

Supreme Lord 371

Chapter 371 Abomination

The circle of flames created by the Elemental Empress prevented anything alive inside the Beast Ranch from escaping. The Kitsun and bloodthirsty beasts were imprisoned in the Beast Ranch alongside Michael, Tiara, and Lilica.

At the same time, the Elemental Empress controlled the circle of flames precisely. She received a flood of energy when Opars used Energy Imprint on her several times. It allowed her to utilize her power to push the flames closer to the Beast Ranch to burn her enemies and push both beasts and Kitsun closer to the center of the Beast Ranch.

This allowed Mika and the other Forest Elves to focus on archery, releasing batches of arrows without the need to aim precisely. After all, there were more than enough bloodthirsty beasts that barged through the iron fences in a desperate attempt to escape the blazing flames.

Michael was in the middle of the Beast Ranch, staring at the iron fences and watching the desperate bloodthirsty monsters whimper and shriek pitifully. He actually felt a little bit sorry for them. They'd been tortured by the Kitsun just like the Elemental Empress. Each of the bloodthirsty beasts looked skinny and mutilated. There was also something else about them that felt a little weird. The bloodthirst they exuded was so dense that Michael could actually see a red hue when he used Spirit Gaze and Eagle Eyes together.

That was a little surprising, but that didn't mean Michael was affected by it. Only Lilica and Tiara were slightly affected by the dense bloodthirst. Thus, he sent them away to deal with the remaining Kitsun in the Beast Ranch.

["How long until you guys arrive?"] Michael asked Sun Demos telepathically.

["Soon. Leave us some playthings to toy with!"] Sun Demos answered hurriedly as he and his troupe traversed through the Untamed Jungle even faster than before.

["We will see about that. You will have more than enough fun later, either way."]

Michael released a few smaller Glacicles to destroy the remaining locks. The iron gates sprang open, releasing the desperate and starving bloodthirsty beasts in the arena-like center of the Beast Ranch.

Opars, Liopham, Mika, and Pheli saw the beasts and readied their bows. Not waiting for Michael to start the fight, they released their arrows with great force.

Simultaneously, Michael's high perception kicked in. He sensed the arrows from above and created a thick Glacicle above his body. It acted as a super durable shield and blocked the duplicated arrows of Mika that would have hit him by accident. Afterward, Michael manifested six Glacicle Swords which he covered in Sword Qi. He enhanced the Glacicle Sword with a layer of Enhancement and released the attacks in the crowd of bloodthirsty monsters.

Simultaneously, he summoned the Wyverntooth Spear to attack every monster that dared to get too close to him. Any desperate attempt to strike him was easily disrupted and countered, ending in the death of the bloodthirsty beast.

The only time Michael's first attack failed was when a van-sized wolf emerged from the shadows of the hall behind the iron fence. Its once silver fur was stained in a deep gruesome crimson, leaving mere strands of silver behind. Michael was usually not easily impressed but the chilling sight of the wolf, its coat matted and soaked in a dark hue of fresh blood and crimson fur was quite impressive.

In the back of the room the wolf emerged from, Michael could pinpoint a few corpses. The corpses belonged to three Kitsun and a few bloodthirsty beasts. Michael didn't have to look twice to know that the wolf had killed all of them. Every step the wolf took left behind a sinister trail, a testament to the fierce battle it had endured and overcome.

Its eyes had turned into fiery orbs of blood-red, but there was also a tinge of darkness. They glowed like smoldering embers, radiating malevolent energy that overshadowed the dense bloodthirst in the Beast Ranch.

Despite the blood-soaked visage, the wolf moved with an eerie grace, every movement calculated and precise. It was a creature of terror, a wild existence, never to be tamed nor subdued.

'This is what the Kitsun Lord is trying to breed. A killing machine with intelligence. An abomination that can take care of the enemies he cannot deal with...what a crazy bastard...'

Now that Michael thought about it, the Beast Ranch looked less like a breeding ground similar to the Bilrox Ranch, and more like a place that allowed only the strong to survive. The center of the Beast Ranch was an arena, and only the strong would be allowed to survive. Pitting bloodthirsty beasts against each other after they'd been starved would make them angry and fierce. Their desperation and strive to survive would grow strong enough to attack their own brethren, kill them and eventually eat their own kind for the sake of survival.

Michael shuddered thinking that abominations like the ominous wolf existed in all Beast Ranches. He was glad to face the wolf inside the Beast Ranch rather than the open world where it could feast and strengthen itself before striking Michael when he least expected it.

The wolf had gorged on the corpses just now, but it was still starving, and its bloodthirst was still not sated. It was merely working on its primal instincts to move around the center of the Beast Ranch to observe Michael's prowess and strike when he was the most vulnerable.

