

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

Chapter 1051 - 1051: The Fall of a Mighty Force

[1,620 words]

Under the beautiful night sky, people were doing their own business. The Hervian City never rested, as every second there were always people going about their activities. With millions of denizens and many places to visit, there was so much they could do here.

The market that opened during the day would be replaced by the market that opened at night. Many big restaurants also never closed, operating with a shift system for their staff. There were also entertainment areas such as the red district, where brothels seemed to never grow quiet.

After the war against the devils in the Gardum Kingdom ended, the atmosphere still felt joyful, as the people could finally go about their lives without constantly worrying about the devil threat.

The only ones still concerned with the devil problem were the higher-ups of the kingdom.

Just because the war in the Gardum Kingdom was finished did not mean the entire problem with the devils was over. The devils still occupied a large part of this world, and they needed to help others repel them.

Even at this very second, there were people who had to face the devils in life-and-death battles in other parts of the world. They were doing their best to fight the devils.

At this moment, one of the strongest sects in the world was collapsing after the sudden deaths of its leader and several elders.

The devils invaded the sect not long after that, and with the leadership vacant and powerful devils attacking, the sect could not hold out. The place that had become the home of millions of people now had to be abandoned.

The civilians and disciples who had lived in the sect's territory for so long had to evacuate under the devils' assault.

"Keep holding on! We have to defend this place until all the civilians are evacuated!" one of the sect elders shouted to his disciples.

However, the devils were strong and far more numerous, and they kept pushing them back. Without the presence of the sect master and some of their strongest elders, they lacked the power to hold the devils off.

The devils killed many of the disciples without mercy. There were a few devils who were more conspicuous than the others, as they were truly powerful and had slain the most.

One of the devils crazily swept his spear at the disciples, slashing through their bodies. Blood dropped like rain.

Another devil wielded a sword, and no one could withstand his strikes. Some elders tried to stop him, but they only met their end beneath that devil's sword. His sword technique was ruthless and powerful.

Another was a burly man wielding a hammer, smashing everything in his path without anyone able to stop him. Everyone who met his hammer was turned into meat paste.

"Ahahaha, kill them all! Don't let any of them escape!" the one using the hammer shouted crazily.

The devils grew even more frenzied. Some of them reached the civilians who were trying to evacuate and began their killing spree. The scene was truly horrifying, as there was no one who could stop the devils here. It was pure carnage.

"Help! Argh!"

"Help! Somebody, help!"

"My son! My son, arghhh!"

Only a scene full of despair could be seen.

That kind of despairing and horrifying situation was what the people of this world experienced whenever the devils succeeded in occupying a territory. It was something that some parts of the Gardum Kingdom had also experienced in the past.

If in other parts of the world, like in that sect, the devils could slaughter freely because there was no one who could stop them, then the opposite was happening here.

For example, something like what was happening in the mansion where Aldrian was staying at this moment.

He grabbed Selis the succubus by the head with one hand and closed his eyes as he looked into her memories. Her eyes rolled back as extreme pain assaulted her, and her body spasmed violently.

In their surroundings, the four dead bodies of succubi lay on the ground. They had died in various manners.

One had been decapitated. One had her head crushed. One died with a horrified expression frozen on her face. The other's body had turned greenish and purplish, with all her veins bulging, as if poison had spread throughout her body.

Selis was the only one still alive, as Aldrian continued to look into her memories.

After a few moments, Aldrian finally released her head, causing her to collapse as her head hit the ground heavily. Without looking at her again, he released blue flames from his palm and spread them toward all the succubi's bodies.

The flames instantly engulfed them and quickly consumed their corpses. Their bodies rapidly turned into charcoal before breaking apart.

"Arghhh!" Selis, who was still alive, screamed hysterically in pain for a few moments before her voice turned silent as the flames burned her entire body and reduced her to ashes.

There was nothing left of them.

Aldrian released a breath to calm himself. Looking at those memories made him want to go home and pounce on Sylphia and Baek Jimin.

Although he felt disgusted looking into the memories of those succubi, he still had to do it to obtain important information. And he truly hit the jackpot, as this one succubus actually had considerable influence in the devils' army that had been sent into this world.

That was why he finally knew who his main target in this world was and where he could find her. The leader who had been tasked by the Vampire King to command all the devil troops in this world.

Another succubus with cultivation at peak pseudo immortal stage.

Alicia Reiver Velanis.

With him finally knowing the identity of the leader and also where to find her, he decided to make a move against her as his primary target after he took care of the devils problem in the Gardum Kingdom.

Aldrian then returned to the same spot where he had been cultivating earlier and closed his eyes. He continued to cultivate as if what had just happened here did not matter to him at all.

On the next day, news of what had happened to one of the strongest sects in the world reached King Darius. Inside his throne hall, a knight was kneeling on one knee delivering the report, which made the king and his advisor frown.

"What? The Heavenly Pillar Sect has fallen?" King Darius said.

This was news he did not expect to receive at this time. The Heavenly Pillar Sect was one of the strongest sects, and all this time they had been able to hold the devils back fairly well. Because of their existence, the devils in that region could not freely move forward to support other devil troops that had already advanced into other territories.

So their fall was truly shocking for the king.

"What happened to Sect Master Ye?" King Darius asked.

"We heard that before the devils' invasion, Sect Master Ye, along with several grand elders who were the pillars of the sect, had already died, but we did not know how they died."

King Darius and his advisor were of the same mind. For the sect master and several grand elders of one of the most powerful forces in the world to die before the invasion, it had to be part of the devils' scheme.

"Alright, you may return to your post," King Darius said, and the knight left the hall.

The king then looked at his advisor.

"If the Heavenly Pillar Sect has fallen, then the surrounding nations will be in danger of a pincer attack. The devils could pass unhindered along the sides of their territories, and it could create chaos. Their fall would come much faster," he said.

Advisor Ceraz nodded with a frown. "Yes, and it would not be long before the entire Eburum Continent falls if that happens."

As they were still discussing this matter, an imperial guard suddenly rushed into the hall and dropped to one knee.

"Your Majesty, His Excellency Aldrian is visiting the palace."

Hearing that, King Darius stood up with an enthusiastic expression.

"Then what are you waiting for? Bring him in. Didn't I tell you to let him enter directly if he visits?"

The knight lowered his head. "My apologies, Your Majesty. I will bring His Excellency here." He then rushed out of the hall.

A few moments later, Aldrian entered the hall, and the king hurried down from his throne to approach him.

"Your Excellency, to think you would visit this morning. How is the mansion? Do you like it?" King Darius asked.

Aldrian nodded with a smile. "It is nice, Your Majesty. There is no problem with it."

"I am glad you like it," the king said.

Aldrian's expression then turned calm. "Your Majesty, I would like to discuss the matter regarding the devils," he said, which made King Darius's expression turn solemn.

"I see. Then let us move to a more suitable place to discuss it. Coincidentally, I have just received bad news that I would also like to discuss with Your Excellency."

They then walked toward the same glass house where Aldrian had been brought when he first met the king.

"So what does Your Excellency want to talk about?" the king asked after they settled inside the glass house.

Aldrian then told them what had happened last night, which made the king and his advisor shocked.

The king instantly stood up and slightly bowed to Aldrian after hearing what had happened.

"My apologies, Your Excellency, for you experiencing something like that. Our security is truly lacking."

Aldrian waved his hand. "No, you do not have to apologize, Your Majesty. Those devils are strong, and I doubt that any of your guards could have stopped them. Rather, I am thankful that those devils came to me willingly."

King Darius and his advisor raised their eyebrows. Aldrian smiled as he continued.

"I think we could end the war of this world much more quickly than we anticipated."

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Chapter 1052 - 1052: Frustration

[1,648 words]

In the place where the leader of the devils of this world stayed, Alicia the succubus, who was tasked by the vampire king to be responsible for the world's domination, received the report of the war.

"Our force that was tasked with the Heavenly Pillar Sect invasion has already done their task wonderfully. Although there are some disciples and elders who managed to escape, we have already burned down the sect's foundation," a succubus reported not far from her.

"With this, we can start advancing to the next plan regarding the Ebirum Continent. The two nations that border the sect will be vulnerable to a pincer attack," she added.

Hearing that, Alicia nodded in satisfaction. At least there was a breakthrough on one of the fronts that had become their thorn.

Sending their strongest succubi squad from the Dark Lily group was truly a good decision, although there was a risk of being discovered by the cultivators of the sect while they were draining their targets.

As long as they were men, they could be dealt with by the combined effort of the Dark Lily's members.

"What about Aldrian? I believe they said they were making their move last night," Alicia asked.

"That... we have lost contact with Lady Selis and her group since last night. We also did not receive any report from our puppets in the Gardum Kingdom. I'm afraid that the mission has failed, my lady."

Silence followed.

Alicia slightly frowned and adjusted her sitting position, which caused the single piece of cloth covering her body to shift slightly.

Selis and her group failed?

The group that could take down the powerful sect master of the Heavenly Pillar Sect and several of its grand elders actually failed to take care of a lone man?

Although she had considered this as one of the possible outcomes after hearing how powerful Aldrian was, it still came as a surprise. She had been more inclined to believe that the strongest members of the Dark Lily were enough to deal with Aldrian.

She had never heard of a failed mission coming from Selis and her small succubi squad.

But now she and her squad had truly failed.

This made her question Aldrian's sexual orientation, since he was able to withstand the combined attack of the five strongest succubi in the Dark Lily group.

However, Alicia's expression soon turned calm again. She became even more curious about Aldrian, and she could not help but feel challenged. No matter the reason why Selis and her squad failed, she felt that she wanted to try Aldrian herself.

