was busy enjoying the pleasure coursing through him and Sera's warmth—attention was focused on her bloodline.

Once all of their Yin and Yang energies were finished converting into the Nascent Energy, it stirred and absorbed over thirty percent of it.

Seeing this, he let out a disappointed sigh in his heart.

'It still needs another twenty percent before it is saturated.' In the afternoon, after her bloodline gave the burst of Pure Yin Energy yesterday, caused his bloodline to act and send him to the [Bloodline World] as he called it, he did it with two times more, hoping the same would happen and the produced Nascent Energy would get absorbed by the second bloodline lock.

Unfortunately, nothing happened. The Nascent Energy was simply stored in his dantian, which he then later used to heal Sophie and awoke Lily.

At that time, he had realized if he wanted his second bloodline lock to absorb the Nascent Energy, he needed to completely saturate Sera's bloodline, which then, hopefully, would release the burst of Pure Yin Energy.

Only then his bloodline would act up, and allow his bloodline lock to absorb the Nascent Energy.

Since her bloodline was already saturated by over fifty percent when they were done, he had hoped it would absorb more since they had taken several hours break and would get completely saturated.

Unfortunately, it did not.

'It's alright. It'll be done this time.' He thought.

After letting Sera rest for a while, he raised his body, looked at her, and asked, "Ready?"

Sera blushed, but wanting to feel more of the addicting pleasure, she shyly nodded. "Mm."

"Good." Kissing her lips, he leaned backwards, grabbed her legs, placed them on his shoulders and started moving his hips back and forth.

Ahn~ Nngh~ Mm~

Just because he quickly wanted to saturate her bloodline, he didn't hurry and took things naturally and enjoyed the process with her.

When, after another half an hour, that seemed both long and short, they climaxed together.

Boom!

A moment later, her bloodline finished absorbing the Nascent Energy and released a huge amount of Pure Yin Energy.

Excited and nervous, Max waited as the Nascent Energy was produced which then rushed into his body.

For a moment, nothing happened, which sent his heart racing.

Just as he started to entertain the thought that it might have been just a one time thing, his bloodline acted and absorbed all the Nascent Energy in an instant.

This time, however, his consciousness was forced in the [Bloodline World], but a new connection was there. If he wanted, he could choose to go there and observe his bloodline lock, which he did.

As soon as he pulled on the connection, he arrived in front of the Bloodline Lock Chain.

His eyes focused on the second seal, he watched as the Nascent Energy was absorbed into it and it grew more and more real.

Just when it had become a little less than eighty percent real, the Nascent Energy was exhausted.

He wasn't disappointed, however. Instead, his heart was racing with anticipation because the familiar feeling had become more apparent.

As soon as his consciousness returned to his body, he asked Sera, "Ready to go again?"

Sera hesitated. She was feeling sore down there and wanted to rest, but seeing the look in his eyes, she meekly nodded.

'I can rest after this one time.'

Oh, how wrong was she to think that because Max didn't let her rest for the next three hours.

He only stopped when her bloodline released another burst of Pure Yin Energy. Sera was completely out of breath. Her eyes glazed over, she was numb from the continuous pleasure. After giving him a look full of complaint and mock anger, she directly fainted.

Max didn't have the time to feel sorry for her because the second seal had started absorbing the Nascent Energy.

As he watched, the second seal grew more and more real.

Eighty Percent...

Eighty Five...

Ba-Dum!

Ninety...

Ba-Dum!

Ninety Five...

Ba-Dum!!

Ninety Eight... Nine...

Ba-Dum!!!

And then...

Hundred!

Max felt as if his heart would burst when it turned completely real, shedding its illusory form.

However, when nothing happened, he frowned and thought to move forward when he found himself directly in front of the second seal.

Slowly, he raised his hand and touched the seal.

Immediately...

BOOM!!

The seal burst apart and a gush of dark energy rushed out.

He didn't see what happened after that because he had lost consciousness.

When he woke up, he found himself surrounded by a bevy of beauties.

"Ha, am I in heaven?" He muttered in a daze, noticing Lily, Sera, Emily, Claire, and even Shasha, Riva, Sophie and the Twins.

Then, in the next instant,

Slap!

He felt a sting on his cheek, which snapped him back to his senses.

Rubbing his cheek, he looked at Emily, who had slapped him and was about to get angry when he saw tears in her eyes.

"Hey, why are you crying when I was the one who got slapped?"

As soon as the words left his lips,

Slap!

His other cheek was swollen.

Chapter 642: NO!!

"..."

Max stared at her in a daze. Then, he noticed Lily, Sera, Claire and Sophie also had very worried looks on their faces as they looked at him.

He knew asking Emily anything was useless, so he turned to Lily and asked, "What's going on? Why are you all gathered and why do you all look so worried?"

Instead of answering, Lily jumped onto the bed, hugged him tightly and started sobbing.

"I was so worried, everyone was so worried, young master. We didn't know what was wrong with you, why were you unconscious? We have been trying to wake you for the last two days but you..."

Seeing her cry, Max unconsciously hugged her tightly and started caressing her back, trying to calm her down.

Then, his brows jumped,

"What did you say?" He asked in surprise, pulling her away to look at her face, "I was unconscious for two days?"

"Yes." Lily nodded, controlling her tears.

'Was it because of the lock opening? It shouldn't be, right? I didn't fall unconscious when I unlocked the first lock.'

Rubbing his forehead, he threw the thought to the back of his mind, and looked at everyone apologetically, "I'm sorry for worrying you all."

"That's fine, but why were you unconscious sir Max?" Sophie asked,

Max hesitated before saying, "It had to do something with my bloodline. I was trying to find a better way to help your family members. Anyway, sorry for worrying you. Now, if you all don't mind, can you excuse us for a moment?"

The Fuller ladies were surprised when they heard this, and their impression of him grew a notch higher in their minds.

Then, as requested, they excused themselves, although Sophie was a little reluctant. Shasha also left after making sure he was fine.

Max left the bed, arrived in front of still angry Emily and hugged her, "I'm sorry. I didn't know this would happen. Sorry for worrying you."

His action caught Emily off guard. After a moment, she pushed him away, and said, "Stop acting reckless."

Saying this, she didn't give him any chance to respond and left the room.

Sighing, he turned to Lily, Sera and Claire and talked to them for a while, telling them he was completely fine.

He could see Sera looking at him guiltily, probably because she thought if she hadn't fallen asleep that night, she might've been able to help him and prevent him from falling unconscious.

"Hey, there is no need to feel bad, alright? There was nothing you could do." He said, wanting to console her, but it seemed his words were ambiguous that made her blush in embarrassment.

After that, he looked at Lily, who was looking at him with concern and a curious look in her eyes.

As for Claire, she no longer looked worried after seeing he was fine and his unconsciousness was the result of his actions.

'Well, that's a mature and rational woman, alright.' He thought before asking Lily, "Have those people from central plains arrived?"

Lily's expression became serious as she nodded, "Yes. They arrived early in the morning today and have already started recruiting willing mages."

"Alright, let me go take a bath. Then we will go get ourselves registered."

...

A short while later,

Max's group, Riva and the Twins were looking at Sera and Emily, who were about to have a fight to decide if Sera would go to the battlefield or not.

While everyone else looked at them with anticipation, the twins were indifferent, and Riva had an angry and betrayed look on her face. The betrayed look was for Sera and the anger was for Max.

Every time she looked at him, she would glare at him as though she was going to eat him alive.

Max, however, kept ignoring her, knowing the reason why she was angry with him. In fact, he was amused by it.

If someone's daughter, instead of asking them for permission to go on a dangerous trip, or anywhere else for that matter, asked her boyfriend, whom she had just met, they would also feel betrayed by their daughter, and the anger would be directed toward the boyfriend.

The current situation was the same. Sera hadn't asked Riva for permission, but asked him, indicating she cared more for him, which naturally made Riva angry at him.

"Alright. Start!"

Lily announced,

Swoosh!

The moment her voice sounded, Emily disappeared from the place, appearing behind Sera, her hand grabbing towards the back of Sera's neck.

Seeing this, Lily glanced at Max and asked, "Did you ask sister Emily to go all out?"

Max smiled wryly and shook his head.

He wanted to tell her, but when he saw she was still angry, he chose not to because even when she wasn't angry, she took her fights seriously, even when she was sparring. But since she was angry... Well, the result was going to be an instant defeat for Sera.

...Or so he thought.

Because just when he thought Sera wouldn't be able to react, a thin watery shield appeared in front of Emily's claw.

Emily frowned, wind elemental mana gathering around her hand as he clenched her claw into a fist and punched at the shield while simultaneously using a Wind Elemental Spell, [Wind Bullets].

Several wind bullets were fired at Sera from every direction.

Shasha's eyes flashed when she noticed how fluidly she had used the wind bullets.

'She is about to attain Superior Mana Control!' She thought in surprise. Then, she glanced at Max, and her surprise diminished considerably.

Standing beside her, Sophie, Riva and the Twins were also surprised.

In the next moment, just like them, everyone, except Riva and Sophie, was surprised again when...

Zoom~

...several small water balls appeared in front of each wind bullet. The moment Emily noticed this, her eyes flickered. Then the mana around her hand rapidly swirled and turned into a sharp crescent in front of her fist.

The moment wind bullets collided with the water balls, the water swirled and sucked them in.

At the same moment,

Chi!

The wind crescent cut the water shield into two and backed by Emily's physical strength, it ruthlessly cut into Sera's neck.

"NO!!"

Sera cried out in fear while Max's eyes turned bloodshot.

Chapter 643: Foolish

Boom!

His mana mixed with bloodline energy flared, and Phoenix's Wings was activated. Just as he moved, Riva's calm voice sounded.

"Calm down! She is fine."

Swoosh!

Max, however, disregarded her and appeared beside Sera.

Then...

There was nothing... Sera was fine. A layer of hardened earth had blocked Emily's Wind Crescent, and her fist.

"I can't beat her." Emily said in an indifferent voice, before turning around to leave. But then she paused, looked at him and asked, "Did you think just because I'm angry with you, I will try to harm her?" "No." Max shook his head, "I knew you would not. I was just... startled."

Just then, Riva walked over and looked at him coldly, "If you had cared to talk with Sera, you would've known about her dual elements and that she also had superior mana control. But you..."

Hearing this, Emily's eyes narrowed. After giving him a cold look, she walked away.

For the first time, Max felt Riva wasn't bad because if she hadn't said what she just now, Emily would have been hurt by his apparent lack of trust.

He knew her well enough to know she wouldn't do anything stupid like hurting his loved ones just because she was angry, but when Sophie cried out and he saw Sera's water shield torn open and the Crescent cutting into her neck, he had believed otherwise.

"Thank you." He whispered to Riva, who gave him a stink eye before facing Sera, who was looking at Max with a worried look.

She felt very good seeing how he got worried for her, but she also knew his action had hurt Emily, someone who he cared a lot about.

Even though he didn't show it on his face, he was very disturbed by the fact that she was angry with him. Now, however, the situation seemed to have turned even worse.

Riva sighed when she saw Sera's look, and grabbed her wrist, "Come, I'll get you registered."

... An hour later, a group of over a dozen people led by Pauline left the Fuller estate.

Max, Lily and Emily were in this group, their appearances disguised by the masks.

As soon as they stepped out of the Fuller estate, Max felt several people in hiding scanning them with their divine senses.

'Eighteen Five Star Magus? They aren't holding at all.' Max mused. Though he was enraged at being targeted like this, he didn't show it on his face nor his eyes, not wanting to get noticed by their divine senses. Outwardly, he appeared nervous yet excited just like the people around him.

Soon, they arrived at the northern area of the city, where people could register themselves.

Although the eighteen magus hadn't followed them after finding nothing suspicious, he still felt a few people watching their group.

'Tsk! How cautious!'

...

When they entered the building that was being called 'War Building' by the people, he carefully spread his bloodline sense to scan the building to see if there was any King Mage.

Although his bloodline sense was very strong and no Five Star Mage, including Riva, Mike and others, had managed to detect it, he wasn't sure if King Mages wouldn't be able to do so either. That was why he had to be extremely careful.

A few moments later, he frowned, and thought, 'You really can't believe the rumors.'

The common knowledge was; the current King, King Azaroth, was the sole King Mage in the Green Leaf Kingdom.

However, he had just sensed three King Magus. Although they weren't too stronger than Oliver, they were still in the King Realm.

'So even Early-Stage King Magus can't detect my Bloodline Sense?' He thought, his lips curling up in a small smile.

Since only peak King Magus could see through their masks, Max, Emily and Lily managed to register without any problem.

Just when they were walking out of the building, another group entered the building.

When they crossed each other, Max noticed a silver-haired and silver-eyes man among them, his steps paused for the briefest of moments and a murderous glint flashed in his eyes before it disappeared and he continued walking out.

Count Wiley, lost in his thoughts as he entered the building with people from the Dalton family members, suddenly felt a chill run down his spine and the hair on his neck stood on the ends.

However, before he could try to sense the origin of this sudden dread, it vanished without a trace.

