

Supreme Lord 241

Chapter 241 Combo

Masked Saber had been tackling another Horned Werewolf when he noticed what transpired behind his back.

He swirled around his own axis and released most of the silver energy coating his saber at once. The silver energy burst in the enraged Horned Werewolf's direction, piercing a hole in the monster's chest.

Yet, instead of killing the enraged Horned Werewolf with a single blow, the hole merely crushed the monster's scales and bits of its firm and highly resilient flesh.

Michael frowned deeply seeing the negligible damage caused by Masked Saber. Under normal circumstances, the burst of silver energy was enough to deliver a killing blow to a Low Tier-2 Monster. Even Monsters with strong defense wouldn't be able to block Masked Saber's attack that easily.

"Superior Existences?" Michael blurted out in confusion.

If the four Horned Werewolves were Superior Existences, their combination of rapid speed, massive strength, and strong defense would make sense.

Their presence clearly indicated that they were only Low-stage Tier-2 Monsters, but their combat prowess was clearly higher. They were strong enough to pose a danger to Michael and his group, even though their equipment and Soultraits enhanced their combat prowess greatly.

'Good thing that I was able to finish off one of them quickly.' Michael thought in his mind before he manifested three enhanced Spirit Whips. Each of them struck one of the three remaining Horned Werewolves, taking them by surprise.

The damage caused by Spirit Whip was considerable. It wasn't enough to knock out a Tier-2 Superior Existence, but Michael could see that they lost their balance when the Spirit Whips impacted hard on their minds.

Wanting to take advantage of their weakness, he retracted Zark and retrieved the Wyverntooth Spear. After applying four layers of Enhancement on the Wyverntooth Spear, the Artifact's external enhancement increased by more than 100%. The burst of strength flooding Michael's body was enough to make him move instantaneously.

His feet kicked the ground, spraying sand all around as he shot toward the enraged Horned Werewolf.

Masked Saber was struggling a bit while dealing with two Horned Werewolves simultaneously. Michael's attack with Zark created a great opening, but it was not enough to deliver a killing blow.

Michael appeared behind the enraged Horned Werewolf and used Extraction to remove several layers of ground beneath the enraged Horned Werewolf before making use of the gravitational force. The Horned Werewolf was pulled into a small pit, while Michael raised his hands high in the air before bringing them down along with the Wyverntooth Spear, whose blade was covered in white-golden streams of light.

The razor-sharp black blade of the Wyverntooth Spear pierced through the gaping hole Masked Saber had inflicted, and blood and flesh were sprayed wherever the blade passed by.

Shrouding the Wyverntooth Spear's blade with Extraction and four layers of enhancement reinforced the weapon artifact to a degree that not even the hard scales and firm flesh of a Superior Existence could block.

Extraction was a 6-Star Soultrait, and several layers of 4-Star Enhancement created an effect that was comparable to a 5-Star Soultrait. Used together, they felt like an unstoppable force.

Michael twisted the Wyverntooth Spear once it drilled deep enough into the chest of the enraged Horned Werewolf. The monster whimpered in pain as it tried to claw at Michael in desperation. It almost hit him, just for Michael to move aside at the last moment. His Eagle Eyes saved him from a severe injury that would bleed him to death.

Using four high-ranked Soultraits simultaneously was still taxing, but it was not as straining as before. That was thanks to his mind-refining technique reaching the second stage, and him advancing to the 2nd Tier, enhancing his mental strength drastically.

Michael ruptured the wound inflicted on the enraged Horned Werewolf when he retrieved the Wyverntooth Spear. Only a few strands of golden light remained inside the Horned Werewolf, slowly extracting the Werewolf's blood and flesh.

The enraged Horned Werewolf was too injured to move at this point. Spirit Whips kept striking its mind, preventing the monster from thinking straight, and forming a proper mental defense. It couldn't even use its mental power to restrict Michael's Extraction at this point.

Understanding that the enraged Horned Werewolf was on the verge of death, Michael moved over to support Masked Saber. I think you should take a look at

They moved swiftly and in great sync, slashing and thrusting their weapons simultaneously but at different vital points.

The Horned Werewolf clawed at their weapons with the intention to block them, but Michael's Wyverntooth Spear was too powerful at this point.

Four-layer Enhancement and 6-Star Extraction combined were simply not something that could be blocked with bare hands. The Horned Werewolf's scales crumbled as Michael extracted some of the nutrients that made the silver scales hard and seemingly unbreakable.

The scales on the Horned Werewolf's claw turned brittle, unable to block Michael's spear thrust.

The four-layer enhanced Wyverntooth Spear sunk deep into the Werewolf's arm, cutting the entire arm in half with a single attack.

Afterward, the golden streams of Extraction invaded the Horned Werewolf's body, slowly draining his blood. Michael tried to extract the Horned Werewolf's flesh and organs as well, but the monster was still too strong mentally to allow Extraction to take more than its blood.

Several Spirit whips struck the Horned Werewolf as both Masked Saber and Michael delivered one blow after another. With their combined effort and a great combination of Soultraits, they easily dealt with the other Horned Werewolf, leaving only the Horned Werewolf, which Tiara distracted.

Tiara's ability to change her trajectory without a loss in momentum was fully displayed against the Horned Werewolf. She didn't use her silver spear to attack the monster with the intention to injure it. Instead, Tiara attacked the Horned Werewolf to divert the trajectory of its attacks by smashing the silver spear against the monster's claws. Simultaneously, she moved around rapidly, preventing the Horned Werewolf from entering her range.

Whenever the Horned Werewolf entered Tiara's range, she thrust the silver spear toward the monster's vital points, forcing the Horned Werewolf to respond hastily. The monster evaded the attacks, which caused a change in its momentum. It slowed down and moved to the side.

On the other hand, Tiara accelerated. She began initiating attacks to slowly break down the scales protecting the Horned Werewolf's chest.

Less than five minutes into the battle, Tiara's movements accelerated again. However, instead of attacking mindlessly, she waited for the perfect moment. Michael and Masked Saber appeared next to her, and the three joined hands to kill the last Horned Werewolf.

The team of three worked together, attacking the Horned Werewolf no more than three times before it collapsed on the ground. It flinched once before it stopped moving altogether.

After the battle was over, Michael took a moment to catch his breath. He'd used way more origin energy than he intended to utilize in such a small battle.

But that was the obvious downside of possessing multiple combat-related Soultraits. Each of them drained his origin energy, and Michael utilized them in combination, increasing the energy consumption exponentially.

Nonetheless, Michael was quite satisfied with himself. Being able to defeat several Superior Existences at the same rank was not something everyone could do.

But that was not everything. Michael sensed that his origin energy was replenishing rapidly.

The replenishment speed was even faster than usual. His Sun Soldier's breathing technique played a big role in the accelerated replenishment of his origin energy because the air in the surroundings was now enriched with dense and pure origin energy.

Yet, even then, Michael's origin energy replenished way too fast.

Michael only realized what was going on when his attention moved to the monster carcasses.

"So that's how it is?"

Chapter 242 Insights

Michael's attention was pulled to the remaining traces of Extraction. They were still inside the Horned Werewolves, slowly draining the remnants of origin energy inside the corpses.

The extracted origin energy immediately entered Michael's body, replenishing his used-up energy.

'I can even extract their origin energy? That's pretty useful,' Michael mused, a vivid smile blossoming on his face.

If he could replenish his used-up energy by using Extraction on the corpses of the battlefield, he wouldn't have to worry about his high energy consumption.

Until now, his energy consumption had been his biggest restriction. Trying to use several Soultraits with their full power simultaneously was simply too draining to fight a long battle. Even while fighting the Horned Werewolves, Michael had to use more than half of his stored origin energy to win. Fortunately, that seemed to change now that Michael found a new use of Extraction – a function that seemed to have been unlocked after upgrading Extraction to a 6-Star Soultrait.

They didn't sustain any injuries thanks to his actions, but they wouldn't be able to tackle another group of Horned Werewolves that easily – if not for the Sun Soldier's Breathing technique and Extraction's newly unraveled function.

He drained the corpses of the Horned Werewolves to fill his origin energy storage to the brim. Afterward, the remaining remnants of origin energy were released into the air, allowing Masked Saber and Tiara to replenish their used-up energy faster as well.

"So I cannot use Extraction to actively accelerate the refinement of my War Rune. I see," Michael mumbled as he felt the density of origin energy around him increase slowly.

Once the corpses were drained of the last remnants of origin energy, Michael used Extraction to extract the loot created by the Will of the Origin Expanse.

He used Extraction on the four Horned Werewolf corpses while waiting in anticipation to see the drops he could obtain inside the Lord Rift.

But what appeared in front of him confused Michael quite a bit.

"17 Summoning Scrolls, 509 Summoning Scroll Fragments, one 1-Star Tier-2 Artifact, six rare blueprints, and 2 SoulStar Fragments from four Superior Species... isn't that way too much? And why are SoulStar Fragments dropping?" Michael blurted out, a deep frown forming on his face, "Is it because the loot in the Lord Rift is higher?"

Supreme Existences were known to drop better loot, but they shouldn't drop that much, let alone SoulStar Fragments.

"If the drop-rate for all drops is that high in the rift, we shouldn't avoid monsters while harvesting herbs, plants, and ores," Masked Saber pointed out, and Tiara agreed without hesitation.

"As long as we take bigger groups of Monsters by surprise, we won't have an issue dealing with seven or even eight Superior Species at the 2nd Tier," She said with confidence.

Michael just nodded while using Extraction to dissect the corpses of the four Horned Werewolves. As a Superior Existence, every single part of the Horned Werewolves' bodies was valuable. Michael was not foolish enough to leave behind the small treasure troves.

Once he stored the perfectly dissected corpses inside the War Rune's storage space, Michael began to utilize Eagle Eyes to figure out if there were more monsters in the surroundings for him to kill.

He soon spotted two large groups of monsters, and his eyes glimmered in excitement. Michael knew them from studying the Beastarium. They were all Superior Existences!

'Are all Monsters in the Lord Rift Superior Existences?'

"Let's move to the forest first, I want to extract the resin of the Purplebloom tree. We'll need it to brew the tincture for the teleportation array," Michael ordered.

They slowly moved through the small plain and approached the flourishing forest, which shone in various colors. A wide variety of trees grew in the forest, creating a vibrant scenery filled with bountiful colors.

Michael couldn't find many big groups of monsters roaming inside the forest, but he easily located a bunch of smaller monster groups scattered all around. In fact, the hordes in the small plains seemed to expand in size the longer he searched for smaller groups.