To its misfortune, Michael didn't plan to create such an opportunity for the Crimson Wolf. He willed the six enhanced Qi Glacicle Swords to change trajectory and propel toward the crimson wolf with a burst of energy. Simultaneously, Michael didn't hesitate to consume a chunk of his origin energy to utilize the strongest form of Spirit Disturbance. I think you should take a look at

A wave of pain impacted heavily on the crimson wolf. It growled in response while trying to ignore the pain and effect of the spiritual attack.

However, the crimson wolf was still not strong enough to do something. The monster had been starving for too long. It was still in a weakened state, allowing the Kitsun workers to control it precisely at their command. Only upon getting released in the wild would it slowly gain powers that transcended the threshold Kitsun Awakened at the 2nd Tier could ever fathom reaching.

The crimson wolf was unfortunate enough to encounter Michael when it was at its weakest. It tried to evade the six enhanced Qi Glacicle Swords but realized too late that a second charge of pain hit it hard as Michael used Spirit Disturbance once again. The crimson wolf faltered and could barely shroud its body in dark energy when the enhanced Qi Glacicle Swords impacted, shredding the dark energy engulfing the wolf.

The Glacicle Swords pierced through the wolf's fur and dug deep into the monster's flesh before the Sword Qi coating the Glacicle Swords was released inside the monster's body with a burst. The wolf winced in pain and slumped to the ground, barely noticing that the Glacicle Swords shattered. Upon shattering, the Glacicle Swords released freezing mist inside the monster's body, freezing its flesh and organs from the inside.

'To think that it took two uses of Spirit Disturbance and six enhanced Qi Glacicle Swords to push it to the brink of death despite being so weak,' Michael thought, not hiding his surprise. The crimson wolf was only a Tier-2 Monster, and it was severely weakened, yet it endured Michael's attacks quite well.

It was not yet dead, but the monster would die in the next few seconds. There was no need to pay any more attention to it. Yet, the monster oddly fascinated Michael.

'My highest priority should be to get rid of all Beast Ranches. These places are evil.'

With that thought in mind and a plan set in stone, Michael manifested more Glacicle Swords which he engulfed in Sword Qi. He controlled them precisely and cut through the horde of bloodthirsty monsters, reaping dozens of lives alongside the Forest Elves' hail of arrows.

At some point the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys appeared. They surrounded the circle of flames, which the Elemental Empress extinguished with a wave of her hand. This allowed Sun Demos and his subordinates to charge inside the Beast Ranch and wreak even more havoc.

A few minutes later, the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys left the Beast Ranch, their bodies soaked in fresh blood. The last Kitsun and bloodthirsty beasts had been annihilated, their corpses stored away.

Everything else of value was collected within a few minutes before they began to move once again. Since the reinforcement of the Kitsun Lord should have reached the northern guard settlement by now, they must have received a report about the Beast Ranch as well. The reinforcement sent by the Kitsun Lord was probably already on their way to the Beast Ranch.

Therefore, it was about time to travel a little bit farther away to remove the looming threat of the incoming reinforcement.

They decided to leave the Untamed Jungle for the first time in a while. Their small group traveled west to enter the Savannah.

"I hate to break it to you, but...don't you think Sun Demos and his horde of subordinates will attract a lot of attention in the Savannah? I mean, they'll be fine in the Untamed Jungle because they can move fast wherever they want, and hide behind bushes and tree trunks to wait for the perfect opportunity to attack, but the Savannah is an open area. There are few trees and bushes, and none of them should be big enough to hide a thousand black-furred monsters," Lilica pointed out as they traveled to the Savannah on Icarus' back.

Michael looked down to the ground where he saw numerous black dots moving through the Untamed Jungle, his lips tightly pressed together.

"They're targets in the Savannah, quite literally," Lilica added.

Tiara nodded, "Our position will be exposed if we're moving together."

Michael sighed, but he agreed with their concerns.

"In that case, we'll be splitting up."

Chapter 372 Savannah

Contrary to Michael's expectations, the Savannah region was like a vast, golden sea of grass that stretched as far as he could see. Shrubs of grasses and thorny bushes swayed gently in the breeze, creating an illusion of soft waves that rippled across the land.

The ground was mostly flat, offering little to no hiding spots for monsters and others. However, one could also spot some low, rounded hills every now and then. It was just that there were so few of them that one hardly noticed them.

In the distance, Michael found scattered trees that offered patches of shade to the monsters of the Savannah region. These trees had long, slender branches and leaves that rustled softly in the wind.

Flying through the sky on Icarus' back, Michael's gaze moved across the brilliant blue of the sky high above them. The sun hung high up in the air, casting a warm golden light on the land. It was a simple landscape with its beauty being the openness and the feeling of endless space.

