

Supreme Lord 271

Chapter 271 Adjusted Difficulty

The tremors caused by the Bone Giants' charge weren't something that could be underestimated.

Their tremors caused many people in the surroundings to fall on the ground and to be buried under the sand – unable to be seen by the other people and Undead that ended up trampling on the unfortunate victims.

As the surrounding trembled clouds of sand were whirled up. They filled the surroundings, covering the Bone Giants and blasting in Daniel's direction. Daniel ought to be affected by the grains of sand shooting toward him. However, he didn't pay much attention to the sand. He summoned one of his artifacts instead.

The Artifact was a crimson mask that covered his entire head. It enhanced his perception and other senses drastically.

Danny summoned a few more Silver Qi Swords which he controlled to rotate around their own axis before they were thrown at the three Bone Giants. Then, he charged at one of the Bone Giants. He kicked his feet from the ground and jumped high in the air. He landed on one of the Bone Giant's ribs and intended to jump higher when he noticed something that attracted his interest.

He pushed himself up by kicking his feet from the rib and jumped on the shoulders of another Bone Giant. The Bone Giant had been attempting to slash Danny, only to end up hitting its brethren.

The heavy longsword strike was strong enough to inflict a deep gash across the Bone Giant's rib. Seeing how little the Undead cared about friendly fire, Danny couldn't help but test something.

He moved on the Bone Giant's shoulder and got closer to its neck. The Bone Giant – on which he was standing – tried to shake him off, but Danny was tenacious enough to play a little game of rodeo.

However, the rodeo did not last for long. It was over once both of the remaining Bone Giants slashed at Danny, ignoring the fact that their longswords were too long and that their slash would impact heavily on the other Bone Giant's neck.

'They're not sentient Undead, are they? Is that why the Primedival Pyramid considers this battle an initial trial? Or did the Primedival Pyramid lower the difficulty level of the initial trial after sensing the Tier of everyone in its proximity?' Daniel Fang wondered.

It was common knowledge that ancient ruins would adjust their difficulty level to a certain degree according to the strength of the infiltrators. Ancient ruins had come into existence because the Will of the Origin Expanse wanted the younger generation to find ancient relics. It was unknown what the Will of the Origin Expanse was trying to achieve by strengthening the Lords living in the Origin Expanse, but it was quite easy to tell that the Will worked hard to create golden opportunities for those who were willing to take the risk.

The Primedival Pyramid's lowest difficulty must have been chosen, restraining the full combat prowess of the Superior Creatures, and the Mythical Existences.

Danny had only been fighting a single Mythical Creature at the 2nd Tier – while it was still a youngling – but he knew that it was much more deadly and far more intelligent than the three Bone Giants together.

Even with the combined effort of Danny, the Lamia Queen, the Awakened working under him, and his strongest Summons, it had been impossible to kill the Mythical Existence at the 2nd Tier.

What seemed impossible at that time, didn't look the same right now. Right now, Danny was confident that he could outwit the Bone Giants, ensuring that they would kill each other in their haste to hit him.

'The lowest difficulty is something I can easily deal with. The Initial trial is also something we can finish without sustaining heavy casualties!' Danny told himself, moving through the air with tremendous speed.

He manifested Silver Qi Swords beneath him to start running away to avoid the two Bone Giant's sword slashes. The third Bone Giant suffered from the impact of the two heavy swords. It didn't die, but its neck cracked. Deep cracks had been formed, creating an opportunity for Danny.

He used more than a quarter of his energy to release a crescent-shaped sword qi blade, cutting through the neck of the Bone Giant.

Afterward, he continued to move through the air using Qi Swords as stepping stones. After using several perfectly purified potions to increase his strength momentarily, his body felt recharged and his energy storage was rapidly replenished.

The origin energy inside him felt much stronger than usual as well. This made it even easier for him to move around mid-air.

Daniel didn't use his Soultrait to move around in the air under ordinary circumstances. But it was much easier to deal with large enemies while facing them head-on. He could change his altitude easily by jumping high in the air and creating more Qi Swords whenever he was about to fall down, or jumping down and manifesting a Qi Sword when he was close enough to the ground.

He could even use the Qi Swords as a springboard to kick his feet with tremendous force and accumulate more momentum. And that was exactly what Danny did once he found out that the Primedival Pyramid's lowered difficulty restricted the sentience of the Bone Giants. I think you should take a look at

The other Undeads weren't restricted that much, but the Bone Giants and the Necrosphinx's intellect and battle instincts were restricted – almost as if the Primedival Pyramid tried to turn the Mythical Existences into mere Superior Creatures to help him fight them.

Danny didn't have to understand the Will's reasoning to put restrictions on ancient ruins. The only thing he paid attention to was the fact that his army was much stronger than the others. He could clearly determine that the teamwork of his army was exceptional, and that his people didn't have a problem dealing with the Anubirats and other powerful creatures such as the Giant Ghouls, and Crypt Ghouls.

On the contrary, the other Lords' armies were facing a huge issue; they couldn't even stall the Necrosphinx.

They allowed the Anubirats to wreak havoc alongside the Bone Giants and gave the Kleshbits enough opportunities to stay far in the back, killing one powerful Summon after another with their deadly arrows.

Danny was tackling two Lesser Mythical Creatures at the 3rd Tier on his own, using most of his trump cards. It might be idiotic to reveal and use his trump cards, but Daniel was fully aware of his combat prowess, and that he would never be able to fight the Bone Giants if not for the exotic potions and his Epic Tier-3 Sword Artifact.

Nonetheless, he didn't underestimate the Bone Giants. A single mistake and everything would be for naught.

The Other Lords didn't use their trump cards yet. They were too conscious of the other Lords and were unwilling to reveal their secret trump cards before the final battle. After all, the final battle would be held once the Primedival Pyramid had been conquered. That was what they'd promised each other.

But Danny didn't think the same as the other Lords. If he could ensure the survival of his subjects in the struggle of the Primedival Pyramid's conquest, he would have a numerical advantage against the other Lords.

The number of their casualties was extremely high. That might also be related to the vast number of their armies.

After all, each of the three Lords had an army numbering close to 100,000 entities respectively.

But their vast number was all these Lords had. None of them had the means to properly and meticulously nurture 100,000 Warriors, forget about equipping each of them with valuable potions and Armaments.

Their living expenses were already enough to eat a big chunk of their territories' income.

Meanwhile, Danny was more content with a small army with extraordinary armaments and potions. The instructors in his territory were able to focus on his subjects' training, while the smaller army of warriors was able to create groups with tacit understanding and individual strategies. All in all, Danny's army might seem insignificant if one looked solely at their numbers, however, their combat prowess and intellect was exceptional. One of them was enough to deal with five Summons of any of the other Lords, and they wouldn't lose out either.

Danny's only worry was the Necrosphinx and how fast he could finish off the remaining Bone Giants. The Awakened under him, and his strongest Summons were having a hard time against the Necrosphinx. So far, two of his Awakened had died, while the rest had gotten serious injuries. It was only a matter of time before they would die.

By the time the Necrosphinx was set free even Danny's well-trained army wouldn't be able to deal with this monstrosity. Understanding the predicament, Danny circulated more energy through his body. The Reinforced Sword Qi around his sword grew denser.

Danny appeared in front of one of the Bone Giant's head, thrusting the sword deep between its eye sockets. Then he released the compressed Reinforced Sword Qi with a burst. The Bone Giant's Skull began to crack. It didn't break immediately, but Danny didn't panic. On the contrary, he unleashed more energy to create a second and third burst of Sword Qi to shatter the Bone Giant's skull.

In the next moment, the last remaining Bone Giant appeared behind Danny. It slashed at him, not caring that the full impact of its attack cut easily through its brethren's neck, causing the rest of its body to collapse and crash onto the ground like a house of cards.

Danny created a Qi Sword beneath him, and propelled himself off the Qi Sword to jump lightly in the air, easily evading the Bone Giant's sword as it passed by. He then created another Qi Sword vertically next to him. Danny tilted his body and jumped to the Bone Giant using the Qi Sword as a springboard.

He used every ounce of strength inside his body to shoot forward while using most of his remaining Reinforced Sword Qi to expand his Sword Artifact.

The next moment, Danny shot through the air like a cannonball, his sword piercing through the Bone Giant's Skull upon impact.

Now only the Necrosphinx was left to fight through his energy storage was as dry as the Sacred Desert.

Chapter 272 End Of The Sphinx

Now that the Bone Giants near the southern gate had been defeated, Danny changed his stance immediately.

He passively absorbed the surrounding origin energy while approaching the Necrosphinx. As Danny approached the Necrosphinx, he retrieved a huge gray chain that was gleaming faintly.

Next, he threw the gray chain to his subjects, who retrieved Monster Cores from the pouches that hung down their belts. The monster cores were pressed against the gray chain, which absorbed the energy accumulated inside them naturally.

After the energy inside the monster cores had been drained they crumbled. Simultaneously, the glow exuding from the huge chain intensified.

"Focus on pinning down the Necrosphinx!" Danny shouted loudly to the thousands of warriors around him before he fastened the chain to a Qi Sword which he manifested with the bits of energy he had just replenished.

The Qi Sword flung through the air with terrific velocity. It reached just above the Necrosphinx's wings and shot down in a beautiful arc not long after. It pierced deep into the ground next to the Lamia Berserkers of Danny's territory.

The Lamia Berserkers and everyone else nearby picked up the chains that seemed to move magically, twirling around the Necrosphinx's wings before it noticed that something was wrong.

Just as the Necrosphinx tried to change its position with a flap of its wings it noticed that its hasty movements caused the intertwining chains to entangle further. They tightened, further restraining the Necrosphinx's movements. The next moment hundreds of brave warriors rushed suicidally toward the Necrosphinx with the lower end of the chains lying on their shoulders. With swift movements, they moved all around the Necrosphinx's legs while the Lamia Berserkers pulled on the chains from the upper end.

The Lamia Berserker's action was just enough to distract and restrict the Necrosphinx for two seconds. That was not enough for the hundreds of brave souls to leave the Necrosphinx's vicinity, but it was enough for most of them to flee. The Necrosphinx's legs and wings ended up in a tangled mess, but that didn't mean the monstrosity was defeated. It kept thrashing and twitching uncontrollably, scything through the air mercilessly.

Danny sensed that dozens of his subjects died in an instant. Their firm Links of Loyalties were cut once and forever, and their remnants splattered all over the searing hot sand of the Sacred Desert – dying it red.