Interestingly enough, all monsters had one thing in common- They were Superior Existences and at the 2nd Tier.

No monster was at the 1st Tier, let alone an ordinary existence. Most of them could be considered unique in the Origin Expanse, yet they were ordinary in the Lord Rift.

This find was also why Michael was more curious to explore the vast and vivid forest. He and his team entered it with great vigilance. They immediately encountered a small group of monsters, which they attacked without hesitation.

Taking the group of three Diamond Deers by surprise, Michael, Tiara and Masked Saber were able to kill them in less than a minute. Michael used three four-layer enhanced Spirit Whips to lash at the Diamond Deers the moment he and his team appeared next to the monsters.

He used Enhancement several times on the Wyverntooth Spear as well, ensuring that he could pierce through the Diamond Deer's thick hide. And, immediately after piercing through the thick hide, Michael utilized Extraction to drain the Diamond Deer's blood, and origin energy.

Michael used five layers of Enhancement on Extraction so as to unleash the lethality of Extraction to its full extent.

Yet, instead of only extracting blood and origin energy, Michael felt like he was revitalized, and his body was refreshed. Usually, he would feel mentally exhausted using too many layers of Enhancement combined with two or more other Soultraits. But Michael was currently using Eagle Eyes, three four-layer enhanced Spirit Whips, and five-layer enhanced Extraction without feeling a severe headache.

Instead of feeling mentally exhausted, Michael felt fit and refreshed.

It was confusing, but the puzzle was not that hard to solve.

'The Diamond Deer's vitality. I'm extracting it as well!' Michael nearly blurted aloud as realization struck him.

His eyes began to gleam brightly, and his focus moved to the pulsating golden streams of Extraction. They infiltrated the Diamond Deer's body, and rapidly drained its lifeforce, origin energy, and blood.

Both lifeforce and origin energy entered his body while the extracted blood splattered on the ground.

The fight against his opponent ended shortly after it started. After being struck by a four-layer enhanced Spirit Whip and pierced by the Wyverntooth Spear that weakened the Diamond Deer's mental guard and injured it severely, Extraction dealt the finishing blow by draining it of Origin energy rapidly.

After the Diamond Deer was left too weak to counterattack, Michael struck it two more times with the enhanced Spirit Whip before moving away to support Tiara and Masked Saber.

Michael lowered his upper body when he emerged next to the Diamond Deer Tiara was fighting. He struck the Diamond Deer with two enhanced Spirit Whips and thrust out with the Wyverntooth Spear.

Meanwhile, Tiara changed her trajectory suddenly, slashing the silver spear diagonally across the Diamond Deer's head.

Blood splattered, and the Diamond Deer bleated in pain before thigh-thick golden streams engulfed it, seemingly devouring the Diamond Deer.

Michael could clearly sense the Diamond Deer faltering after it had been struck with Spirit Whips. It was also possible to sense the amount of lifeforce and origin energy left inside the Diamond Deer after his golden streams of extraction spread through the monster.

The third Diamond Deer became his next victim. It died after suffering the combined attack from Michael, Tiara, and Masked Saber.

Under normal circumstances, Michael would have little to no origin energy left inside his body. He would be mentally drained as well after fighting not 1 but three Supreme Existences. But neither was the case right now.

Michael felt energetic and his origin energy storage was half filled. The used-up origin energy replenished quite fast, and it grew even faster after the last Diamond Deer died. Using Extraction actively on the Diamond Deers that had just been killed, Michael could drain the last remnants of origin energy residing within them.

'Extracting lifeforce is not that simple. I have to use five-layer enhanced Extraction and crush the mental defense of my opponent before I can even think about draining their life force. It's only obvious but there is no more lifeforce inside the bodies of the deceased. That means I have to leave some opponents alive to drain their lifeforce mid-battle while continuing fighting the remaining opponents without a splitting headache. That can be quite dangerous.'

Michael was quite satisfied with the gains he made since he entered the Lord Rift. He learned a lot more about Extraction, granting him more ways to fight against a large number of opponents.

Michael extracted the loot gained by killing the three Diamond Deers before he dissected them perfectly.

After that, he focused on harvesting the Purplebloom tree's resin using Extraction, collecting plants and herbs, and killing more monsters.

In the following two hours, they encountered three more small monster groups, which Michael fought using a few tactics he made up using his new insights about Extraction.

He first injured one monster severely before extracting the ground beneath it. The severely injured monster would fall into a pit before it was struck with a four-layer enhanced Spirit Whip. Once injured and its mental guard broken, five-layer enhanced Extraction would drain its origin energy and lifeforce rapidly.

Michael would then divert his attention and attack the other monsters, helping Masked Saber and Tiara. Whenever a monster was injured and struck with Spirit Whip, Michael would release a strand of Extraction to invade the injured monster to drain it slowly of its Origin energy.

Afterward, Michael only had to focus on continuously crushing the monster's mental guard while continuing to both exert Extraction and pressure his opponents in close-combat.

Michael was having some problems executing his new strategy properly. Instinctively fighting was much easier for him rather than following a complex tactic. But he was getting better as time passed.

After two hours, he had decently adapted to the drastic change in his tactic. He could fight with three Superior Existences at the 2nd Tier simultaneously, without feeling like his head would split apart.

Meanwhile, the loot inside his storage space had amassed rapidly.

Michael became a wealthy tycoon in less than two hours!

Chapter 243 Unknown Enemy

So far, Michael was enjoying his time in the Lord Rift. Fighting Superior Existences at the 2nd Tier, and collecting rare herbs and plants was just the beginning.

He harvested several Death-trap Plants, known for their exceptional rarity and great difficulties in nurturing them, and collected thousands of Emerald Crystalline Leaves, Aurora Flowers, Blackwater Resin, Plumos Roots, and Ruby Logs of the core of Rubyrien trees.

The ingredients he harvested were hard to procure in mankind's market, and some were unknown to them in the first place.

'Good thing I made enough preparations. Researching all types of ores and plants was certainly worth it.'

Michael was satisfied with the preparations he did over the course of the last few weeks. Despite that he was aware of only a handful of the ingredients from the lessons he'd received from the Forest Elves Bionarium – the book of nature –, and the Master Alchemist of his territory.

As such, one day passed in the blink of an eye.

The sun had set a while ago, forcing Tiara and Masked Saber to use the luminous creme on their eyelids to see a little bit in the dark. Michael's Eagle Eyes had gotten accustomed to see in the dark by now. The range of his vision wasn't huge but it allowed him to see things farther than he would be able to see with the luminous creme.

After advancing to the 2nd Tier, the body didn't need as much sleep as before. Circulating origin energy through the body to keep the body and mind fresh.

It was enough to sleep once every few days to fully replenish the lost energy.

Nonetheless, Michael and the others decided to rest a little. Some Monsters and other Lords might be able to see much better in the dark than them. Hence, it would be a disaster if they were discovered and attacked.

Michael was the first to take over the nightguard duty. He observed the surroundings with great vigilance while the others rested for a few hours. Once his shift was over, Tiara replaced him. Michael then went to sleep.

The first rays of sunlight shining on his bald head woke Michael gently. He stretched his body and opened his eyes while stifling a yawn.

He looked at the War Rune on the back of his right hand and smiled faintly. The energy influxes of the monsters he'd killed the day before had been fully digested, refining his War Rune by a small margin.

The War Rune was much larger than before. When his War Rune manifested the first time it was tiny and hard to be discover for others. They would have to focus on the back of his right hand to find it. But now the War Rune covered the majority of the back of the hand. It was vibrant and easily visible to everyone.

It was still early in the morning when Michael and his team began walking through the vast forest. They slowly made their way toward the mountain range where Michael would harvest as many rare ores as possible.

Time passed quickly, and they only took a break when it was time for lunch. After nearly ten fights with small monster groups, they deserved a great meal.

They started a small fire and cooked the tender meat of the Diamond Deers.

Since everyone was hungry, they ate a lot. Michael devoured several kilograms of meat, slowly filling his stomach to the brim. He knew that he could eat even more, but his stomach had to digest everything, and Michael knew that he had to be ready to fight at any moment. It would be a little bit disadvantageous if he ended up reacting to slowly just because he felt drowsy after eating too much.

The Diamond Deer's meat was delicious. It filled Michael with nutrition and energy. He was ready to rumble.

However, before he and the others could get up and leave, they heard the rustling of leaves from the side.

Tiara and Masked Saber jumped up simultaneously, their hands on their weapons. Meanwhile, Michael used Eagle Eyes, which he enhanced a few times.

Michael's eyes narrowed as the foliage to their right continued to rustle. Suddenly, the scenery around them changed. The extinguished campfire was set ablaze once again due to the strong gusts of wind that swirled around Michael and his people.

The blazing campfire shot in the air, where it formed the head of a dragon. The dragon head stared down at Michael, just to keep changing form as the gusts of wind swirled around it.

The dragon head expanded in size and shot down toward Michael with its maw wide open. Michael lifted an eyebrow while staring at the fiery dragon head. The next moment, he used Extraction to drain his vicinity of oxygen. The oxygen within the blazing dragon head was extracted by Michael, causing the flames to die down before they could reach him.

The Dragon head dispersed in all directions, and the sparks died down after being unable to devour or deter Michael.

Michael's attention moved back to the rustling leaves to their right. A faint smile blossomed on his lips, and he manifested Zark in his hands.

He then used Enhancement to strengthen Zark, conjured an energy arrow on the bowstring and pulled it back.

The next moment he spun his body around 180 degrees, aimed for a second and released the arrow.

'You think you can fool me just because you have a wind and fire affinity? You cannot hide your movements and noises completely even if you distract me with rustling leaves!'

Given his already high perception and Eagle Eye's focus on enhancing his eyesight, Michael saw the perpetrators from the corner of his eyes as he took care of the blazing dragon head.

The energy arrow cut through the air, just to be blocked by an earthen wall shooting out of the ground.

"An earth affinity as well?" Michael asked, slightly surprised when he noticed that the ground beneath them started to get muddy.

"All basic elemental affinities?" Michael cursed, using Extraction to extract the hydrogen in the ground beneath him, Tiara, and Masked Saber, preventing the condensation of water in the first place

He stored the hydrogen in his War Rune's space to ensure that the unknown enemy couldn't make use of it.

However, that was not necessary because small pole-sized earthen pillars shot out of the ground around Michael and the others.

The pillars were not thick but they momentarily restricted their movements. The unknown enemy received enough time to conjure several fireballs and throw them at his imprisoned enemies – or so the enemy thought.