But it was also a place full of death and danger. The Savannah had many predators traveling through the vast openness to hunt their next prey to feed their families. However, there was also Michael and his people. They didn't travel to the Savannah region to witness the beauty of the vast expanse. They came for blood.

While flying high above the ground of the Savannah region, Michael was able to pinpoint various things. He saw many small farm houses in areas that looked like gated communities. Fences, towers, and guards protected the farms from wild monsters and other invaders. For a moment, Michael considered attacking these gated communities to burn down the fields and eliminate everyone, but he quickly decided against it.

He noticed that no Kitsun was working in the fields, and that the Guards were actually Awakened, who belonged to another race. Amid hundreds of slaves, only a handful of Kitsun could be seen voicing out orders while swinging black whips through the air in a threatening manner.

The slaves of other races were Summons of the Lords who were defeated by the Kitsun Lord in the past. The Guards of these gated communities were the Awakened of those Lords who had been defeated and eliminated. The Awakened had been forced into submission by the Kitsun Lord.

Though Michael wasn't sure how exactly the Kitsun Lord forced the Awakened into submission. But it was highly likely that the Kitsun Lord promised to not kill them and their people if they accepted the Soul Pact that bound them to him and his territory.

The Kitsun Lord was thus able to create several structures that used the slaves as free workers, and the Awakened as cheap guards. Only a handful of Kitsun Summons were required to manage everything, thus creating a large source of food for his entire territory.

Michael felt like throwing a few Glacicles into the farmhouses to pierce the throats of the Kitsun and free the slaves of the other races, but he didn't want to expose his location to the Kitsun Lord right now.

Chances were that the Kitsun Lord was already informed about the two Greater Eagles flying across the Savannah region, but it was not as if the Kitsun Lord could teleport his reinforcement to the other side of his territory in the blink of an eye.

Even if the Kitsun Lord had a plan up his sleeve, Michael was not afraid. After all, he spent his time on Icarus' back coming up with a batch of plans as well!

["How is the plan progressing? Did you already encounter the reinforcement, or are you still splitting up?"] Michael asked Sun Demos telepathically.

Since Sun Demos and the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys would be easily exposed in the Savannah region, Michael had decided to split up their groups.

Sun Demos and his troupe were the strongest, fastest, and deadliest in places such as the Untamed Jungles. The environment was perfect to initiate swift attacks before disappearing in the densely grown jungle. The monkeys could move rapidly, using their long and flexible arms to grasp tree branches and change their movement pattern in the blink of an eye.

That was why Michael decided to order Sun Demos and his troupe to stay in the Untamed Jungle and to split up. Even if it was better to stay in a large group to ensure that their enemies couldn't overwhelm them with numbers, Sun Demos and the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys were not exactly hard to pinpoint as a group of nearly 1,000 individuals in a place with hardly any cover to hide them.

Instead of moving ahead as one big group, the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys were split up into 200 groups with five monkeys in each group. The number was perfect for swift attacks to disrupt a few enemies, potentially kill one or two Kitsun in the progress, before they would retreat at once.

Given that the Kitsun Lord had several small settlements across the Untamed Jungle and the Savannah region, giving him a much bigger span of land to control than Michael, it wouldn't be easy to safeguard most parts of the Untamed Jungle with only 1,000 individuals. Fortunately, Sun Demos and his subordinates didn't pay much heed to control. They traveled through the Untamed Jungle to ambush

scattered groups of Kitsun, and the reinforcement sent by the Kitsun Lord. I think you should take a look at

["I found the reinforcement a while ago. My subordinates struck them from the side and the back, killing some weaklings. Two young Blood Oath Demon Monkeys sustained minor injuries, but it's not worth mentioning."] Sun Demos reported to Michael.

Michael was glad that the Guerilla Warfare worked once again. Using this kind of tactic in the Untamed Jungle was efficient yet also dangerous. A single mistake and the whole strategy would fail miserably. Fortunately, nothing went wrong.

Over the course of the next ten minutes, Sun Demos and his people found a few small groups that had separated while traveling from the main group of the reinforcement and were a bit further. They targeted such groups, struck them from all sides, killed almost everyone and disappeared the moment the warning sounds reverberated through the surroundings.

After that, the Guerilla Warfare was halted for a few minutes to organize the groups and strike the enemies where they would never expect it.

The Greater Eagles, on the other hand, reached the second Beast Ranch. The Beast Ranch was at the other end of the Kitsun Lord's territory – close to 150 kilometers away from the Untamed Jungle. Michael and the others passed by a few Beast Ranches on their way to this particular Beast Ranch, but that didn't matter. They would burn them down sooner or later, either way.

Upon reaching their destination, Opars released Energy Imprint two times to fill the Elemental Empress with energy as she created the ring of fire around the Beast Ranch. The searing flames flickered brightly as they burned the dry grass in the vicinity. Afterward, the Elemental Empress pushed the flames of the ring of fire inward, burning down everything that entered the path of flames.