Stopping in his tracks, he looked around the hall but didn't find anything suspicious. Then, he turned around and looked at the groups walking.

Immediately, his eyes narrowed because one of the group belonged to the Fuller Family.

'Fuller Family... Max...' He immediately made the connection and took a mental picture of everyone's back view.

"What's wrong?" Dean Dalton asked before he followed his gaze and saw Fuller family's group.

Eyes narrowing, he asked, "Is he..."

"I think so." Wiley nodded, Dean's eyes flashed as he thought, 'Matriarch was right. The Fullers are more than capable of sneaking him out of the city under everyone's noses.'

He then urged, "Let's quickly get ourselves registered and go back and meet the Matriarch."

Wiley nodded.

...

Meanwhile, outside the building, Max sighed in his heart.

'He is every bit as intelligent and sharp as Ashton said he was.'

'Fortunately, it doesn't look like they will tell the Arasia family.' He thought, regretting letting anger take control of him for a moment.

...

After they returned, he told Emily, Lily and Sera, who had also returned after registering, how Count Wiley seemed to have realized their plan.

Bang!

As soon as Emily heard his name, her anger flared and she punched the table into smithereens.

"It's good he didn't die to those demons." She said, her voice filled with dark murderous rage.

Lily also knew the story about the Count Wiley and from Emily she had already found out about the attack on the Garfield family. So, her eyes also turned chilly at the mention of his name.

Sera silently observed them until they calmed down before saying, "Si... um, Max, wouldn't it be more troublesome now that he knows about our plan?"

"No." Max shook his head, "He and the Dalton family seemed to be acting alone. So, the chances are they wouldn't tell the noble families about it."

His gaze flickering, he added, "This means they won't and can't cause any problem before we arrive at the battlefield, or at least leave the city."

"How utterly foolish!"

Chapter 644: An Emperor Mage

"Young master, even though the threat the Dalton family and Count Wiley pose can't compare to the four noble families' and the Royal family's, we shouldn't be careless and take them lightly." Lily cautioned.

"Don't worry. I won't underestimate them, but I won't overestimate them either." Max said.

"They probably think they can overpower me if they have a few Five star magus or some powerful treasures or talismans."

Hearing this, Emily raised her brows and asked, "Are they wrong?"

"No, they are right." Max shook his head, causing the trio to look at him in confusion. If they were right, wouldn't he be worried?

Seeing this, Max smiled, "If they take action before we leave the city, I would be indeed helpless because even if I can resist them, the four noble families and the Royal family would be alerted."

"However... once we leave the city, they won't be much of a threat because those central plains' people won't let them attack us. This means they have to find some covert way to take action, and in such a way, they can't come at us with their full force."

Emily frowned, "It'll still be troublesome."

"No. It won't be." Max said, his lips curling up in an excited grin, "They will be only helping me."

The trio looked at him in confusion, but Max just smiled and told them wait and see.

...

After Emily left, Sera also left, saying Riva had called her.

Now alone in the room with Lily, Max hugged her, and kissed her forehead, "I missed you."

Lily smiled in satisfaction and nestled in his embrace.

Feeling her warmth, and inhaling her sweet scent, Max's desires stirred but he didn't do anything and just spent some quality time with her, which seemed to have made Lily very happy.

...

Soon, the day passed and the next morning came.

Max, Emily, Lily and Sera gathered once again, ready to set off to the roll call.

Ray, Shasha, Little Ruo, her grandfather, Claire and Kevin came to see them off.

"Big brother, please return safely, alright?" Little Ruo said, a worried look on her face.

"We will." Max smiled.

With that, everyone wished them good luck and left to join Pauline's group.

Over fifty people from the Fuller family had volunteered to go to the battlefield this time as many had left days before.

This group had more than thirty magus in the Three Star realm, around a dozen in Four Star, three at Early-Stage Five Star and one at High-Stage Five realm.

The thing, however, Max found surprising was the fact that Pauline herself was going.

Noticing his confusion, Pauline smirked at him, "What? Didn't expect the Patriarch's weak daughter to take such a risk?"

"I did not." Max honestly nodded, "Still, when did you register? You were with us when we registered, but I didn't see you do the same."

"I had already registered before you guys." She said, smiling in excitement. "Now I only need to find a way to ditch these annoying people my father had asked to protect me."

The High-Stage Five Star mage and other Five Star Magus smiled wryly when they heard her.

"Miss, please don't do that. If something were to happen to you, we'll be done for." A Mid Stage Five Star Mage said before looking at disguised Max, "And who is this? I don't think I have ever seen him?"

"He is my father's bastard child. Don't worry about him. He can take care of himself." Pauline casually said, leaving everyone dumbstruck.

Then, not giving anyone any chance to say something, she clapped her hands and shouted, "Alright, soldiers. Let's depart. Those central plain people must be waiting for us."

Following her lead, the group marched out of the Fuller estate and headed toward the plaza near the city gates.

Just like yesterday, Max once again felt dozens of people hiding in the shadows scan them with their divine senses.

'Hm? Is he from the Royal family?' Max thought, when he felt the divine sense of an Early-Stage King Mage scan him.

Just like yesterday, the Masks were very effective, and no one found anything suspicious.

However, even after scanning the group several times, a few divine senses, including the King Mage's, lingered around them until they arrived at the plaza near the city gates.

"They are not taking any risks, huh." Max muttered after every divine sense vanished.

'Thankfully, these masks are effective, otherwise things would've turned out completely differently.' He thought, lightly touching his face. He then glanced at Emily, and Lily, who were walking in some distance from him.

Since Sera didn't need to hide, she was walking with Pauline in the lead.

'This damned girl, couldn't she have made some other excuse about my identity?' Max glared at Pauline's back view, feeling several strange gazes on himself.

Compared to the divine senses, these strange gazes of the people around him made him more uncomfortable.

On the way, someone had even come to him and asked if he was really Mike's bastard child. He wanted to slap the guy away, but had no choice but to keep his irritation in check.

...

Max looked around the plaza and noticed there were around ten thousand magus.

Although this many magus in one place seemed a lot, when taking into account the fact that almost all of the Kingdom's population—that had survived demons' sudden attack—was gathered in the capital, these ten thousand or so mages was a very small number.

He, however, wasn't surprised because just who would willingly join a war where he or she was almost certain to die?

Then, his gaze moved to the group of seven standing on the raised platform in the middle of the plaza.

Almost at the same time he looked at them, he felt one of them—a stern looking middle-aged lady—look in his direction before moving her gaze away.

"An Emperor Mage!" He exclaimed in a low voice, waves of shock rolling in his heart, while his expression turned grim.

Chapter 645: Central Plain Alliance

The moment he had felt her gaze on him, he felt as if a massive mountain had fallen on him.

Though it lasted less than a second, he felt completely suppressed. His heart seemed to have stopped beating, his blood stopped flowing and even his thoughts had turned sluggish.

That was overwhelming and even more unpleasant.

Still, it made him realize that no matter how strong he had become, in front of an Emperor Mage, he was nothing but an ant. Maybe this was even true for Real King Magus too.

This humbling realization was very timely because he had unconsciously started to become a little overconfident after his recent breakthrough.

With that said, this wasn't the reason why his expression turned grim. No, it was because he realized she had seen through his disguise.

While she might not care about it, nor would others from the central plains, who he felt weren't any weaker than her, the seventh person on the stage, who also seemed as strong as them despite being in the King Realm, would care.

Why?

Because this green haired man was none other than the Ruler of Green Leaf Kingdom, King Azaroth Williams.

If he noticed him...

This thought had just crossed his mind when Azaroth, who had his eyes closed until now, suddenly looked directly at him.

'Fuck!'

Max cursed, and flashed beside Lily, grabbed her waist before appearing beside Emily...

However, just as he was about to leave... a voice sounded in his mind.

[Oh! So, you are the kid who thrashed that arrogant kid from the Sovereign Mountain? Not bad, kid.]

Max stopped, not only because he knew running would be useless, but also because there was no hostility or malice in the voice.

While Lily, Emily, Pauline and everyone around them looked at him in confusion, wondering why he was suddenly running around, he raised his head and looked at Azaroth, who was looking at him with an imperceptible smile.

[Good. Now, calm down. No need to panic.]

[I am aware my Williams family also wants you, who wouldn't after knowing how special you are? Even I'm tempted to capture you.]

Max's hair stood on end when he heard the last part when Azaroth's voice continued.

[Haha, don't worry. I won't do that.]

[Now, I will make sure my Williams family don't bother you anymore, alright? So, wash away any resentment you have formed in your heart in these few days.]

Max's eyes narrowed. Although he found it strange why he was taking initiative to become friends, he knew he wasn't trying to deceive him.

So, after thinking for a moment, he mouthed a few words.

[...Thank you for sparing me. But if you want my resentment with your family to end just because you chose to spare me, that's impossible.]

He could see Azaroth's eyes subtly flicker before he heard his voice once again.

[Now you are being unreasonable. As far as I know, we haven't done anything to harm you yet. What more, my son had even helped your woman.]

Max wanted to reply when he noticed Azaroth suddenly closed his eyes. A moment later, he understood why he did because three of the other six, including the stern lady, seemed to have noticed something and looked at him.

If Azaroth had continued looking, they would have followed his gaze, and noticed him.

The trio frowned before looking at the crowd. Max had put down Lily and had moved his gaze over to her. Despite that, he could feel their gazes linger around him, maybe because they were in disguise.

...

On the stage, of the trio, a man who looked to be the same age as Azaroth looked at him and asked, "Were you talking to one of those three disguised kids?"

The other three who hadn't noticed anything strange looked over when they heard him, interested.

Azaroth calmly opened his eyes and nodded, "Yes. Why? Don't tell me I'm not allowed to talk with my subjects if I wish to?"

The man's lips twitched, "Of course, you can. I just asked because you immediately stopped when we noticed."

"Well, I was done talking." Azaroth casually said.

"Why are they hiding their identities?" The stern woman asked before closing her eyes.

"Must be trying to hide from their enemies." Azaroth said before closing his eyes, not interested to entertain them any longer.

The man who had first asked him, looked at Max's trio and chuckled, "We don't need people who cause instability on the battlefield. Let me reveal their faces so they can settle their affairs right here."

As he said this, his attention was focused on Azaroth, wanting to see his reaction, but unfortunately for him, Azaroth acted as though he didn't hear him.

"Very well." He scoffed, a hint of anger diffusing in his voice and he raised his hand, but before he could do anything, the stern woman spoke.

"Don't be childish."

The man winced before chuckling awkwardly, "Haha, Lady Verana, I was just testing our King friend here."

The stern woman, Verana, didn't say anything and kept her eyes closed.

The other four just looked at each other in confusion before minding their own business.

...

Time passed as more and more people arrived. An hour later, another thousand magus had arrived.

Right at that moment, Lady Verana opened her eyes and raised her hand.

Immediately, the bustling plaza went silent.

She swept her gaze across everyone before saying, "You all came despite being aware of the dangers... You are brave."

"Most of you may already know this, but for those who don't, I'll like to tell you about the War Temples, and War merits."

"Every time demons invade, the Central Plains' Alliance establishes War Temples in every battlefield to support and reward the warriors that contribute in defending our land."

"Demons don't want that because the War Temples serve to bolster our defense and morale, making it several times more difficult to conquer our land. So, they always try to stop us from establishing the War temple only to fail.

They will try to stop us this time too..."

Immediately after she said this, everyone's expressions turned grim.

Chapter 646: War Merits

"...We six are from the Alliance, here to establish the War Temple on your kingdom's battlefield. The demons will try to stop us from doing so, and because of the rules of the war, we can't kill lower ranked demons en masse, we have recruited you to help defend against them."

As soon as she finished saying this, everyone's faces fell.

There was silence for a while before the crowd broke out in an uproar.

"The fuck!"

"Is she kidding us?"

"Weren't you supposed to set up the War Temple within a day or two after the demons step foot on our land?"

"Why are you only doing it now? What's going on?"

...

Hearing everyone's outraged cries, Max's expression grew dignified.

'So, this is the reason why the demons attacked before the supposed time? They didn't want the Central Plains' Alliance to set up War Temples?'

A moment later, he shook his head, 'No, it can't be this simple.'

While he was lost in his thoughts, Emily asked Lily why was everyone going mad.

"Since they decided to take the risk and go to the battlefield, why are they reacting like this?"

Lily shook her head, "It's not the same."

She thought for a moment before saying, "Let's put it this way, in the war, there are chances to survive because as long as the strongholds, War Temples, are intact, the demons can't attack you if you retreat. However, without the War Temple, they will chase you until they kill you."

"Usually, the Alliance finishes setting up War Temples before the major wars start. However, this time the demons had caught them off guards by arriving a few months earlier than expected. Hence the situation."

"So, that's why..." Emily nodded in understanding, but as she looked at people crying about, there was naked disdain in her eyes.

Her expression was mirrored by Pauline, who looked at some of the people from the Fuller family who had become anxious, and coldly said, "You chose to come here knowing you may die there. Since you were already prepared to die, why does this slight increase in the chances of dying make you afraid?"