Michael used Extraction to break down a few thin pillars, allowing him, Tiara and Masked Saber to escape easily.

Afterward, they entered a combat stance, and prepared to fight a big battle.

"You've got an interesting Soultrait right here. Were you able to awaken a Unique Racial trait related to your Soultrait, or are you the descendant of a human race powerhouse?" A calm and composed voice resounded in the vast forest.

Michael's danger senses began tingling due to the voice, despite its pleasant and welcoming sound.

"Does the human race even have powerhouses to begin with? I doubt you have real Divine Existences given that I learned about the human race only a few days ago," The voice asked mockingly.

A scoff reached his ears, causing Michael to lift an eyebrow.

"Who are you?" Michael asked before using Enhancement on his body twice.

The human race wasn't well-known in the Origin Expanse. They were a rather young race that shouldn't be known by many in the Zentika Empire, or in the Lord Rift.

Despite that, the unknown enemy knew exactly what race Michael belonged to.

"Who am I? Well...I might be your friend...or your enemy."

The voice spoke mysteriously, drawing every word out deliberately.

"How about we find out?"

The last words of their enemy rang through the forest just before a barrage of fireballs, wind blades, and earthen spikes shot through the air.

Chapter 244 Lord Of The Elements

The incoming elemental attacks were not as fast as Michael's energy arrows, but it was their overwhelming numbers that made a difference.

Dozens of fireballs, earthen spikes and wind blades shot in Michael's direction, aiming at the small group of three.

Michael stepped forward while exerting Extraction and golden thigh-thick streams shot out of his palms. The golden streams heeded Michael's will, forming a small barrier in front of the three of them.

The golden barrier couldn't block any attacks, but it could extract oxygen from everything that passed through it.

Unfortunately, the golden barrier was restricted and was unable to destroy the fireballs and wind blades. The elemental attacks merely slowed down a bit after they lost a small margin of force. However, that was just enough to give the team of three the time they needed to create a path of escape.

Michael's Eagle Eyes were unleashed, allowing him to predict the trajectory of all incoming projectiles precisely. He struck down two Earthen Spikes with the Wyvern tooth Spear before he moved nimbly around the incoming fireballs and wind blades to destroy them.

Tiara, more or less, had the same reaction as Michael. She destroyed a few wind blades with swift spear thrusts before she utilized her Soultrait to change her trajectory instantaneously. A fireball shot past her head, missing her by a hair's breadth. But other than the blazing head and the sizzling noise ringing through her ear nothing happened to Tiara.

However, Masked Saber had a different way of tackling the attacks when compared to Michael and Tiara, who made sure that they didn't waste too much origin energy in evading the barrage of elemental attacks. Masked Saber coated his saber in silver energy, which he released with a simple slash. A crescent-shaped silver blade cut through the air, destroying the wind blades and most of the earthen spikes.

The fireballs exploded and the compressed wind blades burst apart upon colliding with silver energy blades. Masked Saber merely had to step aside to evade the remaining elemental attacks shooting toward him.

Afterward, the three looked at each other. Tiara nodded subtly to the others before she shot to the side. She disappeared inside a field of large bushes the next moment. Masked Saber, on the other hand, rushed toward the source of the elemental attacks.

He released more silver energy than before and created a stronger silver energy blade without hesitation. The silver energy blade whistled quietly as it shot through the air swiftly. It cut through the earthen wall that was blocking their sight and continued to advance rapidly.

The silver blade destroyed everything it came in contact with, cutting down a few bushes and old trees on its way.

The silver energy blade was about to impact on the source of the elemental attacks when several massive earthen walls shot out of the ground.

Two more earthen walls were cut down due to the massive force of the razor-sharp silver energy blade before the attack was finally rendered useless.

Masked Saber's attacks were known for possessing the most destructive force. Michael might be in possession of several combat-type Soultraits, but none of them allowed him to release a powerful one-kill attack. His Soultraits mostly focused on support, mental attacks, and trickery.

Masked Saber's silver energy blade was different. The more silver energy used the more terrifying the strength of the silver energy blade.

Using Masked Saber's attack as a distraction, Michael shot to the side before he burst forward. Meanwhile, Masked Saber didn't make any detour. He rushed to the source of the elemental attacks without hesitation.

Some trees around him fell over after they'd been cut by the silver energy blade, while the undergrowth was covered with the remnants of bushes. Nonetheless, Michael's Eagle Eyes were able to accurately locate the enemy through the chaos and rubble of the collapsing trees and earthen walls.

'A Zantur?' Michael almost blurted out when he saw the dimly shimmering silver skin known as a significant characteristic of the Zantur race.

After he saw the silver skin, Michael's attention moved to the one eye, the three pointed ears, and the thick skull that protruded out of the back of his head.

Their enemy was definitely a Lord of the Zantur race at the upper range of the 2nd Tier. He was wielding a large wooden staff that had various black enchantments engraved all over its surface. The enchantments were all connected to the brightly glowing Mana Orb that was attached to the head of the staff.

No matter how Michael looked at the staff, it seemed like a huge problem as it exuded strong pressure that could be sensed over a distance of dozens of meters. Meanwhile, the tunic covering the Zantur's body seemed more inconspicuous. But Michael could tell the truth.

The tunic had even more complex enchantments engraved all over its surface. The enchantments were black just like the tunic, but the tone was slightly different, allowing Michael to discover the enchantments – all thanks to his exceptional eyesight.

Enchanted staffs and tunics were mostly used by Sorcerers, who wanted their Artifacts to focus on enhancing the power of their spells, increasing energy output, and accelerating energy circulation.

Michael was not too sure what type of Soultrait the Zantur possessed, but he was clearly an Elementalist who could wield all four basic elements with great control.

The Zantur could manifest dozens of ordinary and long-range elemental projectiles within seconds. They were weaker than arrows released by a Tier-2 Archer, but the quantity made the difference.

Earthen pillars shot out of the ground in front of Masked Saber, restricting his movements. Masked Saber had to go around the earthen pillars and pay more attention to the trembling ground around him.

Masked Saber wanted to destroy the earthen pillars, but his focus was always diverted back to the ground around him. Whenever he stopped moving, the trembling beneath his feet intensified, forcing Masked Saber to keep moving.

'Zanturs don't like fighting. So why is he attacking me?' Michael wondered as the ground beneath his feet disappeared. The soil was pushed aside, and Michael was sucked into a hole, which was slowly being filled with water.

Michael frowned deeply and began using Extraction to remove the water as it filled the hole. Spikes shot out from all directions of the hole and were slowly inching closer to Michael.

Fortunately, he had just finished removing the water in the hole, providing steady ground to jump out. He kicked his feet off the ground and leaped out of the hole before covering his body with several layers of Enhancement. Their enemy might be a Zantur and alone, but he was powerful.

Michael was still too far away to make use of Spirit Whip to attack the Zantur mentally, but he was slowly inching closer.

Masked Saber pushed around the earthen pillars, his saber already coated in a thick layer of silver energy. He was just about to slash in the Zantur's direction when several bullets of compressed wind impacted hard on Masked Saber's shoulders.

Compared to the wind blades, the wind bullets were much faster, but also less threatening. They were like rubber bullets, fast and powerful enough to cause bruises, but unable to pierce your clothes, let alone skin and flesh.

Michael looked over to Masked Saber when he saw that his summon had been attacked. His first thought was that Masked Saber's clothes would tear and that his skin would be exposed, thus triggering the restriction that was attached to his life as a Summon.

Fortunately, that was not the case. Michael could divert his attention back to the Zantur. He saw Tiara emerging from a bush near the Zantur, white fur growing out of her arms, and her pupils contracting – slowly morphing into the eyes of a murderous tigress.

Her silver spear lunged forward in an instant, nearly hitting the Zantur, who conjured several wind bullets to blast the spear away.

However, before the wind bullets could collide with the spear, Tiara changed her trajectory. Her body moved in a weird angle, allowing her to spin the silver spear around her body, and accumulate more momentum to initiate a second attack.

Her second attack collided with several fireballs that exploded upon contact. The explosion affected both Tiara and the Zantur. However, Tiara backed off, knowing that Michael had finally arrived.

The Zantur's view was blocked due to the smoke released from the exploding fireballs. He could only retreat and try to manifest a few earthen pillars to ensure that his opponents couldn't reach him.

But the Zantur hadn't expected to be bombarded with mind-splitting mental attacks.

Michael used enhancement four times to strengthen each of the two Spirit Whips he had manifested. They struck down on the Zantur's head once Michael was finally close enough to attack. The Spirit Whip impacted heavily, causing the Zantur to falter.

The Zantur's sight turned hazy and he lost control of his Soultrait. Unable to wield the four basic elements, the Zantur could only retreat further, hoping that the earthen walls in between them would give him enough time to recuperate and use the four elemental affinities again.

However, Michael didn't want to give the Zantur enough time to recuperate. He unleashed Extraction to extract the earthen wall's soil in a small radius. A small hole – barely big enough to squeeze through – was created in the earthen walls, allowing Michael to avoid a loss in time and momentum. He jumped through the hole in the earthen walls and appeared in front of the Zantur, whom he struck with the two four-layer enhanced Spirit Whips a few more times.

His Wyverntooth Spear shot forward, the tip approaching the Zantur's neck with shocking speed.

Yet, before the Wyverntooth Spear could reap the Zantur's life, Michael noticed a drastic change in the surrounding atmosphere.

The Zantur's silver body began to shine brightly and his single eye turned crimson. A tremendous amount of pure origin energy was released from within the Zantur in the next second. The dense origin energy in the surroundings was pulled toward the Zantur's origin energy before it was devoured and annexed.

In response to the tremendous amount of origin energy shrouding the Zantur, the staff and tunic's enchantments were triggered simultaneously.

All of a sudden, the Zantur's mental power increased greatly. The Spirit Whips were rendered useless even though they'd been enhanced with four layers of Enhancement.

Seeing how the Zantur regained the clarity in his eyes shocked Michael. He knew just how powerful the Spirit Whips were since he had been struck by one more than once in the past. The change in the Zantur's presence clearly showed that he was done playing around.

The Zantur gathered strong winds around his body. He ignited a flame within the core of the winds before fusing the gusts of wind with the blazing flames that were born in the center of the wind.

Michael wanted to continue his attack and pierce through the Zantur's neck as long as he was still able to. But before the blade could reach the Zantur's neck, several layers of compressed earth manifested in front of the Wyverntooth Spear's black blade.