The battlefield was gruesome, but Danny knew that they couldn't defeat the Necrosphinx without some sacrifices. Even by using the chains of infinity that could only be broken after every bit of origin energy stored inside it had been drained, Danny was not sure if they could win.

The chains of infinity had been forged not long after their first encounter with a Mythical Creature. It was extremely expensive and required a tremendous amount of energy to be maintained against the resisting force of a Mythical Creature, but it was exceptionally useful.

After the chains of infinity tightened around the Necrosphinx's legs and wings, its movements were restricted drastically. It could still use its scythe-like blade arms to cut down the people around it, but the strongest forces of Danny's army had finally been given the opportunity to spend a few more seconds to create powerful attacks.

"Focus your attacks on its heads. First, use your attacks with the strongest destructive force. Then start releasing the explosive energy infused arrows. Don't bother about the expenses and focus on attacking!" Danny gave a command before he retrieved a few energy potions.

His natural energy replenishment was really fast. However, Danny didn't know for sure how much time he had before the Necrosphinx would enter a state of frenzy. Once it noticed that its life was in danger, most mythical creatures would use their lifeforce in exchange for a boost in strength. By that time, it would become a lot harder to kill it.

Thus, he had to prepare his killing blow before the Necrosphinx would enter a frenzy. Simultaneously, his subordinates would have to create a small opening to allow him to kill the Necrosphinx with a single blow. After all, the Necrosphinx's defenses were a lot stronger than that of the Bone Giants.

Danny had been quite surprised with how easily the Bone Giants went down. Their defeat made it clear that the Primedival Pyramid's initial trial was not impossible to pass. All it took was enough strength and some sort of strategy.

Even though the others struggled to defeat the Bone Giants and the other Undead of the Sacred Desert, Danny was prepared for everything. He had spent the last few months researching all kinds of myths and legends about the Sacred Desert. Even the fairy tales written in the language right after the Second Epoch were thoroughly researched to ensure that no monster, trap or any other issue would appear once the raid of the Primedival Pyramid started.

Meanwhile, it seemed like the other Lords had been certain that four Lords with their armies would be enough to deal with the Primedival Pyramid easily. Even if they had done adequate preparations, it paled in comparison to the time, effort, and money Danny had invested in his research!

His ample research was also why he survived so long in the hidden area of the Sacred Desert region, and why he was fated to kill the Necrosphinx.

"Focus on the Necrosphinx's chin. The postiche is weaker than the rest of its body. Once broken we have an area of attack to focus on!" Danny issued a third command after he finished the energy potions he had retrieved. The origin energy swirling through his body was slowly annexed and stored inside his energy storage.

He then moved around the Necrosphinx, while the vast majority of his army held onto the huge chains of infinity to pin down the Necrosphinx. Meanwhile, the strongest Awakened and Summons prepared their destructive attacks, which they released one after another.

The Necrosphinx's postiche broke, giving the Summons and Awakened a new target to attack – the area where the postiche had been broken from the sphinx's chin. I think you should take a look at

Cracks appeared all over the Necrosphinx's chin once the energy blasts, compressed elemental attacks and hundreds of explosive energy infused arrows impacted upon its body.

All of a sudden, Danny appeared in front of the Necrosphinx holding his sword artifact tightly in his hand.

Beads of sweat trickled down his temples, and blood began to ooze from his nose. However, Danny was mostly focused on the increment of his Reinforced Sword Qi's density. The Reinforced Sword Qi shrouding his sword artifact increased exponentially. Simultaneously, Danny released all enchantments

engraved on the sword artifact at once, fusing the blade with the Reinforced Sword Qi for a few seconds to maximize its power.

The fusion of the Sword Qi and the Sword Artifact was something Danny could only do a few times in a row without damaging the Sword Artifact. This time the density of his Reinforced Sword Qi was extremely high, preventing Danny from re-using the Qi Fusion enchantment a second time during the next 24 hours.

He enhanced his strength as much as possible by using everything at his disposal before he thrust his sword out.

The tip of the sword artifact pierced through the cobweb-like cracked chin of the Necrosphinx with ease. However, the further the sword pierced into the monster's face the harder it was to keep thrusting. Danny lifted an eyebrow but not a trace of worry appeared on his face. He was as calm as a lake even as the scything blade arms moved through the air, ready to cut him in half.

Danny released the compressed Reinforced Sword Qi that had fused into the Sword Artifact with a sudden burst of energy through the tip. The Sword Qi had been further condensed, increasing the lethality of the thin beam the artifact released. Despite being thin and seemingly not threatening to the Necrosphinx, the beam of Sword Qi pierced through the Necrosphinx's head.

The Necrosphinx stopped moving, its scythes halting less than a meter from Danny's neck. Danny then twisted the blade lightly, causing a chain reaction all over the Necrosphinx's chin. The chin crumbled while the domino effect followed suit, causing the collapse of the Necrosphinx's entire head.

Afterward, the remains of the Necrosphinx slumped to the ground and stayed there, unmoving.

The Necrosphinx had been finally killed!

Danny was panting heavily and the thousands of warriors sighed in relief as well. The energy stored in the chains of infinity was about to be used up. There were merely a few traces left, leaving just enough to keep the Necrosphinx restrained for a quarter of a second.

No matter how they looked at the situation, it had been extremely close. After all, a moving Necrosphinx was incomparably stronger than the restricted one.

Danny's energy was a little bit unstable now. His head ached and his sight grew hazy. Nonetheless, he didn't relax. He demanded his desert scouts to update him about the current situation of the other battlefield for a rough understanding of their progress.

Danny and his army were not yet done breaking down the southern gate, but the strongest defense forces had been dealt with already. It was obvious that the remaining Undead of the Sacred Desert would die soon enough – at least in the southern area.

While Danny had defeated the Bone Giants, the Necrosphinx, and both the Anubirats and the Kleshabits, the other Lords had merely tackled two Bone Giants, and a few Anubirats and Kleshabits. To achieve this, thousands had to sacrifice their lives. But that was for the better in Danny's opinion.

The fewer opponents they had to face later the better.

While the other Lords were still struggling, Danny chose to help his subordinates to deal with the remaining Undead of the Desert. It took less than an hour to clear the battlefield and store the loot inside his War Rune's storage space.

Afterward, he had enough time to replenish his energy.

He and his army decided to rest a little while watching the Lords just before Danny retrieved three messenger crystals.

"How far have the preparations been completed?" Danny asked in the three messenger crystals, only to receive the same replies from each of them.

"We're ready and waiting for your command, my Lord!"

Chapter 273 Broken Oath

All while Danny replenished his origin energy, he received several reports about the situation at the three other gates.

Everyone had already noticed that Danny and his army had finished their fights, and the three Lords were slowly getting nervous. They began to use their trump cards to change the tide of battle in their favor. The Bone Giants, the Anubirats, and the Kleshabits died miserably, leaving only the Necrosphinx and some weaker Undead to kill.

There were still stronger forces amongst the 'weaker' units of defense, but the three Lords focused on the Necrosphinx. That was only obvious, after all, the Necrosphinx had eliminated more than a tenth of their combatants. In front of each of the gates more than 30,000 bodies were scattered, all reaped by the Guardian Statues and the Undead of the Sacred Desert.

Danny enjoyed the reports quite a lot. They were interesting to listen to, and they gave Danny enough reason to enter the Primedival Pyramid through the southern gate once he and his army had caught some rest.

He fastened the three messenger crystals to his belt after he forwarded a few additional commands. Afterward, he entered the Primedival Pyramid through the humongous gate with slow and careful steps.

His decision to enter the Primedival Pyramid before the others could be considered reckless. The other Lords could just stop attacking the remaining gates and force their way through Danny's army in order to follow him inside the Primedival Pyramid through the southern gate, after all.

However, Danny made sure that his army followed him inside the Primedival Pyramid where most guarded the entrance of the Pyramid from within.

Danny had retrieved various large-scale artillery weapons such as the boulder catapults, large-scale ballistae that used armor-piercing bolts, and magical Scorpio capable of releasing more than 60 bolts within a minute.

With ample preparations, Danny could ensure that no one would dare to charge inside the lengthy hallway of the southern entrance.

He didn't want anyone to bother him as he paved his way through the Primedival Pyramid. Distraction would inevitably lead to mistakes...and mistakes led to death, usually. At least, that was the case in the Origin Expanse most of the time.

All in all, the inside of the Primedival Pyramid was quite dangerous. It had quizzes, traps, and various guardians protecting the innermost areas of the Primedival Pyramid. Nonetheless, Danny survived all of them quite easily.

While the other Lords struggled with killing the Necrosphinx and the other Undead, Danny was already inside the huge labyrinth and found the first treasure room of the Primedival Pyramid.

He had been quite fast with using his Reinforced Sword Qi to trigger most traps and killing the Guardian Statues with long-range Qi Swords even before they had been activated.

Danny used his Soultrait to an advantage while conquering the Primedival Pyramid, but that was only normal. Why wouldn't he use his Reinforced Sword Qi?

Using all of his means was necessary to ensure a safe conquest. Thus, Danny did just that.

After stepping inside the first treasure vault, Danny didn't immediately charge toward the gold coins, the glowing artifacts that were hovering above the sockets, forget about the Fortune Summoning Scroll that seemed to be smiling vibrantly at him, trying to pull Danny toward it. Instead of being blinded by the fortune that unveiled itself in front of him, Danny released his Reinforced Sword Qi in the form of an expanding sphere.

Releasing his Reinforced Sword Qi like that drained his mental power and energy rapidly. Nonetheless, it was necessary to expand the Sword Qi sphere to determine the location of enchantments and traps.

Most traps were split into two versions -- Enchantment Traps and Common Traps. The prefix 'common' suggested that common traps were not dangerous, however, they were the leading cause of death in most of the ancient ruins. Common Traps were hard to locate because the origin energy permeating the air and ground equally covered the traces left behind by the common – mostly energyless – traps easily.

Meanwhile, enchantment traps, as the name suggested, were traps that had been created with the help of enchantments. They were mostly a lot more complex, and it would be a hassle once they were triggered. Fortunately, it was much easier to detect them as long as one paid attention to the surrounding area.

Most Lords would notice that something was wrong with the first treasure vault. They wouldn't charge toward the Artifacts and the Fortune Summoning Scrolls greedily and would inspect their surroundings first. However, there were always fools who acted before thinking. Some fools would be consumed by their greed, rush forward, and trigger a wide variety of complex enchantment traps at once.