Michael, Tiara, and Lilica jumped down into the center of the Beast Ranch once again to deal with the horde of bloodthirsty monsters as well as the Kitsun managing the Beast Ranch. Mika and the others readied their bows and arrows on the back of the Greater Eagles, patiently waiting for the horde of bloodthirsty monsters to charge into the center of the Beast Ranch.

Michael broke the locks of the iron gates that held the starving bloodthirsty beasts imprisoned with a wave of his hand before he manifested several enhanced Qi Glacicle Swords. Each of them was strong enough to not only cut through the strongest defenses of a Late Tier-2 Monster, but also the starving and weakened bloodthirsty beasts. Not even the abominations that were born through the ritual of blood and death were strong enough to survive Michael's Qi Glacicle Swords.

They tried to evade the attacks, but using Spirit Disturbance with Eagle Eyes and Spirit Gaze was enough to disorient the abominations and land a hit.

'There are more abominations inside this Beast Ranch. Was the Ranch in the Untamed Jungle new, or did they intentionally nurture more abominations in this place?' Michael wondered, only to realize a few seconds later why the Beast Ranch had six abominations.

"We killed the Kitsun. A dozen Awakened and a hundred combat Summons," Tiara came back to report, ignoring the warm blood that trickled down her hands. She smiled vibrantly at Michael with a map of the Savannah region in her hand.

"Look what I found!" She exclaimed excitedly.

Michael looked at the map while continuing to control the Qi Glacicle Swords around him. His attention fell on the black marks located in the territories of the rival Lords. There were a total of six marks with each of them being located quite deep in the enemy's territory.

'The Kitsun Lord is really a bastard. Blessing his enemies with those abominations and bloodthirsty beasts...'

Even though the abominations were only Tier-2 Monsters, they were mutants working with the power of death – if Michael was right about their powers. If they were able to grow into Tier-2 Monsters within the Beast Ranch, Michael didn't even want to know how quickly they could advance to Tier-3 killing machines upon claiming freedom. They would feast and regain their peak strength before growing stronger by devouring their enemies.

Last but not least, the abominations were extremely intelligent. They would avoid their enemies until they were strong enough to face them head-on. Or they would avoid attacking them head-on forever,

focusing entirely on using sneak attacks to exhaust their combat power by attacking their weak spots when they least expected it.

One way or another, it was a good thing that Michael got rid of the abominations. He wouldn't want such a deadly beast in his territory either.

Chapter 373 Team Up

Instead of burning down everything inside the Beast Ranch, Michael, Tiara, and Lilica made sure to gather as much information as possible.

They stored everything of value in his storage space before they allowed the Elemental Empress to burn everything down to a cinder.

As the Elemental Empress vented her emotions, using her sadness and anger as fuel to strengthen her flames, Michael started to retrieve a bunch of files.

He used Extraction on the files to extract the Knowledge Wisps which he consumed without any hesitation. The knowledge entered his mind, where Michael digested everything rapidly.

Since Michael didn't know much about the other Lords and territories, he had to use the information provided by the Kitsun to find out more about the other Lords. A plan was slowly forming in his mind, but he didn't want to provide the other Lords an opportunity to expand their territory and grow stronger if they were not good people. Or, at the very least, they shouldn't be worse than the Kitsun Lord.

If they were worse – which should hardly be possible – Michael would exclude them from the plan that formed in his mind.

Even though the memories of the Kitsun bothered Michael quite a lot, he continued to consume a few more Memory Orbs from the Awakened they'd killed in the second Beast Ranch. While using Extraction with full focus on extracting memories related to the other Lords and their territories, Michael obtained Memory Orbs related to those topics. Of course, there were also other memories stored in the Memory Orbs, but Michael learned a lot about the other Lords.

It was more than enough to move forward with his plan.

Michael gave the Golden Stinger Wasp a small note before he sent it to the closest settlement of the Lord living adjacent to the Kitsun Lord's territory. The first settlement Michael sent the Golden Stinger Wasp wasn't too far away. The Golden Stinger Wasp was fast and wouldn't have to travel too long to reach the destination.

It would release an energy stinger with the note once it reached the settlement and hit one of the stronger Awakened in the settlement so that the Awakened can notify the Lord about the plan Michael came up with. Afterward, the Golden Stinger Wasp would travel to the two other territories and do exactly the same.

Sending notes to all three Lords living adjacent to the Kitsun Lord's territory might take a while, but Michael wasn't in a hurry. He returned to Icarus' back and they began to travel to the 3rd Beast Ranch. The memories of the Kitsun kept bothering Michael but he tried to hold back the anger and disgust he felt until he encountered the starving, bloodthirsty beasts in the third Beast Ranch.