The blade was blocked by the compressed earth even though the force Michael applied should have been more than enough to pierce through the earthen wall before.

'Did his affinities just grow stronger?' Michael concluded near instantaneously.

The change in the Zantur's fighting style was apparent. He fused his wind and fire affinity to create mightier blazing flames all while the endurance of his earthly creations increased drastically.

One of the blazing gusts of wind shot toward Michael. Michael was prepared and quickly used Extraction, hoping to be able to extract some of the oxygen within the blazing gust of wind in the next second before it would impact.

However, his hope was crushed instantaneously. Extraction failed.

But it didn't fail because it was too weak. No, Extraction failed to show any remarkable results against the Zantur because the Zantur's willpower was several times stronger than before.

The Zantur controlled his elemental affinities precisely and with great care, ensuring that nobody could access them without him noticing and further strengthening his defenses.

As he was unable to extract more than 5% oxygen within the blazing gusts of wind, Michael could only hope to move aside. Eagle Eyes was still in use, allowing him to predict the projectile's trajectory.

However, before he could move, earthen pillars appeared to his left and right. Michael tried to extract them as well, but he couldn't crush the earthen pillars in an instant. It would take a few seconds before he could escape the earthen pillars. It was much more convenient to move backward and retreat.

But that was not possible. The blazing gusts of wind reached Michael, and they impacted heavily.

At the moment of impact Michael's breath was taken away. He could barely unleash the full power of the protection enchantments of the Typhern Leather Armor Set before he was flung across the forest.

Michael crashed heavily into a tree a moment after he used several layers of Enhancement on his body. That way, Michael could barely protect his body from turning into a mashed pulp.

The blazing gust of wind felt more like a cannonball than a cozy breeze. It had been terrific and strong enough to kill a Mid Tier-2 Monster with a single blow.

Even the tree Michael crashed into was dented inwardly.

Michael slumped to the ground with a groan and managed to get up when he heard something in front of him.

Tiara was also flung through the air by a blazing gust of wind. However, she couldn't protect her body as well as Michael.

'Oh...fuck me...' Michael cursed in his heart, moving instinctively in Tiara's trajectory to catch her.

'This will hurt a lot.' He could only think before she crashed into him.

Chapter 245 Tac Lec

No bones in Michael's body were broken but the pain spreading through his body was immense.

He could barely catch his breath before Tiara smashed into him, pushing him further into the tree behind him.

Michael's breath was taken away at once and his sight blurred for a second or two. Once his sight cleared he saw a cloaked figure hit by a dragon head and flung toward him with the speed and force of a cannonball.

It was Masked Saber.

Michael frowned and tried to get up, but Tiara's body was still on top of him, restricting his movements.

Masked Saber reacted instinctively when he got a glimpse of Michael's situation. He twisted his body mid-air to change his posture, turn around and pierce downward with his black saber. Masked Saber's entire arm trembled as the saber pierced deep into the ground, slowing him down.

His feet touched the ground and he came to a halt just in front of Michael and Tiara.

"I still got it in me," Masked Saber mumbled, pulling the saber out of the soil.

Tiara moved aside and got up, giving Michael space to jump up as well.

"To think that you forced me to use my Unique Racial ability. I must have underestimated your power and teamwork quite a bit," The Zantur spoke calmly as he took a step forward.

A look of surprise blossomed on the Zantur's face.

"To think that you have so many Soultraits. You're quite powerful. It seems like the report about you hasn't been exaggerated. If anything, the report underestimated your capabilities quite a bit," He mumbled, while the bright shine of his skin dimmed down.

'Report about me? Did the Council collect information about me and share it with the Lords entering the Lord Rift?'

"You have a Unique Racial ability just like me, don't you? Your Artifacts are probably Epic Tier-2 as well. You must be one of the more talented kids of the human race. My name is Tac Lec, and I'm going to warn you just once. Most Lords in here have been ordered to kill outsiders like you and Taros," The Zantur, Tac Lec said, lightly waving his staff around to control the winds, earth, and water in the vicinity.

He controlled the elements easily and smiled lightly while talking to him as if they were discussing the weather. He seemed completely unbothered by the fact that they had been fighting each other seriously just a moment ago.

"If you and the others have been ordered to kill me, why don't you do it then?" Michael asked, unsure where the conversation was going.

They had been fighting, and Michael was even about to kill Tac Lec if the Zantur hadn't blocked his spear thrust by triggering his Unique Racial Ability.

"I don't think that I can escape injuries while fighting you in a life-and-death battle. It would only waste my remaining time in the Lord Rift to fight you. I don't really feel like facing the other Lords while I'm injured either," Tac Lec said with a shrug before he added, "I'll make use of you if someone bothers me instead. Since I know where you are, and how strong you are, I don't have to worry."

Michael nodded his head subconsciously when he heard what the Zantur said. Had they not been inside the Lord Rift, Michael would have loved to continue fighting Tac Lec. But since they were in the Lord Rift, Michael didn't want to keep fighting either.

Their fight could attract other Lords or Monsters with the potential of Superior Existences, and the final result of the battle was uncertain as well.

Michael was confident to survive a life-and-death battle with Tac Lec, but he was not sure if he could win. Even if he could win, Michael was certain that he would lose a lot more than he could potentially gain. Tac Lec was clearly a powerful Lord with high-ranked Artifacts and great control of the four basic elements.

"Let's become friends and mutually benefit each other until we leave the Lord Rift. With your abilities, you'll be of great use, and I think you can say the same about me," Tac Lec proposed nonchalantly.

"Of course, we'll be enemies once all of this is over. Consider it a temporary alliance if you'd like to."

Contrary to before, Tac Lec didn't exude any pressure. It was almost as if the battle between them never happened.

That confused Michael even more. He had been ready to charge at Tac Lec and fight him to death, but Tac Lec seemed to have different plans.

Earthen walls manifested between Michael and Tac Lec before a strong gust of wind shrouded the Zantur.

"I consider your silence as a silent agreement. It has been a while since I saw someone as interesting as you."

Tac Lec's voice hung heavy in the air when the trees around him began to rustle. By now, Michael was thoroughly confused. And before he could speak, he heard the sound of strong gusts blasting through the surroundings, carrying Tac Lec away.

He had not even gotten the chance to ask the Zantur the questions that tormented his mind and he had already disappeared.

'Did he really leave?' Michael wondered.

He made a big detour around the earthen walls and realized that the Zantur had, in fact, left.

Their battle ended just like that, leaving a sour taste in Michael's mouth.

"He really left?" Tiara asked as she appeared next to Michael.

She gripped her silver spear tightly, angry that the Zantur had been able to easily fling her through the air.

Tiara didn't like that Michael had to rescue her either. She had made things difficult for Michael, putting him in a tough spot. The whole situation could have ended much worse if the Lord of the four basic elements didn't choose to end the fight right there.

If the battle had continued after Tac Lec used his Unique Racial Ability, everything would have gotten a lot tougher, especially for Michael since he had used a considerable amount of his Origin Energy already.

"Yep. He's not here anymore," Michael said with a grimace on his face.

"But that doesn't mean our situation has gotten better. On the contrary, if the Lords in here are after outsiders, we'll have a bunch of problems to face soon enough," Masked Saber pointed out, "Furthermore, it's quite obvious that we will have some issues dealing with the other Lords if they're on par with this Tac Lec."

"But it's good that we know more about our enemies now. At least we can respond accordingly," Michael said, still a bit sour that Tac Lec disappeared into thin air.

After his encounter with the Zantur, Michael didn't feel that it was necessary to fight the other Lords. If all of them were as powerful and well-equipped as Zantur, not sustaining injuries in a battle with them was impossible.

But that didn't mean Michael would avoid fighting the other Lords. On the contrary, he would fight them soon – once he had a few plans and tricks up his sleeve.

He could collect SoulStar Fragments and a wide variety of other loot from the Lord Rift. Using the loot to grow stronger before facing the Lords was the easiest way to kill some of them even if they were as strong as Tac Lec.

The only issue was the big question; how much the other Lords knew about him?

Tac Lec mentioned a report about him, and that the report was a gross underestimation of his power. That was something Michael considered an advantage.

There was an old saying that knowledge was power. However, with enough brute force even knowledge wouldn't be enough to clash against someone – especially if the knowledge wasn't up to date.

"How about we continue searching for rare materials first? We were on our way to the large Trixata tree before the Zantur attacked. Are we still going?" Masked Saber asked, changing the topic smoothly.

He could tell that Tiara and Michael were deep in thought and dissatisfied with the result of the battle with Tac Lec. However, there was nothing they could do about it. Tac Lec left, and it was questionable if they would see each other anytime soon.

Michael noticed what Masked Saber was doing and agreed without a second thought. The fight with Tac Lec was over. The only thing they could do now was to learn from their mistakes and move on.

"Let's go to the Trixata tree. I've never seen one that big. There might be some treasures near the tree, stimulating its growth." He said.

For the next half an hour, Michael and his team were mostly focused on paving a path to the 60-meter-large Trixata tree. It looked similar to a bonsai, but it was tens of times larger and wider.

A few monsters entered Michael's view when they reached the Trixata tree. However, the monsters didn't pay any attention to Michael and his team. They were mostly focused on the center of the Trixata tree. Three Horned Werewolves were busy clawing the tree's bark, trying to dig a hole into it.

Michael and the others were not sure why they were doing that, but they knew that they should deal with the monsters before they noticed them. Easy prey was the most favored by any hunter, after all.

He retrieved Zark, used Enhancement several times on the Bow Artifact, and condensed the strongest energy arrow. He used Eagle Eyes to aim accurately before releasing the energy arrow at once. The arrow cut through the air beautifully and fiercely, piercing through the back of the furthest Horned Werewolves' head.

The Werewolf couldn't even scream out when it collapsed on the ground and went rigid.

Not even the other Werewolves were able to do something when they sensed danger approaching rapidly.

Several energy arrows whizzed through the air, piercing deep into the Werewolves' necks and chests, ending their lives.

Chapter 246 Potions And Pills

The Horned Werewolves were killed in no time. They were too focused on scratching the Trixata tree's bark to realize what happened around them.

Michael used this as an opportunity to strike and kill the small group swiftly. Once all opponents were dead, they rushed forward, stored the monster corpses away, and focused on the Trixata tree.

"Observe the surroundings and stay vigilant," Michael ordered before he used Enhancement four times on the Wyverntooth Spear to remove the bark that had been damaged by the Horned Werewolves.