The foolish men and women blinded by greed would burn alive before they were frozen to death. Then they would be consumed by corpse devourer enchantments – their bodies used to reanimate the defense forces of the Primedival Pyramid.

Danny wasn't very knowledgeable about enchantments, but he was aware of some basic enchantments. He could also tell what effect some slightly less known enchantments could have. However, that was already it. He didn't know the full effect of most enchantments filling this room. Thus, instead of vigilantly moving around, Danny did something most would consider foolish.

He risked losing all the rewards by filling the entire treasure vault with his Sword Qi Sphere. Then he left the vault to return to the hallway where the Lamia Queen and some other Summons and Awakened were waiting for him. Once Danny left the treasure vault, he released a burst of energy through the Sword Qi Sphere. The sphere burst open, scattering the sword qi all over the treasure vault, which triggered all enchantments inside the vault at once.

From one moment to the next, the treasure vault was set ablaze. It was flooded with water a minute later. However, the water didn't leak out of the treasure vault. It seemed as if an invisible barrier was restricting it from leaving the treasure vault. Daniel stood less than a meter in front of the treasure vault's entrance which was now completely filled with water. The water froze within the blink of an eye, causing cracks to spread all over the vault's walls.

Danny frowned seeing the sudden changes occurring in front of him. However, the most interesting thing was that the ice in front of Danny disappeared all of a sudden as a black pentagon formed on the ground, devouring the ice at once.

A few more enchantments had been triggered, and their effects didn't disappear until ten minutes later. When everything went still, Danny could finally enter the treasure vault and collect the treasures that had survived the blazing flames, the flood of water, the transformation of water to ice, and the consumption of ice.

The gold spread all over the surface of the treasure vault had disappeared, which caused most Awakened to curse silently. However, Danny was mostly focused on the Fortune Summoning Scroll and the Artifacts. They were creations that could easily survive some flames, a little bit of water, and ice.

Danny collected the Artifacts and the Fortune Summoning Scrolls. He then heard the Lamia Queen slithering slowly toward him. She was holding a green messenger crystal in her hands.

"It looks like the other Lords finished off the Necrosphinx. They rested for a while and are now leaving the Primedival Pyramid. It seems like they had a change of heart...and they joined hands for the rest of the battle. The desert scouts saw the three Lords come together," The Lamia Queen reported, hissing in anger.

"So they broke the oath we made? Seems like verbal oaths in the name of the Will are not worth much to these people," Danny said with a shrug. He added lightly, "Seems like it was a wise decision to expect their betrayal beforehand and make some preparations."

His territory was void of people, totally unprotected at this moment. It was obvious that Danny expected a betrayal from the Lords. Unfortunately, all three Lords had joined hands against him to defeat him. That was a little bit annoying – but it was also something Danny took into consideration beforehand.

The report of the three Lords charging toward his territory wasn't too weird. Danny retrieved the three messenger crystals from his belt, cleared his throat, and channeled energy inside them to forward his next command.

"Strike, and bring back the Summoning Cores!" Danny ordered through the messenger crystals.

"To your command, My Lord!!" Three loud voices rang out from the messenger crystals, followed by the shouts of thousands of people resounding in the background.

Daniel nodded his head in response. He put the messenger crystals back to the belt and took a look at the treasure vault. Even if the three Lords attacked his base, Danny didn't even consider the possibility of leaving the Primedival Pyramid and rushing to save his territory.

Instead, he had just given an order to the assassins stationed near the territories of the enemy Lords. The assassins had been hiding in the same spot for several days now, waiting patiently for their Lord's command.

Danny had been carefully observing everything for the past few days. He had used the information of his Desert Scouts to accurately determine the number of combatants in the three Lords territories, and how many warriors they left behind in the territories when they left to conquer the Primedival Pyramid.

That was only possible because the Desert Scouts of Danny's territory were more than 500. They had created a perfect network system across the entire hidden area of the Sacred Desert at this point.

The network system allowed him to know everything that happened the instant it occurred thanks to the messenger crystals in their possession. This also allowed the hidden assassins to attack the territories of the other Lords when they were at their weakest, oblivious to the terror they had inflicted on themselves by breaking the oath of the Will.

Daniel valued promises a lot. Thus, he didn't want to attack the other Lords while they were busy dealing with the Undead of the Sacred Desert. However, now that they attacked his territory, thereby breaking the oath, there was no reason to hold back.

Danny tapped the messenger crystals, inserting some energy inside them before he lightly added.

"Don't leave anyone alive. Kill them all!"

Chapter 274 Fall Of The Summoning Gate

Danny didn't want to lose his power as a Lord, but he was certain that it wouldn't affect him as much as it would affect the other Lords.

His relationship with his people was not fragile enough to shatter only because the Links of Loyalty connecting him to his subjects were about to be destroyed.

Daniel Fang sent his Desert Assassins – three units with each 1,000 assassins – into his enemies' territories. Using the perfect network system created by his Desert Scouts, Daniel could ensure that the Desert Assassins wouldn't have to fight any unknown enemies in the territory.

All they had to do was to kill a few hundred warriors that had been left behind to protect the territories and their citizens from possible monster attacks.

There weren't many powerful Summons amongst the defenders. Most were at the 1st Tier, and still in training. Nonetheless, there were a handful of 2nd Tier Summons that ensured the safety of all citizens even in a crisis – or so everyone thought until the Desert Assassins attacked.

The three Lords didn't expect Danny to have stationed an army of 3,000 assassins across the hidden region of the Sacred Desert for several days. They couldn't accept the situation when their emergency messenger crystals glowed almost at the same time, informing them about Danny's attack.

"This bastard betrayed us!!" The Drakna Lord roared, spitting out blazing flames.

The flames burned down the nearest building in an instant, causing a loud commotion.

"It was a good decision to attack him first. That human bastard is a sly fox. He is willing to risk his territory in exchange for our territories. He must have anticipated that we would break the verbal oath," The Pteranodon Lord said, not yet worried about anything.

The Pteranodon Lord looked calmly through the surroundings. He was trying to find the citizens of the human Lord's territory, only to realize that there was no one.

He could have sworn that there was summons bustling everywhere when he was still 500 meters away from the outer area of the settlement within the human Lord's territory. Even the reports stated that there had always been human summons running around doing their daily tasks.

The situation changed the moment they approached the settlement. Once they were less than 500 meters from the outer area of the settlement the human citizens disappeared.

"Illusion Array. He planned everything way in advance," The Pteranodon Lord mumbled, gritting his teeth when he realized that the human Lord was not stupid as he had hoped.

It was obvious that Daniel had made more preparations against the Undeads of the Sacred Desert, and now he had even thoroughly prepared to be betrayed.

"The Warriors in my territory have been killed. It's only a matter of time before my Summoning Gate will be destroyed!" The Glorack announced darkly, a grimace forming on his stone face.

He grunted and lifted his arm, pointing it at the human Lord's Summoning Gate.

"Destroy the Summoning Gate quickly. If we make him lose his power first, his Summons may not obey their Lord's command anymore!" The Glorack Lord shouted, causing the survivors of the battle against the Undead of the Sacred Desert to charge forward.

The Glorack destroyed every construction in their path until they finally reached the Summoning Gate. Wasting no time, they began to hammer onto the metal frame with fierce strikes of the Summoning Gate. The Summons used every bit of strength inside their bodies in an attempt to destroy the Summoning Gate quickly.

However, that was far from easy. All Summoning Gates were extremely tough, making it near impossible to destroy a Summoning Gate in a matter of minutes. It required hours to destroy a Summoning Gate under normal circumstances. Only by being a Tier-5 Lord with exceptional physical strength would it be possible to destroy a Basic Summoning Gate without too many difficulties. But, of course, none of the Lords present had such tremendous strength.

"We should split up and return to our territories once the human Lord's Summoning Gate has been destroyed. He sent only close to 1,000 Assassins to each of our territories. They will have to spend a full day destroying our Summoning Gates – maybe even longer. We can use his tricks against him, ensure that he'll lose his Lord powers, and return to our territories' rescue!" The Pteranodon Lord said with confidence in his voice. But it was only minutes later that he sensed something odd.

His Summoning Gate was under attack... and the damage being inflicted on it was tremendous.

Because Lords were naturally connected to their Summoning Gate, they could obviously tell if it was under attack. They could also feel how much damage was being caused to their Summoning Gate. That was also why the expression of the Pteranodon Lord changed suddenly.

"He even prepared for that?" The Pteranodon Lord asked himself, realizing too late that it was only obvious to prepare for means to accelerate the destruction of the Summoning Gate if one had already meticulously planned to take out his short-term partners.

Even though Danny didn't expect the three Lords to break the verbal oath and join their forces to attack him, he had long since prepared thousands of Elemental Source Stone Fragmentation Grenades. Danny didn't use them against other Lords knowing that exposing this trump card might cause problems in the future. Thus, now that he revealed the Elemental Source Stone Fragmentation Grenades, he was certain that their full use could be exposed.

The Fragmentation Grenades were quite heavy. They were packed with a pound of high explosives each with a fatal blast radius of three meters. Their destructive force was exceptional, but that was not everything. The Elemental Source Stones used in the explosives of the Fragmentation Grenades were exceptionally useful to destroy enchantments and to make them implode.

Maybe a single Elemental Source Stone Fragmentation Grenade was not enough to destroy a Summoning Gate, but triggering dozens of them simultaneously – one batch after another – was different.

The Glorack Lord and the Pteranodon Lord were the first to notice that something was off. They quickly realized that their Summoning Gates' strength was declining rapidly. I think you should take a look at pantheonovel.com

Thus, the Pteranodon Lord ordered his subordinates to aid the Glorack in the destruction of Danny's Summoning Gate.

Once the Drakna Lord also realized what was happening, he frowned deeply before commanding his subordinates to use every ounce of energy to destroy the Gate. As long as they could destroy the human Lord's Summoning Gate before theirs would fall everything would be fine.

The Drakna would then heat up the Summoning Gate's joints using all their might while the Glorack would use their massive bodies weighing tons in an attempt to pull the Summoning Gate and break it apart.

Meanwhile, the Pteranodon Lord's Summons used their Unique Racial Trait to enhance the other Summons' work efficiency. They guided the rest to tear down the human Lord's Summoning Gate as quickly as possible.