She wanted to test whether Aldrian could withstand her technique. Even if Aldrian was not straight, she felt challenged to make him change.

The fact that Selis and her squad failed meant that this man was different from the others, and as a succubus, she was interested in subduing a man like Aldrian. She believed in her own ability, which was far stronger than Selis and the other succubi.

In the past, when the vampire king gathered her with the entire Dark Lily group, numbering in the tens for an orgy, she was the last one who could withstand his overwhelming libido.

When all the succubi were sprawled everywhere, exhausted, the vampire king continued to fuck her for days before he was finally satisfied.

If she could satisfy the vampire king, one of the four devil overlords of the First Heaven, then she believed she could ensnare Aldrian. Subduing someone like Aldrian would become another achievement for her, and save them from the threat of losing this world.

She smiled as she looked at the succubus who had delivered the report. The succubus remained silent, waiting for her words.

"For now, focus on the Ebirum Continent. Order the troops there to keep advancing since the Heavenly Pillar Sect is already gone. As for the Gardum Kingdom, let me think about how I will deal with Aldrian first," she said.

"Yes, my lady," the succubus replied before leaving the hall.

Left alone, Alicia looked at the empty hall with a lingering smile. She reclined lazily, her posture shifting in a way that made her sensual body appear even more alluring.

'Ah, I cannot wait to meet him. I wonder if I can tame him,' she thought.

On the next day, the news of the fall of the Heavenly Pillar Sect had already reached the populace of the Gardum Kingdom. They were talking about it as a tragedy for the world, since one of the great powers had fallen. It made them lament the fate of the sect, which had a long history in this world.

This kind of news was not new to them. In the past, there had already been great nations and powerful organizations that fell because of the devils. The fall of the Heavenly Pillar Sect only added another name to the list of great powers that had already collapsed in this world.

This also made the populace feel grateful to the heavens that their kingdom did not share the same fate as those powers. They felt truly blessed that someone like Aldrian had come to their kingdom.

In the capital city, the situation this day was more festive, as many nobles from across the kingdom had suddenly arrived. The denizens of the capital did not know why so many nobles had come, but those who were aware began spreading the news about the banquet that would be held tonight.

A banquet to celebrate their victory against the devils within the kingdom.

It was natural that the common people had not heard about it, since the royal family, as the host, announced it only to the nobles and kept it from the general populace.

Although the populace had their own opinions regarding a banquet being held at such a time, when the devils were wreaking havoc in other parts of the world, they did not openly express them.

Even though it might have seemed insensitive, they believed that a banquet for the nobles who had fought on the frontlines did no harm.

As the night kept approaching, the number of nobles arriving in the capital continued to increase. The streets became busy as noble carriages passed through them. Sometimes, on a single street, three noble families could be seen arriving at the same time.

At this moment, inside one of the carriages moving toward the nobles' district, Marquess Beruin was looking out at the street. He was alone, and his expression appeared normal.

But inwardly, he was thinking about the situation he was in. The fact that the devils had lost in the Gardum Kingdom so swiftly, without him being able to do anything, was truly beyond his expectations.

He had not even had the time to plan anything against Aldrian before Aldrian and the kingdom's troops swept away all the devil forces on the frontlines.

Thanks to that, it attracted the attention of his highest leader, Lady Alicia, and she even sent one of the elite succubi squads after Aldrian.

However, the fact that he had not heard anything regarding this matter even after Lady Alicia sent those succubi led him to conclude that they had failed. The squad of succubi that could easily ensnare a peak pseudo immortal cultivator had actually failed.

And for Lady Alicia to only order him and the others in the Gardum Kingdom to keep watching Aldrian was a sign that she had still not found a way to deal with him.

'Why did the situation in the Ebirum Continent not happen here? Aish, that bastard, where the hell did he come from?' he thought in frustration.

He was truly pissed off at Aldrian's existence for ruining all of their plans. He could not do anything now, as he did not want to attract unnecessary attention from Aldrian.

After the attack two days ago, Aldrian would surely be more wary of any tricks from the devils.

'Whatever, I will do what I can for now. I have to keep hiding from that bastard's attention. There might be an opportunity in the future for us to kill him.'

The sun had already set, and the night sky returned once again. The streets leading toward the royal palace were crowded with carriages as many nobles made their way to the palace.

On one side of the palace grounds, many carriages were already arranged neatly, and there were comfortable resting areas prepared for the coachmen so they could wait for their masters who were attending the banquet.

Many nobles had already entered the banquet hall, wearing their finest attire to display their status. Some nobles did not come alone and brought their family members along.

Most of them brought their descendants, especially if they had daughters.

They made their daughters appear as attractive as possible. The sight of so many beauties in the hall made the young masters present unable to look away from them. Many fragrant flowers passed before their eyes, as if waiting to be picked.

They felt grateful that their parents had asked them to accompany them on this occasion so they could indulge in such a pleasing sight.

However, they knew why there were far more beauties at this banquet compared to those in the past. As descendants of noble families, they could sense the schemes and intentions behind the other nobles.

It was all to attract the big fish who had become the target of many nobles tonight.

The one who had become the hottest topic since his appearance in the war.

Who else could it be but the man named Aldrian?

It was not uncommon to attract someone using beauties. However, some young masters present felt bitter, as their crushes were also being used as tools to attract Aldrian.

They could not show their displeasure, since they understood that each noble family had its own interests. Moreover, Aldrian's achievements were real, and he was worthy of receiving all this attention.

After waiting for a while, the time for the banquet to begin arrived. All the invited nobles had already gathered inside the large banquet hall.

However, at the last moment, another figure stepped into the hall, instantly drawing the attention of many nobles.

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Chapter 1053 - 1053: Knowing the Targets

[1,681 words]

The moment Aldrian made his entrance, all gazes instantly directed at him. For most of the nobles, this was the first time they had seen him directly.

Many of them had only heard about Aldrian from the stories that spread, so the moment they finally saw him, they were taken aback.

His strikingly handsome face was too difficult to ignore, as it always attracted attention. His face was perfect without any blemish. His long red hair was tied in a ponytail. He wore noble attire that elevated his charm to the heavens.

Even without saying anything, his charisma already exuded naturally, making anyone who looked at him feel that they should follow behind him.

Truly like a human that the heavens had spent their time creating.

Many wondered how someone this perfect could exist. He still looked young, handsome, and powerful.

The young masters could only sigh in defeat. With a man like that, they doubted any of them had a chance to compete. Even if they compared the most genius of their generation, they were still far apart.

For the young ladies, looking at Aldrian made them unable to look away. Their faces blushed, and a sudden desire rose in their hearts.

How could they not be attracted to him after seeing him right in front of them?

Aldrian walked toward a vacant space, and although his expression was calm, he was actually observing all the nobles in the hall. With this place already inside his domain, he could check everyone here much more easily.

He wanted to see if his suspicion that there were more situations like Marquess Beruin was correct. He needed to confirm it at this moment.

Because the devils used a possession technique on their targets, he could not check them using normal means like the system. The easiest way he could think of was to detect them using karma laws.

He looked for those who had a strange karmic thread that should not be there, a karmic thread connected to the void, and he knew that thread was connected to the one who controlled the body here.

He had already seen Marquess Beruin, and he could still see that karmic thread, which meant that the devil was still controlling him despite the devils' defeat in the Gardum Kingdom.

He then looked at the others, and he finally saw it. His suspicion was confirmed, as there were a few nobles here with the same karmic thread as Marquess Beruin. The number was small, as there were only four, including Marquess Beruin.

Aldrian did not find it surprising that the number was small, as the possession technique was not easy and not anyone could use it.

He did not know whether these people were connected to the same devil or if each of them had their own devil. The most important thing was that he needed to get rid of the devils' control over them.

Aldrian then stood alone while the surrounding nobles glanced at him. They wanted to start a conversation with him, but before they could, they saw movement from the balcony on the second floor.

A royal staff member stepped forward onto the high balcony that overlooked all the nobles below. The nobles who saw him gradually fell silent, knowing that the banquet was about to start.

"Thank you, esteemed ladies and gentlemen, for taking your time to attend this banquet," the staff member said.

"Now that the time for the banquet to begin has arrived, without further ado, let us greet our great king."

The staff member then took a few steps back, and a few seconds later, King Darius made his appearance on the balcony.

"We greet the chosen one, Your Majesty!" everyone shouted as they slightly bowed to the king.

"Rise," King Darius said, which made them straighten their bodies.

"Thank you for coming all this way to attend this banquet. I know that some of you have been questioning why I am holding a victory banquet at this moment when the devils' threat has not entirely disappeared from this world. This banquet may seem insensitive toward other nations that are still engulfed in war," the king continued.

"That is fine if you think that way, but for me, I believe it is acceptable for us to celebrate, even if only for a moment. We have just experienced a war that devastated our kingdom, and we lost many things. This celebration is our right as the people of this kingdom."

"Also, one of the reasons I held this banquet is to strengthen our bond with each other. This banquet is not only to celebrate but also to be a place for us to finally gather together, to interact with one another after such a tiring war."

"As nobles, each of you must have different interests and opinions toward one another, yet the war united us all. I want to keep it that way. I want us to remain united, and I hope that this banquet can at least become the means that keeps us united."

The king then looked at Aldrian with a smile.

"And on this occasion, I would like to introduce someone whose name you must have already heard. He is His Excellency, Sir Aldrian, the one who greatly helped us in the war. It is not an exaggeration to say that we were able to win this war because of his help."