Afterward, he frowned deeply, retrieved the Wyverntooth Spear, and changed his tactic. He started using Extraction to remove the wood beneath the Trixata tree's bark.

'Something is odd. Why does it feel like the tree is alive, pulsating like a being made of flesh, blood, and veins?' Michael wondered as he extracted the wood deeper into the Trixata tree until he reached a small hollow area.

Roots and vines filled the surrounding of the hollow area, a cavity, in the center of the Trixata tree. The roots and vines engulfed something, which Michael reached out for.

He retrieved the object that was no bigger than a jewelry box, which was exactly what it looked like.

It was a brown wooden box with several crystals embedded in the corners of the lid. The crystals were green and glowing vibrantly. They shone and glimmered as if they were alive.

The roots and vines wanted to restrain Michael, preventing him from taking the box, but they were far too weak to do anything against Michael's brute force.

"Is that how the Trixata tree grew so big? Or is it the content of the box instead of the green crystals?"

Michael looked at the glimmering crystals for a while before he diverted his focus. He wanted to open the box but couldn't.

The green crystals at the corner of the lid were connected to the rest of the box, restricting Michael from opening the box without destroying the crystals.

"So...I cannot open the box without breaking the crystals. Does that mean I have to decide whether I want to retain the effect of the box, or if I think that the content of the box will be more valuable?" Michael wondered before a bright smile blossomed on his face.

"That might apply to others, but definitely not to me!" Michael scoffed lightly before using Extraction to extract the content of the box without destroying it.

It stayed unscathed while blueprints and recipes appeared in front of it.

Michael smirked at the appearance of the recipes and blueprints. Meanwhile, Masked Saber gave him a thumbs up for his quick thinking.

Michael bent down to pick up the blueprints and recipes before he took a good look at it.

"Energy Nourishing Pill, Blood Replenishment Pill, and Body Strengthening Pill...great recipes. Amazing!" Michael exclaimed upon seeing the recipes of high-quality pills.

New Warriors could take these pills and become Tier-1 Warriors in a matter of days instead of taking weeks or months. Even Tier-1 Warriors benefited greatly from the Energy Nourishing Pill and the Body Strengthening Pill. Their physique would grow stronger alongside their refinement degree, allowing them to deal with cumbersome opponents all by themselves.

Each of those recipes was extremely rare. Most wouldn't sell them even for billions of dollars. Instead, they would keep them or trade the recipes for highly valuable goods.

'Even Tigerfang is not as valuable as those recipes. This is crazy!' Micheal thought before he picked up the last recipe.

"Warrior Enlightenment Potion? Am I dreaming?" Michael mumbled, not sure if his eyes were deceiving him.

"A potion that allows the user to experience the power of a warrior. Summons are more likely to attain enlightenment, increasing the chance of Starless entities being promoted to 1-Star Warriors...Great...that's really great..." Michael exclaimed, his eyes twinkling like stars.

Currently, his biggest problem was that he had a gigantic workforce of more than 20,000 Starless Summons, but an Army consisting of roughly 1,000 1-Star combat-type summons. None of them was Tier-2 yet, resulting in giving them only a numerical advantage at best, stagnating the power of his military prowess.

Each of the four recipes he had extracted from the crystal box allowed Michael to empower his army and increase his military prowess drastically. However, the Warrior Enlightenment Potion was clearly the best. If just a quarter of his Starless Summons could be promoted to 1-Star Warriors, Michael could expand his army's military might by five times. The thought alone was enough to plaster a vibrant smile on his lips.

"The ingredients are a little bit expensive, but if we plant the Black Lilith Flower, the Neotan berry bush and a few other plants in the territory, there shouldn't be a problem," Tiara suggested after she leaned over Michael's shoulder to take a look at the ingredients required to concoct each of the pills.

Masked Saber took a look at the ingredient list as well. Some of the items were a little difficult to procure, but Michael should have it much easier than others.

Producing the ingredients in the Untamed Jungle was definitely possible. The Untamed Jungle was a perfect place to grow almost everything rapidly. Adding the power of the 4-Star Nature Spirit, the 3-Star Botanica Sorcerer, and the newly procured crystal box, Michael and the two others were certain that they could grow everything rapidly.

"We should spend a few more hours in the forest. Maybe we'll find some of the herbs, flowers and plants we need for the potion and pills," Michael remarked, ordering the others to get moving after he stored the recipes and crystal box inside the War Rune's storage space.

However, just as Michael was about to store the crystal box, he saw a glimpse of something from the corner of his eye. He instinctively stepped aside and managed to evade an arrow that dug deep into the ground where he had been standing just a moment ago.

Michael raised an eyebrow, activated Eagle Eyes and jumped back as he realized that the attack was not over.

The arrow exploded the moment after Michael moved.

"You could evade that? Seems like you have great instincts," A hoarse voice rang through the surroundings.

Michael and the others turned around, their Artifacts manifested. They were ready to fight at once.

A deep frown formed on Tiara's face and fur began to grow out from her arms and face while her eyes turned into that of a merciless predator.

A total of 15 people appeared less than fifty meters away from Michael, Tiara and Masked Saber. They were five Lords, five Awakened and five Summons each, all of them either at the Low-stage of the 2nd Tier, or at the Mid-stage.

They were all Lionhearts, Jeglaw and from the other races that made up the major population of the Zentika Empire, which meant that they were Michael's opponents. After all, they had been ordered to kill outsiders.

"Looks like you found a treasure for us. This is our Lord Rift, so how about you hand it over? We might be a little nicer to you if you compromise," The Jeglaw Lord said in calm tone. He lifted his hand, telling the Awakened next to him to prepare his bow and arrow to release a second explosive arrow.

Michael's frown deepened, and he stored the box away before changing his posture.

The Jeglaw Lord began to smile when he saw what Michael did.

"In that case, we'll just kill you and get the drops from your corpse. That might actually be for the better!" He said, laughing lightly before he manifested an Armor Set and a huge broadsword.

Michael's expression changed to neutral at that moment. He manifested Zark, utilized Enhancement several times, and pulled the bowstring back. A condensed energy arrow was nocked on the bowstring, which Michael released in the next second.

He condensed three more arrows without hesitation, releasing them simultaneously after he adjusted his aim.

The first arrow was aimed at the Awakened standing next to the Jeglaw Lord. The Awakened wanted to move aside but he didn't expect the velocity of Michael's arrow to exceed his movement speed.

After using Enhancement on Zark several times, the Bow Artifact could release arrows with much more velocity than most Mid-stage Tier-2 Awakened could unleash. The first energy arrow pierced through his thigh, while the second pierced his hand.

Meanwhile, the two other energy arrows were blocked or evaded.

Masked Saber and Tiara made use of the commotion to split up. They disappeared in the nearby bushes around Michael, leaving the young Lord alone.

However, Michael was not worried. On the contrary, he smiled foolishly.

"Let's see who is going to die!"

Chapter 247 5 Lords

Michael didn't really want to deal with five Lords and their subordinates simultaneously, but the pressure they exuded was incomparably lower than Tac Lec's. The Elementalist of the Zantur race was much stronger than them.

A single glance was enough for Michael to tell that. His first attack was already enough to inflict considerable damage to the Jeglaw Lord's subordinate. A barrage of four arrows would have never been enough against Tac Lec, but the opponents in front of him were different.

They were forced to team up with other Lords to pose a threat to the stronger Lord in the Lord Rift.

'Their Artifacts are not as unique as Tac Lec's either. They shouldn't possess any Epic Tier-2 Artifacts,' Michael concluded with an intense stare at the Artifacts manifesting in the hands of the Awakened Lords and subordinates.

Michael also switched to wielding the Wyverntooth Spear before he used Enhancement on his body, the Eagle Eyes Soultrait, and each of his Artifacts once.

A one-layer Enhancement didn't consume much energy, yet it strengthened his overall Artifacts overall by a third. Each layer of enhancement increased the targeted Soultrait, Artifact, and bodypart by roughly a third. That was enough to strengthen Michael considerably.

He didn't hesitate and kicked his feet off the ground. The ground beneath him cracked as he burst forth, instantly crossing a distance of more than ten meters.

'No more archers, and no elemental affinity?' Michael mused as he looked at the five Lords and their subordinates.

There was a Lionheart Lord in the group of enemies in front of Michael, but it didn't look like the Lionheart specialized in long-range combat. The Lionheart Lord's mane and saber was set ablaze but that was already it.

Michael chose to ignore the Lionheart Lord. Instead, he focused on the Jeglaw Lord's other subject – a Jeglaw Summon wielding a war-axe –, who charged at him.

The Jeglaw Summon lifted his war-axe high in the air and prepared to cut down at any moment. He was swift and powerful, his physical strength clearly beyond the norms.

However, Michael faced the Jeglaw Summon calmly. He manifested a four-layer enhanced Spirit Whip with which he struck the Jeglaw Summon a moment before they collided. Michael moved to the side and thrust the Wyverntooth Spear deep into the Jeglaw Summon's neck.

The Jeglaw Summon's eyes were completely white and he faltered the moment the Spirit Whip struck him heavily. He didn't have any additional defense against mental attacks, and even his natural defense was not noteworthy against a four-layer enhanced Spirit Whip. The Jeglaw Summon faltered and lost consciousness as he was unable to do anything against the black spear blade that pierced through his neck like a knife through tofu.

Blood gushed out of the Jeglaw Summon's neck like a fountain, spraying all over Michael's face and body as he twisted the blade and pulled it out with brute force.

The razor-sharp blade cut even deeper while it was being pulled out, only for Michael to keep advancing as if nothing happened.

The Jeglaw Lord frowned deeply looking at the scene that unfolded in front of him. He grit his teeth and readied himself for the collision.

The other Lords were also astonished after finding out how strong the Jeglaw Summon was. They moved closer to each other and moved toward Michael simultaneously, ready to face him together.

However, just as Michael was about to face the remaining Lords and their subordinates, Tiara and Masked Saber reappeared.

Masked Saber had been preparing a highly condensed silver energy blade. He used more than half of his stored origin energy to create the compressed silver energy blade which he released from the right side of the Lords and subordinates.

As long as the silver energy blade was strong enough, it would be able to cut through all of them with a single strike. That was exactly what Masked Saber planned to do; releasing a mighty attack that was strong enough to obliterate their opponents at once.

However, Masked Saber was not strong enough to do that. His silver energy blade was powerful, and strong enough to inflict a lethal injury to the injured subordinate of the Jeglaw Lord, cutting him in half. The energy blade continued mercilessly, striking down two more enemies before a yellow barrier condensed in front of the Destors Lord.