And the moment he reached the destination, Michael unleashed his fury, channeling his anger and disgust into power. He wreaked havoc in the third Beast Ranch while the Elemental Empress created a circle of fire, ensuring that nobody could escape. Tiara and Lilica killed the Kitsun again, while Michael spent merely five minutes killing close to 500 bloodthirsty beasts.

The 3rd Beast Ranch fell much faster than expected. It allowed them to take a short break in which Michael focused on his Link of Loyalty with the Golden Stinger Wasp and his bond with Sun Demos.

During a few instances, the Golden Stinger Wasp had been in danger. The Link of Loyalty forwarded a strong pull to Michael, indicating him to help the Golden Stinger Wasp. However, he was too far away to help his loyal subordinates. It was the Golden Stinger Wasp's great fortune, rapid speed and nimble movements that allowed the monster to survive and finish the tasks it had been given.

The Golden Stinger Wasp successfully sent notes to the three border settlements of the Lords fighting the Kitsun Lord. It was uncertain whether the Awakened of the border settlement would take the note seriously, or if they would consider it a trap of the Kitsun Lord, but none of that mattered. Michael merely wanted to attract the other Lords' curiosity with the notes.

Once curiosity germinated in their hearts, the Lords would send scouts to the border to investigate. The scouts were unlikely to find anything near the border after Michael completed his plan. Thus, the scouts would invade the Kitsun Lord's territory, hopefully to see burned down settlements and a lack of defenders.

Michael hoped that the other Lords would then try to claim the territory as their own and grow stronger. All Michael had to do was to create an opportunity for the other Lords to attack and kill the Kitsun Lord's forces. Afterward, Michael could retreat and watch the other Lords compete with each other for the Kitsun Lord's territory. This would – most likely – stir problems between the Lords, which would distract the Lords from the source of this chaos. Distracted, the Lords would forget about the anonymous individual, who created the opportunities for the Lords to strike and eliminate the Kitsun Lord – or so Michael wished.

All Michael had to do was to kill as many Awakened as possible, plunder the Kitsun Lord's territory a bit more, and eliminate the Kitsun Lord to open and destroy his Summoning Gate.

Michael didn't want other Lords to obtain the Summoning Cores installed in the Kitsun Lord's Summoning Gate after all. He was the mastermind so it should be Michael who obtains all Summoning Cores.

At least, that was the ultimate goal of Michael's plan.

His plan also included the Guerilla Warfare in the Untamed Jungle. Sun Demos and his subordinates had to succeed in eliminating the threats within the Untamed Jungle, restraining the Kitsun Lord from considering attacking Michael's territory in the Untamed Jungle. Sun Demos ought to instill fear and chaos in the hearts of the Kitsun within the Untamed Jungle, all while reports of Michael and the others wreaking havoc reached the Kitsun Lord and his strongest subordinates.

The Kitsun Lord would likely have a tough choice to make between eradicating the threat looming in the Untamed Jungle, and sending his reinforcement to eliminate Michael once and for all.

And while the Kitsun Lord was in a tight spot, unable to decide what to do, Michael would create openings for the other Lords by destroying the Kitsun settlements close to the borders. The border settlements required strong defenses to endure the attacks of their enemies. This was very important for the Kitsun race since their physical capabilities were lower than that of other races. I think you should take a look at

Comparing the Kitsun race with Berserkers, Michael was pretty sure that a single Berserker could deal with a handful of Kitsun simultaneously. The Kitsun were a sly and crafty race that focused on expanding businesses, and using overwhelming numbers to defeat their enemies – if they hadn't already formed a separate combat force by creating Monster Ranches, or by suppressing other lifeforms such as Elementals.

Each border settlement had roughly 100 Awakened, and 5,000 combat Summons. The number was similar to the northern guard settlement, with the sole difference being the equipment and vigilance of the guards.

Skirmishes at the borderline to the other Lords happened every now and then. Thus, the Kitsun in the Savannah were more prepared and experienced to fight other Awakened. The same couldn't be said about the northern guard settlement that had been turned to a pile of ash.

"Is everyone ready to depart?" Michael asked, receiving nods from everyone around.

They spent the next ten minutes flying through the Savannah region at a high speed until they reached the closest border settlement.

However, before they could even think about attacking, Michael received a worrying message.

["We're under attack!"] Sun Demos reported to Michael all of a sudden.

Michael halted before he could initiate the attack, his eyes narrowing at the message.

["What do you mean? Did the Kitsun attack you and some other smaller units, or—..."] Michael asked, only for Sun Demos' voice to ring out in his head once again.

["They trapped my people. These foolish monkeys were tricked. They ran straight into a hail...I need to save them!"]

Sun Demos sounded both desperate and calm, something that ought to be hardly possible, in the first place.