The others looked at Aldrian, and Aldrian himself smiled and slightly nodded his head in greeting. Although that gesture considered arrogant, especially in the presence of the king, they did not say anything.

King Darius also did not comment on it and instead continued.

"Sir Aldrian came from a faraway place that you will come to know in the future. He has already become our friend, our ally, so treat him well."

He then took a glass of wine from his side. The others also received their own glasses of wine from the butlers.

The king lifted his glass. "This is for all of us, for our victory, for our new friend, for our future."

"For our future," the others shouted before all of them drank the wine.

After drinking, King Darius showed a smile. "Please enjoy the banquet, ladies and gentlemen. We have prepared the best feast for you." He then took a step back, and soft music played by the royal music corps began to resound across the hall.

As expected, the moment the king left the balcony, the nobles near Aldrian instantly rushed toward him and introduced themselves. Aldrian interacted with them amicably and spoke with anyone who approached him.

He also glanced at the ones he had already marked as targets. They seemed careful and did not approach him immediately like the other nobles. Aldrian smiled as he continued to entertain those who wanted to speak with him.

The nobles who brought their daughters also introduced them to him, and he was quite overwhelmed by it. There were tens of them who tried to matchmake him with their daughters, from duke-level families to much lower-ranking nobles.

After a few minutes, one of his targets finally made a move as a noble approached him. It was a middle-aged man, and he brought along his daughter.

Some of the nobles made way for him, which made Aldrian realize that this man must be a high-ranking noble. The moment he reached Aldrian, he smiled.

"Your Excellency, my apologies if I disturb you, but allow me to introduce myself. I am Duke Vareden, and this is my daughter, Vanesa."

His daughter gave a respectful gesture to Aldrian with a smile. She was truly among the best in regard to beauty compared to the other young ladies here. Her long blue hair was like waves on the sea, and her blue eyes gave off a serene aura.

However, Aldrian focused on something else, as he was quite surprised that a devil had even possessed a duke-level noble.

As a middle pseudo immortal stage cultivator with great influence, he might be the most important devil's puppet in this kingdom. Duke Vareden was the strongest among the targets, and Aldrian decided to start with him first tonight.

Aldrian smiled at him and nodded. "Duke Vareden and Miss Vanesa, it is nice to meet you."

"Your Excellency, my daughter said that she wanted to discuss something with you—" Before Duke Vareden could finish his words, a commotion was heard behind them.

As he and some of the nobles looked toward the source of it, they saw that King Darius was already on the same floor as them with his family.

King Darius, his wife Queen Radena, and their three children. The first child was, of course, Prince Martis. The second was another son, the second prince, Prince Ribelin, and the third was Princess Xena.

Aldrian had already met all of them.

The first time he saw the queen was in the palace, as she rarely got out of it.

It was the same for the second prince. As he focused more on becoming a strategist, he spent most of his time reading compared to his two siblings. That was why Aldrian did not see him on the battlefield, as he remained in the palace instead.

The king and his family walked toward Aldrian, which made the others step aside for them.

All of them were truly dazzling.

King Darius looked authoritative and strong. The queen was a mature beauty who was difficult to ignore. The first prince looked truly handsome and gallant. The second prince looked wise and intelligent with his glasses. And Princess Xena?

Every man gulped when looking at her, as at this moment she was truly beautiful. Even without dressing up, she was already beautiful, but if she did, her beauty was unlike any other. Moreover, the faint blush on her face was something they had never seen before.

She was truly like an angel.

Even Vanesa, Duke Vareden's daughter, had to admit that the princess was superior to her in every aspect.

King Darius and his family reached Aldrian as he spoke to him with smile.

"Your Excellency, I hope that you are enjoying the banquet."

"Oh, I will, Your Majesty. I will. There is nothing lacking here," Aldrian replied.

"So, does Your Excellency already know who the spies are?" King Darius asked through voice transmission.

"Yes, I already know them. I will inform Your Majesty later," Aldrian replied.

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Chapter 1054 - 1054: Started

[1,594 words]

King Darius did not show anything on his face while he communicated with Aldrian through voice transmission. He only smiled and then spoke to Aldrian normally. Aldrian also talked to the other members of the royal family without showing anything strange.

When he finally talked to Princess Xena, she was blushing. The princess seemed more bashful today in Aldrian's view.

The queen, seeing her daughter like that, smiled and spoke to Aldrian.

"Xena never really put much attention on her appearance, at least not until today."

"Mother." Xena wanted to shout at her mother with her face red, but she could not as she was in the middle of the banquet. They had also become the center of attention, and she did not want to give her family a bad image.

Aldrian smiled and nodded. "I see. Then I am truly lucky today, as I have been given the chance to see Your Highness after dressing up. You are truly beautiful today, Your Highness."

Hearing that, the princess's face became even redder, and she could not help lowering her head and smiling.

"Thank you," she replied.

Aldrian could sense that she was truly happy.

"Your Excellency, you could let Xena accompany you. I know that you are disturbed by those nobles who keep bringing their daughters to you. With Xena beside you, they will not dare to approach you," the queen's voice transmission came.

"You could also communicate with my husband more freely while avoiding the suspicion of the spies."

Aldrian raised his eyebrows. Although that sounded reasonable, he knew that this kind of show was also like a declaration from the royal family that he was off limits to Princess Xena. Well, at least for tonight.

With her beside him, no nobles would be brave enough to simply push their daughters toward him.

That would not be appropriate.

In the end, on this occasion, the royal family had their own interests. Even though they were in the middle of their plan to get rid of the spies, they were still doing this kind of trick. He already imagined how the other noble families would see the royal family at this banquet.

They would think that the royal family was using their status to prevent any other women from competing fairly.

They used their status to warn them that he was off limits.

That kind of thing would raise displeasure in the minds of the nobles who had brought their daughters, yet they could not do anything about it.

Moreover, with the princess's stunning appearance tonight, they would agree that she far outshone the other ladies.

Still, Aldrian thought that it was a good offer, and he nodded.

Queen Radena, after receiving his approval, gave a sign to her daughter to accompany him. Xena felt her face growing hotter, and with all the courage she could gather, she spoke to him.

"Uh, um, Your Excellency, would you like to dance with me?"

Aldrian slightly raised his eyebrows, but then he smiled. "Well, that should be me who asks. Would Your Highness give me the honor of a dance?"

Xena could not help but smile and nod. Under the watch of many nobles, they then walked toward the dancing area, where there were already couples dancing to the music.

Just like what the queen had said, no one approached him as they gave way for them.

Duke Vareden, who watched Aldrian go with the princess, felt inwardly frustrated.

'Damn it, if only there were no Princess Xena, we might have a chance to build a closer relationship with that bastard and learn more about him.' He then looked at his daughter and softly clicked his tongue.

His daughter could only watch them, as she also had to admit that the princess was much better than her.

Aldrian and Princess Xena then arrived at the dance area, and the couples near them gave space for them. Without waiting any further, they took their dancing stance, with Xena placing one of her hands on his shoulder while her other hand touched Aldrian's hand.

As for Aldrian's other hand, he placed it on her waist. She truly felt shy at this moment, and the blush on her face never left, it even became more obvious.

"My apologies, Your Excellency, but this is the first time I have danced with a man. All this time I have only danced with my dancing teacher. So if I make a mistake, please forgive me," the princess said in a small voice.

Aldrian nodded with a smile. "Well, it seems another honor is mine, to become the first male dancing partner of the princess. And do not worry, Your Highness, I will not mind even if you make a mistake."

Xena nodded, and then they started to dance. For Aldrian, his dancing skill came from watching how the nobles danced repeatedly and also from Sylphia, who made him practice dancing with her.

As a noble, dancing skill was necessary for him to socialize, that was what she told him.

He already had much experience with dancing, so he could move smoothly here. The princess was more or less the same, although sometimes there were movements that clearly showed she was nervous. Still, they danced nicely, and the sight of them even made the other couples envious.

Xena's expression, which had initially been shy, slowly turned into a smile. Her heart gradually calmed down. She saw his gaze resting on her, and he was still smiling, which made her shyly smile as well.

However, unknown to her, although he smiled at her, inside his mind he was communicating with King Darius through voice transmission.

"So who are they, Your Excellency?" the king asked. He was in the middle of talking with someone else.

"There are four of them. The first one is, of course, Marquess Beruin. The second one is Duke Vareden. The third one is a middle-aged woman wearing a red dress and has long brown hair on Your Majesty's left side. The fourth one is a middle-aged man with blond hair and a plump belly on Your Majesty's right side. The one wearing three rings on his right finger."

Hearing Aldrian's reply, King Darius did not show any change in his expression, but he was inwardly astonished. That was because there was a duke among them.

He then glanced at the other persons who had been described by Aldrian.

After knowing who they were, he became even more astonished. He wanted to grit his teeth in frustration, but he held himself back.

"The other two are Marchioness Iveline and Duke Beriklas. All of them are important nobles of this kingdom who have huge influence. Especially Duke Beriklas, whose commerce business spans across the kingdom and beyond," he said to Aldrian.

"It looks like those devils did not just take anybody to be possessed. They chose the ones who have great influence."

Aldrian, who was still dancing, replied, "That shows that the devils already learned everything about this world before the invasion a few years ago. The fact that they possessed them long before the invasion means that they had prepared far in advance before they attacked."

"With their preparation, it is no wonder many powers of this world were powerless against them. They had already grasped many of the weaknesses that could be exploited."

"Then are Your Excellency going to make your move after this?" King Darius asked.

"Is the room ready?" Aldrian asked.