He stared at the silver energy blade with a tinge of surprise in his eyes. The silver energy blade caused cracks to appear all over the yellow barrier, forcing the Destors Lord to raise his arms and manifest a few more layers of the yellow barrier.

The silver energy blade merely killed three enemies before it was forcefully halted. Fortunately, it caused enough terror to rampage in the hearts of the Lords' subordinates, distracting them from looking over at the Destors Lord and how he blocked the silver energy blade.

That created a huge gap in their defense, allowing Tiara and Michael to move ahead.

Tiara moved swiftly and silently. She wasn't noticed by anyone until the end. On the other hand, Michael decided to move loudly enough to pull everyone's attention to him once they were certain that the Destors Lord could block the attack.

Focusing on Michael caused the silent death of an Awakened and a young Summon, yet another grave mistake that further crushed their morale.

Six out of 15 enemies had been killed in no time. Meanwhile, the Lords had yet to land a killing blow on Michael, and his subordinates. I think you should take a look at

'Their teamwork is bad. They probably never tried working with other Lords. It's their first time!' Michael realized quickly.

It was not difficult to tell that their teamwork was bad and that they obstructed each other instead of helping.

The Lionheart Lord had been ready to attack the silver energy blade and destroy it with force when the Destors manifested the yellow defense barrier to block the attack.

The Lionheart Lord cursed the Destors, who retorted with a scoff.

Not only was their teamwork abysmal but they didn't trust each other either. That was easy to see in the eyes of the Lords and their subordinates.

This worked in Michael's favor as he unleashed Extraction in the next instant. Golden streams as thick as a thigh shot out of his body. They swirled around him, attracting the attention of his enemies. They were not sure whether the golden streams would be used as an attack, or if something else was about to happen.

What they didn't expect was that the treetops of the trees around them would suddenly collapse onto them.

Michael extracted the 'joint' of the thickest branches in the treetops around the Lords to shower them with falling branches and leaves.

Simultaneously, Tiara continued to make her move. She observed the Awakened and Lords precisely to make sure that their Soultraits wouldn't strike her out of nowhere. Tiara's momentum changed as she switched to the next higher gear. She accelerated with a sudden burst to deliver deadly blows to the remaining Summons.

Her movement pattern was unpredictable and so were the changes in her momentum. Tiara was rapid and merciless, delivering deadly blows in areas nobody expected her to strike.

She inflicted severe damage to all living summons just before the treetops collapsed onto them. Injured and buried underneath thick branches, they found themselves lost and helpless.

The Lionhearts unleashed their flames without a care in the world. They were ready to burn down everything, and did not mind letting their comrades burn to a crisp as the treetop caught fire that spread all around after being carried by the winds like wildfire.

The injured Summons screamed at the top of their lungs as the blazing flames reached them, slowly burning them to death.

"You bastards! Are you trying to kill all of us?!" The Destors Lord shouted loudly, releasing a yellow barrier that expanded rapidly, pushing the blazing branches and leaves aside.

The yellow protective barrier couldn't expand further than eight meters, meaning that some Lords and their subordinates were still buried underneath the fiercely burning treetops.

However, the Lords were still capable enough to rescue themselves. The Jeglaw Lord unleashed a black aura that engulfed his entire body, causing the flames around him to extinguish.

After the flames died down, he burst through the treetops, crushing them at once.

He looked around angrily, wanting to kill the Lionheart Lord and his subordinates for putting them in danger. But before he could find the Lionheart Lord, the Jeglaw Lord was faced with Michael, whose black spear blade was coated in vivid golden lights. The golden lights seemed to devour the black aura shrouding the Jeglaw Lord, who could only gasp before it dug deep into his eye.

The Wyverntooth Spear thrust seemed simple, but it was a series of well-planned steps. Michael appeared in front of the Jeglaw Lord, extracted the black aura that protected him, and pierced through his eye, killing the Jeglaw Lord by cutting deep into his brain, all of it in a second.

Michael took the Jeglaw Lord by surprise, extracting his strongest means of defense before killing him in a simple manner.

On the other hand, Tiara and Masked Saber went on a rampage. They gave them all to inflict as much damage as possible in the shortest amount of time. Understanding that they had to deal with multiple enemies, whose Soultraits were unknown, it was important to use every single opportunity.

Michael understood that as well. Thus, he didn't waste a lot of time finishing off the Jeglaw Lord. He merely unleashed Extraction to leave golden threads in the corpses all around him, extracting their origin energy to replenish his used-up energy.

Then he exerted Enhancement to strengthen the Wyverntooth Spear, which spun around Michael's body.

Blood splattered through the surroundings, but Michael didn't even notice that. His focus was on the Destors Lord whose yellow barrier crumbled after a flood of golden streams crashed down upon the barrier.

Michael scoffed seeing how easily the yellow barrier crumbled.

"Your Soultrait is way too weak... or maybe...you are just too weak."

Chapter 248 Gains And Benefits

Dealing with the five Lords wasn't as hard as Michael imagined it to be.

He expected them to use powerful Soultraits, but they ended up using Soultraits that were much weaker than 6-Star Extraction.

'How did these Lords procure the Lord Rift Entrance tickets? No sane person would willingly hand the entrance tickets to weak Lords...' Michael wondered, not quite sure why the Zentika Empire was willing to give weak Lords an entrance ticket to the Lord Rift.

He was certain that these Lords hadn't procured the Lord Rift Entrance tickets on their own. Michael was almost 100% sure that the Zentika Empire collected the Lord Rift entrance tickets and that they handed them out to outstanding students.

But then again, the five Lords he fought weren't that strong.

'Maybe they couldn't unleash their full power because of their messed up teamwork? I didn't see the Soultraits of some of the Awakened, in the first place.'

At the end of the day, Michael couldn't be certain how the five Lords entered the Lord Rift. However, it was not really important either. What was important was that Michael and his team killed them and that he was about to obtain a small fortune of loot.

5 Lords, 5 Awakened, and five Tier-2 Summons. They should have harvested quite a bit of loot since the Lord Rift opened more than a day and half ago.

"Let's store the corpses and leave first. The commotion must have attracted monsters or other Lords," Michael ordered, waving his arm to store the carcasses in his War Rune.

Afterward, they left the vicinity of the gigantic Trixata tree.

Once they found a somewhat safe hideout, Michael ordered Masked Saber and Tiara to pay attention to the surroundings. He then retrieved the corpses and started to extract them.

He started with the five summons, which dropped a batch of Summoning Scrolls, Summoning Scroll Fragments, and rare blueprints. The loot met his expectations, which was not much of a surprise. Michael hadn't expected to obtain a Soultrait Symbol or anything preposterous from the Summons.

However, the Lords and Awakened were different. He began to use Extraction on them with high expectations – and he wasn't disappointed.

The first things that dropped were the loot the Lords and Awakened had gathered since the Lord Rift opened. This included the corpses of the monsters they'd killed, the Summoning Scrolls and other loot they collected from the monster corpses, along with the herbs and other plants they had collected.

Their loot was quite high and mostly consisted of monster corpses. It felt like they had focused on hunting monsters rather than playing herb-picker.

But that played into Michael's cards. He used Extraction on the monster corpses, thinking that it was best to dissect them neatly and segregate them. Once properly dissected, more corpses would fit in their spatial storages.

However, what he didn't expect was that the monster corpses dropped more loot after Michael used Extraction on them.

SoulStar Fragments, rare blueprints, Artifacts, and a small number of Summoning Scrolls and Summoning Scroll Fragments dropped from the monster carcasses.

"You can still get loot from the monsters even if you didn't kill them?" Tiara asked, not quite sure if that was how Michael's Extraction Soultrait worked.

Michael was also not certain what happened, but he had an inkling of why that must have happened. Masked Saber was the first to open his mouth.

"Killing the owner of the monster corpses seems to reward you with the additional loot Extraction can get you with its increased drop rate." He summarized, only for Michael to add, "That's probably what the ethereal voice meant with the third remark. The loot of the deceased will be dropped as well. That might mean the Will considers me as the rightful owner of the monster corpses killed by the Lords and Awakened after I defeated them. That means I can still get the additional loot from Extraction when I loot the corpses the deceased collected in the Lord Rift. Nice!"

Of course, that was something Michael was very happy about. There were close to 100 corpses in the five Lords' possession.

Before he diverted his focus on the extraction of the five Lords and five Adventurers, Michael finished extracting of the monster corpses.

He gained a total of 552 Summoning Scrolls, 11532 Summoning Scroll Fragments, 14 Tier-2 Artifacts, 143 rare blueprints, and 55 SoulStar Fragments. That was quite a lot. Nonetheless, the loot paled in comparison to the gains he made from extracting the five Lords and Awakened.

Michael extracted the loot meticulously and did not rush the process. When he was done, he ended up staring at a small mountain of Soulstar Fragments and Soultrait Symbols.

"Six Soultrait Symbols, and a total of 452 SoulStar Fragments from 10 Awakened corpses. Seems like the Will of the Origin Expanse increased the drop rate a lot more than I first thought."

Usually, Michael wouldn't have obtained a single Soultrait Symbol and only a third of the SoulStar Fragments. However, it looked like he had been quite lucky.

Not bothering about the Soultraits the Lords and Awakened used before, Michael used Extraction on them once again. Michael gained a large batch of SoulStar Fragments from tearing the Soultrait Symbols apart. He allowed his War Rune to devour them all, keeping them safe in front of the white pillar in the deepest parts of his consciousness.

After the SoulStar Fragments had been taken care of, Michael was left with more than 20 Artifacts and a dozen Memory Orbs. Interestingly enough, some Lords dropped more than one Memory Orb.

Michael stored the Artifacts in the spatial storage of his War Rune before he devoured the Memory Orbs of the Lords.

The information provided by the Memory Orbs wasn't intense and did not bombard him. On the contrary, the streams of information entering his mind were slow and calming.

Most of the information was related to the Lord Rift, including information such as the Lord Rift's structure, monster types, forbidden zones, and more. However, the streams of information also included detailed information about the other Lords, what Soultraits they used, and which Lords teamed up with others.

Of course, not all pieces of information were about the Lord Rift. Michael also learned a lot about the Zentika Empire, and the council hierarchy and was certain that the information would help him in the future. He was thankful and ready to make use of them once the time was ripe.

"Senator Keltos...it looks like you lost quite a bit of prestige in the Council. I would say sorry, but that's clearly a lie," Michael murmured before he turned around to look at Tiara and Masked Saber.