Emily looked at her in surprise, not expecting her to feel the same as her. Pauline, who noticed her gaze, smirked at her in provocation, immediately destroying her slowly forming positive image in Emily's mind.

"SILENCE!" Verana's voice boomed, drawing all other noises.

"It seems I was wrong to call you brave... you are nothing but cowards, who don't deserve to fight on the front lines."

"You have five minutes. All those who want to leave, can freely leave."

Many people felt ashamed when they heard her. However, that didn't stop from leaving.

Five minutes later, over three thousand people had left, leaving a little less than eight thousand in total.

The man who tried to force Azaroth to reveal what he was talking to Max, Tristen, snorted in disdain, "Cowards!"

Verana swept her gaze across the remaining people in the plaza and waved her hand.

Swoosh!

Immediately, a palm sized metal plate appeared in front of everyone.

"This is the Merit Plate. Drop a drop of your blood on it and bind it with you. There are specialized formations engraved on it that will record the number, cultivation level and other things about the demons you kill and turn them into War Merits."

"Now, to know how many War Merits the demons give based on their cultivation, race, etc. infuse your will into the Merit Plate."

When Max infused his will into it, information appeared in his head.

An ordinary Two Star demon, whether it was early-stage Two Star or peak Two Star, gave 1 Merit.

An ordinary Three Star demon gave from 10-50 Merits; early-stage 10, mid-stage 20, high-stage 30, and peak Three Star 50.

An ordinary Four Star demon gave from 100-500 Merits; early-stage 100, mid-stage 200, high-stage 300, and Peak Four Star 500.

An ordinary Five Star demon gave from 1000-5000 Merits; early-stage 1000, mid-stage 2000, high-stage 3000, and Peak Five Star 5000.

The ratio was the same for the King, Emperor and Monarch demons, just the number of Merits increased.

After a while, Verana continued, "Once we finish setting up the War Temple, you can exchange these Merits for all kinds of resources among other things."

"Now, if you don't have any questions, we shall depart."

After saying this, she crossed her arms across her impressive chest, not that anyone would dare to look at it, and closed her eyes.

There was silence for a while before someone asked, "Your ladyship, may we know how much time it would take for you all to set up the War Temple?"

Verana didn't need to speak as Tristen looked at the female mage who had asked the question and said, "Two to three days."

"Anything else?" He asked,

No one spoke, causing him to nod, "Good. Now, you all will follow Sir Alton and Madam Wyomin."

Saying this, he glanced at Azaroth, "Thanks for hosting us. Now, we shall take our leave. Also, we expect you to be on the battlefield soon."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Finished speaking, he flew up with Verana and two others, soon vanishing on the horizon.

The two people left, Alton and Wyomin, looked at Azaroth, "Would you like to address them?"

Azaroth nodded, and took a step forward, his resonating voice booming in everyone's ears.

"This war is both a danger and an opportunity for you all. Try your best to survive, benefit and when you feel like it, return home."

"Yes, my lord!" Everyone echoed.

"Sir Alton, you can lead them away now." Azaroth said before leaving.

Alton waved his hand, causing a purple winged magic bird to appear. He then jumped onto it, and shouted, "Follow me."

With that, he flew at a normal speed toward the city gates. The crowd followed after him and Wyomin flew at the back.

...

After they left the city, Lily and Sera heaved a sigh of relief while Max felt an invisible restriction lift off him.

Turning his head in a certain direction, he located the Dalton family's group and Count Wiley among the crowd, his eyes flashing with a cold light.

Chapter 647: Bait

In the distance, Count Wiley shivered when he felt his gaze.

Dean, running beside him, noticed this and asked in a whisper, "He is looking?"

Wiley silently nodded, which put a subtle smile on Dean's face.

"That's good."

Wiley just gave him an indifferent look, but inwardly, he was seething.

'Of course, you would say that. If something goes wrong, I would be the one to die, after all.'

'And this bastard... maybe I should've ignored the Royal family and killed Ashton and his family. If I had, he wouldn't be here today to kill me.'

While he cursed his luck, Max's eyes flashed when he noticed the short exchange of words between them with his bloodline sense.

He hadn't used it in the plaza, fearing Verana and other Emperor Magus might notice it, but now, Alton was busy leading the way while Wyomin wasn't paying any of them any attention, so he had less inhibitions and had used it when he glanced at Wiley.

'So, they are using him as bait to lure me in? Not bad.' He thought,

Once they were a few miles away from the city, Lily and Sera moved closer to him. Emily, however, stayed at arm's length.

"We are safe now, right?" Lily asked,

"Yes. No one had followed us from the city." Max nodded. "Um, young master, should we remove the masks then?" Max thought for a moment before he shook his head, "No, let's wait for a while more."

He then asked, "Why? You are not comfortable hiding your identity?"

"No, it's not that, young master." Lily shyly shook her head.

Max waited for her to answer, but she kept silent, causing him to raise an eyebrow.

Just as he was about to ask her, Sera leaned in and whispered, "She must not like the fact that you look at her but don't see her real face."

Lily lowered her head and a slight blush appeared on her face when she heard this while Max, finally enlightened, was speechless.

...

After leaving the city, Alton slowly increased the speed and after an hour, he was flying at the top speed of an average Early-Stage Three Star Mage.

Among these around eight thousand Magus, over seventy percent were in the Three Star realm. So, after running at this speed for a few hours, the exhaustion had started to creep in.

Alton however didn't lower the speed.

...

Ha!

Huff! Huff!

Six hours after leaving the city, almost every Three Star Magus was out of breath and they had slowly started to lag behind.

Noticing this, Wyomin sent a mental message to Alton.

[Let's let them rest for a while.]

Alton agreed and stopped.

"You have one hour to rest. The next time we stop, it will be when we arrive at the battlefield."

...

Since Lily, Sera and Max were in the Four Star realm, they were only slightly out of breath, but Emily, though she fared better than other High-Stage and even Peak Three Magus, was heaving slightly deeper breaths.

"Are you alright?" Max walked over and offered her some water.

"Yes." Emily curly nodded and took the proffered water which put a relieved smile on Max's face.

Emily gave him a side eyed look as he drank the water and took deep breaths.

"How far is this battlefield?" Max asked Pauline who had walked over after talking to her people.

"At the same speed, it should take us another six to seven hours." Pauline said as she sat on the ground, took out a spirit fruit and took a bite.

"How delicious!" She exclaimed before glancing at Max, Lily and Sera, "Want one? It can restore your stamina and increase mana recovery."

"Yeah. Give me one." Max said as he sat beside Emily. Lily and Sera also sat down.

After Pauline gave them each a fruit, she reluctantly took out another and held it toward Emily, "Here, you need to recover your stamina more than us."

This would have been a very polite gesture, and might have even served to reduce the tension between them if she didn't have that 'Punch me' expression on her face.

Emily silently looked at her, and then to her and Lily's surprise, took the fruit from her.

"Give a few more. I'll save your life one time in exchange."

"..."

Pauline looked at her with a blank look on her face, not comprehending what she had just heard.

Then, her face turned dark as she snarled, "Do you think I would need to be saved by someone weaker than me? You underestimate me too much."

Ignoring her outburst, Emily indifferently said, "You don't have more. It's alright. Don't feel embarrassed."

"You!" Pauline was speechless. She took out a few fruits and threw them at her before leaving in a huff.

"So, she had them." Emily muttered, catching them and storing them away in her spatial ring.

"..."

Max and Lily exchanged looks, seeing surprise on each others' faces. It was the first time either of them had seen her act like this.

"What's with that look you two have?" Emily asked, her eyes narrowed.

"N-Nothing." The duo timidly shook their heads. Then, a moment later, "Hahaha!"

All of them burst out in loud laughter, attracting everyone's attention, even Alton and Wyomin's. Many in the crowd looked at them strangely while others were angry, not liking it that they were treating this excursion like some picnic.

Max and the four ladies, however, ignored them all.

In some distance, Pauline grounded her teeth, and stomped the ground, "Those bastards! They are laughing at me, aren't they?"

The High-Stage Five Star mage beside her shook her head, "No, miss. They are not."

Pauline glared at her before glancing at the group, "It's good then."

Saying this, she returned to Max's group, flopped down beside Sera and asked, "What are you guys laughing about?"

Sera shook her head, and awkwardly said, "I don't know. They were laughing so I joined them."

After they calmed down, Emily looked at Max in silence, causing him to become nervous.

He had just thought she was no longer angry, was he wrong?

Chapter 648: Demon Attack

However, when he heard Emily's next words, he sighed in relief.

"I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been angry at you... for no reason at all." Emily said, her indifferent voice had a touch of emotion that he couldn't understand.

"Everything's good as long as you are no longer angry." Max smiled,

Emily took a deep breath, paused for a moment, and nodded, "Yeah, no longer."

"That's good."

Lily and Sera exchanged a look before both smiled in relief. Unlike them, however, Pauline looked at Emily and clicked her tongue, "Tsk! Girl, you are too forgiving. If he was my man and was picking women here and there, I would've clipped his balls."

As she said this, she made a cutting motion with her fingers.

Upon hearing her words and seeing her dangerous gesture, Max felt a chill run down his spine and subconsciously clenched his legs while Emily's good mood vanished.

Suddenly,

Swoosh!

Her mana flared and she vanished from the place. Almost at the same time, Max's expression changed and his gaze snapped toward the distance when Wyomin's voice sounded.

"Enemy attack!"

Bang!

Emily appeared behind Pauline and slapped a sharp shard of black Ice barrelling toward the back of Pauline's head into pieces.

Whoosh!

When Pauline saw Emily vanish, her face fell and she regretted running her mouth, thinking she was going to attack her. But then she heard Wyomin's warning and the shattering sound behind her. It didn't take her long to understand what had happened,

and the realization made her break out in cold sweat. Jumping to her feet, she looked at Emily with gratitude, her heart palpitating in fear.

"Thank you." She sincerely said,

Emily turned around, looked at her with a serious look on her face and shook her head, "There is no need. I just fulfilled my promise."

"What do you—" Pauline did not understand what she meant for a moment before she recalled the words she had said when she asked for more Stamina Recovery spirit fruits.

She wanted to say something, but Emily was no longer paying her any attention, her gaze was focused on around a thousand black-skinned, one-horned demons that had suddenly appeared and were attacking everyone.

Swoosh!

The High-Stage Five Star Mage and Fuller family's other magus arrived and surrounded Pauline in a protective shield.

"You are alright, young miss?" Pauline took a deep breath, her expression turning serious as she nodded, "Yes, I'm alright."

She then looked in the incoming demons' direction, and said, "Although they are not as numerous as us, they still pose a very high risk. So, when you fight, don't worry about me and just focus on protecting yourselves."

As soon as she finished speaking, a greenish red, full body armor appeared on her body and a two meters long, black sword appeared in her hand.

"I'll be heading out first. Remember to take care of yourselves. I expect to see you all alive when we finish dealing with this group."

Whoosh!

Saying this, she dashed out of their encirclement. When she started running, her speed was equal to a peak Three Star Mage, but by the time she reached the demons, her speed had exceeded the normal speed of a High-Stage Four Star Mage.

Boom!

When she stopped, her sword was piercing through a Peak Four Star demon's head while several Three Star demons on her way had their heads severed.

His display had thoroughly taken aback Max, Emily and Lily, who had surprised looks plastered on their faces, clearly not expecting her to be this strong when she had such poor reaction speed that she was unable to defend herself against Emily three days ago and even just now, she was entirely clueless until Emily had saved her from the sudden attack.

"You've heard what the young miss said. Focus on protecting yourselves." The High-Stage Five Star mage shouted, "Let's go and earn some War Merits!"

"Yes!!!"

The others shouted and rushed after him, toward the demons.

Their action surprised Max's trio even more, especially because they weren't heading in Pauline's direction.

"Are they really not going to protect her?" Emily raised her brows.

Beside them, Sera—seeing their surprised and confused looks—smiled and as she watched Pauline fighting like a valkyrie, said,

"You guys don't know, but Young Miss Pauline is infamous for being extremely clumsy and careless. It's extreme to the point where she had almost been assassinated several times by people weaker than her."

She felt Emily's gaze on her when she said the last part but she ignored it and continued.

"However... When she enters her fighting mode, almost no one beneath Five Star is her match. Not only that, she is even able to fight against Early-Stage and sometimes even Mid-Stage Five Star magus for a while."

"Apart from this, the other reason why they are ignoring her like she asked is because she doesn't like having her orders disobeyed. Those who disobey her... she stops treating them like her people."

Hearing this, Emily muttered, "She is too... willful. If she doesn't change, she will die sooner or later."

Sera didn't respond, apparently agreeing with her.

Emily then glanced at Max, "Let's go. We should also earn some Merits."

Max's eyes shone, and excitement was bubbling in his heart. He will not just earn War Merits, he would also gain the much needed Kill Points, or Death Energy.

However, controlling his excitement, he seriously said, "Okay. But be extremely careful and try to stay near me, alright?"