"Yes, it is ready, Your Excellency."

"Good. Please be prepared in case that when I get rid of one of the bodies' possession techniques, the other bodies suddenly show a strange reaction. I will take Duke Vareden first."

"Yes, Your Excellency," the king replied. They had already discussed how to take care of the possible results from this plan.

Aldrian continued dancing, keeping his smile. After a few minutes of dancing, he finally told Princess Xena,

"Your Highness, my apologies, but it looks like we have to pause our dance for now. I will have to get rid of those devils' influence among the nobles," he said through voice transmission.

Hearing that, the princess was slightly stunned. But then she released a small sigh.

"Alright. Is there anything that I could help Your Excellency with?" she asked.

"Could you distract Duke Vareden's daughter for me? One of the spies is Duke Vareden."

Hearing that, she was truly astonished. She almost showed her shock, but she held it back. She glanced at Duke Vareden and his daughter for a second and nodded seriously.

"Alright."

After that, they continued dancing for a moment before they slowly stopped, which made some of those watching them wonder why they had stopped. They then left the dancing area, and with a courteous gesture, he excused himself.

"My apologies, Your Highness, but I will have to go to the restroom for a moment," Aldrian said.

The princess nodded with a smile before Aldrian left the hall. Princess Xena did not just stand there, she instantly approached Duke Vareden's daughter, Vanesa.

Vanesa, who stood not far from Duke Vareden, seemed to be interacting with some young masters and young misses. The moment Vanesa saw the princess approaching her, she stopped what she was doing. The others also turned to look at her.

"Your Highness," they said in greeting as Xena arrived in front of Vanesa with a smile. Xena nodded in response.

"Vanesa, it has been so long since we last talked to each other. Would you like to talk with me for a moment?" she said.

Vanesa was slightly stunned by the sudden invitation, but then she smiled. "Of course, Your Highness."

Some nobles who saw this were curious why the princess was approaching Duke Vareden's daughter. Duke Vareden himself also watched his daughter and narrowed his eyes in wonder.

However, while his and some other nobles' attention was on the princess, his body suddenly disappeared from the hall.

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Chapter 1055 - 1055: One Powerful Attack

[1,633 words]

Duke Vareden was still looking at his daughter, stunned by the sudden change in his surroundings. He appeared inside a dark room without even a single bit of light. He could not see anything.

Before he could take in what had happened, he found that he could not move his body. He wanted to shout, but he could not, and then someone touched his head.

Everything happened so fast that he did not have time to process anything before he felt a foreign energy invade his soul. He felt intense pain, which made his eyes roll backward.

Aldrian, who instantly started the method to break the connection between the devil that controlled Duke Vareden, was in full focus. He had never tried to sever this kind of possession technique before, but he had already simulated in his mind what he could do to make it happen.

On Duke Vareden's soul, the devil's influence, which manifested as darkness covering the soul wrapped in golden energy. Aldrian could sense strong karma laws and curse

laws within it, and Duke Vareden's true soul, or his real consciousness, was covered inside that darkness.

Because of that, the duke's real consciousness itself was in a sleep mode, or perhaps in a state between being awake and not awake. He believed that this possession technique could be dealt with if he destroyed the darkness covering the soul.

From all his experiences, he knew that his golden energy was the bane of any devil's power. This darkness, which carried strong karmic threads connected to the devil and even a curse, was something that could be destroyed by his golden energy.

However, if he only did that, then he could only save one person at a time. He wanted to save them all at the same time.

To do that, he first needed to know whether the one who cast this possession technique was a single individual or multiple individuals.

If there were multiple devils capable of using this possession technique, then it could not be helped, and he would have to cleanse them one at a time.

But if it was only one devil, then he wanted to try a counterattack that might force that devil to release all of his control over the bodies he possessed.

It was possible for one person to possess multiple people as long as they had a strong soul and could withstand the burden of controlling multiple bodies.

From these possibilities, Aldrian concluded that this might only be possible if the one who did it was an immortal.

An immortal who descended to the First Heaven.

He thought that way because if the devil was not yet an immortal, they would not have a soul strong enough to bear the burden of possessing multiple bodies. At most, they could possess one body at a time.

But the fact that there were multiple bodies, and all of them could carry out activities normally, showed that an immortal soul was the one that made it possible.

Aldrian truly hoped that this had been done by only one devil, because if that was the case, then everything would become much easier with what he was about to do.

This kind of technique had one fatal weakness that he could take advantage of.

Because the devil who controlled the bodies was connected through karma laws, no matter where they were, they would still face the risk of receiving a karma-law-based

attack. If someone used an attack of that nature, then the devil as the controller might suffer injury or even death.

All of that karmic threads was connected directly to the souls, the most vulnerable part of a living being. A direct and powerful attack that targeted the soul could fatally injure it or even cause death.

What Aldrian was about to do was exactly that. He would launch a counterattack against the controller and send a powerful strike that could kill them.

He had prepared it in such a way that even an immortal might not survive this attack, as he would use the power of his domain to eliminate the devil instantly.

He had already gathered his domain's power into this single attack. He would use curse laws, a powerful curse that the devil would not expect. If he used a normal karmic attack, he feared that the devil might sense it before the attack reached them.

That would give the devil time to defend themselves or even sever the path before the attack reached them.

Aldrian created a powerful curse concept in his mind and began to manifest it in the karmic thread connected to the devil. The purpose of the curse was to kill as quickly as possible, making it a form of swift death curse.

The curse he created was a mixture of curse laws and death laws, guaranteeing the devil's death if it touched their soul. With the strength of the curse boosted by his domain's power, he doubted the devil would survive. Even if they sensed it, it would already be too late.

This curse would almost instantly reach the devil.

"Enjoy it," Aldrian thought as he sent the curse.

In an unknown place, an old man sat cross-legged inside a vast dim room. He closed his eyes, and his face was serene.

But suddenly, he instantly opened his eyes in shock as he cursed, "Shit!" before vomiting a mouthful of blood.

He felt pain inside his soul, and the pain also affected his body. He found his body difficult to control as it spasmed violently, followed by extreme pain. The flow of energy inside his body became chaotic, and his dantian and all of his meridians began to wither.

His soul also looked withered at a rapid speed. It was as if it were rotting. Blood started to flow from all of his orifices, and he could only release a gurgling sound from his throat.

'A fucking... curse! How is... this possible... I... an immortal...!' His mind stopped as his body stopped moving.

The devil's soul left his body and entered the underworld, leaving behind a corpse with a pained expression. His eyes and mouth were wide open, as if he wanted to shout in agony but could not.

At the same time, in several places across the world, some figures lost their consciousness. This included the banquet hall where the victory banquet was being held. Marquess Beruin and two other people under the devil's influence suddenly fainted, which left the people near them stunned.

The other nobles, feeling confused, took some distance from them. They did not know why these people had suddenly collapsed, and the blank expressions on their faces made it even more unsettling.

It was quite creepy.

King Darius, who had already prepared for whatever might happen in the hall, saw that the ones pointed out by Aldrian had suddenly collapsed. He instantly thought that whatever Aldrian had done was working, and this was the result of it.

He quickly approached the unconscious body nearest to him, which was Marquess Beruin.

"Make way, make way," he said as the others stepped aside.

The moment the king neared Marquess Beruin's body, he spoke to the royal guards nearby.

"Bring physicians here."

The commotion began to spread, as the ones who had collapsed were well-known nobles. Princess Xena, who had still been talking with Vanesa, was also distracted by the sudden disturbance and saw that several nobles had already fallen unconscious.

Vanesa raised her eyebrows in wonder, while Xena wondered whether what Aldrian did had succeeded.

Vanesa then turned to look toward where her father was supposed to be, but she realized that she did not see him. She glanced around the surroundings, yet she still could not find him.

She narrowed her eyes.

"Who are you looking for?" Xena suddenly asked, which made her turn toward the princess.

"I'm looking for my father Your Highness. I don't see him."

"Ah, I saw Duke Vareden walk toward that direction. I think he went to the restroom," Xena replied as she pointed in the direction where Aldrian had gone.

Vanesa looked in that direction and thought that might indeed be the case. She nodded.

"What happened to them? Why did they suddenly collapse?" Xena asked, trying to redirect the topic.

At that moment, the physicians had already arrived and were checking the condition of the unconscious nobles. The people nearby, who had thought something terrible had happened to them, soon found out that they had only fainted.

"I don't know, but from their expressions, there was no sign of pain when they collapsed. It was as if they simply fainted without any obvious reason," Vanesa said, and Xena responded with a nod.

"Excuse us. Make way, make way."

The royal guards carried the unconscious figures toward the deeper parts of the palace after the examination was done.

Many nobles who saw it began to discuss what had really happened. This caused the mood to drop, as they did not understand what had just occurred.

The fact that the ones who had fainted were well-known nobles made the minds of the others run wild, and it left them unsettled.

Was this the devils' trick?

Many looked at the feast or at the drinks they were holding.

Had the food and beverages here already been compromised by the devils?

"Attention. My apologies if our banquet has been slightly disturbed, but please do not worry or think too much about it, as the royal family is already taking care of the matter. We will make sure to thoroughly check what really happened to the three nobles who just fainted," King Darius said.

His gaze swept across the nobles. He could see that not all of them were convinced. Some had even begun to look at their surroundings suspiciously.

King Darius had already expected this, but he continued speaking.

"Once again, do not worry. You may continue with the banquet."

He then walked toward the direction where the fainted nobles had been taken.

The other nobles continued to talk in hushed tones about what had truly happened.

The atmosphere had already changed, because they knew that something was wrong!