At last, they tore down the Summoning Gate with their combined forces. It was destroyed, and Danny lost his Lord powers in response. All Links of Loyalty were cut in an instant, allowing the human Summons and everyone else to move freely, never to be restricted due to Daniel Fang's commands.

Danny was slightly surprised when the Links of Loyalty were cut. He didn't expect the three Lords to be that fast. Secretly he had even been hoping that his Desert Assassins would be faster at destroying the Summoning Gates of his enemies than they could destroy his Summoning Gate.

Unfortunately, that was not the case.

"That just means the Lord Seal was worth the investment," The Lamia Queen said next to Daniel Fang when he noticed that her Link of Loyalty broke.

She could attack Daniel and kill him right now seeing how defenseless her former Lord was, but the Lamia Queen didn't even think about that. On the contrary, it was a little sad that her firm bond with her former Lord had been destroyed just like that.

"I am sure that the Desert Assassins will complete their job. Don't worry, we will never betray you. There is no need to rely on a Link of Loyalty!" One of the stronger human Summons wearing full-body desert armor declared, clenching his fist tightly before smashing it against his chest, denoting his unwavering loyalty to his 'former' Lord.

It was just like the Summon had said. His Summons wouldn't betray him just because he lost his Lord powers. The Link of Loyalty might have forced them to follow Danny's commands, but he never abused his power. On the contrary, he had always been close to his subjects, treating them like fellow brethren. Sometimes it would make others doubt whether Danny was actually their Lord, or a part of their family. That was how close he was to his subjects.

Even if they had to sacrifice their lives for Danny, they wouldn't hesitate to do so. Thus, it was no wonder when the three enemy Lords found out that the Desert Assassins didn't stop the destruction of their Summoning Gates even after Danny's Summoning Gate had been destroyed.

It was not long after the fall of Danny's Summoning Gate that the other Gates fell as well.

No Lord was left in the hidden region of the Sacred Desert.

However, there was a big difference between Danny losing his powers and the other Lords losing their powers.

Danny always treated his subordinates with love and genuine care. Even with the broken Links of Loyalty they wouldn't betray him. The same couldn't be said about the other Lords and their subordinates.

First of all, the three Lords didn't treat their subjects too nicely. But that didn't mean the Summons would attack their former Lords now that their Links of Loyalty had been destroyed.

The only factor that mattered right now was that the Summons wouldn't be forced to all of their former Lord's orders anymore.

Now, they were about to go against their former Lord's commands, revealing the desire to kill their opponents – the other Lords and their subordinates.

The other Lords and their subordinates had caused the death of many people the Summons had held dearly after they had been summoned to the Sacred Desert.

Even if they were Summons, who had been resurrected from the dead, they were still beings with emotions.

They loved, and they hated.

They were in pain, and they grieved.

The three Lords had never been on good terms before. They merely combined their forces to get rid of Danny, understanding that he was the most dangerous.

However, now that the Links of Loyalty had been destroyed, the Summons disobeyed their former Lord's orders and attacked the enemies, who had caused them unbearable anguish, and pain.

A huge battle started, turning Danny's destroyed territory into the battlefield of the Glorack, Drakna, and Petra people.

Chapter 275 Ruler

Danny was still inside the Primedival Pyramid when the battle in his territory started.

He chuckled lightly when he received the first report about the happenings in his territory. Meanwhile, the worries of possible issues dispersed in the wind.

Even if the other Lords had been rather problematic in the past, he didn't expect that they would fall prey to their own greed – and so easily at that.

After the first report of the battle in his territory reached him, Danny first carefully listened to the information relayed by the Desert Assassins. The pieces of information forwarded were quite important as they included the fact that the Assassins had collected the Summoning Cores installed in the three Summoning Gates.

Daniel waited patiently until the Desert Assassins returned with the Summoning Cores. Only then did he leave the Primedival Pyramid to return to his destroyed territory.

He may not be able to rescue his territory at this point, but Daniel Fang could annihilate the three former Lords and the remains of their crushed armies.

The three armies should be in a weakened state by now. Their numbers had already dwindled after the battle against the Undead of the Desert, and it was quite obvious that the warfare against each other would wear them down even further. Meanwhile, Danny's army had received sufficient time to rest.

Instead of being tired of fighting, they were bored and eager to fight. Their desire to annihilate the other Lords was at its peak, and they cheered loudly upon hearing the news that they were about to kill them all today. At last, they were about to become the ruling power of the Sacred Desert's hidden region!

That was more than enough reason to be overjoyed and return to their destroyed territory with high spirits. Nobody even thought about betraying Danny. To them, he was their Lord whether he had a Link of Loyalty with his subjects or not. Danny was a true Lord who was strong, trustworthy, a pillar of support for everyone in need of help, and one of the most sincere people most of the Summons had ever seen in their two lifetimes.

When Danny reunited with his army, and the three Desert Assassin Units, he was quite satisfied. He received a total of 11 Summoning Cores, which the Desert Assassins had retrieved from the three Summoning Gates. With that amount, and the Summoning Cores left in his destroyed Summoning Gate, Danny was certain that he could upgrade his Basic Summoning Gate to the Intermediate grade once he reconstructed it.

That might take some time, but time was not an issue anymore once the three former Lords and their utterly exhausted armies had been taken care of properly.

Danny felt exceptionally confident while leading his army to his destroyed territory, feeling ready to go all-out one more time before everything was over. It hurt a little bit seeing that everything he had worked for had been destroyed when they returned to the territory, but Danny calmed down after reminding himself that all that mattered was the safety of his subjects.

The rest could be rebuilt even if it might take a while.

While passing through the large settlement inside his territory, Danny and his people found countless corpses. The number of corpses, blood, intestines, and other body parts spread out on the ground kept on increasing steadily as they approached the heart of the battlefield.

Less than 20,000 Summons and Awakened were left, fighting desperately for their survival, and with the desire to kill those who had caused them to suffer the most. The Drakna, Glorack and Petra people never thought of being friends with the other races. They had been forced to obey their Lord's commands to ensure that their scheming against Danny worked out. However, that didn't mean the three armies of the former Lords had forgotten about the incidents of the past.

They had been fighting for decades. It was impossible for them to become friends and live side by side all of a sudden. Only one of them was allowed to survive!

Even though the former Lords had been planning to hold a final battle once the human Lord had been killed, and after they conquered the Primedival Pyramid, their subjects didn't want to wait for that long. Their hatred had reached its peak that didn't allow them to let their Lords take their own sweet time anymore.

The Summons didn't care about the benefits of the Primedival Pyramid anymore. All they wanted was to kill their enemies and survive until the very end.

But what they forgot in the heat of the moment was an important factor- There were not only three races left in the hidden area of the Sacred Desert!

When Danny and his disciplined army reached the heart of the battlefield, they encountered a small group of less than 20,000 enemies. The Summons and Awakened were completely exhausted and most of them had sustained more or less serious injuries. As for their battle formation... It didn't look like anyone was still using battle strategies at this point. The members of the three races were spread across the battlefield in a wild manner, and there were no indicators of tactics being used.

On the contrary, Danny and his people were still one big unit. They joined the battle, using the tactics they had practiced and executed over a long period. Working together, and listening to the commands of their trusted Lord, it was only a matter of time before their worn-out enemies were bulldozed.

The three former Lords had been trying to stop the battle from the moment all of it began. All of them wanted to see their enemies dead, but it was also quite obvious that the timing of the final battle was the worst. Out of four armies, three were at the same spot, creating an unbalanced fight in which three tired armies were bound to end up on the losing side. But the former Lords were not in control of their people anymore. They could only watch the blood battle in the first few minutes, trying their utmost to end it all before they decided that it was impossible.

Only when the realization struck them did the three former Lords understand that there was only one way out of this situation- as long as their enemies were defeated before the human Lord returned everything would be fine. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

It was not a good plan but the three former Lords began to fight each other. Their trump cards were revealed and utilized in the hope to kill the other Lords quickly in order to change the tide of the battle, but it was all for naught.

By the time Danny arrived on the battlefield, the three Lords were lethally wounded. None of them could escape the trump cards of the other, creating a devastating situation on the battlefield that injured everyone.

The situation was far better than expected for Danny, which meant that it was the worst possible outcome for the three former Lords.

Of course, Danny didn't care about their misery. He enjoyed it quite a bit, in fact.

He watched as the terror unfolded in front of the eyes of the former Lords. There was no sign of their usual arrogant and aloof attitude.

"I can smell your fear even from this distance," He said, chuckling lightly as the three former Lords stopped mid-battle.

Their gazes flicked to Danny in surprise and the surprise quickly turned into shock when they registered that he was unscathed and brimming with energy. He walked through the rows of overly exhausted warriors, creating dozens of small Qi Swords which he released whenever one of the tired warriors charged at him blinded by rage.

His attack looked eerily simple. Daniel merely released a Qi Sword, which pierced through the neck or chest of the charging warriors, killing them with a single strike. His attention didn't even move to the warriors he killed.

Daniel continued to charge forward while killing dozens of enemies. He allowed the Lamia Queen and his other trustworthy subordinates to be in charge of command after he had issued the first few orders. His mission was to deal with the remaining powerhouses and to kill the Lords once and for all.

As for his subordinates, they were tasked with ensuring their survival while pressing against their enemies, pushing them to the limit, and striking them with great force whenever an opening appeared.

"You bastard!! You betrayed us!!!" The former Lord of the Drakna roared loudly. He coughed up blood instead of spitting out blazing flames, which was enough for a small smile to blossom on Daniel's lips.

"Seems like dying turned you into a Jokester. Don't you think you're being really funny right now?" Danny asked, releasing a dozen Qi Swords toward the Drakna.

He didn't care whether the attack would kill the Drakna or not. Daniel just wanted to put more pressure on his enemies for the time being.

What he didn't expect to see was that his Qi Swords were too fast for the half-dead Drakna Lord to evade. The Drakna could merely block two Qi Swords while the rest pierced through his vital points. His left arm was cut off and his kneecaps shattered as the Qi Swords pierced through them, forcing the Drakna to the ground.

"Does it really matter who betrayed whom? At the end of the day, your death merely means that you didn't prepare thoroughly for the worst-case scenario. Meanwhile, my victory shows clearly that you guys are brickheads without actual brains. Though that makes me wonder how it was possible for me to take so long to defeat the three of you, I am perfectly fine with that," Daniel added with a shrug.

Even if he betrayed the other Lords it wouldn't really matter.