"Yes," Lily and Sera meekly said while Emily just nodded before dashing away... in Pauline's direction.

Sera watched her rush away and muttered, "It seems she isn't angry with the young miss either."

Lily smiled, "Despite how coldly and indifferently she acts, she is very kind hearted. Since Miss Pauline has helped us quite a lot and she has no ill intention in her heart whenever she says something unsavory, she must have already forgiven her."

"Alright. We should also go now." Sera said before they also rushed out.

When Max was about to follow them, he paused and glanced in Wyomin and Alton's directions. When he saw they were calmly observing everything, with no sign of worry on their faces, he sighed in relief and rushed away.

Swoosh!

A moment later, he appeared in front of a Peak Three Star Demon.

When the demon saw him, terror appeared on his face. However, then he gritted his teeth and tried to cast his demonic spell.

Max, however, didn't give him any chance, and pushed his head, shattering his skull.

Zoom!

Right as the demon died, he felt his bloodline, which now had a hint of inky dark color, stir and his vision turned black and white. Then, as he watched, a small ball of whitish dark energy flew out of the demon's body, rushed toward him as if attracted by a greater force and drilled into his chest, into his heart before getting absorbed by his bloodline.

A moment later, it was refined and purified, which reduced its quantity even more. Then, it merged with the double the amount of his bloodline energy.

All this happened within his bloodline and he was unable to affect the process, at least not yet.

Swoosh!

Max dodged an attack aimed at his back by sidestepping, most of his attention still focused on the process within his bloodline.

Chapter 649: Lily's Terror

Swoosh!

The demon was about to attack again when he waved his hand and launched a single Fire Arrow toward it.

Bang!

The next moment, the demon's eyes widened, but he wasn't able to do anything else as the Fire Arrow had pierced its forehead, instantly snuffing out its life.

Thud!

A moment later, its lifeless body fell down with a thud, creating a small cloud of dust.

Again, Max's vision shifted, but since he wasn't looking at the demon, he didn't see the small ball of whitish energy flow out of the demon and rush into his chest. While his bloodline started purifying this clump of energy too, the merging process of the already purified death energy was completed and a small clump grayish pink appeared in his dantian.

When he felt this energy, he got the same ethereal feeling the Nascent Energy usually gave him, but while the Nascent Energy was gentle and nurturing like a mother's warm embrace, this one seemed violent and destructive.

'Can this even be used to increase my cultivation?' He couldn't help but wonder even though he already knew it could.

He wanted to test it by guiding it into his mana core but the situation didn't allow him as more demons, stronger ones than the two before attacked him.

'This small amount won't do much anyway. So, I should just focus on gathering more.' He thought. Swoosh!

In the next second, his figure blurred and he appeared behind the group of five demons, all in the Four Star realm.

He instinctively wanted to take out the Thunder Sword to behead them, but paused, not wanting to take a risk with Alton and Wyomin present.

Although he couldn't be hundred percent sure since not everyone was the same, he was almost seventy to eighty percent sure that if they saw it, they wouldn't be able to keep their greed under control.

A Monarch Rank Artifact, after all, was something even most Monarch Magus would fight tooth and nail to possess, not to mention Emperor Magus like them.

Then he glanced at the five demons in front of him and noticed one of them, a female demon, had a short bone sword.

By the time he thought all this, the demons had already noticed him behind them. Turning around in a panic, they prepared to attack him when he flashed beside the female demon, grabbed her hand and made her stab his neck. Then, with a slight motion, he made her slice her neck off.

As embers of life vanished from the demon's eyes, leaving only a horrified look on her face, he snatched the bone sword from her hand and flashed to the side.

Boom!

Right as he did, several attacks landed on the place he was standing at, blasting the ground and the female demon's corpse into smithereens.

"Tsk! How heartless!" He clicked his tongue, looking at the remains of their companion. The next moment, his figure disappeared and appeared amidst them.

Shlick!

Before the demons could react, he had skewered one of their heads. Then, leaving the sword stuck in the demon's skull, he clenched his fists tightly, wrapped his fire elemental mana around it and punched the second demon's head, causing it to explode and blood and brain matter to splash around.

Of course, he made sure none of it touched him.

Then, as he took out the sword from the first demon's head, the remaining two shouted in the demon language, "RUN!!"

"Don't bother." Max uttered in their language, before chasing them down and killing them.

As the five demons' death energy entered his body, he rushed toward another group of three demons.

...

Boom!

Rumble!

Bang!

Ahhhh!

A cacophony of noises filled the battlefield.

Despite being outnumbered by eight to one, the demons were giving a tough fight. Still, because they had very few Five Star demons in their ranks, they were slowly being slaughtered.

Bang!

Max punched a large hole in an Early-Stage Five Star demon's chest—who he had been fighting for a few minutes to improve his fighting style and mana control—killing it.

Although he wanted to gather as much death energy as he could, he realized it was a great opportunity to train since the demon side was way weaker, something he was sure wouldn't rarely happen when they reached the soon to be the main battlefield.

Before locating another Five Star demon, he stopped for a moment and watched his companions for a while.

Pauline had proved Sera's words true. Even though she was just a Mid-Stage Four Star Mage, no Four Star demon was her match. Her black long sword was like a grim reaper's scythe, reaping the demons' lives left and right.

Not far away from her, Emily was also fighting ferociously. Utilizing her extraordinary speed to the full extent, she constantly flashed around, her silver sword beheading a demon every time.

Unlike them, Lily and Sera's situation was different.

Sera's lack of battle experience was showing as she was having a hard time fighting against two High-Stage Four Star demons despite being a peak Four Star Mage.

To Max's relief though, even though she was at a disadvantage, the demons weren't able to harm her in slightest thanks to her Superior Mana control and adept manipulation of water and earth elements.

As for Lily, her situation was probably the strangest in the entire battlefield. She was calmly standing in place, looking harmless, but no demon was approaching her.

Not only that, when she took initiative to approach them, they would run in the opposite direction, treating her like a terrifying plague which put a helpless expression on her face.

Smiling wryly, he rushed toward her. When Lily saw him, she smiled beautifully, "You alright, young master?"

"Yes, I'm fine. But it seems you are not." Max smiled.

Lily looked at the demons in the distance and sighed, "They are too scared of me and I don't want to chase them."

Max glanced around at the several dozen frozen demons, some of whom were in the Five Star realm, and said, "Why don't you try to clean this area? If they continue seeing all this, they would never dare come close to you."

Lily shook her head, "That would be waste of mana, young master."

He thought about cleaning the area for her, but he could not keep doing it. so he said, "Change location then. Those who haven't seen you kill these will come to you."

"But then I won't be able to stay near you." She pouted,

Max's gaze became gentle when he heard this. Loving flicking her nose, he chuckled, "It's alright. I said that because I was afraid you all might be in danger, but these demons aren't too strong. So, you'll be fine. Beside, I'll keep an eye on you in case some stronger Five Star demons surround you."

"Okay." Nodding, she hurried away, obviously excited to fight.

After observing Sera and others for a few seconds more, he nodded in satisfaction and then spread his bloodline sense.

He was worried his bloodline sense's range might not be enough, but he soon found Count Wiley fighting along the Dalton family's people.

Chapter 650: Happy Sera

Max's brows furrowed when he noticed him. His face was deathly pale, fear and panic clear in his eyes while his heart was beating uncontrollably.

His strange state confused him because the demons he was fighting were just in the Three Star realm, way weaker than him, nor was he in some imminent danger.

'What's going on?' He thought.

A moment later, he understood why he was so frightened when he noticed him looking in the direction he was fighting the Five Star demons a while ago.

'He has seen me fight.' A smile appeared on his face, feeling a strange sense of satisfaction in his heart.

But then his brows furrowed again, 'This is not good. If he gets too scared of me, he won't dare to take action, and I won't be able to kill him anytime soon.'

Immediately after this small scale of war began, he had wanted to go and kill him. However, right then, he noticed Alton obliterate a person who had tried to kill his enemy while he was fighting the demons.

Not only that, Alton had glanced at him with a clear warning in his gaze. Although reluctant, he had no choice but to drop the idea.

After thinking for a moment, he sighed, 'It seems I can only wait for a good opportunity to get rid of him.'

Since he couldn't stop killing the demons for the sake of not frightening him, he had no other choice if Wiley himself didn't act.

Sighing again, he looked around and soon found an Early-Star Five Star demon who was about to kill a peak Four Star human mage.

Swoosh!

His leg muscles flexed, his mana reinforcing them. Then, he disappeared from the place and appeared beside the demon right as he was about to decapitate the human mage.

"Hm?"

By the time the demon noticed him, his punch had found his forehead.

Bang!

Immediately, his head exploded in a gory rain of flesh and blood.

The human mage was first stunned and looked at Max in shock. Then, he quickly bowed by the waist and thanked him, "Thank you senior for saving my life."

"Don't worry about it. This was what I was supposed to do. You be careful now and only fight those in your realm." Max said before flashing away.

The human mage smiled bitterly. He had been fighting demons weaker than him, but this Five Star demon had suddenly appeared in front of him, leaving him no choice but to fight.

After a while, Max also realized this when he saw several Five Star demons trying to hide from the Five Star human magus and targeting weaker humans.

Noticing this, his eyes flashed with a hint of anger and he increased his killing speed, saving several people in the process.

...

Thud!

A quarter of an hour later, the last demon was killed.

The battlefield was silent for a few moments before everyone heaved a deep breath and erupted in loud cheers.

Some, however, were sobbing in silence, grieving the loss of their close ones who had just died.

Suddenly,

"Attention!"

Alton's voice boomed again, silencing everyone.

He swept his gaze across everyone and said, "There is no need to be too happy because of this small victory or sad because you lost your friends or loved ones because...

...this was merely the first and weakest wave, only aimed to whittle down your number as much as they can and exhaust you."

"Which I can see they managed to achieve quite nicely."

His words caused everyone's expression to harden.

"You have ten minutes to rest and recover. Then we will continue on our way." Alton continued, "Also, bury the corpses of your comrades and dig out the demons' cores. You'll be able to exchange them for Merits in the War Temple."

...

While some prioritize digging the graves for their closed ones, the others, greedy ones, started digging out the demon cores.

However, when they tried to dig out the core of demons someone else had killed, they found themselves frozen.

This made the greedy ones sigh in loss while the others were relieved as their spoils wouldn't be snatched away and they could take their time burying their friends.

...

Max had already taken out the cores of the demons he killed, so he went to help Emily and Lily.

Sera didn't need help as she had only killed two demons she had been fighting while Pauline had left the work to her family members.

Although some of the Fuller were injured, no one had died, so she was relaxed.

Emily had killed a total of thirty demons; most of them were peak Three Star while some were Early and Mid-Stage Four Star demons, and had earned 2400 War Merits.

As for Lily, despite her overwhelming strength, she only killed over fifty demons, over twenty of them were Three Star, twenty were Four Star and the rest were Five Star Demons.

In total, she had earned a total of 25,800 Merits, a very impressive amount.

Emily stared blankly at Lily for a few seconds after hearing this. 'So this is the difference between the realms.' She sighed and clenched her fists, 'Hopefully the War Temple can help me break through to the Four Star.'

Lily looked at Emily with a concerned look, thinking she shouldn't have revealed her merits.

Max placed a hand on her shoulder and shook his head, telling her to stop worrying.

Emily returned to her normal self a moment later, causing Lily to sigh in relief. Emily also noticed her expression and couldn't help but reveal a small smile.

She then looked at Max, about to ask about his Merits when Pauline hopped over, and proudly announced.

"I killed 63 of them. Impressive, right?"

"Impressive indeed." The trio nodded, causing her smile to widen. She then looked at Emily, her lips curling up in a teasing smile, "Want to hear how many Merits I earned?"

"No." Emily shook her head, not interested. She knew although her kill count was more than Lily, her Merits were sure to be less than hers.

"Why? Don't want to suffer a blow?" Pauline provoked.

Emily, however, ignored her, and looked at Max, "How many Merits do you have?"

Pauline harrumphed in dissatisfaction, but looked at Max with interest.

She knew although he was stronger than ordinary peak Five Star magus according to her father, it was after he used his bloodline energy, which she was sure he had not used seeing no one from the three noble families and the Royal family was keeping an eye on him.

Max checked his Merit Plate and calmly announced, "41,250."

"What!!" Pauline cried out in shock, "How is that possible?!"

Max looked at her in interest, "Oh? Why isn't it possible?"

Pauline stared at him wide eyed, before she mumbled in a low voice, "This is not fair. How can you be stronger than me without even using your bloodline?"

Hearing this, Max understood why she had that reaction and couldn't help but shake his head.

Just then, Sera came over, a huge smile on her face. "So happy, Little Sera. It seems you managed to kill a lot of them." Pauline said, changing the topic and throwing the depressing thoughts out of her mind.

Chapter 651: Panic

Sera shook her head, "No, not many. I just killed two."

Emily and Lily weren't surprised because while fighting they were paying attention to one another, unlike Pauline, who was single mindedly fighting.