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Chapter 1056 - 1056: Wake Up After So Long

[1,678 words]

After sending a strong curse, Aldrian waited for a few moments, and he could not help but smile. He could sense that the darkness on the surface of Duke Vareden's soul had lost its karmic connection with the caster entirely.

That meant the one who cast the possession technique was dead.

The darkness that was still left on the duke's soul slowly dissipated, albeit slowly. Because the caster of the technique was now dead, Duke Vareden was in a state as if a puppet had been cut from its strings.

Since his real consciousness was still covered in darkness and had not yet reconnected to his body, the body did not give any reaction. What he needed to do now was to purify the remaining darkness, which still carried a strong curse that slowed down the normalization process.

He could also sense that the noble bodies under the devils' possession had also collapsed in the hall, and they were in the middle of being brought to this place.

"You could light the room, Advisor Ceraz," Aldrian said.

A moment later, the entire room lit up, illuminating the whole space clearly. The room was actually only a large training room.

The king's advisor, Advisor Ceraz, approached Aldrian while looking at Duke Vareden's body.

"How is it, Your Excellency?" Advisor Ceraz asked.

Aldrian nodded with a smile. "It succeeded, and I think it is just like I already guessed. The one who cast the possession technique was only one devil. All the bodies that were possessed by that devil have collapsed for now."

Advisor Ceraz sighed in relief. "Thank heavens."

After saying that, the door to the training room opened and King Darius entered with three bodies floating behind him. The king brought them using his energy and placed them right beside Duke Vareden.

"How is it, Your Excellency? Did we succeed?" King Darius asked.

Aldrian nodded. "It succeeded, Your Majesty. I sent a counterattack to the devil who cast the possession technique, and they are most likely dead."

King Darius released a sigh of relief before he looked at the four unconscious bodies.

"Are they alright, Your Excellency? When I checked their souls, I could sense strong darkness covering them. It contains a powerful curse which I think is embedded in their souls. If we recklessly erase the curse, I am afraid it will threaten the soul itself. I think because of that darkness, they are still unconscious."

Aldrian nodded. "You are correct, Your Majesty. It is true that we must be careful when dealing with a curse embedded in a soul. However, you do not need to worry, as I have my own way to purify them without endangering their lives."

Aldrian then took one knee and touched Duke Vareden's forehead. A moment later, his golden energy began to do its work. A golden hue exuded from his palm, and King Darius and Advisor Ceraz could clearly see and sense it.

They were sensing Aldrian's golden energy for the first time, and they were truly astonished, as they had never felt anything like this from someone's energy before.

What they sensed from the energy was a kind of feeling that made them feel as if they were standing before holy energy, yet this one was far more overbearing.

They could not help but feel a growing urge to revere Aldrian because of the existence of that golden energy, to the point that they almost wanted to kneel.

It was a truly strange feeling that they pushed aside as they continued watching Aldrian work.

The darkness on the duke's soul quickly disappeared, revealing the soul's normal white color once more after so long.

After almost half a minute, Aldrian stopped and lifted his hand. He watched Duke Vareden for a few moments, and after fifteen seconds, he could see the duke's eyes slowly regaining clarity.

The duke blinked a few times and looked upward when he saw Aldrian, then he turned to the side where he saw King Darius and Advisor Ceraz.

He blinked several times before opening his lips.

"Your Majesty?" he said in a slightly confused tone. He still seemed disoriented.

King Darius smiled. "Duke Vareden, how are you feeling?"

The duke, who still seemed confused, did not answer immediately. Instead, he looked at his surroundings. He felt a headache, which made him narrow his eyes.

After a few moments of processing his surroundings, he suddenly widened his eyes and sat up.

"Be careful, Duke Vareden. Do not push yourself," King Darius said.

"Wait... these memories, are they mine? What the hell happened to me?" the duke's voice trembled.

"You were possessed by a devil, Duke Vareden. Your consciousness was trapped inside your own soul all this time while that devil possessed your body and did things outside of your control," Aldrian explained.

"The memories appearing in your mind are your own memories, or more specifically, the memories of your body while it was being controlled by a devil all this time," he added, which caused Duke Vareden's eyes to widen further.

"Me? Possessed by a devil? Wait..." He suddenly remembered something.

"I... I bought a few purple lotus pills from Duke Beriklas to increase my cultivation. After I consumed them, I suddenly felt something enter my mind. Something drowned my consciousness. Wait, yes. That voice and that energy, that was a devil!" he said in disbelief.

"That must have been the medium that allowed the devil to infiltrate your body. Those pills may have already been tampered with a curse seed that was embedded in your soul," Aldrian said.

Duke Vareden's eyes trembled as he looked at his own hands.

"What have I done? Why..."

"Calm yourself, Duke Vareden. What was done was not by you but by a devil, so you do not have to blame yourself. I know you feel guilty, but you must not drown too deeply in it. There was nothing you could have done all this time," King Darius said.

"But... but..." Duke Vareden gritted his teeth as guilt filled his heart. The possession that had lasted for years gave him an overwhelming sense of remorse. He remembered all the things the devil had done using his body, and it made him angry at himself.

How could he do all of that? How could he allow himself to be possessed by a devil?

Aldrian did not wait for the duke to reach acceptance before moving on to the other bodies to remove the remaining darkness. The duke saw what Aldrian was doing, and his eyes widened as they reflected the golden hue from Aldrian's palm.

He could sense what the king and his advisor had felt earlier, and it truly amazed him, which made him momentarily forget about his guilt.

Aldrian repeated his actions until all the bodies were cleansed of any trace of the devil. Not long after, one by one, they began to wake up. Just like Duke Vareden, they looked confused, and the moment they realized what had happened to them, they were astonished.

They felt the same guilt as Duke Vareden, and the only thing Aldrian and the others could do was calm them down. The damage caused by the devils who had possessed them was already done, and the only thing they could do now was mend the damage that had been left behind.

However, they soon began blaming one another because of it.

"Duke Beriklas, how could you fall into the devil's scheme? To think that I trusted you so easily at that time. I truly regret it," Duke Vareden said.

"Wait, you are blaming me? I did not know that the artifact I obtained from the auction was a cursed item! I am also a victim in this matter," Duke Beriklas retorted.

"Duke Vareden, with all due respect, I was also possessed by a devil because you gave me that sword artifact, which turned out to be cursed, in exchange for more than five kilograms of Crimson Flame Mushroom," Marquess Beruin said.

"Marquess Beruin, you have no right to blame others. It was because of the Crimson Flame Mushroom you gave me that I was also possessed," Marchioness Iveline said.

Hearing their arguments escalate, King Darius sighed. Then, in a firm tone, he spoke.

"Enough, all of you."

They instantly fell silent and looked toward the king.

"I do not wish to see this kind of scene. It reminds me of the devils' trick when they planted discord among us. That very trick caused us to lose many battles in the past," King Darius continued.

"This is not the time to point fingers at one another. What happened in the past remains in the past, and the damage has already been done. The only thing you can do now is repair the harm caused by the devil that possessed you."

"There is no benefit in blaming each other. We have already won the war against the devils within this kingdom, and you are still alive. Use your strength to fix your own problems instead."

"You must bury everything about this possession deep within your minds and never speak of it to others again. Hold no grudges because of it. If you continue to blame one another, it will cost you your future."

"It is already fortunate that I and His Excellency Aldrian chose a plan that allowed you to maintain your dignity and reputation. If I had chosen the other plan, where it became known that all of you were possessed by devils, do you think you would still be safe in this room, arguing with one another? Do you believe your families would survive the consequences?"

Hearing this, the four nobles lowered their heads in shame.

King Darius sighed. "Once again, do not bring up this matter among yourselves anymore. What I just saw must be the last time. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Your Majesty," the four nobles replied.

King Darius nodded. "Good. Now, what you need to do after this is act normally. Do not ever bring up the possession if someone asks you about what happened. It would be suicide if you openly said you had been possessed. I believe you understand that as well."

"Yes, Your Majesty," the four of them replied again.

"Good. Now, can you walk? Let us return to the banquet hall first to calm the others. They must already be speculating about many things in their minds," King Darius said.

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Chapter 1057 - 1057: The End of the Banquet

[1,552 words]

The four nobles then stood up. The headache that they had felt earlier had already subsided, and they tried moving every part of their limbs.

After a few movements, they felt that there was no problem with their bodies.

The four nobles then turned to look at Aldrian and bowed toward him.

"Thank you for saving me. I will not forget Your Excellency's help. In the future, if Your Excellency needs any of my help, I, Duke Vareden, will do anything to assist you."

"Thank you for saving me, Your Excellency. Please come to me, Duke Beriklas, if you need anything in the future."

"Thank you for saving me. Although I do not have as much as Duke Vareden or Duke Beriklas, I, Marchioness Iveline, will surely do anything if Your Excellency needs something from me."

"Thank you for saving me, Your Excellency, and I am sorry that I tried to plan harm against you when I was possessed by the devil. I truly feel ashamed, and if Your Excellency is willing, I will redeem myself by compensating you with the treasures of my family."

From their memories, they knew that Aldrian was someone who had gained respect from many people and had recently become a hot topic. He was the man who became the game changer in their war against the devils.

Aldrian slightly smiled and nodded.

"No problem. You do not have to think about compensation or anything like that. I am doing this because I want to. Like His Majesty said, you just need to fix the problems caused by the devil that possessed you."

The four nobles nodded with smiles. King Darius also smiled and then opened his lips.

"Alright. Here is the thing. Before you meet with the others, if they ask about your condition, then you need to explain it to them like this..."