In war, the only thing that mattered was to win and survive, no matter how!

"You can question your actions in your next life. Maybe you will enjoy becoming a tyrant's Summon soon enough," Danny further taunted before his expression turned ice cold.

Dozens of arm-long Qi Swords manifested all around him, pointing at the former Lords with deadly intent.

"Now...die for me!"

The Qi Swords cut through the air, drawing blood, and reaping souls.

Chapter 276 Celebration Of Sovereignty

The death of the Drakna, Glorack, and Petra people set Daniel's heart at ease.

He didn't possess the powers of a Lord anymore, but he could be considered the sole ruler of the hidden region, at last. It felt great.

"Rebuilding the Summoning Gate will take a while. It might not be done before the Primedival Pyramid will collapse with the treasures inside it," The Lamia Queen pointed out reluctantly after she saw that everyone was overjoyed, and eager to celebrate emerging victorious against the other Lords whom they had fought for years.

"I will instruct the citizens to return. They can repair the Summoning Gate, and I'll reactivate it with the Lord Seal once it's done. But just as you said, it might take a while. That means I should spend most of my time inside the Primedival Pyramid. After all, the Pyramid is for us to loot now that the other threats have been eliminated," Danny responded with a wide grin.

Now that he was in possession of various Summoning Cores, his Summoning Gate and the Lord Seal, Danny could become the sovereign of the ownerless hidden region. That was what he had worked tirelessly for the last four years, to the extent that he even neglected his dear brother.

When he recalled his brother, Danny felt apologetic. He knew that Michael would never think badly of him, but that didn't mean he should have neglected Michael's training that much.

'If I find a Legendary Artifact or something equally valuable he needs, I will give it to Michael!' Danny swore to himself, upon recalling their last meeting where he sensed that Michael's territory was extremely dangerous.

It was at least equally dangerous compared to the hidden region of the Sacred Desert, but Danny had a bad feeling that it might actually be a lot more dangerous. Thus, as a good elder brother who wanted to repent his mistakes, Daniel Fang had to collect a few treasures to hand over to his little brother.

"We will celebrate today with everyone, and don't have to rush back to work," Daniel announced as he saw the expressions on some of his subordinates' faces.

It was evident that they didn't want to jump from the battle against the Undead of the Sacred Desert to the final fight against the other Lords, just to continue working tirelessly. They deserved some rest, and to celebrate their final victory. Danny supported that as well.

He would still get back to the Primedival Pyramid from tomorrow onward, but that didn't mean he would force the others to join his raid.

Given the first few trials, Danny could tell that the Primedival Pyramid was not too difficult to conquer. Using brute force and dirty tricks to destroy Guardian Statues before they would awaken, and triggering all the traps while being at a safe distance, Danny was not in too much danger.

Of course, the Primedival Pyramid wouldn't be too easy to conquer the deeper he went, but Daniel was currently a mere Adventurer now that he lost his Lord powers. That meant he couldn't force anyone to follow him, even if he wanted to.

"I notified the citizens in the underground bunkers that the threat is negated and that they can return. Meanwhile, we could clean up and prepare everything for the celebration," One of the Awakened working under Danny said. He was clearly excited about the prospect of partying wildly and didn't even bother about hiding that fact.

Danny smiled lightly upon seeing his excitement. Since he lost his Lord Power, the contract established through the Link of Loyalty between him and the Awakened working under him had been broken. The Awakened could leave him behind, or even attack him if they desired to do so. But given their excited

expressions as they talked to the other Lamia and Human Summons about celebrating their success, Danny sighed in relief.

One of his worries had been that this strategy would stir trouble in his own rows. He trusted his Summons because his bond with them was different than his connection and contracts with the other Awakened. The other Adventurers might desire to take one of the Summoning Cores, and a broken-down Summoning Gate of the other Lords to regain their Lord powers as well. All they required was time, effort, and a Lord Seal.

It was not easy to regain one's Lord Power as a single individual, but it was not impossible.

Fortunately, it looked like the Adventurers working under Daniel didn't desire to become Lords again. Being a Lord restrained their freedom. It cost a lot of money, effort, and it was a hassle overall.

Of course, the benefits were great. If you were a good Lord, your Soultrait's power would skyrocket, and your military prowess inside the Origin Expanse would reach new heights, creating more openings to collect treasures and claim ore mines, and other resourceful places that could generate a small fortune. Last but not least, being a Lord made it much easier to refine one's War Rune.

The War Rune of Lords required a lot more energy to progress the refinement rank and advance to the next Tier, but by fighting large-scale wars, it was easier to obtain a vast amount of energy from the subjects' Links of Loyalty.

Every kill would provide a trace of energy to the Lord. In small numbers that might seem insignificant, but fighting armies with hundreds of thousands of enemies would turn the small traces of energy into vast streams— which would naturally allow the War Rune to progress.

Since everyone was excited and high in spirits it didn't take long to collect all the corpses and to clean up the surroundings. The Sahirat Elephants bulldozed the collapsed buildings before huge tents were set up all over the former settlement of Danny's territory.

Everyone worked hard for the next hour or two before the first barrels of wine and beer were retrieved from the spatial pouches and spatial storages.

When the citizens of the settlement returned to their homes, they were shocked about the fact that their homes had been destroyed at first. However, Danny and the others calmed the flabbergasted citizens, telling them that it was only a matter of days before their houses would be standing tall once again. After all, Danny already had a spatial pouch filled with enough raw materials to create a new settlement – using more valuable construction materials than earlier!

In the evening the true celebration began. A huge tribute was offered to bid a final goodbye to the souls of the deceased humans and Lamia. After that, Danny and the others feasted on plenty of dishes that had been prepared by the best chefs in the settlement. Afterward, some citizens began to play instruments, filling the surroundings with great music and an exceptional atmosphere.

Drinking beer and wine all while partying and rejoicing in their victory, the celebration of sovereignty could be considered a complete success. Dancing hand in hand with the comrades in arms and drinking all night until the first sun rays of the next morning peeked out from the horizon made everyone feel happy.

All the tension and stress accumulated over the last four years of unending hard work and tireless efforts to stay alive had finally dispersed.

For the first time in what felt like an eternity, Daniel's heart fell at ease.

He finally did it.

He fulfilled his first big goal!

Chapter 277 Burial Chamber

Now that he was the ruler of the hidden region, Danny didn't have anyone or anything pressuring anymore.

If there was anything that could pressure him, it was probably himself and the fact that he wanted to conquer the entire Primedival Pyramid before it would collapse.

He still had almost 100 days left before the Pyramid would collapse, burying and destroying all invaluable treasures within it.

Danny was not sure when he fell asleep but he was certain that he had never slept that well before. He was lying on a thin mattress that wasn't soft or too comfortable, yet his sleep had been blissful.

Unfortunately, that didn't mean his head was fine after he woke up. He had the worst headache from drinking too much the day before, and he felt like sleeping for a few more days. That was also why Daniel chose to postpone charging into the Primedival Pyramid for a little bit longer.

Time might be tight, but it was better to be in his best condition when he entered the deeper parts of the Primedival Pyramid.

He spent the next few days helping his subordinates reconstruct parts of the settlement, and watching the engineers research the Summoning Gate in-depth to initiate the reconstruction process. Danny left the Origin Expanse only once to take a look at the messages sent by his brother – if there were any messages, to begin with.

Michael was still in the spaceship on his way to the Sapphirelake Military Academy. Thinking of his brother traveling through space, Danny felt a tinge of envy.

He may not like Military Academies or Universities, but Daniel knew that they played a vital role in the growth of young Lords. The most important was the access to various techniques, knowledge and social circles that couldn't be entered easily under ordinary circumstances.

The Sapphirelake Military Academy was exceptional in terms of social circles. If not for the conquest of the Primedival Pyramid, and the fact that Danny had been busy fighting for the sovereignty of the Sacred Desert's hidden region, he might have considered applying to enter the Sapphirelake Military Academy alongside Michael.

It would have been great to stay by Michael's side, especially since he had a lot of regrets to make up for. He wanted to treat his younger brother better since the brothers were all they had left of their once happy family. They had learned to take care of each other when they were young. From a young age, their lives had changed drastically, forcing them to mature early.

They may display some childish tendencies now and then, but the brothers would only be able to reveal them when they were with each other. They wouldn't dare to show their childish behavior to anyone other than their family as they were unsure how others would react, and if they would be abandoned once again.

Trust was important between friends, but both Danny and Michael learned early enough that their trust could be broken easily – especially by people you would least expect to.

Danny was very vigilant whenever others approached him. He didn't trust anyone completely other than Michael, and a few Summons and Awakened since he had been working with them for four years, or eight years if considering the time ratio of the Origin Expanse.

But Danny also knew how easily Michael trusted others. Michael may be considered a vigilant youth at first glance, but he was actually quite foolish. Michael trusted his gut feeling too much, and wouldn't hesitate to reveal his secrets to others as long as his gut feeling told him that they were trustworthy enough.

It was only a matter of time before Michael would have to face some problems because of his unbending trust in his gut feeling. Unfortunately, Danny couldn't do much to help Michael. He didn't know where the Untamed Jungle was located, how long it would take to travel there, or if Michael would be betrayed in the Sapphire Lake Military Academy, or in the Untamed Jungle, in the first place. Maybe...Michael would be betrayed in both places.

The thought of seeing his younger brother getting betrayed always caused a grim expression to form on his face.

When Danny recalled that Michael wouldn't message him for a while as his little brother might be busy in his territory, he decided to return to the Origin Expanse once again. He spent his time preparing to enter the Primedival Pyramid once again.

Inside the Primedival Pyramid, everything was the same as before. Raiding the Primedival Pyramid was not easy, but Danny and his most trusted allies paved their way through the pathways by either avoiding the traps or triggering them while maintaining a safe distance.

In the following 90 days, Daniel Fang made his way to the deepest parts of the Primedival Pyramid. Less than two days were left before the Primedival Pyramid would collapse when Daniel finally found the path to the deepest and most sacred part of the Pyramid; the burial chamber.

The burial chamber was the innermost and most sacred part of the Primedival Pyramid. It was the place where the sarcophagus containing the Pharaoh's mummy and funerary goods were stored.

The funerary goods were one of the reasons Danny desired to conquer the entire Primedival Pyramid. He didn't shy away from spending a fortune, and months of reading ancient texts to prepare everything necessary to raid the Pharaoh's tomb. After all, the heavenly treasures of the Second Epoch were said to be buried here alongside the Pharaoh.