"Eh?!" Pauline was started. She gave her a strange look and asked, "Then why do you look so happy?"

"Because I learned a lot from them." Sera said, looking satisfied. But then her face fell, "I wanted to continue fighting them, but they became weaker after a while. After killing them, I wanted to find someone else to fight but there was no demon left."

"Oh, I understand. Very good, Little Sera." Pauline smiled, hiding a twitch of her lips.

"It was your first time killing someone, right?" Lily asked, remembering her first kill, "Do you feel uncomfortable?"

Sera smiled, "No sister Lily. I have killed before. So, I feel fine now."

Even as she said this, a disgusted and sad look appeared on her face. Despite knowing she hadn't done anything wrong, she didn't like the fact she had taken someone's life.

Lily became concerned and wanted to comfort her, but Max stopped her with a look. It was important that she thought about it and overcame it on her own.

"Alright, let's rest. We have no time to waste."

...

Ten minutes soon passed and the group resumed the journey.

Everyone was more tense this time, and was constantly looking around.

To their relief, they encountered no demons for the next two hours. Everyone started relaxing a little, and since they were already tired from fighting, the fast paced journey and the tension made them exhausted, which made them a lot less vigilant.

Wyomin, noticing this, waved her hand toward the crowd.

Swoosh!

Droplets of water appeared in the sky before falling down on everyone with unerring accuracy, not one drop fell on the ground and was wasted.

"What's this? Rain?"

Everyone was startled for a moment.

"It's lady Wyomin's spell." Someone shouted.

"Is she worried we will fall asleep while walking?" A woman who was very exhausted, sneered in mockery.

However, in the next moment, her eyes widened when the droplets fell on her and her exhaustion rapidly vanished.

...

Sera's eyes shone as the droplets of water touched her and were absorbed into her skin.

"How marvelous!" She muttered, seeing this kind of water recovery spell for the first time.

'Will I be able to use my water magic to do the same one day?' She couldn't help but think.

Just then, Max said, "It's not just Water magic... there is another element mixed in." "There is Light Element too." Lily nodded before saying, "To be able to so expertly blend in the Light Element's rejuvenation properties in her water spell... she must have comprehended either Light or Water law."

"Oh? I won't be able to use it then." Sera said in disappointment.

Just then, Wyomin's voice sounded in her head.

[You can use it even if you haven't awakened the Light Element, though it will be a lot harder to do so.]

Hearing the voice, Sera's eyes shone and she instinctively looked in Wyomin' direction.

Max and others, noticing this, realized she must have received a mental communication from her.

"Did that Lady Emperor talk to you just now, Little Sera? What did she say?" Pauline asked in excitement.

Lily and Emily also looked at her. Unlike them, however, Max wasn't happy.

From the excited glint in her eyes, he could tell Wyomin had told her something good, but he would rather she did not talk to her. Or anyone else from his group for that matter.

At least not until they were strong enough to protect themselves even against an Emperor Mage like her. Until then, he didn't want any attention on them.

Though he wished that, after their performance in the battle two hours ago, he knew Alton and Wyomin had already noticed them. Not to mention his and Lily's display of strength, just Sera and Emily's Superior Mana Control was more than enough to attract their attention after all.

'Hope this doesn't cause any problems.' He sighed,

"She... Lady Wyomin just told me it isn't necessary to possess the Light Element to use this spell. Just the Water element will do." Sera explained, excited.

Everyone was surprised when they heard this, but not too much as they had heard of the elemental spells like this one. However, they weren't too popular because it was too hard to master them for obvious reasons.

"Since she told me this, it must mean I can find this spell in the War Temple..." She muttered, "I wonder how many War Merits I would need to buy it..." She infused her will into the Merit Plate and her excitement faded.

[600 War Merits]

"Don't worry too much about merits, sister Sera." Lily smiled, "There will be more than enough demons for you to kill and gain the required merits. And even if that isn't enough, I, young master and sister Emily can let you borrow ours."

Max smiled while Emily nodded.

Pauline also chimed in, "You can have mine too, Little Sera. I probably won't need too many of them anyway."

Sera felt her heart warming, but just as she was about to respond to them...

"Enemies Ahead! Get ready!"

Alton's warning sounded.

Immediately, everyone became alert and their gaze focused on the path ahead where in the distance they saw a large horde of red-haired and red-eyed humanoid demons rushing toward them.

"So many!" Sera exclaimed while everyone else's expressions hardened when they realized this horde had way more demons than the last one—around two to three thousand.

Just a while ago, to kill just over a thousand, over five hundred of them had fallen and it was when the demon side was heavily outnumbered.

This meant, even if the strength of this horde was similar to the last one, they would lose around two or three times more people.

"This is going to be dangerous." Max muttered before saying, "Remember to stay close to me, alright? Until I say so, don't go too far."

"Yes." Lily, Sera and Emily nodded.

Pauline looked at him and worriedly asked, "What about me? If I stay near you, you'll protect me too, right?"

"I will." Max nodded before saying, "However, I don't think you will stay near us." "No. I will not rush away this time." Pauline staunchly said,

"Alright then."

By the time they finished talking, the demon horde was only around half a mile away from them and this distance was rapidly closing.

Boom!

When both sides clashed a while later, the demons arrived in Max's bloodline sense' range. When he felt their cultivation level, his expression changed for the worse.

Unlike the last time, this time almost twenty percent of the demons were in the Five Star realm and several of them were peak Five Star, something the human side only had a few dozen.

He told the ladies about his find and their expression grew dignified. Fuller Family's group and some other people around them also overheard him and they began to panic.

"Is what you said true? There are several hundred Five Star demons in this horde?"
Boom!

Chapter 652: I Want to Drink Your Blood

"Is what you said true? There are several hundred Five Star demons in this horde?"

A High-Stage Four-Star Mage asked in a high-pitched voice, attracting more people's attention.

Sigh!

Max sighed in his heart, already regretting choosing to speak out loud. He did that so they wouldn't take them lightly and lose their lives as a result. But it seemed his words only served to create more panic and bring the people's morale down, at least, of those who heard this man's voice.

His expression not changing a bit and his gaze focused on the demons, he said, "It's up to you whether you all believe me or not. But no matter what you do, be careful or suffer the consequences."

"Don't listen to him!" Someone shouted.

"He is just a Four Star mage; how can he know their cultivation so precisely?"

"That's right. He is lying. He must be a traitor who wants to bring our morale down. I say we kill him first—"

Swoosh!

Boom!

Before this last person could finish their sentence, the sound of something piercing air sounded, which was followed by the sound of something exploding.

Everyone's expression changed drastically when they looked in the direction of the man who was speaking because... his head had just exploded.

For a moment, everyone looked at Max, thinking he had killed him, but then the cackle of a demon sounded.

"Keke, how amusing! Do you think we would need human traitors' help to kill you all? Don't underestimate us great demons."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right as the voice fell, a group of twenty demons pushed through the people in front and appeared before Max's group.

The one leading the group was a humanoid female demon with hip-length red hair and blood-red eyes. Also, unlike the rest of the demons, she had blood-red scales on her cheek bones.

She gave off a powerful and deadly aura as she swept her gaze across everyone before facing Max, "I want to drink your blood."

Swoosh!

Seeing they were targeting Max, everyone except the Fuller Family's group sighed in relief and rushed away, leaving them alone.

The scaly demon looked at the fleeing humans and sneered, "You wanted to lead these cowards?"

Max's gaze flickered. For a moment he was confused as to why she was targeting him out of all the humans, but when he noticed several demons with similar scales on their cheeks looking in his and some in Sera's direction with greed burning in their blood-red eyes, he understood.

"So you get stronger by drinking people's blood? Especially those with strong bloodlines?"

The scaled woman didn't show any surprise and nodded. "That's correct. Now, if you let me drink your blood without any resistance, I'll consider giving you a painless death; how about it?"

"Haha," Max chuckled, causing the demon to furrow her brows. "Did I say something funny?"

Swoosh!

Right as she said this, she disappeared and appeared in front of Max and grabbed toward his neck, her demonic energy turning her hand into a sharp claw.

This demoness was a high-stage Five Star demon, and given her distinct characteristics, she had a special bloodline, which made her stronger than ordinary Five Star demons.

So facing her attack, Max felt a threat. However, he was completely calm as he slashed with the now chipped bone sword that had appeared in his hand the moment he saw her move.

Slash!

The demoness sneered, "You are too arro—"

Her words were caught in her throat when the sword erupted in crimson flames that had a pinkish tint, right before it clashed with her claw.

Sizzle!

Boom!

Both Max and the demoness were pushed back by the sudden explosion.

Both were unharmed, the only difference was... Max was completely calm, while the demoness had a shocked look on her face that quickly turned into one of terror but also... intense greed.

The next moment, she did something that surprised everyone but Max.

Swoosh!

She turned around and fled.

"Why are you running? Come, have a taste of my blood." Max shouted in the demon language, startling everyone.

He channeled his mana and mixed some of his bloodline energy, casting the Phoenix Wings two seconds later.

By now, the demoness had disappeared in the crowd, but she was still in the range of his bloodline sense.

"Miss Pauline, lend me a sword." He said, extending his hand toward the stunned Pauline, who quickly snapped back to her thoughts and gave him her black sword.

"I will be in a while. You guys take care of these demons until then."

Fwoosh!

Shiing!

Once he was finished speaking, his wings gently flapped, and the sound of a sharp sword cutting through flesh sounded almost at the same time he disappeared.

When they heard the sound, Lily and the High-Stage Five Star mage's gaze flashed as they turned their gaze to the demon group.

"How strong!" The High-Stage Five Star mage exclaimed in shock while Lily wore a beautiful smile and a proud expression on her face.

Hearing the mage's exclamation, Emily and others followed their gaze and saw the heads of two demons, who were standing closest to the scaled demoness, slowly slide down their necks and fall to the ground.

Thud! Thud!

Just like them, the rest of the demons' eyes widened in shock.

"This... he killed them?" One of the demons muttered in demon language, his voice trembling.

Lily glanced at Pauline and Emily. "They were the only two Five Star demons apart from that scaled demoness. The rest are just in the Three and Four Star realm."

Swoosh!

"Let's quickly kill them." Saying this, she rushed toward the demons, a cloud of white mist covering her figure.

When she was ten meters away, the cloud of white mist burst apart and enveloped half of the demons, instantly freezing them into Ice statues, snuffing out their lives.

Seeing this, Pauline donned her full body armor, took out another black longsword, and rushed over, "Kill!"

Emily, Sera, and the Fullers also rushed at the shocked and panicked demons.

Chapter 653: Battling O'mara

Swoosh!

Scaled demoness fled at her top speed and didn't stop until she saw a hulking demon with similar scales on his cheeks, crushing the head of an Early-Stage Five-Stage female mage before drinking her blood with relish.

"Sir O'mara!" She shouted.

O'mara, one of the three strongest demons of this army of three thousand five hundred, threw away the now drained corpse of the female mage and smacked his lips in satisfaction before he looked in the demoness' direction.

"Oh? Sh'mara, what are you doing here?" He asked.

Then his blood-red eyes flashed, and he suddenly appeared in front of her.

Grabbing her injured hand with force, he gave it a lick.

"Oh~" He closed his eyes and moaned as he was savoring the most delicious taste.

Seeing this, Sh'mara, the scaled demoness, knew she didn't need to waste her breath doing any explanation.

Just as she expected, O'mara's eyes snapped open in the next moment, and he grabbed her shoulder tightly, staring into her eyes, he demanded.

"Say this lamb is still alive."

"He is alive, sir." Sh'mara said, ignoring the pain in her shoulders, "The moment I realized he had such a delicious bloodline, I immediately came over to offer him to you."

"Good! Very good!" O'mara let out a grim laugh of satisfaction before asking, "Tell me, where is he? After I drink his blood, I'll reward you with an amazing night with me."

Sh'mara's eyes shone in excitement when she heard this. If she spent a night with him, she would be able to absorb some of his blood essence when they copulated, which would elevate her bloodline and give her a higher status in the tribe.

"Come with me, sir. I will—"

Just as she was about to turn around to lead him to Max...

Swoosh!

Max appeared behind her, the black longsword, covered in the mixture of his fire elemental mana and bloodline energy, slashing toward her neck.

It happened so fast that Sh'mara had no chance to react before she was beheaded.

Thud!

As her head fell down, Max looked at O'mara with a hint of surprise. With his bloodline sense, he could sense O'mara was almost as strong as Oliver, and if he wanted, he could save Sh'mara's life, but chose not to act.

O'mara grinned at him before he grabbed Sh'mara's headless corpse, put his mouth on her neck's stump, and sucked.

As Max watched, Sh'mara's body rapidly shrunk, and her scales dried up and fell as he absorbed her blood.

Seeing this, he understood why O'mara didn't even blink as she died.

"How... disgusting!" He muttered, his expression twisting in an ugly grimace.

Ha!

O'mara smacked his lips in satisfaction, his scale turning more vibrant.

"Thank you for the nice meeting gift. I will be sure to savor your blood even more."
Swoosh!

Saying this, he vanished.