They were vigilantly observing the surrounding and patiently waiting for Michael to finish digesting the Memory Orbs.

"I am done. Let's go to the mountains," Michael said, pointing to the mountain range further ahead.

Masked Saber and Tiara agreed without a second thought and followed him immediately.

Their small team encountered a few monster groups on their way to the mountain range, but they defeated them quite easily.

Being able to cripple one monster with two five-layer enhanced Spirit Whips and a spear thrust with the Wyverntooth Spear after it had been coated in four layers of Enhancement and Extraction's golden streams was not further difficult. In fact, it could be considered quite easy.

After the first monster was mentally crushed and physically severely wounded, Michael could use Extraction to extract the origin energy and life force within the monster. That way, he kept using his Soultraits in an extravagant way without feeling drained mentally, or in terms of energy.

Defeating groups of ten Superior Existences with their small team was not a dream anymore. It became a simple task.

A few hours passed in the blink of an eye, and they finally reached the mountain range after clearing all the obstacles in their way.

While observing the surroundings, Michael could tell that there had been a few fights at the mountain range. However, Michael chose not to pay it too much attention. He was more interested in the ores he could extract from the mountain range.

With that in mind, Michael used Extraction to release a single thin golden stream that shot deep underground. By releasing a single thin stream, Michael could expand the range of Extraction drastically. He could search for ore deposits with the thin golden stream to pinpoint the best location to extract ores with the lowest energy consumption. Afterward, he could get started for real.

Michael's second day in the Lord Rift passed swiftly as well. After his encounter with the five Lords, he focused fully on the extraction of rare and unique ores, which was also why he got to extract several tons of ores that were used for high-ranked Tier-2 and Tier-3 armaments.

The second night passed but nobody felt like sleeping. Tiara and Masked Saber observed the surrounding area and conducted thorough research to pinpoint the location of potential enemies.

They killed a few monsters, who found Michael while he was fully occupied with the extraction of ores.

Roughly 50 hours after the Lord Rift opened, Michael and the others noticed something odd.

The stone of the mountain range was hotter than before, and the surrounding temperature seemed to have increased a bit.

To be precise, the temperature continued to increase. This attracted Michael's curiosity, and he began to seek answers.

However, instead of finding answers, Michael found two Lords at dawn.

"That's Tac Lec," Michael realized when he recalled one of the figures fighting more than a kilometer away from his current position.

Tac Lec was glowing silver indicating that he was using his Unique Racial Ability, and his Artifacts had been triggered as well, allowing Tac Lec to unleash powerful elemental attacks.

Yet even then Tac Lec didn't seem to be gaining an advantage against the Beast-like Lord he was fighting.

A deep frown appeared on Michael's face.

"Who the hell is that?"

Chapter 249 Taros Vs. Tac Lec

Since Michael had completely digested the Memory Orbs of the five Lords and their subordinates, he was fully aware who Tac Lec was fighting.

However, he couldn't quite grasp how Tac Lec could be facing so much pressure fighting someone else – especially after Tac Lec had activated his Unique Racial Ability. Even his Epic Tier-2 Artifacts' enchantments had been triggered.

"So that is Taros? The guy who dealt with the issue in Xiltra to obtain a Lord Rift entrance ticket from the council. That's quite interesting," Michael said, his Eagle Eyes unleashed to see more details about the fight ahead of them.

Michael would have loved to know more about Taros, but sadly, he hadn't obtained many useful memories about Taros from the Memory Orbs.

The only information Michael had about Taros was that he was a Demi-Human Lord. His ancestry was rumored to trace thousands of years back and was marred by a taboo. A member of a superior race had given birth to the child of a Divine Beast.

Taros was said to be a descendant of that child, and rumors were ripe that he had awoken the fading bloodline of the Divine Beast coursing through him.

But all of those were just rumors.

On the other hand, it was a fact that Taros had single-handedly cleansed Xiltra from the spreading Chaos Essence that had infiltrated the Border City.

It had been a while since Michael learned about the happenings in the Border City. Earlier, he had considered helping the innocent people in Xiltra, but he concluded that it was too dangerous.

It was more likely that he would have been attacked and killed the moment he approached the Border City. Hence, it was better to invoke fear in his enemies – even if innocent people had to suffer because of that.

pandasnovel.com Michael didn't feel proud of himself at that time, but there was nothing he could do about it. He wanted to ensure that the Zentika Empire would think twice before initiating an attack and the incidents in Xiltra had been terrifying enough to sow the seeds of doubts and instill fear at the mere thought of entering the Untamed Jungle.

"Should we join the battle when both are at their weakest?" Masked Saber asked, tightly clutching the black saber's handle.

Tiara was also ready to fight and kill both Tac Lec and Taros. Michael was likely to obtain at least one Soultrait Symbol if they would kill and extract Tac Lec and Taros. That meant, Michael could obtain one more powerful Soultrait and one or more Epic Tier-2 Artifacts.

It was definitely worth waiting for the golden opportunity and strike the two fighting powerhouses when they were at their lowest.

"No, I'm fine," Michael shook his head.

"Tac Lec didn't kill me when he had the opportunity earlier. I don't want to acknowledge it, but a life-and-death battle with Tac Lec would have killed at least one of us. The others would have been severely injured as well," He added, not really feeling like killing Tac Lec.

It was fine to slap him a little bit for flinging him through the air, but Michael didn't desire to kill Tac Lec. Not right now, at least.

"What about Taros then? If we knock Tac Lec out and kill Taros, you will get his Artifacts, and you might even obtain his Soultrait. He seems quite powerful given that he can deal with Tac Lec alone!" Tiara asked, but Michael shook his head again.

"Taros' territory lies in the Southern Ice Mountains. That's on the other side of the Zentika Empire. He should survive to stir some trouble for the Zentika Empire in the future. That way, the Untamed Jungle will have more time to prepare for an all-out war against the Zentika Empire – once it's time for that," Michael explained, causing Tiara to issue a quiet "Ooh."

Even if Michael wanted to kill Taros, the Lord of the Southern Ice Mountains was too valuable outside the Lord Rift. Michael hoped that Taros would grow much stronger with the gains he made in the Lord Rift and that he would stir a lot more trouble in the Zentika Empire upon returning.

"For now, we should watch the battle. I want to see how strong they're when they go all out," Michael said to silence Tiara and ensure that both Tiara and Masked Saber were ready to intervene.

They took a few strides forward, reducing the distance from more than a kilometer to approximately 300 meters away from the core area of the battlefield.

The battlefield of the two Tier-2 Lords didn't affect a radius of more than two hundred meters around the area of collision. In fact, even 200 meters were quite a lot. It was unlikely that astray elemental attacks would land 200 meters away from their designated position.

Nonetheless, Michael made sure that he and his team kept a safe distance from the two fighting Lords.

"Oh? Why is Taros always retrieving something from his War Rune? Is he eating something?" Masked Saber asked quietly when he saw what Taros was doing.

It was a little bit weird watching the Demi-Human fight. His fighting style was brutal and could hardly be considered a 'style', in the first place. However, his powerful punches and kicks were strong enough to burst through the earthen walls and crush the earth spikes, water jets, and wind blades that kept crashing into him.

The wind blades could barely scratch Taros' skin, and the ordinary fireballs didn't inflict any damage upon exploding on his body. The fireballs weren't even strong enough to make his skin itch.

However, Taros continued eating something that he kept retrieving from his War Rune's storage space. Michael could detect what it was, but it didn't really make sense.

'Meat? Why would he be eating meat mid-battle?' Michael wondered, not too sure if his Eagle Eyes were fooling him.

But that was not the case. After observing Taros for several minutes, Michael realized why Taros was always eating.

"His Soultrait. He receives bursts of strength from eating," Michael said, concluding that the meat originated from a powerful monster with high nutritional value. I think you should take a look at

'If his Soultrait converts nutrients into temporary gains of power, he must be eating the meat of a Tier-3, or Tier-4 Monster right now. He burst the blazing dragon head into pieces with his bare hands. How is that even possible without sustaining any injuries?!'

Michael could tell that Taros' physical strength was extremely high even without the bursts of strength. He was only at the Low-stage of the 2nd Tier, but his physical strength was much higher than a Mid-stage Tier-2 Superior Existence. The additional bursts of strength allowed him to gain even more strength for a short moment.

It was actually quite weird that Taros' physical strength was that high. However, he simply thought that his awakened Divine Beast bloodline must have increased his physical strength, turning him into a Lord with superior strength, tougher hide, and faster reflexes.

Taros' head looked like a cross between a human and a bird. But he didn't seem to be the descendant of a Divine Bird. His hide was black and covered by small darkish-brown scales, and his feet were thick like the legs of an elephant or tortoise.

Overall, Taros' body-frame was ginormous. He was only 2.5 meters tall, but his body was quite broad and packed with muscles. Despite the massive mass of muscles covering every inch of his body, Taros wasn't slow.

He might not be flexible but he was horrifying fast, forcing Tac Lec to retreat every now and then.

Tac Lec tried to trick Taros into moving according to his will, slowly pushing him into a disadvantageous position. But Taros didn't allow Tac Lec to force him into doing anything. His brute force crushed every single plan of Tac Lec.

At one point in the battle, Tac Lec conjured three blazing dragon heads and two aqueous dragon heads. They seemed to roar loudly before they were hurled through the air.

They flew through the air and devoured the origin energy on their way in order to expand in size and grow into even more terrifying attacks. By the time the attacks reached Taros, each of the dragon heads was half of Taros' size.

Taros intended to move to the side but his legs were covered in several thick layers of a concrete-like substance that had been created by combining the power of the four basic elements.

Unable to free his legs in an instant, Taros retrieved a large chunk of purple-shining meat alongside manifesting two war axes.

He devoured the chunk of meat at once, causing his body to bulk up almost instantly.

From Michael's perspective, it looked like Taros' body expanded in all directions. His muscles coiled and his veins popped out.

Clouds of steam oozed out of Taros' arms and a thunderous explosion rang through the surroundings as he slashed the war axe in his right hand toward the first dragon head.

He cut the dragon head in two parts with a mighty slash that seemed to cut through the fabric of reality.

Even Michael couldn't help but stare in astonishment when he saw space twisting where the dragon head had been cut in two parts.

Taros issued two more slashes, destroying two out of the remaining three dragon heads. The dragon heads didn't even explode upon getting cut apart. They simply disappeared as if they'd never existed in the first place.

"What the hell is going on here?" Michael blurted out, only for his confusion to grow further as he saw a glimpse of something to the left side of the battlefield.