Adding the fact that the Will of the Origin Expanse turned the burial chambers into one of the older resurfacing ancient ruins, Danny knew that the Primedival Pyramid did not only have the funerary goods of the Pharaoh, but also treasures created by the Will.

Danny was excited, but also worried when he reached the deepest part of the Primedival Pyramid. It was said that the Primedival Pyramid contained the Sarkophag of Primedival, the mummy of one of the oldest and strongest Pharaohs in the history of the Sacred Desert.

Conquering the Primedival Pyramid in the last three months hadn't been too difficult. All it took was careful and meticulous exploration of everything and ensuring that Danny noticed all clues leading to the secret passageway of the Pharaoh's burial grounds. I think you should take a look at

The difficulty of the Primedival Pyramid worried Danny a little bit. He was not sure why the Primedival Pyramid of the strongest Pharaoh would be that easy to conquer. It didn't feel right. At the same time, Danny could only calm himself by thinking that his thorough preparations were the reason for all of this. Without the knowledge he procured over the course of months, Danny wouldn't have made it that far.

In fact, he wouldn't have been able to pass the second trial, forget about the trials he encountered afterward. With that in mind, Danny calmed down as he made his way to the entrance gate of the burial grounds.

Anticipation filled the air as he passed through the corridor leading to the burial chamber. The corridor was adorned with intricate hieroglyphics, narrating the Pharaoh's noble lineage, his mighty conquests

during his lifetime, and the blessings he had received from the Divinities. Vibrant murals depicted incidents of the Pharaoh's life and achievements, commemorating his deeds to be passed down from one generation to another over the course of millennia.

The entrance to the burial chamber was marked by a massive stone door, meticulously carved with sculptures of powerful deities and guardian spirits, standing watch over the Pharaoh's journey to the afterlife.

The entrance gate was locked, but Daniel's fingers moved swiftly across the meticulous carvings, unsealing the gate by using the marks he had been given for every trial he passed with excellent scores.

As the entrance gate creaked open, an architectural wonder unraveled itself in front of him. A solemn aura enveloped all who dared to cross the threshold to the burial chamber, almost as if the spirits of the ancient time stirred in response to the intrusion of the living.

The burial chamber was hidden deep within the heart of the Primedival Pyramid, illuminated by shimmering wisps of energy. It was a clear testament to the might and grandeur of the Second Epoch's mightiest Pharaoh.

The journey to this sacred space was arduous, filled with mazes, secret passages, traps, and mighty Guardian Statues, which had been awakened to safeguard the Pharaoh's eternal rest from intruders, but Danny knew that everything was worth it as the heart of the Primedival Pyramid appeared in front of him.

Upon stepping inside, Danny and the others were unable to control themselves anymore. Their eyes shot wide open, and their jaws hit the ground.

The inner space of the burial chamber was vast. It had a high-vaulted ceiling adorned with golden stars, mirroring the night sky. The walls were decorated with carvings, depicting religious ceremonies, and divine beings.

A soft golden light filled the burial chamber, casting flickering shadows that danced along the walls, adding an otherworldly touch to the already breathtaking scene.

The air was filled with the scent of incense and ages-old history, causing Danny and the others to feel momentarily stunned.

Nobody dared to take a step closer to the center of the chamber where the Pharaoh's sarcophagus, a magnificent masterpiece of craftsmanship, rested.

The sarcophagus gleamed with a celestial radiance, adorned with precious jewels and gems that glinted like stars in the dark. Elaborate engravings, enchantments, and unknown symbols graced its surface, bestowing blessings upon the Pharaoh's eternal soul.

Surrounding the sarcophagus, priceless funerary goods and offerings were meticulously arranged, reflecting the Pharaoh's earthly wealth and status. Glowing Artifacts, Old Scrolls, Tomes, a golden oval-shaped egg, and various alabaster vessels filled with viscous content adorned the chamber.

The viscous content released a strong herbal scent that quickly overpowered the incense scent not long after Danny and the others had entered the room.

Spread around the funerary goods, various other treasures were neatly placed. They didn't seem as old as the funerary goods so it was quite easy to distinguish between the Artifacts of the Second Epoch and the treasures created by the Will of the Origin Expanse.

Staring at the treasures in the vast space of the Pharaoh's burial chamber, Danny could tell that the sacred space was a place where the past and the divine converged, preserving the legacy of a revered ruler.

It felt weird standing in the burial chamber, almost as if it was urging those who entered it to contemplate the mysteries of life, death, and the eternal journey beyond.

It was exceptional and awe-inspiring. Observing every object meticulously, Danny found out that he could learn a lot just by standing here.

However, he didn't want to stay here. After all, the Pyramid would collapse soon.

But even if he didn't have much time left, Danny wasn't ready to risk anything. He didn't rush up to the treasures to collect them.

Instead, he continued to observe the scene that unfolded in front of him.

'Something is off.'

Chapter 278 Betrayal

The burial chamber of the Pharaoh was filled with ancient treasures.

Seeing them filled Danny's heart with excitement. He was feeling utterly exhausted after tirelessly fighting to conquer the Primedival Pyramid for months with little to no breaks, but he was also happy.

The raid would end soon, providing him with enough resources to complete the reconstruction of his Summoning Gate and provide the resources needed to expand his territory all over the hidden region of the Sacred Desert.

How could he not feel happy?

But he was having a nagging feeling that something was off.

Thus, Daniel Fang moved slowly through the burial chamber, vigilant of traps and Guardian Statues that may awaken and appear suddenly. However, there was nothing.

By the time he reached the Pharaoh's sarcophagus, Danny calmed down a little. Everything had gone according to his plan. He had done it!

However, just as his flat hand pressed against the lid of the sarcophagus, the Lamia Queen behind him shouted out loudly.

"Master! Behind you!!!"

Her voice rang through the burial chamber, allowing Danny to react immediately. He turned around instinctively and manifested his sword artifact, unsure what awaited him.

Daniel saw two of the Awakened working under him charging at him. This momentarily stunned him but then another thought calmed Danny. The Adventurers were probably trying to come to his aid because they had noticed that something was off. The Lamia Queen's warning pushed the Adventurers into action – or so Danny thought.

But reality was cruel, and the greed of humans was endless. Daniel realized this once again as he saw that the Lamia Queen and his other Summons had been attacked.

Six of his trusted Adventurer comrades had circled the Lamia Queen and Daniel's Summons attacking them viciously. They did not give them time to react and quickly impaled them with several spears, and cut them with their swords, inflicting deep sword gashes that spread across their entire upper bodies.

Blood gushed out of their wounds like overflowing streams and they collapsed on the ground lifelessly.

Seeing that, Danny's eyes widened in shock. The cogs in his brain took a second to process what he had just witnessed and understanding dawned upon him.

The human Adventurers, who had been working under him for the last few years, had betrayed him... all of them...

A total of eight human Adventurers were left working under him. Six of them attacked the Lamia Queen and Danny's Summons from behind when everyone's guard was lowered, while two of the strongest Adventurers charged straight at him.

The Lamia Queen and his Summons were not yet dead, but the strength in their bodies dispersed rapidly. The once peaceful situation had turned into a bloody massacre.

Only Danny was left unscathed, facing the two strongest human Adventurers, who had worked under him until now.

Reinforced Sword Qi coated his sword artifact, and several Qi Swords manifested all around him at once.

Yet, just as Danny wanted to unleash the Qi Swords, something changed. The atmosphere in the burial chamber grew tense, and the Qi Swords shattered. Even the Reinforced Sword Qi shrouding Danny's sword artifact dispersed in all directions, leaving Danny shocked.

His head flicked to the two Adventurers, and he found one of them holding a translucent orb in his hands. The translucent orb was clear, giving him a view of what had been stored inside it. It was a golden eye.

As he peered at it intently, he noticed that the large golden eye was moving around, following every single movement made by him.

The golden eye seemed to be made out of metal, but its movements were not mechanical which made him feel as if it was a lifeform as well. Danny was actually not sure what it was. The only thing he could tell was that the glowing golden eye was why he lost control of his Soultrait. It was locked onto him, and sealed his Reinforced Sword Qi.

However, his attention didn't remain on his sealed Soultrait. Instead, his full attention shifted to the Adventurers who had betrayed him.

They backstabbed the Lamia Queen and his other powerful Summons, just to charge at him with the golden eye orb locked onto him. It was obvious that their betrayal had been planned beforehand – probably a long time ago.

At that moment, something snapped inside Danny. He despised the traitors. The realization that he had been betrayed planted a seed of rage inside Danny, feeding off the fiery spark of fury and hatred that blossomed inside him. He hated betrayals. He hated those damn bastards.

Danny's teeth clamped as his fists clenched tightly around the sword artifact's handle. His vision turned red as the two Adventurers appeared in front of him. I think you should take a look at

A stream of strength spread through his entire body, and he began to move.

The instant he kicked his feet off the ground, Danny turned into a flash. He appeared next to the closest Adventurer, his sword artifact drawing the blood of his enemy.

The Adventurer stared at him with wide open eyes, shock filling his entire being.

Was Danny immune to pain, and poison? How could he exert that much strength after they had slowly poisoned him over the course of the last three months? Shouldn't he feel weak and tired by now?

Their treachery was not just limited to the sudden attack right now. They had been adding copious amounts of slow-acting poison into the food that was distributed among Danny and his Summons that should have crippled his defenses long ago. And not just that, but an arrow was stuck in Danny's chest.

Before the two Adventurers charged at Danny, they had released a poisoned arrow. It struck Danny as he turned around when the Lamia Queen attempted to warn him. Yet, Danny didn't even seem to notice the small swallowtail arrow stuck in his upper arm. The barbs of the arrow were designed to make sure that the arrow stayed inside Danny as he ran, inflicting maximum damage, and causing him to bleed out sooner or later.

Danny noticed that something was wrong with his body a few days ago. He was often exhausted and felt weak, but thought that it was because he hadn't been resting well in the last few months. Never would he have expected that the few people he trusted unconditionally would betray him.

After years of fighting alongside him, they poisoned him like sly foxes, attacked his Summons when they least expected it, and had prepared thoroughly to restrict his Soultrait to defeat him.

They knew very well that their strength was not enough to kill Danny without all of these factors. Even while poisoned, Danny was still strong enough to kill them with his Soultrait. Yet, after being poisoned and restricted the Adventurers had been certain that Daniel Fang would die a miserable death.