Max's eyes flashed, and his wings flapped.

Swoosh!

Right as O'mara appeared behind him and punched, his figure turned illusory before vanishing.

"Oh? Such speed! Your bloodline is even more extraordinary." O'mara exclaimed, the greed in his eyes burning even more brightly.

"It sure is." Max's voice sounded as he appeared behind him and hacked the sword down toward his head.

Woosh!

Bang!

O'mara spun on his heels and punched, the impact of the collision causing the ground a few meters around them to collapse.

Crack!

The sword cracked, but Max was unphased, his blue eyes staring into the demon's ruby eyes.

"You are good." O'mara's grinned widened, and he punched again, "But not good enough."

Max slashed again.

Bang!

Crack!

This time, the sword exploded in pieces.

"What are you going to do now? Run?" O'mara laughed, taking a strong step forward, his demonic energy and red bloodline energy covering his fist like the last two times as he punched toward Max's chest.

Max let go of the hilt, clenched his fist, his mana and bloodline energy swirling around his hand as he also took a step forward, and lowered his stance a little before throwing the punch with all his bodily strength.

BOOM!

The moment both their fists collided, it was as if something had exploded. The ground a hundred meters around them sank over five feet deep, a cloud large of dust covering their figures and the crater, while the shockwaves sent both demons and humans in over two hundred meters range staggering.

"The fuck's going on? Who is fighting?" A Four Star Mage shouted, who had almost died to his opponent because the shockwaves had thrown him off balance.

All fights stopped within a five hundred-meter radius as everyone's gaze focused on the slowly dispersing cloud of dust.

When the dust finally settled, Max and O'mara's figures were revealed to them, their fists still pressing against each other's.

Immediately, everyone who was able to discern the duo's cultivation was stunned, while the demons who knew who O'mara was had disbelieving looks on their faces because they could see this puny Early-Stage Four Star mage had gained a slight advantage in the exchange just now.

Then, their eyes flashed with killing intent.

However, just as a few of them wanted to join the fight to kill Max, O'mara's released his aura, "I'll kill anyone who dares to touch him."

The demons instantly stopped, while humans furrowed their brows. Some were looking at Max with hesitation, thinking whether they should help him or not. But when they felt O'mara's aura, they gritted their teeth and started fighting the demons they were fighting a while ago.

"You cowards! Can't you see he is just a Four Star mage? How long can he fight even if he has some trump cards? We should help him." A peak Four Star mage shouted, but everyone ignored him.

...

In the sky, Alton and Wyomin's faces turned dark when they saw this.

"These cowards! They are going to help us set up the War Temple?" Alton sneered.

Wyomin didn't respond, but disappointment was clear in her eyes.

...

"You all..." The Peak Four Star Mage looked at everyone pretending to be deaf in exasperation before his expression became determined and he charged toward O'mara.

However,

Swoosh!

Chapter 654: Overbearing Death Energy

Swoosh!

The moment he moved, a tall demon appeared in front of him. Looking at him with a mocking look, he said in an amused tone.

"I would love to see you go there and die in Commander O'Mara's hands. Unfortunately, Commander is very much interested in playing with his food, so I can't allow you to interrupt his enjoyment even for half a second."

Saying this, he immediately lunged forward and started attacking.

The human mage glanced in Max's direction and muttered, 'I'm sorry, sir, I can't repay your kindness.'

...

In the center of the crater, O'mara slowly pulled back his hand and nodded, seemingly in appreciation, "You are good, and your bloodline even better. But let's see how you can last."

Saying this, he attacked again.

Bang!

Max met his punch, then the next and next.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

...

Each time their fists met, O'mara's expression would become a little glummer while Max's eyes would glow in excitement.

It wasn't because he was stronger than the demon, but because he realized the demon's punches were able to stimulate his body, allowing the [Barbarian God Physique] to circulate just a tiny bit.

'How unfortunate I can't let him punch my body!' He sighed. For a moment, he contemplated kidnapping this demon to progress his body cultivation, but he quickly shook the idea out of his mind because just a good beating wasn't going to be enough to progress his body cultivation.

Just then, his bloodline sense tingled. When he paid attention, he noticed a few high-stage Five Star demons and a Peak Five Star demon, almost as strong as O'mara, slowly moving in their direction.

'I should finish this fight as soon as possible.' He thought.

Then, he slowly started increasing the amount of his bloodline energy in the mixture of mana and bloodline energy he was using to boost his strength.

O'mara immediately felt the change as he got suppressed a little more in every subsequent exchange.

"You want to kill me? You underestimate me, arrogant human!" He snarled as his scales lit up with a sanguine red glow that enveloped his entire body.

Immediately, he became leaner, and his veins bulged as his strength took a major leap.

Max's expression changed when he noticed this.

'He became almost thirty percent stronger?'

His first instinct was to forgo the mana and use his bloodline energy to quickly overpower and kill him, but with his bloodline sense, he noticed the Peak Five Star demon, previously pushing in their direction while fighting the human mages, had suddenly stopped fighting and was rushing over at a fast speed.

'It's probably because it had noticed him using his scales to gain the temporary power up. Thinking he would soon kill me and consume my blood, it became impatient.' Max thought, his eyes completely calm.

'You want a share of my blood, huh? Very well.'

Taking a deep breath, he retracted his bloodline energy even as O'mara moved in to punch his head.

Whoosh!

As the violent wind caused by the punch buffeted his face and caused his hair to dance about, he pulled on some of the refined Death Energy in his dantian and mixed it with his fire elemental mana.

As the Death Energy circulated through his mana veins, he felt as if they were going to explode, causing him to break out in a cold sweat.

For a moment, he wondered if it was really a good idea to use this violent energy.

Rumble! But when he saw the punch blazing toward him, about to crush his skull in the next second, he gritted his teeth and raised his hand.

Puff!

"Huh?!"

O'mara's eyes widened, seeing his full-powered attack being blocked so... effortlessly.

More than that, he was shocked to realize the moment his punch smashed against Max's palm, some invisible energy had immediately evaporated his bloodline and demonic energy.

Phew!

'That was dangerous!' Max exhaled in relief. Though his mana veins had come on the verge of exploding, they did not when he infused the last remaining bits of Nascent Energy in them.

Then, without giving O'mara any chance, he fused a good amount of his bloodline energy into his fist and punched his head.

Swoosh!

Despite his shock, which had dazed him for a moment, O'mara managed to react on time and tried to grab his fist just like Max had done while tilting his head to the side.

Boom!

However... when Max's fist smashed against his palm, it directly exploded, and the punch found its aim, O'mara's head.

BANG!

Crack!

There was a crisp bang followed by the sound of his skull breaking.

"Hm?" Max frowned because his attempt to block, although it failed, had managed to sap quite some power off his punch. Because of which, O'mara was still alive, although on the verge of death.

Swoosh!

Just then, the sound of someone rushing reached their ears before a menacing voice sounded.

"MOVE BACK, HUMAN!"

O'mara, ears buzzing and his vision white because of the impact to his brain, grinned, "I... will... fight you... lat—"

Bang!

Before he could finish his, Max punched him again, properly shattering his head this time.

"No, you won't." He muttered before taking out his demon core and throwing a ball of fire on his body, wanting to burn it so this new arrival wouldn't be able to suck his blood to increase their strength.

"HOW DARE YOU!!"

The enraged voice sounded before the figure of a short but bulky demon appeared beside the corpse and hurriedly put out the fire.

Max's face fell, not because this demon would be able to suck O'mara's blood, but because he realized this demon gave him a more dangerous feeling.

Checking his remaining bloodline energy, he muttered, "This is going to be troublesome."

However, just then, Wyomin's voice sounded in his head: [Try to hold on for half a minute. Help is coming.]

Max's eyes flickered.

Then, he immediately moved in to attack the short demon, knowing he wouldn't fight him seriously until he managed to suck O'mara's blood.

So, his aim was to stop him from sucking his blood for half a minute.

{2 Castles bonus--> 10 . Thank you very much The_Big_Dog_915! (1/10)}

Chapter 655: Devil Blood

The demon was enraged upon being interrupted. After giving the still-burning corpse a reluctant look, he turned his gaze over to Max, his expression dark.

"If you want to die so much, I'll fulfill your wish." He growled as his aura and demonic energy flared before he vanished and appeared in front of Max, who was charging toward him.

Max's wings flapped, and he vanished, appearing in some distance.

"You think you can run?"

The demon sneered before his figure was enveloped in a cloud of demonic energy.

Swoosh!

The cloud flew toward Max at breakneck speed.

Swoosh!

Max again flapped his wings and disappeared, but this time he wasn't able to throw him off as the dark cloud had closely followed him.

Noticing this, Max brows knit together in frustration.

Although he had killed several Five Star horned demons two hours ago and O'mara just now, if they had used their flying ability to escape, he might not have been able to achieve that.

Fortunately, the horned demons didn't try to flee since they had come to fight and die, while O'mara was blinded by his greed and the overconfidence in his strength.

This demon, however, was not only utilizing his flying ability; he was also using his strange movement technique to boost his speed, almost rendering Max's bloodline energy-powered Phoenix Wings useless.

Since he couldn't escape from him, nor he wanted to have a direct fight, the only thing he could do was to divert his attention.

So, he gathered his fire elemental mana with some bloodline energy mixed to boost its destructive power and cast the Fire Arrows at O'mara's corpse.

"How dare you!"

Just as he wanted, the short demon shouted in anger even as the dark cloud stopped chasing Max and flew toward O'mara's corpse, a wave of demonic energy destroying the Fire Arrows.

After destroying them, the dark cloud vanished, and the demon appeared, standing in front of O'Mara's corpse, staring daggers at him.

Although he knew Max had an extraordinary bloodline, which was sure to give his strength a considerable boost, O'mara's blood wasn't any less valuable since O'mara was a Peak Five Star demon and had their lineage's Vampiric Lizard bloodline as pure as his.

After thinking for a moment, he sighed and waved his hand. "I won't kill you. Leave!" Max's gaze flickered. For a split second, he considered leaving since those who came to help would kill him and claim the merits, but after thinking for a moment, he stayed.

Since Wyomin asked him to keep him occupied, he was sure he would receive some sort of reward, but it wasn't why he decided against leaving.

The reason he stayed was that he didn't want to offend her and also wanted to leave a good impression on her, hoping she would consider this and would not try to capture him for his bloodline and Death Energy, which he was sure both Alton and her had noticed him using.

Seeing Max not move, the demon's expression turned gloomy.

"Die then!" Shouting in rage, he took out a glob of black blood and threw it at him.

Swoosh!

Max wanted to dodge when he saw him take out the blood glob, but he had no time to react as it seemingly teleported directly in front of his chest and was absorbed into his body.

Immediately, he felt all strength leave his body, and he became disoriented.

Thud!

He didn't realize it, but the moment his glob of blood entered his body, he had lost all control over his body and fell down to the ground, violently twitching.

The short demon walked over and kicked him in the gut, sending him flying a few meters away.

He then spat on the ground, "Stupid human! Now, be a good scourge, and kill some humans for me."

Saying this, he turned around and walked over to O'mara's corpse.

After snuffing out the flickers of fire still burning on his body, he thrust his hand into his chest and started absorbing his blood essence and the root of his bloodline.

Meanwhile, Max's body had turned black, and putrid smog had started wafting off of his body.

The glob of blood that entered his body was also the Devil's blood, but of a different kind from Ashton's devil blood.

This blood came from a dreadful devil spoken of in legends—the Scourge Devil.

It was said to have the ability to turn everyone into scourge devils that had no reasoning ability and wanted nothing but destruction and chaos.

After confirming the devil blood had entered his heart, the demon was completely uncaring because no one below the Emperor realm could hope to resist its corrosion, and even those in the Emperor realm would be terrified if it entered their bodies.

...

In the sky, Wyomin's face fell when she saw the demon take out the devil blood and wanted to warn him, but before she could, a red-skinned, female scaled demon appeared in front of her, seemingly materializing from the thin air.

"It's best you don't break the rules, Missy. Otherwise, I won't mind massacring these lambs." She said with a chuckle.

Wyomin wasn't surprised by her sudden appearance, as she had already noticed her and the other Emperor demon keeping watch over Alton.

She raised her brows. "Since when is talking against the rules? Didn't you also tell that demon to use the devil's blood?"

"Hehe, of course I did." The demoness chuckled, moving toward her until there was less than half a foot of distance between their faces.

Staring into her eyes, she continued, "But I did that only after you spoke to that little lamb."

Wyomin stared back, no trace of fear in her eyes.

A moment later, she sighed. Immediately after that, the devil blood entered Max's body, causing her to sigh again.

The demoness also sighed, one of relief.

Just like Wyomin and Alton, she and her companion had also noticed Max's bloodline energy and also the Death Energy, which had made them feel a hint of fear.

At that moment, they had decided to kill Max. After the short demons couldn't kill him and seeing his reinforcements were coming, she had directly ordered the demon to use the devil blood on him.

'It was worth it.' She thought, but the next moment, her eyes widened in shock before a dense murderous intent filled her eyes.