A strong pulling force spread through Michael's entire body as Taming was triggered. The 5-Star Soultrait activated without the need for Michael to command it. A second later, a strong presence spread out within Michael's consciousness, tapping into the powers fused to his War Rune.

For the first time since Michael obtained Taming, he was able to feel Sun Demos' presence inside his consciousness. The taming bond expanded, strengthening their connection to new heights.

In the next moment, Michael felt a surge of strength surging through his body. Simultaneously, Sun Demos grasped the Power of his Soultraits.

The Blood Oath Demon Monkey King's superior physical strength began to enhance Michael. In exchange, Sun Demos gained access to Michael's Soultraits.

Taming's full power was unraveled for the first time, burning through Michael's and Sun Demos' stored energy like cinder through flame.

However, neither Michael nor Sun Demos cared about the energy consumption at this moment. A weird feeling spread through their beings. It affected them and made their hearts skip a beat at the same time.

The new feeling was something neither had ever felt before. It was magical.

Their earlier plan seemed to have failed, and it looked like Sun Demos' subordinates were on the brink of death after they failed to discover the traps that had been laid out in front of them. Unfortunately, Michael couldn't travel through the Savannah in the blink of an eye to help Sun Demos.

But there was something he could do now that Taming's full power was unleashed.

He could give Sun Demos free reign of his Soultraits!

Chapter 374 Counter

****[Five minutes earlier in the Untamed Jungle]****

Black shadows shot through the tree canopy of the Untamed Jungle with rapid speed.

Two groups of Blood Oath Demon Monkeys moved silently but swiftly, arriving right next to a small group of Kitsun Summons. The Kitsun grasped their bows tightly while vigilantly observing their surroundings.

However, being unable to perceive every inch of the Untamed Jungle simultaneously, the Kitsun reacted a quarter of a second too late. They moved to the first group of five Blood Oath Demon Monkeys, nocked arrows on their bowstring and pulled back.

Just as they released their arrows with a twang, the group of monkeys grasped the branches next to them and pulled with great force, swinging themselves to the side near-instantly. They moved several meters away from the arrows' range, easily evading them. The five monkeys were unable to attack the Kitsun immediately for they'd changed their movement pattern a mere second ago. But that was no problem. The second monkey group used the opening to barge through the thicket, arriving next to the Kitsun.

Three Kitsun pulled back in surprise, leaving six Kitsun directly facing the monkeys. The Blood Oath Demon Monkeys didn't hesitate to pick up the Kitsun and use their great physical strength to pluck their heads and tear them apart.

Only two Kitsun barely received enough time to scream in horror and drop their wooden bows before the monkeys ripped their bodies apart as well. Their blood sprayed through the surroundings and their organs spilled out of their bodies, leaving a grotesque sight on display. The Kitsun, who had pulled back, stared at the gory remains of their brethren, their eyes trembling in fright.

Their cloudy lower body wavered as the monkeys averted their attention to the remaining Kitsun. They were just about to push ahead and kill the remaining Kitsun when the Kitsun's expression changed once again. A vibrant smile formed on their lips, and their trembling eyes began to shine as they stared down at the monkeys like they were already dead.

No warning was issued but the monkeys noticed that something went wrong. The five Blood Oath Demon Monkeys who'd torn apart the Kitsun realized too late that their partner group had yet to arrive.

The other monkey group that had been with them didn't make a single sound. It was almost like they hadn't even been present.

It was too late when the five monkeys smelled the fear and blood of their own brethren.

All of a sudden, a loud sound reverberated through the Untamed Jungle. Blood spilled from the head of the monkey at the front and it collapsed in the next second, its face filled with shock rather than pain. The Blood Oath Demon Monkeys died on the spot.

The Blood Oath Demon Monkeys were extremely fast and strong. Not even Mid Tier-2 Awakened were fast enough to catch up to them. They knew the Untamed Jungle the best, and might even be capable of escaping a Late Tier-2 Awakened if they were vigilant enough. But they were not in their right state of mind at this moment.

None of the Kitsun had been able to stop them before. Their enemies died way too easily since they were unable to react to the surprise attacks from the blind spots. A simple feint was enough to outwit the Kitsun – or so the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys thought.

They didn't realize that they had only killed the weakest Kitsun who had been sent out to scout the monkey troupe's position before acting as a living bait.

Several loud sounds resounded through the surroundings ending the remaining Blood Oath Demon Monkeys on the spot. There was only one wound all over their bodies; a small bullet hole in their heads.

As the last Blood Oath Demon Monkey of the two groups died, the surroundings flickered. Ripples passed through the surroundings right after, changing everything in the vicinity. A group of Kitsun Awakened, and close to a hundred Kitsun wielding swords, axes and a wide variety of other weapons appeared out of nowhere.