The king then explained what he had in mind to the three nobles. As for Duke Vareden, he would follow Aldrian because he was the only one here who had come to this room by teleportation.

If he were to come out from the same place as the other three nobles, it would raise some questions among those who saw them. It was better to avoid complicating the explanation they needed to give to those people.

Aldrian then teleported to the restroom not far from the banquet hall with Duke Vareden. They entered the hall at slightly different intervals as if nothing had happened, in order to lessen suspicion.

Those who looked at them did not show much reaction. The only thing that became a question for some of them was since when Duke Vareden had gone to the restroom?

Upon seeing his daughter, Duke Vareden could not help but feel an ache in his heart. His daughter did not know that her father had already become someone else when the devil possessed him.

His character had changed toward her, as he did not interact with her as actively as he had in the past. Because of that, there was a distance between them that had not existed before.

He approached his daughter with a warm smile that made Vanesa stunned. She could not help but feel that something had changed in her father.

She did not know what it was, but the smile he showed at this moment reminded her of the past.

The past when her father would show that sincere smile full of warmth that he always showed to her. It was something she had not seen from him for years. For years, she had felt that his smile looked fake.

She did not know why, but she felt that way, and it made her unsettled and sad.

Why did he suddenly change?

But at this moment, he seemed to have come back again. The father she knew in the past.

Duke Vareden gave a bow to Princess Xena, as she was standing near his daughter.

"Your Highness," he greeted, which was responded to with a nod from the princess.

"Duke Vareden, ah, His Excellency Aldrian has already returned. Then excuse me, Duke Vareden, Vanesa. I hope that we can converse more in the future," Princess Xena said.

"Of course, Your Highness. I will be truly glad if we can converse again," Vanesa replied with a respectful gesture.

Xena nodded with a smile before walking toward Aldrian. Vanesa then looked at her father, who was standing beside her, with narrowed eyes and asked him,

"Father, did something happen? You seem different."

Duke Vareden kept his smile and looked at his daughter. "Is that so? Well, maybe I changed. Who knows?"

The reply made Vanesa confused, and it was clear from her expression.

"Dear, would you like to visit the restaurant that we used to go to when you were little after the banquet? I think it would be good to visit that place again after not going there for so long," Duke Vareden said, which made Vanesa slightly widen her eyes.

Her father had not offered something like this since she had grown older.

Why was he suddenly offering this?

But she could not help but smile. This truly felt like her father, or rather her father from the past. The one who was always warm toward her and showed his sincere expression.

She smiled and nodded. "Hm."

While Duke Vareden had already taken a step to fix the problems caused by the devil, Princess Xena was already standing beside Aldrian with a smile.

"How is it, Your Excellency? Did it succeed?" she asked through voice transmission.

"It succeeded, Your Highness. All of the devils' influence has already been removed from them," Aldrian replied, which made Xena release a sigh of relief.

"Thank heavens, it succeeded." She then glanced at Aldrian with a smile. "Thank you, Your Excellency, for helping us again. Now my family will not have to worry about devils hiding among the nobles anymore."

Aldrian just smiled and looked at the other nobles. Just like what King Darius had said, the nobles were still talking about the three nobles who had suddenly fainted. They knew that for three nobles with great influence to faint at the same time was not normal.

Something had happened that they did not know.

The story developed into the devils' tricks as the possible cause, and most of the nobles there agreed with it.

However, a moment later, they were stunned when they saw Duke Beriklas, Marquess Beruin, and Marchioness Iveline entering the hall. They seemed perfectly fine, as if nothing had happened to them.

"Are you alright, Duke Beriklas? What happened to you?"

"Marchioness Iveline, are you alright? Why did you suddenly faint?"

"Marquess Beruin, did you feel anything before you suddenly fainted?"

Many started questioning them, and they smiled while also putting on apologetic expressions.

"Aih, it is our fault. It seems it was because of the effect of the pills we took before we departed for the banquet. Marquess Beruin actually gave us miraculous pills that could rejuvenate our bodies so we could feel more fit and stronger," Duke Beriklas said.

"Those pills might have caused a side effect, as I felt a sudden chaotic flow of energy in my head and heart, which made me lose consciousness," he added.

Marchioness Iveline and Marquess Beruin also nodded in agreement, but Marquess Beruin spoke as well.

"Ah, to think that those pills had such a side effect. I think I have to complain to the alchemist who concocted them after this."

Those who heard this looked confused. Their explanation only made more questions arise in their minds.

What kind of pills were those? Why did Marquess Beruin give them only to Duke Beriklas and Marchioness Iveline? Why did he give them in the first place? And many other questions surfaced, making the others even more confused.

Many were still suspicious, but seeing that they looked fine, they decided to give them the benefit of the doubt. If the king himself had personally watched over them, then there should be no problem, right?

Before they could question them further, King Darius returned to the hall once again.

The banquet continued, but the three nobles were still questioned by some others. They answered the questions as best as they could according to what they had already agreed upon inside the training room.

Although some people were still doubtful, they could not do anything about it. They did not have any proof that this had happened because of the devils.

After more than two hours, the banquet finally reached its end, and the nobles started to leave the palace.

Under the princess's company, she escorted Aldrian to the outside of the hall.

"Thank you for your company, Your Highness," Aldrian said.

"It is alright, Your Excellency. I am glad that I could accompany you." Her expression showed that she was truly happy.

Aldrian also smiled, and before he left, he looked into her eyes. "Then, I will take my leave, Your Highness."

Under her watch, his body disappeared as he teleported.

Her expression was still smiling as she looked at the empty space for a moment before turning her gaze to the night sky. She touched her chest and could feel her heartbeat still pounding. She thought that this feeling was not so bad.

In the place where Alicia the succubus stayed, she was inside the hall where she usually received reports from her underlings. As usual, she lay on her chaise lounge, and at this moment, her eyes were closed.

While she seemed to be enjoying her serene time, suddenly a succubus entered the hall with hurried steps before taking one knee.

"My Lady, I bring an urgent report."

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Chapter 1058 - 1058: Their Turn to Attack

[1,505 words]

Alicia opened her eyes and turned her head to look at the kneeling succubus.

"What is it?" she asked.

"Lord of Thousand Souls was found dead in his pavilion."

"What?!" Alicia was astonished, and she narrowed her eyes. She then turned her gaze toward one direction, and her sense instantly extended toward it. Her sense passed through many things as it moved across the destroyed city.

She kept expanding her sense for more than a hundred kilometers until it reached a small hill inside the city. On top of it stood a pavilion complex which at this moment was already blocked by many devils guarding the area.

Inside one of the halls, she found a corpse, and she did not doubt that it was the corpse of Lord of Thousand Souls.

Without saying anything, her body suddenly turned into dark mist, and it only took three seconds for her to reach the corpse. The corpse was surrounded by many symbols, forming a kind of formation.

Her body manifested again from the dark mist, and the moment the guards saw her, they instantly knelt without even seeing her face.

"My lady," they greeted.

Even without seeing her entirely, their faces were already flushing as they restrained the sudden desire that rose within their hearts. They were strong devil men from the human race, and a powerful succubus like Alicia, who exuded natural charm, was naturally their weakness.

Since they cultivated devil techniques, their desires became much harder to control. Still, they had to restrain themselves every time they saw her if they did not want to suffer a horrible death.

Alicia did not say anything and observed the corpse in detail. The condition of the corpse was truly terrifying, with all of its orifices stained with blood. The veins across the corpse were bulging, and the skin had turned greyish black, as if it were rotting from the inside.

She frowned deeply when the succubus who had given her the report manifested right behind her in a kneeling position.

"Has Lord Guvad left his pavilion recently?" Alicia asked.

"No, my lady. He never left the pavilion at all," the kneeling succubus answered.

"Has anyone touched his corpse?"

"No, my lady. Luckily, the one who found his corpse was one of his disciples. They suddenly sensed their connection to their master being severed. When they found him and wanted to check on him, a strong curse exuding from his body made them not dare to touch it," the succubus answered.

"Because the curse might have spread if touched, they surrounded it with the Confinement of the Million Curses Formation to prevent anyone from touching it or the curse from spreading."

Alicia still frowned as she continued observing the body. Luckily, no one had touched it, because what she sensed from the corpse made her heart chill.

She could sense a powerful curse emanating from the corpse. It was a curse she sensed for the first time in her life. Even without touching it, she knew that this curse could endanger her.

She comprehended curse laws, yet the chilling sensation that shook her soul was something she had never experienced before.

It was terrifying and cold, and what astonished her was that the sensation came from a curse already trapped inside the Confinement of the Million Curses Formation. The formation specialized in containing powerful curses, and it should have blocked any sensation the cursed object exuded.

However, the fact that she could still sense it showed how powerful the curse inside the corpse was, to the point that the corpse itself now resembled a cursed artifact.

'What kind of curse is this?' Alicia thought. 'Is someone attacking using a curse? How could they do that when he never left his pavilion? Through his puppets? That might be possible, but there was no news that the puppets had been discovered. Unless...' her frown deepened.

'Unless someone already knew about the puppets and used them to attack with a curse so quickly that Lord Guvad did not have time to react.'

'But even if that was the case, was there anyone among those weaklings who possessed the ability to send such a powerful curse? This was a quick-death type curse with strange properties. If they had someone like that, their war in this world would have been far more difficult in the past.'

She bit her lips. For the first time, she felt genuinely angry about the situation.

'Damn it. With Lord Guvad's death, we have lost our main source of information at the strategic level. We can only depend on those low-level spies for tactical intelligence.'