But seeing him appear next to the strongest Adventurer, drawing his blood and killing him with a single strike caused the atmosphere in the burial chambers to change once again.

Daniel began to bleed out of his mouth, nose, and eyes as he circulated a tremendous amount of origin energy through his body. His body felt stronger, yet the lifeforce inside his body was rapidly drained. Daniel Fang had utilized Life Reversal for a moment, hoping that he could kill the traitors and tend to his Summons before it was too late.

He had to use the spurt of strength as long as it was still present. He kicked his feet from the ground and dashed to the Adventurer holding the golden eye orb.

The sword artifact slashed twice through the air, cutting through the orb once before beheading the Adventurer, whom he had once called a good comrade, and a friend.

He grit his teeth in uncontrollable anger, feeling as if the entire world had crashed down on him.

Daniel couldn't forgive himself. He was prepared for the betrayal of the three Lords, but never could he have anticipated a betrayal in his own rows. His bond with the Adventurers had been strong. They had been friends, good friends at that.

In fact, Danny was certain that he could call these Adventurers his family. They had gone through thick and thin while sweating in the Sacred Desert, striving for survival. At last, their combined efforts allowed them to become the ruler of the Sacred Desert's hidden region.

"...Why?" Danny asked, his voice growing weaker. The poison that had accumulated within him over the last three months had been triggered at last. The arrow coated in poison had activated the poison inside him, causing his bodily functions to weaken rapidly.

His sight blurred, and he had problems moving even though Life Reversal granted him immense strength.

"The Sacred Desert doesn't belong to you. It never did, in the first place!" One of the remaining Adventurers muttered without a trace of remorse.

At first, his legs were trembling seeing that the strongest of their batch had been killed, but seeing that Danny's movements were growing increasingly sluggish, he calmed down instantly.

A vibrant smile blossomed on his face as he looked at his former employer with scorn in his eyes.

"Did you really think that we joined you because we saw something great in your cause? All we wanted was to obtain more strength and regain our powers. Funnily enough, you appeared in the Sacred Desert's hidden region, a place that had yet to be discovered by our Master," The Adventurer drawled, not bothering to hide anything. It was only a matter of time before Daniel Fang would die, either way.

"Since the...beginning? You were never on my side?!?" Daniel asked, his legs caving in as the poison reached his legs.

He tried to access his War Rune to retrieve some potions, but another Adventurer charged forward. His hand coated in an eerily familiar silver light shot forward, releasing a crescent-shaped Reinforced Sword Qi blade.

The silver blade cut through Danny's right arm. And blood gushed out of his shoulder like a fountain. It splattered everywhere, hitting the ground, the funerary goods, and the golden sarcophagus.

Danny's eyes widened.

'He used my Soultrait.'

Chapter 279 Rise Of The Tomb King

"I never expected our Boss to grant us new Soultraits. To think that he had so many spare Soultraits to use. Duplication is exceptional, don't you think so, Danny?" The Adventurer asked in a mocking voice while manifesting a few Qi Swords after using his newly obtained Soultrait.

Now that he had gained Duplication, his combat prowess skyrocketed. He wouldn't be underestimated anymore, and he was confident to be a much better Lord than he had been in the past. He was ready to regain his power as a Lord – even if that meant he had to kill Daniel.

Danny groaned in pain. His limbs felt numb and so did his arms. He could barely feel the loss of his right arm at this point.

The Adventurers cackled like hyenas while seeing Danny's miserable state. He was covered in blood, his eyes were slowly growing heavy, and his expression was shrouded in anger, desperation and unwillingness.

He didn't want to die. There was so much left for him to do.

He had yet to rescue his subordinates. Their wounds had to be tended to before it was too late.

But that was not everything.

Daniel Fang had yet to explore space. He had yet to meet other races outside the Origin Expanse. He had yet to find his parents and ask them why they abandoned them. He had yet to find out where Hesta was, and what happened to her after she disappeared. He had yet to find out more about the curse of the Fang bloodline. There were too many tasks waiting to be completed.

However, death seemed imminent. The Grim Reaper was slowly creeping closer, trying to take away the last strands of life and hope from within Daniel. But Danny was not willing to let go of his life. And suddenly his little brother's face flashed in front of his eyes.

Michael!!

He recalled that he hadn't given enough time to take care of his brother. Even when they were young, Danny had mostly focused on his training and his desire to find their parents and sister. He wanted to find out why they left them, leaving a young 9-year-old and a 13-year-old teenager on their own.

They hadn't been ready to become independent, but their parents' disappearance had forced them to mature quickly.

Since their parents' disappearance, Michael had never demanded anything. He never bothered his brother with anything and kept to himself. When Danny was young, he always thought about how the

world was unfair to him, and that he deserved something better. He worked hard to obtain what ought to be granted but somehow forgot that Michael was abandoned at a much younger age.

Michael had been forced to get his act together when he was supposed to play with his friends and live carefree with his loving family. Growing up, Danny began to increasingly feel guilty that he hadn't been a good and dependable brother. He could have done a lot more but had failed miserably.

'I cannot die yet. I have yet to make up...for being a bad brother...' Danny could only think, gritting his teeth and clenching his numb hand into a tight fist.

The next moment something unexpected happened. The six Adventurers were just about to step toward Danny and end his miserable life when the burial chambers began to tremble.

All surrounding origin energy was suctioned in the same direction, creating a strong pulling force that affected everyone in the burial chamber. The funeral goods were pulled toward the center of the burial chamber, just like Danny. His body was pulled toward the golden sarcophagus, where his blood had already been sprinkled in alarming quantities.

Danny's blood began to glow on the golden sarcophagus' surface. It warmed and seeped inside the sarcophagus that began to tremor wildly.

One moment the sarcophagus was sealed, and the next moment the seal broke.

A heavy presence weighed down on the living within the burial chamber, weakening Danny and his dying summons, while the Adventurers were forced down on their knees.

The golden sarcophagus opened slowly with a loud creak that rang through the ears of everyone in the periphery. Eyes full of shock and disbelief were glued to the sarcophagus as a bony, bandaged hand grasped the sarcophagus' edge from the inside.

Time seemed to slow down as a mummified figure began to move within the sarcophagus. It got up, azure flames flickering brightly in its eye sockets.

The mummified being was adorned with ornate, regal attire reminiscent of ancient pharaohs. It wore a headpiece featuring an ankh symbol, which symbolized power and life. The headpiece resembled the pharaoh's crown of the Second Epoch, adorned with hieroglyphs and intricate patterns.

The being's skeletal body was adorned with jewelry, amulets, and sacred relics, a sign of its eternal connection to its empire. The azure flames in its eye socket glowed otherworldly radiance, casting a gloomy and eerie atmosphere all over the sacred burial chamber.

The being lifted its right arm, causing a golden serpentine staff to manifest out of nowhere. Once the serpentine staff appeared, the heavy pressure weighing down on everyone intensified even further as an ancient authority and a sense of enigmatic power channeled into it, blending with the appearance of the regal majesty and eerie resurrection of a being that should have died a long time ago.

The being was none other than the strongest Pharaoh of the Second Epoch, and he had just been resurrected from his eternal slumber!

The Undead Pharaoh had been awakened.

Its gaze roamed through the burial chamber and looked down at the sarcophagus where it saw Danny's miserable figure. The Pharaoh's staff moved downward, weakly pressing against Danny's forehead. The next moment a stream of knowledge entered the Pharaoh's mind.

"Interesting. Thousands of years have passed, yet nothing has changed. Everyone is still weak, and relies heavily on cunning methods and betrayals to gain power," The Pharaoh said slowly in an awkward mishmash of words from both the currently used origin language and the language used in the Second Epoch.

He was learning the current language using the wisps of knowledge he had taken from the miserable figure beneath him.

"Child of the Cursed. Your blood allowed me to awaken. As a generous Pharaoh, I shall allow you to witness the traitor's death," The Pharaoh waved his wand lightly through the air, causing dozens of weapons to manifest out of nowhere.

The weapons pointed toward the Adventurers, who were still kneeling on the ground, forced by the ancient pressure that weighed down heavily on them.

The next moment, the Pharaoh lifted Danny's head, forcing his unfocused eyes to watch as the razor-sharp weapons cut through the air, piercing the Adventurer's chests, necks, and heads.

In the blink of an eye, all the traitors had been killed.

However, Danny couldn't feel happy about that. Because he was forced to watch the death of the traitors, he could also see the Lamia Queen and all other Summons in the burial chambers. Their bodies were unmoving.

They were dead. I think you should take a look at

"You will soon join them," The Pharaoh said lightly when he saw where Danny's gaze was fixated. He recalled some of the wisps of knowledge he had obtained from the miserable human figure and nodded his head faintly.

"Pharaohs don't owe favors to others. That means I cannot allow you to leave like this," The Pharaoh said, unleashing his ancient energy that had accumulated over the course of millennia.

"I will grant you a special death, something few of your kind will ever be granted. Make good use of it, you will only have one chance!"

The moment the Pharaoh's voice rang out, Danny felt that the surroundings changed. He was weakly lying on the ground but was magically pulled over to an open spot in a fraction of a second.

Time slowed down, and Danny regained clear vision for a second or two. However, all he could see was a bright golden blade that had formed due to the ancient energy swirling through the burial chamber of the Primedival Pyramid.

'I shouldn't have trusted them.' Danny first thought but then his mind went astray.

'What will happen to Michael? Will he be fine without me? How can I leave my little brother alone?'

As thousands of thoughts filled with regret and self-criticism spread through his mind, it happened. Danny closed his eyes when he saw the golden blade shooting down at him with a loud sound that resembled the hissing of a serpent.

'I'm sorry...'

Blood splattered, and a head rolled over the ground.

The tension all over Daniel's body dispersed at once, and his body went limp.

However, there was no pain. Danny didn't feel any pain. On the contrary, a soothing warmth filled Danny's mind. It was comfortable and embraced Daniel tightly.

He was not sure what happened, where he was, and how he ended up like that. But one thing was certain.

He was dead.

Daniel couldn't feel anything. He realized that consciousness wasn't connected to his body anymore. All he could do was remember what had happened before he died.

Time passed unknowingly and Daniel didn't know whether seconds, minutes, days, or years had passed.

'Is that the afterlife? What a shitty place to remember your life, but being unable to do anything...'

After what felt like an eternity to the consciousness of Daniel Fang, the first change occurred.