Taros was about to slash at the last dragon head when a fist-sized glacier-blue needle shot through the air, fast enough to create a soundwave.

It shot past Tac Lec, and the last dragon head before crashing into Taros even before he could react.

Taros was not injured, but greatly surprised. He could see the glacier-blue icicle, yet he wasn't fast enough to block it.

It didn't inflict any damage on his skin, however, the icicle burst apart, spreading its chilling air. The chilling air froze everything in its path, including Taros' skin.

Taros was a moment too late to block the incoming dragon head.

It crashed into Taros' arm with the intention to devour him in his entirety. Yet, a burst of energy released by Taros was enough to destroy the dragon head.

Taros grit his teeth while looking down at his bleeding arm. He had been injured by the dragon head. However, there was also discomfort caused by the partially frozen skin on his chest.

He lifted his head after a moment and looked behind Tac Lec, where a few beings emerged out of nowhere.

They had been invisible before and had approached the battlefield unnoticed by anyone.

Not even Michael with enhanced Eagle Eyes had been able to detect them.

"Seems like you need some help, Tac. We will gladly help you defeat this gross bastard!" A hoarse voice rang through the surrounding.

A group consisting of more than a dozen Lords had arrived at last.

Chapter 250 Turn Of Tide

The Zantur standing in front of the other Lords stared coldly at Taros as he manifested several glacier-blue icicles.

He released them without hesitation so as to weaken Taros and finish him off for good.

However, before the icicles could pass by Tac Lec, a blazing firewall shot out of the ground. The firewall was thick, and the flames were searing hot, melting the icicles near-instantly.

"What do you think you're doing?!" The Zantur bellowed, only for Tac Lec to respond with a shrug.

"Don't interfere in my fight, you bastard!" Tac Lec cursed before turning back to Taros.

Taros clutched the frozen skin on his chest tightly. He then issued a grunt before tearing out the frozen skin from his body.

Blood spilled to the ground, and shrieks of surprise echoed through the air, but Taros didn't mind any of that. He retrieved a large chunk of the purple shimmering meat from his War Rune and devoured it at once.

Seconds later, his veins strained and his muscles tensed, while his bleeding stopped. Taros' skin grew back within seconds, regenerating rapidly.

Afterward, he picked up his War Axe again, and slashed at his legs, which were still sealed in the concrete-like substance Tac Lec had created. His War Axes smashed down violently, destroying the concrete-like substance before cutting into his skin and flesh as well. Taros had used too much force to destroy the concrete-like substance.

He only grunted and pulled his War Axes out of his legs. Blood gushed out of the wounds but Taros didn't wince. His body healed rapidly, turning the cumbersome wound into a faint scratch.

Fortunately, Taros' healing speed wasn't slower either. One more second, and he would have been faced with several elemental attacks impacting hard on his body, along with several other attacks.

Tac Lec attacked Taros, hoping that the other Lords wouldn't intervene. But instead of listening to him, the dozen other Lords burst forward with great speed to mercilessly attack Taros from all sides.

"That doesn't look good," Masked Saber said calmly.

He turned to Michael, whose golden-glowing eyes flicked rapidly from the Lords to their subordinates. Michael was clearly trying to find out how strong everyone was and how great their teamwork was.

"Well...fuck it," Michael cursed, retrieving Zark and the Typhern Leather Armor Set. He kept Eagle Eyes activated and followed up by using Enhancement on Zark three times in a row.

"Attack them from beneath. They'll be focusing on Taros, so they won't notice you guys," Michael ordered before moving upward to reach a better position at a higher altitude.

The mountain range was steep, but it was still quite easy to walk around for someone at the 2nd Tier. Nonetheless, the higher altitude would give Michael several advantages – and the means to be seen easily, and distract the Lords to ensure that Tiara and Masked Saber could initiate a surprise attack.

Michael didn't go too far. He found a good position, condensed an energy arrow, and aimed for a second or two. Then he released the energy arrow that pierced the head of a Destors Summon the following second.

The twang of his bow resounded in the surroundings, attracting the attention of some Awakened. However, before they could find Michael, a barrage of three energy arrows had found their designated targets.

'Four down, many to go,' Michael mused in his mind as he condensed a fifth energy arrow.

But before he could pull the bowstring back and get rid of the next victim, Michael's eyes narrowed. He twisted his body and pulled his left leg back to spin his body to the side. The next instant, a barrage of glacier-blue icicles shot past his upper body and head.

If he hadn't moved away in time, Michael's head and upper body would have either gotten pierced by icicles or frozen upon the destruction of the glacier-blue icicles.

"Good thing I have Eagle Eyes," Michael thought aloud, pulling the bowstring back, and releasing the arrow in the next instance.

He didn't spend much time aiming precisely. Instead, Michael decided that he had attracted enough attention to release a barrage of arrows that would injure and annoy the Lords, and their subordinates.

Michael's intervention in the battle was a little unexpected. He chose to support Taros in the fight against Tac Lec and the dozen Lords.

Why? It was pretty simple.

Michael could gain a lot by killing a dozen Lords and their subordinates. First of all, the energy influx of the Lords, Awakened, and Summons was pretty great. He was currently still a Lowest-stage Tier-2 Lord, but Michael could tell that his refinement degree was improving slowly.

Advancing to the next refinement stage was not easy after advancing to the 2nd Tier. The higher the Tier and refinement stage the more energy and time was required to progress. It was not something that could be taken lightly. After all, most Awakened, who survived the ordeals of the Origin Expanse for years were either stuck at the 2nd Tier or barely managed to advance to the Lowest-stage of Tier-3 – only to fail to progress any further.

But the energy influxes of his enemies were not something that could influence Michael enough to join a dangerous battle. His interest was more in the gains he could make by extracting the corpses of a dozen Lords, and their Awakened subordinates. Michael was bound to make huge gains if he waited patiently and struck at the right opportunity.

Other than that, a dozen Lords were bound to have collected more loot from the Lord Rift than the five Lords he'd killed before. Why wouldn't he join Taros to tackle and defeat a dozen powerful Lords if he could make huge gains in return? Michael entered the Lord Rift solely to become stronger and make as many gains as possible, after all!! I think you should take a look at

Taros and Tac Lec noticed the appearance of another unknown variable. But while a scary, devilish smile blossomed on Taros' beast-like face, Tac Lec only shook his head.

'It's you again?' He could only think, conjuring several dragon heads which he threw at Taros.

Even though Tac Lec wanted to fight Taros alone, he knew that he couldn't back out now. The dozen Lords would rat him out the moment he stepped back from the battlefield.

παπδαςNovel.com That was a little annoying, but this didn't mean that Tac Lec would hesitate to give his all fighting Taros.

'Maybe he can deal with those bastards.' Tac Lec thought, looking over to the dozen Lords, who were splitting up to face Taros and Michael.

'Kill them so that I can annex their territory in the Zentika Empire!!' Tac Lec shouted in his heart, glad that he didn't fight Michael until the end before.

He knew how strong Michael was, and that he could have released even more power if he had been pushed a little bit further. That was also why Tac Lec wasn't worried that Michael might die. On the contrary, Tac Lec was certain that Michael would easily defeat the annoying Lords of the Zentika Empire, creating a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for him after the Lord Rift closed.

He decided to focus on Taros, bombarding him with combined elemental attacks to slowly wear him down while the other Lords and their subordinates would ensure that Taros couldn't move from the spot.

The dragon heads impacted heavily on Taros' body. Or that was what was supposed to happen. Yet, instead of exploding on Taros' body and causing heavy damage, Taros' arms moved rapidly. He first kicked one of his opponents away before slicing through the dragon heads.

After the slice, he spun around his own axis, his War Axes acting as razor-sharp blades that cut through the bodies of everyone daring enough to approach him.

Only two Summons fell victim to his attack. In return, however, Taros was bombarded with mental attacks and a Soultrait that wore down his body, slowly tiring him out.

But Taros ignored the weariness that was beginning to creep up his spine slowly. He kicked his feet off the ground and burst forward. The ground beneath his feet crumbled due to the tremendous force Taros released with a single kick, and he crossed a distance of more than ten meters at once.

He appeared in front of a young Lionheart, who lifted his long shield with the aim to block Taros' attacks.

However, Taros just scoffed. The muscles all over Taros' arms bulged as he used every bit of strength inside his body to cross-slash at the Lionheart.

The War Axes' blades began to glow faintly as origin energy was channeled into them, just to see an afterimage of the cross-slash in the air as the War Axes cleaved downward.

Following the afterimage of an 'X' lingering in the air, blood gushed in all directions, and body parts flung through the air.

Taros required a single slash to cut through the Lionheart's long shield, armor, and body. He didn't even seem exhausted.

On the contrary, Taros seemed to gain more energy and strength after killing the Lionheart. He twisted his entire body to gain momentum with his right arm, which he flung around while simultaneously twisting his body. The War Axe whizzed through the air and crashed down on the head of the Lionheart's comrade, splitting his skull at once.

Taros' movement speed seemed to gain a sudden boost due to the death of the other Lionheart, providing him the necessary speed and acceleration to evade more than a dozen glacier-blue icicles. Not even five minutes ago, Taros hadn't been able to react fast enough to evade the icicles, but now he could easily follow their trajectory and evade them with great precision.

His movements were sharp, and his mind seemed to be working much faster than before.

Confidence and adrenaline surged through him as he retrieved one of his War Axes back into his War Rune to free one of his hands. The empty hand shot downward to pick up one of the dead bodies lying around.

The first thing Taros did was to block a few more icicles using the dead body as a meat shield. Then he looked around and threw the body across the battlefield like a rag.

The enemies using long-range attacks were quite bothersome. Fortunately, they had gathered in one place, which made it much easier for Taros to strike them all.

While Taros was dealing with the bombardment of Tac Lec's elemental combo attacks, the barrages of the long-range combatants, and a few annoying Soultraits that influenced his mind and struck him heavily where he could defend himself the least, Michael didn't have it much easier either.

A few arrows and icicles nearly struck him shortly after he joined the battle. The icicles were much faster than ordinary arrows, and even though their lethality was not that high, they could severely weaken the opponent as long as the target was struck.

Michael was subjected to constant barrages of icicles quite a lot. At one point, more than a hundred icicles poured down on him.

Even if he wanted to evade all of them, Michael knew that it was not feasible. He didn't have the means to block a hundred icicles that shot through the air faster than most Tier-2 Lords could move.

Thus, Michael knew that he had to endure it all. But he was ready for it!