That was a major setback for their war in this world. Without a strategic-level information source, she would not know what the powers of this world truly planned for the future.

Her chances of making the wrong decision would increase, which could greatly harm her troops.

She gritted her teeth, and a moment later she took a deep breath.

'Don't tell me this was also caused by Aldrian?' Since that man's appearance, not everything had gone according to her plans in the Gardum Kingdom, and now she had lost one of her most valuable assistants.

'Do I have to make a move myself now?' But then she shook her head.

'No, not yet. Let's wait for now and take care of the other territories first. Although I lost the source of important information, at least I still have momentum in most territories. I still have a chance.'

"Keep the corpse here. Don't touch it or do anything to it for now," she ordered.

"Yes, my lady."

Alicia then disappeared as she turned into dark mist. The succubus looked at the corpse for a moment before she also disappeared.

On the next morning, outside Hervian City, an interstellar vessel was parked. Aldrian, along with Prince Martis, several generals of the royal families, and thousands of troops, were embarking on it. Princess Xena also joined the troops with her knight order.

In the distance, many people of the city were watching. With how large the movement was, there was no way it would not attract attention. This was also the first time many had seen Aldrian, which caused an uproar.

They wondered where Aldrian and the royal troops were going.

King Darius stood not far from the vessel, looking at them with a solemn expression. His face showed his hope that this plan would succeed. This was what Aldrian claimed to be the fastest way to end the war and rid the world of the devils.

The plan was very simple.

Storm their headquarters in this world and kill the leader. Something easier said than done.

In the past, he did not want to consider such a plan for several obvious reasons.

First, they did not know the real location of the devils' headquarters. Second, considering how powerful the devils were, they could not simply barge in blindly and make countless sacrifices. They would exhaust their own resources if that happened.

'May you succeed and bring victory,' the king thought as he watched Aldrian's figure enter the vessel.

A moment later, the hatch of the vessel closed, and it began to depart. It floated higher and higher as the people of the city watched from afar with hopeful expressions.

Although they did not know where the troops were going, they hoped that whatever awaited them, they would succeed.

As the vessel reached the upper atmosphere, it started moving north. Aldrian was inside the control room with Princess Xena and Prince Martis, looking at the outside scenery through the screen.

However, not even a minute after they began moving north, an operator reported.

"A vessel is approaching us from the west. It is likely a devil vessel."

"Keep moving forward," Aldrian ordered, and his figure disappeared from the control room. His figure appeared on top of the vessel as he looked toward the west.

He saw a dot in the distance growing larger as time passed. Soon, a sparkle of light appeared from the dot, and a few seconds later, the sparkling light shot toward his direction.

The devils were using a beam cannon attack.

"Raise the defensive formation!" one of the operators took the initiative to block the incoming attack, as this was already standard procedure.

However, even before the beam reached their vessel, they saw through the screen that the beam split into two as a slash energy cut through it. At the same time, they felt a powerful sword will that gave them goosebumps.

They continued watching as the slash energy moved at incredible speed toward the devil vessel until, a moment later—

Slash! Rumble!

The slash energy split the vessel from front to back. The vessel broke apart into two big parts.

The sight made the hearts of those watching through the screen tremble.

Too powerful! It was too powerful!

From that distance, Aldrian could actually destroy an interstellar vessel with a single sword slash. But a moment later, they detected another vessel approaching from a different direction.

This time, without even giving the vessel time to fire its beam cannon, Aldrian struck first. He had already sent another slash, and this vessel suffered the same fate as the first one.

Watching the scene once again, the others could only sigh in amazement.

It looked like this battle would be much easier than they had thought.

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Chapter 1059 - 1059: Attacking the Main Base

[1,574 words]

A succubus rushed through the hallway inside a pavilion complex. After a moment, she finally entered a hall where she saw Alicia, as usual, lying on her chaise lounge.

Alicia, who saw that her assistant looked rushed and even had slight panic on her face, frowned. She had never seen her assistant show such an expression for as long as they had been in this world.

The moment she saw that expression, she knew that whatever her assistant was about to report would not be good.

"My lady, urgent report! We are under attack!" the succubus said.

Alicia was still frowning. "Speak more clearly. We are under attack all the time, after all."

"They are coming! An interstellar vessel is coming this way, a vessel that came from the direction of the Gardum Kingdom. They are already near this region, and our patrols in

space cannot stop them. They have already destroyed some of our patrolling vessels, and there is still no one who can stop them at this time."

Alicia stood up in astonishment.

"What? The patrols cannot stop them?"

"Yes, my lady. There is a powerful cultivator who breached our line of patrols easily. This person has already killed many of our troops. From the last report we received, no one has ever seen this cultivator before," the succubus said.

Alicia's expression turned solemn, and she walked toward the outside.

"Prepare all the troops around the main base," she said.

"I already did that, my lady," the succubus replied.

"Good." Alicia walked outside the palace into the open ground and then flew into the sky.

'Is that Aldrian coming here?' she thought. She had a strong feeling that the unknown figure might be Aldrian. A smirk suddenly appeared on her face.

'Let's see what kind of person you are.'

Aldrian and his vessel approached a region inside the continent located in the northern hemisphere of the world. The Lurkhad Continent is one of the biggest continents and the first continent the devils attacked when they started their invasion of this world.

In the past, there were many powerful forces here before the devils occupied the continent. Now those powers are no more. Among those past forces, a powerful sect occupied the region located in the center of the continent.

The devils used the sect's main territory as their headquarters in this world, and this is where Alicia, the leader of the devils here, stays.

The vessel finally arrived above the target region and began to descend. Aldrian remained on top of the vessel as his gaze looked below calmly. The vessel pierced through the clouds and continued descending for kilometers before he finally saw the land clearly.

The land had already started to be corrupted by the devils' energy, which could be seen as almost no greenery grew across the vast land. The atmosphere also showed a faint reddish color.

In the distance, Aldrian could see a vast city and two fortresses located outside the city. The city was surrounded by walls that looked heavily damaged.

He also sensed countless movements inside the city, inside the fortresses, and in the areas between them.

'Tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands?' Aldrian estimated the number of devils. He could sense several powerful auras here, and there was also a unique aura which he instantly recognized.

The aura belonged to succubi, and one of them possessed the strongest aura here. By strongest, it meant that even sensing her aura alone could affect his lust. Although it was a passive ability of the succubus race, the fact that this lone succubus could affect him even from this distance showed how powerful this succubus figure was.

Even though this succubus had yet to enter his vision, he could already guess her identity.

That must be the leader of the devils here. Alicia.

As the vessel got closer to the city, he could see more clearly what the devils were doing, and he could finally see the faces of several powerful figures floating in the city's sky.

Alicia stood with three other succubi and seven figures who were a combination of human and vampire races. All of them were pseudo-immortal stage existences.

Alicia, who was also observing the incoming vessel, finally saw the lone figure standing on top of the massive vessel approaching the city.

The moment Aldrian entered her vision, she was truly astonished. For the first time in a long while, her heart pounded.

In her eyes stood what she considered the most perfect man, at least in appearance, that she had ever met in her life.

Even his gaze itself felt different. His gaze carried its own charm that attracted her and made her imagine how his gaze would change when experiencing the bliss of pleasure.

His handsome face was the most striking feature. His perfect facial features and unblemished skin made her want to stroke it and kiss it. His calm expression radiated confidence and authority, making her want to change it into an expression filled with ecstasy and pleasure.

'Ah, I want to make him mine. He is mine,' Alicia thought crazily. Her expression turned into a crazed smile, and without saying anything, she suddenly unleashed one of her techniques.

From the space around her, sudden distortions appeared, and many black chains with spear-like tips shot out from the distortions toward the vessel. They flew from various directions as if they wanted to attack the vessel from all sides.

Her troops who saw this were stunned as she suddenly attacked without any warning. However, they were already ready for anything and were not bothered, as they already knew their leader's character.

Aldrian, who saw the incoming chains, calmly created a strong spatial barrier surrounding the vessel.

Trang!

The chains struck the barrier as they tried to pierce the vessel, but they did not lose their power. Instead, the chains changed direction, shifting from a piercing movement to a trapping movement. The chains surrounded the barrier and then wrapped tightly around it.

A moment later, the chains pulled the barrier toward Alicia. This undoubtedly caused the entire vessel to be dragged along.

"Cannot control the vessel! We are losing altitude, we are losing altitude!" one of the vessel's operators reported in panic.

The vessel trembled heavily, causing everyone inside to wonder what had happened outside. Prince Martis and Princess Xena had already gathered in the large space inside the vessel with thousands of their troops. They were only waiting for the hatch on the side to open so they could begin their attack against any devils they encountered.

'What happened? The vessel lost its altitude too quickly,' Prince Martis thought.

Outside, Aldrian calmly looked at the chains wrapped around his barrier. His gaze then shifted toward Alicia, who at this moment looked at him with a sensual gaze. From her gaze alone, his lust was once more stirred, and he could sense the great desire coming from her.

Her smile seemed to say, 'What are you going to do? You will be mine.'

However, Aldrian easily pushed away that feeling and instead looked at the other devils beside her. From what he knew from Selis, they were the assistants helping Alicia manage the troops of this world.

The rest of the hundreds of thousands of devils here were the backup forces that would support the devils on the front lines around the world. When support from the central region of Heaven was still arriving in this world, their numbers could easily reach millions.

At this time, to reduce the number of devils and make the Gardum Kingdom's troops fight more easily, there was no better choice than a mass destruction technique. Not as destructive as the falling meteor, but still capable of obliterating a large area.