{2 Castles bonus--> 10 . Thank you very much The_Big_Dog_915! (2/10)}

Chapter 656: Third Princess?

When Wyomin, noticing the sudden change in the demoness' emotions, followed her gaze and saw Max, her eyes widened in surprise... then her lips curled up in a smile.

Swoosh!

Suddenly noticing something, she appeared in front of the demoness, her aura pressing down upon her and a long whip appearing in her hand.

"If you are ready to fight me to the death, try moving." She said, a murderous chill in her voice.

"Ha!"

The demoness scoffed but stayed in place. The same happened on Alton's side. The demon keeping watch over him was stronger than the demoness, but Alton managed to keep him from taking action.

...

On the ground...

The short demon had just started absorbing O'Mara's blood essence when the putrid smog stopped coming off Max's body and the blackness rapidly receded.

Ha!

He stopped twitching. His eyes snapped open as he took a deep breath and sat up.

Then he looked around and saw the short demon with his hand in O'mara's chest, his eyes closed.

He didn't rush to take advantage of the situation but closed his eyes instead and scanned his body with his bloodline sense.

He found nothing wrong anywhere, but when he looked into his heart, he saw the small glob of black blood surrounded by his bloodline energy.

'What's this blood?' He wondered. Though he didn't know what happened after it got into his body, after regaining his senses, he realized this strange blood had hijacked his body and nervous system.

Suddenly, he broke out in a cold sweat.

'If it wasn't for my Lust Overlord Bloodline, I was a goner.'

Then, a ruthless glint flickered within his pupils as he looked at the short demon. Covering his body with a thin layer of his bloodline energy, he stood up and walked over to him.

...

When the demons in the surroundings saw Max recover and walk toward their second commander—the short demon—they wanted to shout to rouse him.

But the humans, perhaps feeling guilty about their cowardly display earlier or perhaps because they knew if the demon didn't die, they might be the next to be his target, launched ruthless attacks, stopping the demons from making any sound.

...

Max had long realized whatever mana could do, his bloodline energy could do even better. Magus or demons, especially those beyond the mortal boundary, could detect him if he used mana to become stealthy, but if he used his bloodline energy, they would not be able to unless they were way stronger than him, had some powerful detection spell, or he revealed himself on purpose.

The short demon, however, wasn't much stronger than him, had no detection spell, and even if he had, he was too focused on absorbing O'mara's blood essence and his bloodline root, something that required his full attention.

So, he remained blissfully unaware as Max appeared behind him.

Only when Max extended his hand and was about to grab his neck that he felt danger and snapped back to his senses.

"You?! How?!" He became flabbergasted when he noticed with his divine sense that it was Max.

In the next instant, he tried to turn into the dark cloud of demonic energy to escape, but it was of no use because... In his anger, not caring about the consequences, Max had once again used the Death Energy, which, after rampaging in his mana veins, causing significant damage, had covered his palm.

When his palm came into contact with the demonic energy, it immediately destroyed it, stopping the strange spell.

Then, as he grabbed the back of his neck and forced some of the Death Energy into him, the demon let out a heart-rending cry.

"AHHHHHHHH!!!!!!"

The Emperor demons' eyes narrowed while Wyomin and Alton focused.

On the ground, everyone in the surroundings stopped fighting once again as they watched the short demon wail like a helpless sheep.

"This... what is going on?"

"Who is this terrifying human?"

...

Max didn't even bat an eye as he continued injecting the Death Energy into him. At the same time, he started gathering the mixture of fire elemental mana and bloodline energy on his other hand in preparation to cast the [Calidus Brachium]. Swoosh!

Right then, he noticed a group of four Peak Five Star magus rapidly flying in his direction.

The supposed 'help' had arrived.

Clenching his blazing fist, he raised his fist when he heard the shout.

"Stop!"

Casting a brief glance at the group of five, he noticed they were from the royal family.

Then... he proceeded to ignore them and punched.

BANG!!

The demon's head exploded, the blazing fire turning the blood, brain matter, and even the pieces of bones into ashes.

Everyone, be it demons or humans, was stunned.

This early-stage Four Star mage had killed another Peak Five Star demon.

As his vision turned black and white, he watched the unrefined death energy gushed out from the demon's body and entered his body.

He couldn't pay attention when he killed O'mara, nor was he able to check afterwards since he had begun fighting this demon, but not only did he gain a lot more unrefined death energy from them when compared to the high-stage Five Star horned demons he had killed, it was also more vibrant, which he guessed must mean it was purer.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The group of five from the Royal family arrived in front of him.

The middle-aged man who had shouted earlier glared at him, and coldly asked. "Did you not hear me?"

"I did." Max nodded. "But why do I have to stop when you tell me to? Do you think this is the capital, or you are King Azaroth?"

"You lowlife! How dare—"

The man's expression turned ugly, and he was about to attack when one of the two women in the group raised her hand.

"Don't be angry, Uncle Armand. He is right. We are on the battlefield. Nobody other than Sir Alton and Lady Wyomin has the right to stop anyone from killing their enemies."

He glanced at the woman, and his eyes lit up when he saw how beautiful she was.

"You are the third princess? Serena Williams?"

The moment he asked, he saw the four's lips' twitch.

Chapter 657: Mana Crystals

A while later, Max awkwardly watched as the royal family's group left.

It turned out the beautiful woman wasn't the third princess, but her aunt, King Azaroth's sister, Martha Williams.

Though he noticed she wasn't bothered by his mistake, he felt awkward.

After a moment, he stopped thinking about it and turned around to return to Lily and others.

However, at that moment, he noticed several Five Star demons looking at him with hostile intentions, which made him pause. Then a deep frown appeared on his face.

If, even after noticing this, he tried to ignore them, they would surely attack him, thinking he was too exhausted to fight—which was true because he had very little bloodline energy left.

If he tried to fight them by just relying on his level two Barbarian God Physique and his measly early-stage Four Star mana cultivation, he would definitely lose.

Swoosh!

Just then, a Peak Four Star mage rushed over, his shoulder bleeding and his face pale.

"You alright, sir?"

"Hm?" Max found him familiar, "Aren't you that guy..."

"Yes, sir. I was the one who you saved in the fight earlier." The man nodded.

"Yes." Max nodded. "Aren't you worried the demons will target you if they see you with me?"

The man looked at his injuries, which the demonic energy was corroding every moment, and smiled wryly, "Even if they don't specifically target me, I probably wouldn't survive this fight."

"So... You came hoping I would be able to help you?" Max asked in an emotionless voice.

To his surprise, the man shook his head and said, "No, sir. I came to help you and repay your kindness for saving my life."

"Oh? What made you think I need your help?" Max raised a brow.

The man smiled and handed him a spatial ring. "I don't know if you need any help now or not. But there are some Mana crystals inside, which will surely help you one way or another."

Max was surprised when he heard him.

Generally, those in the First to Three Star realms used low-level mana stones.

Those in Four and mid-stage Five Star used mid-level mana stones, and those in high-stage Five Star to Emperor realm used high-grade mana stones.

To people in the Monarch realm and Supreme Magus realm, the mana stones stopped being useful. So, instead of mana stones, they used Mana Crystals, something that had much higher purity of concentrated mana.

Unlike the high grade mana stones that could be exchanged at the rate of over a hundred mid grade mana stones to one high grade mana stone in the central plains, where high grade mana stone mines were in a decent number, and a few hundred mid-

grade mana stones to one high grade in barren regions like the Green Leaf Kingdom, it was almost impossible to exchange the mana stones, no matter how many, for the mana crystals because even the mana rich central plains had a handful of mana crystal mines.

...

After giving him the spatial ring, the man turned around, wanting to leave, when he felt a hand grab his uninjured shoulder.

He turned his head around and saw Max frowning.

"What is it, sir?"

"No, nothing. You can go." Max said, pulling his hand back.

Just now, after hearing his words, he had checked the spatial ring and found there were indeed mana crystals, twenty two to be exact.

Despite having only heard of them, he knew how precious they were, so he decided to help him get rid of the demonic energy in his body, but just when he put a hand on his shoulder and was about to use some of his bloodline energy to force it out...

...the clump of devil blood gently trembled, and all the demonic energy was sucked out and absorbed by it in an instant.

When he noticed it seemed to have gained a hint of life after consuming the demonic energy, he frowned, worried that it would try to take control of him after it gained enough energy.

'I have to get rid of it as soon as possible.' He thought. He wanted to force it out the moment he had regained his senses, but he didn't have enough bloodline energy to do that. Even worse, he felt his bloodline energy was a little weaker than it, so if he wanted to force it out of his heart and body without struggling too much, he would need the Nascent Energy.

Of course, his Death Energy could also do it...

'No, it has already caused enough harm to my mana veins.' He thought, immediately throwing the thought out of his mind. The man confusedly nodded and was about to walk away when he heard Max ask, "What's your name?"

"It's Leo Feng, sir." The man answered, a smile appearing on his face. Although he wouldn't have minded it much even if he hadn't asked, he felt a weird sense of satisfaction knowing his savior cared enough, even if it was because of the mana crystals, to ask for his name.

"Leo..." Max muttered, suddenly remembering Ellie and pregnant Ella.

"Alright, Leo. Heal your wounds before you fight. I hope we can again."

Saying this, he grabbed him, Phoenix Wings's flapping with the boost of the last bits of the bloodline energy, and vanished from the place.

The Five Star demons tried following him but lost sight of him after just a few moments.

...

Thud!

Leo only felt a hand grabbing him before everything became blurry. When he regained his senses, he found himself crash landing near a group of humans, starting them.

"He helped me, huh?" He muttered, "But what's the use of living a little--"

Suddenly, his eyes widened because he realized there was no demonic energy left in his wounds and his injuries had stopped worsening, instead they were healing at a rapid speed, as if someone had given him a high grade healing pill.

...

Swoosh!

After dropping him in a relatively safe location, Max returned where Lily and others were.

Fortunately, even though he had two tough fights, not much time had passed, and they seemed to have only finished taking care of the demon group he left them to deal with.

Lily and Sera were the first to notice his sudden arrival. When they took a good look at him, they grew worried and rushed over.

"Are you alright?"

Chapter 658: Masked Ghost

Swoosh!

Splurt!

Emily appeared behind the last early-stage Four Star demon of the group and beheaded him with a swift slash.

Ha!

After glancing around, she saw the Fullers were killing the remaining demons and took a deep breath, calming down her blood flow and agitated mana.

After that, she started digging out the cores of the demons she had killed.

Right then,

Swoosh!

She noticed Lily and Sera rushed toward someone. When she looked over, she realized Max had returned.

However, when she took a good look at his face, especially his eyes, which had turned faded crimson pink, her brows furrowed in worry because the last time she saw his eyes change color like this was when he was suffering from his bloodline backlash.

Her fists clenched tight, and her jaws set. 'He had to push himself to the limits again?'

After taking a deep breath, she walked over to him, and while Lily and Sera asked if he was alright, she asked, "Are you able to suppress it?"

His words surprised the duo, while Max was confused for a moment when he saw her looking at his eyes and understood what she meant.

"It's not an issue." He answered somewhat awkwardly.

"Good." She nodded before turning around and continuing to dig out the demon cores.

...

Lily and Sera looked at Max in confusion before Lily asked, "What did sister Emily mean, young master?"

Max pointed to his eyes and said, "She thought I had bloodline backlash."

"Is that why your eyes look like that?" Sera asked, becoming more worried.

Max shook his head. "It's not because of the backlash but because I don't have any bloodline energy left. Until I recover some energy, they will stay like that."

The ladies sighed in relief but then became worried again.

Max let out a sigh, and before they could say anything, he said, "No need to worry. I can use mana stones to recover it."

The duo's expression eased before Lily waved her hand.

Fwoosh!

Ice elemental mana gushed out of her core, covering her in a cloud of white mist, which then followed her will, froze the nearby area, and created a small igloo-type structure around them.

"Young master, you recover your bloodline energy. We will make sure no one disturbs you." Saying this, she grabbed Sera's hand and walked out of the ice dome.

"These girls..." Max shook his head, smiling.

Then, wasting no time, he sat down cross-legged, and since recovering bloodline energy with mana stones would take quite some time—the time he couldn't afford to waste too much right now—he took out one of the mana crystals.

Logically, since Monarchs and Supreme Mages used them to cultivate, lower realm magus shouldn't be able to use them, like those below Five Star realm couldn't use high-grade mana stones.

However, despite having purer and more concentrated mana, the mana crystal could be used by anyone as long as they were careful and didn't absorb more mana than they could handle at a time.

In addition to this, the fact that they could help in resolving cultivation bottlenecks made them the most sought after cultivation resource.

Unfortunately, they were so rare that even King Magus usually didn't have them, and even if they got hold of some by some lucky coincidence, the number wouldn't exceed a dozen.

This was why he was caught off guard when Leo said the spatial ring had mana crystals.

'Did he find some inheritance?'

The thought crossed his mind. Then, as he recalled how he had managed to kill the Peak Four Star demon that had stopped him, he felt his guess should be more or less right.