"Your Veil of Invisibility has grown weaker. How did this brute beast at the end notice me?" One of the Kitsun Awakened glared at the Awakened next to him.

The Awakened shrugged and turned away like it was not his business. He approached the corpses of the monkeys and squatted down to inspect them.

Another Awakened appeared next to the Kitsun leading the group. "Your Thunder Bullet has grown much stronger. You can kill Low Tier-2 Monsters with one hit now. The bullets are also much faster than before. You've grown a lot stronger, Pustan."

The Awakened continued to praise the leader, Pustan, but Pustan didn't seem impressed. He looked through the vicinity to spot the corpses of the 10 Blood Oath Demon Monkeys and narrowed his eyes.

"My power is great, I know. However, these monkeys are a problem. Their strategic attacks killed more than a quarter of the reinforcement, and they stalled our advance greatly. From the looks of it, we won't have a chance of leaving the Untamed Jungle without losing another 25% of the reinforcement. It will take too long as well," Pustan revealed, his head flicking to the vice-leader of the reinforcement, who moved around the monkey corpse.

"Those are Blood Oath Demon Monkeys. They shouldn't have a habitat anywhere nearby..." The Kitsun inspecting the corpses remarked with a deep frown on his face.

"The southern part of the Untamed Jungle has a small spot with mutated fiendish great trees. Maybe they're living over there? What do you think, Zaram?" Another Awakened inquired, his guess spot on.

"That should be possible. It sounds plausible. In that case, we can also confirm that the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys are working together with those other brutes," Zaram concluded, staring intently at the communication crystal attached to his belt.

It was almost as if he expected the communication crystal to light up at any moment. Never in his life did he hope that the communication crystal would stay shut like now. The last 24 hours were truly horrendous.

First, the main settlement had been attacked, and then the Soul Pact of the Elemental nobility was triggered, killing everyone in the Elementals Cave and destroying years of their hard work in the process. To make matters worse, the Elemental Empress was still alive and with another Lord who was raining down attacks on the territory while flying on the back of two Greater Eagles.

The Kitsun Lord was in fury, not because he lost his entire fortune, but because someone else had stolen what belonged rightfully to him; the Elemental Empress.

If she couldn't be with him, the Elemental Empress ought to be dead. That was her fate. The Elemental Empress wasn't supposed to run around freely, setting the world on fire.

She ought to be in the Kitsun Lord's grasp, chained to the wall, unmoving and beautiful.

Just as the Awakened Kitsun were about to leave the place, a commotion rang out from behind. All 100+ Kitsun exclaimed in shock simultaneously. Their attention moved to several groups of Blood Oath Demon Monkeys, who'd appeared out of nowhere.

The monkeys saw their fallen brethren and began to scream their lungs out. Their shrill screams reverberated through the surroundings, their fury apparent. None of the monkeys hesitated to barge into the group of Kitsun where they began to wreak havoc.

They jumped down from the trees and crashed into the Kitsun, their impact squashing some of their enemies. However, the Blood Oath Demon Monkey didn't even pay attention to the Kitsun they had squashed. They kept looking around and pounced at the nearest enemy, clawing at them and soaking in their blood before moving to the next Kitsun to repeat the same. Their movements were rapid and powerful, just like before. But now there was something else as well. A sudden addition that changed the combat prowess of the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys completely.

Instead of fighting like intelligent monsters and making use of proper tactics to kill the Kitsun while avoiding head-on fights as much as possible, the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys began to fight viciously. They let their wild instincts and the rage that surfaced from the bottom of their hearts take over.

The Kitsun were torn apart but the Awakened simply watched the massacre. A joyous smile blossomed on their faces while witnessing how much their people suffered. Even if the Kitsun were their brethren, watching them suffer and get squashed under the vicious blows of the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys was delightful.

Zaram moved next to the other Awakened after savoring the bloodbath for a second. He activated the Veil of Invisibility, hiding every Kitsun from the Monkeys' eyes. Even the Kitsun under the attack of the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys disappeared from their sight. However, they didn't actually vanish from the spot, they were just rendered invisible to the eyes of the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys.

Despite the invisibility, the monkeys continued to attack the invisible enemies after staring around a second in shock. They first presumed that their enemies ran away and used some sort of magical power to vanish. However, the smell of metal was still apparent. The smell of blood, metal, and fear hung heavy in the air, and the monkeys could smell it all, everywhere around them – wherever the Kitsun were located.

They started to attack where they presumed their enemies to be without wasting a moment. Instead of running away, and re-organizing their groups, the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys began kicking and clawing, drawing their enemies' blood, and rendering the Veil of Invisibility partially useless as the newly drawn blood smeared all over the veil.