A stream of information swept into his head, informing him to obey his Lord and to protect him. It also informed him that he would never be allowed to reveal his identity, otherwise, his second chance would be revoked, and his life would end.

After another eternity, a second change occurred. He could feel his body once again.

The moment he regained the feeling in his body, Daniel noticed that something was different.

At some point, a third change occurred. His other senses returned as he was pulled somewhere.

He heard the chirping of birds and felt dense origin energy all around him. A strong smell of flowers, plants, and unique herbs filled his nostrils.

Confused by the sudden change in the scenery around him, Daniel opened his eyes slowly.

The first thing he saw was a densely grown jungle and a large clearing with hundreds of humans pacing around busily.

Then he discovered a young man standing in front of everyone, waiting patiently, and smiling brightly at him.

Daniel froze in his tracks when he saw the young man. His eyes turned blurry as tears welled up inside them. He nearly screamed out loudly, only for severe pain in his head to remind him of the conditions that had been attached to his new life.

Only then did he realize what had happened. He had been resurrected as a Summon...in his brother's territory...

Daniel Fang was given an opportunity. He was granted the chance to make up for his biggest regret.

At last, he could stay by Michael's side – even though it was not as his brother Daniel Fang, but as Masked Saber.

But that was fine.

All that mattered was that he was next to Michael and that he could give his all to protect his beloved brother...even if that meant he would have to die once again!

"I'm the Masked Saber. I'm happy to be of your service Mi—...my Lord!"

[End of Volume 5]

Chapter 280 Alone

[Present]

After the Lord Rift closed, Michael was teleported back to the Untamed Jungle. He emerged from his Summoning Gate alongside Tiara.

She staggered forward, while Michael could only stare ahead, his eyes void of their earlier vigor and luster. His clothes were burned, his Armor Set molten, and his skin and the flesh beneath charred. It was already a miracle that Michael was still alive. However, he couldn't be happy. Michael couldn't feel anything.

A loud metallic sound rang through his ears, pulling Michael's attention to the piece of molten metal that had landed next to him. It had once been a saber, the saber belonging to Masked Saber... It was all there was left of Masked Saber... No.

It was all Michael was left with of his brother...

"Danny..." He mumbled quietly, pressing his trembling lips together thereafter.

He clenched his fists through the pain as two tears trickled down the corner of his eyes.

The next moment, everything around Michael turned dark. He didn't have a single trace of origin energy left in his body, his energy veins were injured, and he felt that the mythical flames of the dragon's breath had shattered something deep inside him. Michael's War Rune glowed brightly, manifesting the Runic Gate in response to his state, pulling him out of the Origin Expanse.

He didn't know what happened after that.

Once Michael regained his consciousness once again, all he could tell was that every inch of his body hurt, and that he was lying in a comfortable bed.

He spent nearly half an hour trying to move before he could open his eyelids, which felt like they weighed several tons. After he opened them once, Michael was fine. His eyes moved from left to right, analyzing the small room.

'Infirmary?' Michael concluded after a few seconds. He tried to turn his neck to see if there was someone else in the room, but every little movement made a fresh wave of pain course through him.

However, physical pain was not something Michael was afraid of at this moment. His heart was broken, and physical pain was the only stimulation that distracted him – even if it was just a little bit.

He pushed the blanket that covered his body away, just to see that his entire body was bandaged. The bandages were infused with altered origin energy that possessed healing properties. It channeled a calming sensation inside his searing hot body to slowly regulate his body temperature and bring down the fever.

"If you don't want to keep the injuries forever, you should stop moving. Your injuries are no joking matter," A familiar voice reached his ears.

Michael slowly turned to the voice, just to see Alice Zenovia, Kaleb, and two middle-aged women wearing doctor's coats.

While Alice lectured Michael, Kaleb walked over to him, trying to retain his calm. He stared at Michael's bandaged body, and swallowed the words he intended to say.

Instead he tried to force a smile on his face before he said, "It was about time that you woke up. You were asleep for an entire week, Michael!"

A full week had passed since he had been thrown out of the Lord Rift.

Michael just nodded, not really caring how long he had been asleep. His expression was cold and distant, and a pang of sorrow was triggered in his heart at the mention of the Lord Rift.

"I shouldn't have entered the Lord Rift..." Michael mumbled to himself, clenching his fists even tighter than before.

He clenched his fist too tightly, causing the freshly scabbed skin on the back of his hand to burst while his fingernails dug deep into his palm. Neither was painless, but Michael could only hope that the physical pain would take away the pain he felt in his heart. Only when he felt his fingers grow wet did he look down to stare blankly at his fists.

The two healers walked over to Michael's bed with hurried steps. Before they could heal Michael, they had to open his clenched fist. His fingernails were still digging into his palm, making him bleed. Kaleb tried to help them, only to realize that Michael's fingers didn't move an inch. Alice had to come over to loosen his fist, allowing the healers to tend to his injuries.

The healers were talking to him, but Michael didn't hear them. His ears had shut off as the memories of his brother's death resurfaced.

His body began to tremble, and tears welled up in his eyes once again.

'I shouldn't have entered the Lord Rift...'

"We found you unconscious in your room after the health sensors in your room went haywire. They sent a signal to me and the infirmary. Luckily, we found you just in time. A second or two later and you would have died," Alice Zenovia said, informing Michael about his condition and how lucky he had been. "The healers treated you, but your condition had been extremely bad. Your skin and flesh were burned, and

even your energy veins sustained considerable damage. However, the worst was that your reckless usage of your Soultrait caused damage to your War Rune's Essence."

Alice intended to pull Michael back to his senses, but Michael could only scoff.

"Lucky? You should have left me to di—...." Michael responded quietly, only to shut his mouth before he could finish his sentence.

He wanted to say that they should have left him to die so that he could stay by his brother's side, but he couldn't. Michael knew that he was only alive because of Danny's sacrifice and that his death would have been for naught if he died as well. I think you should take a look at

Michael could only grit his teeth and lower his head, trying to hide the tears streaming down his cheeks.

Even if Kaleb and Alice didn't know everything about Michael, they could tell that he wasn't crying because of his great fortune to be alive. In fact, Alice Zenovia was certain that Michael saw the AI's notification on his crystal watch.

'He must have seen the update of his brother's Lord ID. To see something like that after barely escaping death in the Origin Expanse must be awful...' She thought, oblivious to the truth that Michael's situation was even worse than she imagined.

Michael had yet to see the AI's notification on starnet messenger, but he knew that Daniel had died as a Lord. If he didn't die in the Origin Expanse, he couldn't have been resurrected as Masked Saber...his summon.

Thinking about Daniel when he had been summoned as Masked Saber, Michael felt miserable.

He clearly recalled Danny's unique way of speaking whenever Masked Saber spoke and the way he moved. Michael couldn't understand how he didn't realize that Danny had been Masked Saber all along. They were exactly the same.

There had been so many clues. Masked Saber's silver energy had been one of the biggest clues. The silver energy had been Daniel's Reinforced Sword Qi Soultrait. Now that Michael knew about this, the similarities were glaringly evident. This was even more true for the True Link of Loyalty that appeared between Michael and Masked Saber the moment Masked Saber had been summoned.

No matter how Michael looked at the situation from his current point of view, Masked Saber had always been Danny.

They fought side by side for months, trained with each other, and talked endlessly, yet Michael never even considered that Masked Saber could have been his brother.

It was only obvious to think like that because Danny had been alive and thriving in his territory according to the information the AI forwarded about his brother's Lord ID.

Michael believed in the information forwarded by the AI; so he never even considered the possibility of Masked Saber being his brother. The thought that his brother had already died and resurrected as his summon never crossed his mind.

With a heavy sigh, Michael opened starnet messenger on his crystal watch, just to see the top-most message from the AI, informing him with a warning signal that Daniel Fang's Lord ID had malfunctioned and that he lost his Lord power several weeks ago.

There were no additional pieces of information or explanations why the Lord ID had been malfunctioning. All Michael found out was that his brother died a few days before Masked Saber appeared in his territory.

At some point over the course of the day, Alice and Kaleb left.

His injuries were tended to for two more weeks to fix his damaged energy veins, heal his other physical wounds, and carefully repair the crack in his War Rune's Essence.

Frederik Kolbenheim, Jaqueline Orlando, Silverian Schild, Annabelle Claire, Lincoln Piedra, Zeke Lavita, and the triplets of the Barscht family came to visit him a few times in the following week, but Michael didn't even take note of them.

Michael didn't really care about anything anymore, and it grew increasingly difficult for the healers to determine if Michael was only an empty shell, or if he still desired to stay alive. It was as if he had shut himself down from the outside world. He didn't drink, or eat, and he didn't move in his bed either. All he did was stare blankly at the wall ahead of him.

Michael recalled every memory he had with his brother. Memories of the past resurfaced – a past he thought to have been forgotten a long time ago.

The memories before he turned 9 years old had never been clear before. Michael had shoved them deep in his heart because they showed an illusion of a time in which everyone in the Fang family was together, living happily. But that was not real. His sister had disappeared and their parents had abandoned them.

They might have left enough money to take care of their basic needs, but was that really comparable to being raised by loving and caring parents? Despite their family abandoning him and his brother, Michael never complained. He knew that Danny had a hard time as the older brother.

Daniel always felt that he was obliged to pave a way for Michael to walk upon easily in their parents' stead. He thought that it was his duty to do everything for Michael and to become strong enough to protect his younger brother from all kinds of trouble.

Daniel Fang gave his utmost to grow stronger without increasing his living expenses. He attended public school and didn't bother about entering an Academy, or University to further increase his knowledge after graduation either. All of this would require funds, and time and he would have to leave Michael alone. Leaving Michael on his own was out of options, and he didn't have much time to spend studying either. The trouble he had to face in the Origin Expanse used up most of his time – oftentimes too much, preventing him from staying by Michael's side and aiding him.

Danny didn't want to use their funds for his personal benefit either. Instead, he wanted to give them to Michael so that he could attend the best private school in the Golden Sun province.

Michael was grateful for Daniel's help, but he didn't need any of that.

All Michael had ever wished for was to walk alongside his brother and conquer the Origin Expanse with him. That was why he gave his best in the Origin Expanse to become stronger. As long as he could take a step closer to his brother, everything would have been great.

But now that Daniel Fang was no more, Michael's goal seemed meaningless. He couldn't walk alongside his brother now that Danny was dead.

He was alone now.