Alicia, still smiling, wondered what Aldrian would do, confident that he would not use the falling meteor technique she had heard about from reports. That level of destructive power would also sweep him and his vessel away if used here.

Moreover, she possessed a method that could defend her against such a powerful meteor strike. If Aldrian unleashed that technique, which she believed would drain much of his energy, and she successfully defended against it, then he would fall into a vulnerable state.

At that time, no fate awaited him other than becoming her toy.

As she was still waiting for Aldrian's move, she suddenly sensed something from the sky, which made her lift her head. She could not help but notice countless glimmering lights like stars, causing her to narrow her eyes.

'Wait... they are not stars!' A second later, she saw the glimmering lights becoming clearer.

She shouted to all of her troops.

"Raise defensive formations!"

The troops did not waste a single second and immediately obeyed. Each division of the devil troops formed defensive formations, and manifestations of giant shields appeared above every group of thousands of devils.

As the countless lights became clearer, they could finally sense the power sweeping across the vast area. The descending sword will from the sky made the devils below feel goosebumps.

Alicia, who finally sensed the overwhelming sword will, widened her eyes. She remembered a report she had heard in the past regarding Aldrian.

'He has a technique no less powerful than a meteor strike. He can summon an overwhelming rain of swords that is impossible to defend against. The only thing that could describe it is... a rain of death.'

She knew about it, but experiencing it herself was completely different. Even before the technique reached them, she could already sense how powerful it was.

Without hesitation, she crushed a defensive talisman that suddenly appeared in her hand. A moment later—

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

A rain of golden swords descended, giving the devils the experience of an apocalypse.

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Chapter 1060 - 1060: Fear 1

[1,613 words]

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Swords Apocalypse fell upon the city and everyone inside it. The devils' defense formation was useless against it, as it was destroyed the moment the rain of swords pierced their defense.

The manifestation of the shield above their formation shattered, and the golden swords destroyed everything beneath it.

"Uwagh!"

"Escape! Escape! Uwagh!"

"Nooo!"

"Take cover, aghhh!"

Voices filled with chaos, panic, and despair resounded everywhere. The swords killed anyone without caring about their cultivation levels. The swords also broke the chains connected to Aldrian's barrier, which caused the ones wrapped around the barrier to loosen and fall to the ground.

The higher-ups beside Alicia tried to evade the swords using their movement techniques.

The succubi used their agile movements and sharp perception to evade the swords.

The vampires turned themselves into blood mist so their bodies could not be attacked by the swords.

Among the humans, there were also those who could use teleportation to evade the swords. The others relied on their own elemental comprehension.

However, because the swords were countless and the distance between them was extremely close, it was very difficult to completely evade all of them.

Moreover, each of the golden swords contained the incredible power of a peak pseudo-immortal stage, and all of them carried Aldrian's comprehension of various laws. They were not merely normal sword manifestations.

They could pierce things that could not normally be touched, such as mist. The vampires who turned themselves into mist were still being pierced. Although the swords passed through the mist, they were actually injuring them.

"Aahhgg!"

Some of the swords pierced the mist, and parts of the mist reverted into limbs as some of their limbs were severed.

Their speed was also something not easy to evade, as it was an attack even peak pseudo-immortal stage cultivators found difficult to avoid.

The one who tried to use teleportation was also pierced, which caused his arm to be severed, as the swords were piercing space itself, creating disruption in his teleportation.

Not all of them ended up merely with severed limbs. Some had their lives ended as the swords pierced their bodies mercilessly. They could not evade the swords, which caused the blades to strike the vital parts of their bodies. The two succubi and the remaining humans had their bodies destroyed.

The swords passed through their bodies, and it was as if they exploded from the inside. Those pierced in the head had their heads destroyed. Those pierced in the torso had their upper bodies completely obliterated, leaving only their heads, arms, and lower bodies.

Alicia was the only one who did not move and could only watch the destruction happening before her eyes. Her body was surrounded by a visible barrier that could not be pierced even by countless swords.

The barrier kept being attacked, but the swords could not pierce it and were instead destroyed upon contact.

She had already retracted her chains technique as it had been destroyed by the rain of swords.

Her eyes watched her troops being obliterated everywhere, yet she showed no expression other than a blank look. She was not worried about herself, as she had already crushed the special defensive talisman given to her by Vampire King.

But for the others, they were truly powerless. They could only try to escape from the killing zone, something already extremely difficult to accomplish. Only screams filled with despair and panic could be heard.

The city, already badly damaged, was being destroyed even further. The main sect's building beneath her was also collapsing.

Alicia's eyes then turned toward Aldrian. She could see his gaze, still calm. He looked completely normal despite unleashing a technique that, to her, could only be described as impossible.

Forget about the energy required to unleash such a technique. How could he create countless swords, each possessing the power of a peak pseudo-immortal stage cultivator? How could he manifest so many and control all of them at once?

Was Aldrian an immortal?

She gritted her teeth inwardly. Her amusement from earlier disappeared. Although she still wanted to subdue Aldrian and make him her toy, there was no more joking. She would become serious.

As the barrier continued to protect her, she flew closer to Aldrian.

Aldrian, seeing that Alicia was not affected by the Swords Apocalypse, felt impressed by the defensive talisman. It was the same kind of barrier the Vampire King and some of his subordinates had used in the past when they tried to defend themselves from the black hole's sucking force.

For Alicia to also possess one, it seemed the Vampire King had given her one as well.

He looked at Alicia approaching him with a serious expression. The Swords Apocalypse had already ended, as the swords falling from the sky had finally run out.

As Alicia drew closer, she activated her domain. The domain instantly covered Aldrian and the vessel. The domain carried a pink atmosphere, and the moment Aldrian entered it, he could feel his libido rising.

Everyone inside the vessel suddenly felt aroused, which made them surprised and confused. They suddenly wanted to have sex with someone. No matter whether men or women, if there was a member of the opposite sex near them, they felt an overwhelming urge to have sex with them.

Aldrian, who became the focus of Alicia's power, fell into an illusion when he suddenly saw Alicia standing before him completely naked. Her charm rose to the extreme within this domain, and if anyone else were in Aldrian's position, they would instantly pounce on Alicia and begin to fuck her.

Combined with the irresistible libido caused by the domain, that would be the only thing they could do. They would end up losing themselves to desire without realizing that their lives were already in Alicia's palm.

Alicia moved toward Aldrian with sensual expressions and movements meant to entice him. To be honest, she was surprised that he did not immediately pounce on her even after several seconds trapped inside her illusion.

She only saw his gaze looking at her as if she were merely a normal woman, someone not worthy of desire. Although she could feel that his body reacted to her domain and was aroused, his expression showed no interest in her.

'What a stubborn man. Well, let's see how long you can resist my sexual charm,' she thought.

She was already in front of him and tried to touch his face, but before she could do so, she suddenly appeared in a different place. Aldrian also disappeared from where he had stood, which shocked her because of the sudden change.

She quickly looked at her surroundings with a solemn expression. She was in space, as countless stars could be seen in the far distance.

'Is this an illusion? But how could he trap me inside an illusion when he himself had already been inside my illusion strengthened by my domain?' she thought.

"You are a powerful succubus, I will give you that. You even dared to enter my consciousness and directly affect my subconscious," Aldrian's voice resounded across space.

"And it looks like you have also received the Vampire King's favor, since you possess the same defensive talisman as that guy."

Alicia was astonished once more because Aldrian spoke about the Vampire King so casually.

Her expression finally turned angry as she looked around.

"Who are you?! How do you know about His Majesty?!"

"How could I not know him when I am the one who killed him? Do not even think about waiting for him anymore. He will not come to save you or the devils in this world or anywhere else," Aldrian replied, giving Alicia another shock, one even more intense than before.

The Vampire King was dead? He was dead? One of the four overlords who ruled the central region of Heaven was dead?

Alicia's expression turned ugly as she glared furiously at her surroundings.

"You are lying! There is no way His Majesty was killed! There is no way—!" Suddenly, within her vision, she saw the Vampire King's terrifying condition. The sight of him after the black hole's supernova appeared before her, followed by the moment of his death as Aldrian burned him with black flames.

Her expression still showed disbelief as she shouted into the endless space.

"I don't believe it!"

Her aura burst outward violently, and her body transformed into her devil form.

Her skin turned red, and succubus horns and a tail appeared. A pair of wings emerged from her lower back, and her nails lengthened into sharp claws.

In this form, she changed from beautiful and seductive into a true demonic temptress. She remained beautiful and alluring in her own way, but the combination of her succubus nature and devilish features made her exude a different kind of sexual charm.

She was a deadly seductress.

"Break!" she roared as she clasped her hands, attempting to escape the illusion. However, she saw no change at all, which made her expression grow even angrier.

"Aldrian, show yourself!" she roared, but then she froze when she suddenly felt chills deep within her soul. Her body stiffened, and sweat rolled down from her forehead.

For the first time in a long while, a feeling resurfaced in her heart. A feeling she had long forgotten.

Fear.

She felt fear.

She tried to understand why she suddenly felt fear as she turned her head toward the source she could sense. She slowly lifted her head, and what she saw caused her soul to shake.

She saw Aldrian's enormous figure. His size alone was larger than an entire galaxy. She did not know why, but she felt as if even the entire heavens rested within his grasp.

The only thing that appeared in her mind the moment she saw him was...despair.

"You are brave to invade my consciousness and try to trap me in your illusion. Now be gone," Aldrian said in an authoritative tone.

With only those words, Alicia's figure completely disappeared from the space, fear clearly visible in her gaze.

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