'Well, it's his fortune.'

With this thought, he stopped thinking about everything and focused on the mana crystal in his hand.

...

The capital city... Royal Palace...

One hour after Magus left the city for the battlefield...

Sitting high on his throne, Azaroth was deep in thought, his gaze distant, while in front of him, a middle-aged man knelt on his both knees, cold sweat running down his back.

This man was none other than the silver-masked ghost who attacked the Garfield family with Dean and Count Wiley.

After returning to the palace, he tried to find the reason why Max hated his family and soon found one of the members of the Royal family had attacked Max's family, almost killing his father.

After a few moments, Azaroth looked at him and sighed, "If you hadn't forced Viscount Ashton to use extreme measures and suffer irrevocable damage, things would have been manageable. But now..."

"I'm sorry to say, but you have to sacrifice your life in apology to that kid."

When the masked ghost heard these words, his heart chilled, but he didn't raise his head or say anything in protest.

"Are you willing to do that?" Azaroth asked.

The masked ghost took a deep breath. "My King, if it can help the Royal family and you promise to protect my family, I am willing to do it."

"Good. You go and spend your remaining time with your family." Azaroth said.

The masked ghost stood up and bowed before leaving the palace.

When he was some distance away, he took out his communication crystal and sent someone a message before continuing on his way.

Meanwhile, Azaroth, sitting on his throne, rubbed his temple, "How troublesome!"

Right then, a graceful lady, almost as beautiful as the elegant elven city lord, Elena, appeared in front of him.

Taking a step forward, she turned her body and sat on his thigh before gently asking, "What is worrying you now, my king?"

Azaroth, noticing the teasing and somewhat exasperated tone in her voice, smiled wryly, "It seems one of the grand elders has either overcome with greed or has made some deal with those scums in the central plains."

"He has targeted the special bloodline boy who you must have heard about in the last few days."

"I don't understand." The lady, who was Azaroth's first wife and Eric's mother, shook her head. "What's the exact problem? Is it the grand elder contacting those people or him targeting the boy?"

"It's the latter." Azaroth sighed.

Chapter 659: Slaughter [1]

"Oh? The boy has an impressive background?" The queen asked.

When she saw Azaroth shake his head, her delicate brows rose ever so slightly. "Then what's the problem?"

"That kid... he isn't simple." Azaroth said, a solemn light flickering in his eyes, "I can't properly put it in words, but when I laid eyes on him, my instincts screamed at me to be his friend or at least not to become his enemy."

The queen's previous somewhat carefree expression disappeared when she heard him, and a gleam flashed in her eyes.

"You sure about it?" She asked,

Azaroth caressed her cheek with a finger and asked while looking deep in her eyes, a hint of smile in his eyes, "Even an ordinary King Mage would believe his instincts, let alone me."

The queen nodded and asked, "Then, what are you going to do now?"

"I'll give him the masked ghost, the guy who just left. Since only he has acted against his family, killing him would hopefully sate his anger."

"What if it did not?" The queen asked,

"If it did not..." Azaroth muttered, his gaze becoming vacant as she stared in the distance. "It will... it definitely will."

"Stop being so worried then." The queen said, placing her head on his shoulder and looking at him with her limpid eyes.

...

Swoosh!

Bang! Boom!

Ahhhhh!

"Elder Bajj! Please help. Ah! Noooo—"

Splurt!

Until a few minutes after Max started recovering his bloodline energy, the group's situation was good. No strong demons had come to attack them. When some Five Star demon came, the Fuller high-stage Five Star mage, elder Bajj, Lily, and other Five Star Fullers would handle them.

But just a minute ago, a group of fifty suddenly appeared. The number wasn't a problem since the Fullers' group also had over fifty people, but the problem was there were three high-stage Five Star and a dozen at the mid-stage and early-stage Five Star demons among them, severely overpowering the group.

Lily went all out but could barely handle one of the three high-stage Five Star demons, while elder Bajj tried to stop the second one, but after just a minute, he was on the verge of death.

As for the last high-stage Five Star demon, Pauline, Sera, and a few of the Fuller Five Star magus were fighting him, but they clearly wouldn't last long.

Pauline's full body armor was almost destroyed, and she was supporting several injuries throughout her body. Sara was also injured because her strong defenses weren't strong enough for the demon.

Since the strongest of the group were having such a hard time, it was only to be expected the rest would fare even worse.

In just a few minutes, over a dozen of the Fullers had lost their lives, while most of the others were seriously injured.

Just now, it was the last cry of a peak Four Star Fuller mage before she was decapitated.

The demon put her mouth on her neck and sucked her blood dry in a few seconds before throwing it away and chuckling.

"Keke, how delicious! Good thing I joined this group or I would've left out on these treats."

"I don't think it was a good decision, though." Just as she wiped her mouth, she heard these words that sent chills down her spine.

Before she could do anything, she found her vision shifting.

'Huh? It's like I'm falling.' This was the last she had before she lost consciousness, her head having fallen to the ground.

Max, who had just left the Ice Dome after recovering half of his bloodline energy, looked around, his expression turning grim.

He had already noticed when the demon group arrived, but wanting to recover a little more bloodline energy and also wanting to give the group a wake-up call so they would start taking the battles seriously because his presence had seemed to have given them a sense of satisfaction, he decided to wait, but it seemed his decision wasn't right.

No matter how much he thought he wasn't their bodyguard and that deaths were normal in a battle of this scale, he couldn't help but feel a little guilty.

If he had just stopped recovering when he noticed them, he could've saved many of them, and Pauline, Sera, Emily, and Lily wouldn't have suffered so much... These thoughts kept resurfacing in his mind.

Ha!

Taking a deep breath, he glanced in Emily's direction... his eyes flashing with a vicious glint when he saw her bloody figure, barely able to hold her sword.

Swoosh!

He appeared in front of the three demons—two early-stage and one mid-stage Four Star—that were attacking her and grabbed the necks of two early-stage ones.

"If not for the situation, I would very much like to torture you until you beg me to kill you." He uttered in a bone chilling, cold voice before clenching his fingers and squashing their necks into a meat paste.

Bang!

He then turned to the mid-stage demon and punched his head, killing him too.

Thud!

Behind him, when Emily saw him, she felt the last bits of her strength leave her, and she slumped to the ground, her eyelids becoming heavy. Still, there was a small, satisfied smile on her bloody face because she had heard what he said to those demons.

After killing them, he picked her up, feeling his heart hurt when he scanned her body. Although she didn't have severe injuries, she had many minor to mid wounds and several of her bones had fractured, her mana core had dried up, and she was completely drained.

If he was just a few seconds late...

He didn't even want to think about it. Swoosh!

He took her to the ice dome, took out a clean mattress from his spatial ring, and gently laid her on top of it.

After giving her a few Grade three healing pills and injecting some of his bloodline energy into her body to help her recover faster, he gently said, "You sleep for a while, alright?"

Emily looked at him with her blurry eyes and nodded.

Before leaving the ice dome, he mixed his bloodline energy into mana and reinforced the structure so it wouldn't easily fall if some stray attacks landed on it.

...

Chapter 660: Slaughter [2]

As he stepped out of the Ice Dome, a ruthless look appeared in his eyes.

Fwoosh!

His mana and bloodline energy flared, and Phoenix Wings materialized on his back.

Because of the chaos, no one noticed the slight change in the ambient mana caused by the activation of Phoenix Wings.

Swoosh!

The wings flapped, and he turned into a streak of crimson pink light, heading in Pauline and Sera's direction.

Bang!

The moment he appeared beside the demon, startling him, he punched him in the gut, making him spit out a mouthful of blood and sending him staggering back.

"How dare you, insect!" The demon shouted in rage as the scales on his cheeks emitted a blood red light that covered his whole body.

Though he noticed Max was just an early-stage Four Star mage, seeing how he managed to catch him off guard and give him a punch that almost destroyed his innards, he didn't dare to believe what his divine sense told him and immediately activated his bloodline ability—Blood Rage.

Pauline, Sera, and the other Fullers magus fighting by their sides heaved a sigh of relief when they saw Max appear.

However, when they saw the already terrifyingly strong demon become even stronger, they grew worried.

"Watch out! He is stro--" Pauline and Sera shouted out, but the last words stuck in their throats when they watched the next scene unfold.

Swoosh!

His expression unchanged, Max appeared in front of the demon once again, grabbed one of his hands, and pulled him toward him, his knee rising to meet his chest with force.

The demon was completely powerless, unable to resist in the slightest.

Then,

Bang!

Crack!

His knee connected with the demon's chest. After a loud bang, the crisp sound of the demon's ribs snapping resounded.

Snap!

Without any delay in between, Max twisted the demon's arm he was holding, dislocating it from the shoulder. Bang!

Then he slammed him on the ground, put a leg on his back, and pulled out the hand from its sockets.

"Let me go! Ah! What are you—NOOOO!!!" The rapid attacks had disoriented the demon. When he recovered his senses, he was lying face first on the ground, and his hand was being pulled out, causing him to let out a miserable cry.

Pauline, Sera, and other Five Star Fullers shuddered when they saw the gory scene. Except for Sera, who closed her eyes, the others watched it with crazed looks on their faces, enjoying it.

Was it inhuman of them to feel joy in the demon's suffering? They didn't think it was nor did they care.

Wasn't it enjoying tormenting them just a few moments ago? Didn't he also enjoy ripping a few of their friends apart with his bare hands, smashing their heads, ripping out their hearts, and eating them with relish?

Max didn't hurry to kill him. Instead, he grabbed one of his legs, broke its bones, and then...

Snap... snap... snap

Splurt!

"AHHHHH!!!"

...pulled it out, causing a fountain of blood to erupt out while the demon's screams echoed, attracting the other demons and humans' attention. While the humans cheered in joy and felt a hope arise in their hearts, the demons felt fearful and angry.

As Max had noticed before, this group was unlike the horned demon group that came with the intention of dying.

So, when they saw Max torturing one of the strongest of them, those in the Three Star and Four Star wanted to retreat.

The weaker Five Star demons also felt the same, but then they heard the shout of the other two high-stage Five Star demons.

"Stop or we'll butcher all of your companions."

Max frowned when he heard this. Then he clenched his fist and...

"STOP!!"

BANG!

Amidst the enraged shouts of the two high-stage demons, he punched the demon's head, causing it to burst apart.

Seeing their companion die, the high-stage demons went mad. However, instead of charging toward him, they activated their bloodline ability and started attacking Lily and Fullers in front of them, wanting to kill them before joining forces to fight him.

Swoosh!

Immediately after killing the demon, Max's wings flapped, and he rushed toward the high-stage Five Star demon, who was about to kill the half-dead, elder Bajj, and other severely injured Five Star Fuller magus.

Though he wanted to be a little selfish and save Lily first, he knew while Lily could last for a few seconds more, elder Bajj and others would not.

Though he managed to reach the demon before he could kill them, he wouldn't be able to stop him because the demon was ready to endure his attack to kill them.

The reason the demon was willing to take the risk despite seeing how effortlessly he killed the demon earlier was because he knew Max needed a few moments to gather energy to use an attack strong enough to kill him—the energy he couldn't gather because he had rushed over in a hurry.

Eyes flashing, Max chose to disregard the danger and took out the Thunder Sword.

The moment he did, he felt four pairs of eyes on him. But ignoring them, he slashed with all his might.

Shiing!

Though he neither used mana nor bloodline energy on it, backed by his physical strength, the sword blade cut into the demon's tough skin, then flesh and bones, decapitating him.

Shua!

As his head flew into the air, the demon's eyes were opened wide, an incredulous expression on his face. He could not believe he had died.

'How?' He questioned in his mind.

Then, right before his consciousness entered the eternal slumber, he saw the sword in Max's hand.

'Ah, so it was that sword.'

Swoosh!

Immediately after killing him, Max's wings flapped, and he rushed in the last high-stage demon's direction, who had a stunned look on his face.

When he saw Max rushing over, he immediately stopped attacking Lily—who had suffered more injuries in this short while than she suffered in the last one minute—and turned around and fled.

When the other demons registered what had happened, they also left their opponents and turned to flee.

Max had no intention of sparing anyone.

In the few moments he took to catch up to the high-stage demon, he had circulated his mana and bloodline energy and covered his sword blade with it.

Swoosh!

The moment he caught up to him, he slashed toward his neck. The demon did his best to defend, taking out a scarlet shield, but it was of no use.

Shiing!

"Nooooo!"

The shield was cut in two, then hand, and as he gave the final cry, his neck was also severed.

It all happened so fast that those below the Five Star realm, except Lily, didn't see anything. By the time they heard the demon's horrified cry and saw his head flying and his body rushing away, Max had disappeared from the place.

As the Five Star Fuller magus and Lily followed him with their gazes, Max started chasing the fleeing demons and reaping their lives.

When he finally stopped sometime later, all the demons had died, their blood dying the ground red.

Huu!

Max heaved a deep breath and ordered, "Retrieve the demon cores."

All those who could move, including the Five Stage magus, rushed to obey him, no hesitation in their movements.