Despite that, the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys couldn't see the razor-sharp weapons in the Kitsun's hands. They sometimes smashed their fists right at the great axe swinging at them and reacted too slowly to the sound of swords and axes cutting through the air as the Kitsun swung their sharp weapons at them.

It turned out to be a gruesome battle in which many Blood Oath Demon Monkeys died. Too many.

Chapter 375 Monkey Might I

The Blood Oath Demon Monkey King moved quickly through the Untamed Jungle. Being inside the enemy's territory, Sun Demos ought to be more careful, but his movements were far from silent. The tree branches crackled underneath his feet as he kicked them with great force to propel his body further ahead.

His large hands and upper body were soaked in blood, making the Sun Demos look vicious. It was accentuated even further by the crimson glowing eyes that stared menacingly at his destination. He could only helplessly witness the death of his brethren. His subordinates were cut apart as they were unable to even see their invisible enemies.

Sun Demos had been in a different area when a premonition germinated in his heart. He had a really bad feeling about his subordinates and began to move through the Untamed Jungle without thinking about the attention he attracted by rushing through the dense foliage all around him.

All Sun Demos could think of was protecting his subordinates and saving them before he was late.

Unfortunately, he arrived too late to save them all.

["We're under attack!"] Sun Demos reported to his Master, grinding his fang-like teeth.

He was fuming in anger, but he still had to report to Michael.

["What do you mean? Did the Kitsun attack you and some other smaller units, or—..."] Michael asked, but Sun Demos couldn't think straight anymore. He wasn't even sure if he heard Michael correctly before his voice rang out once again.

["They trapped my people. These foolish monkeys were tricked. They ran straight into a hail...I need to save them!"]

His voice was filled with desperation, yet he sounded oddly calm. The voice carried an ominous feeling that filled Sun Demos' heart. It was almost like every word was filled with the desire to protect his subordinates and prevent any more casualties.

Sun Demos' head was spinning but all he could think about was his subordinates. This was something he learned from his master. It was a trait he inherited from Michael after their Taming bond deepened to a certain level.

Sun Demos grew more intelligent – even if it was only by a small margin– and he learned a lot from Michael's kind yet somewhat vicious soul. He was kind and loving, but would mercilessly stomp on his enemies to eliminate everyone who posed a potential threat to his people.

His desire to protect his people, which Michael had passed on to him, seemed to talk to him. Sun Demos didn't even realize what he was doing as he grasped the firm taming bond in his consciousness. He created a strong pulling force that momentarily reinforced the taming bond even further.

A mythical feeling spread through Sun Demos' entire being as the taming bond pulled on Sun Demos and Michael's Souls. It began to ripple and move, creating waves filled with vibrant energy and emotions. Unbeknownst to Sun Demos, the Taming Soultrait had been triggered. Sun Demos activated the 5-Star Soultrait through his taming bond with Michael.

However, what Sun Demos noticed was that Michael's presence within him grew stronger. Michael's presence towered above him, forcefully gaining access to his energy storage and power. In exchange, Sun Demos gained something as well. He felt mythical powers surging into him. No. They weren't surging into him. The feeling was different. It was more like he gained access to the mythical powers from a different source – from his master.

Streams of information filled Sun Demos' mind as he arrived in front of his brethren. He crashed down in front of a Blood Oath Demon Monkey, whose arm had been sliced off a moment ago.

Sun Demos clenched his fists as he took in the carnage visible in the surroundings. More than two dozen Blood Oath Demon Monkeys lay dead on the ground in a pool of blood. Their own blood.

Rage filled his heart at the sight, resulting in his silver gloves vibrating violently. It was only now that Sun Demos recalled he was wearing the metal gloves in the first place. They were Spirit Armaments that had been created using a rare blueprint and rare metals to provide Sun Demos with a high external enhancement, and a powerful weapon with a unique function.

After channeling a trace of energy into the gloves, several blades shot out of them. The gloves were actually deadly weapons with extendable blades stored within. They began to vibrate ever so slightly as Sun Demos' origin energy passed through them. However, what happened next was even a surprise to Sun Demos.

The extendable blades were coated in silver energy all of a sudden – their sharpness increased drastically. Sun Demos moved instinctively before he could make sense of what was happening. He twisted his body, instinctively evading three incoming attacks. In the next moment his hands lunged out, drawing several lines of blood through the air. The extendable blades cut through the metal armor of a Kitsun, digging deep into the enemy's body, thirsting for the blood and flesh like a starving beast.

Sensing how easily the blades pierced through the metal armor of the enemy ahead, Sun Demos was startled for a moment. Nonetheless, he never stopped moving. He accelerated instead.

His body moved rapidly. Sun Demos kicked the invisible enemy he had just killed to push the dead body onto yet another invisible enemy. He listened to the sounds that followed the kick and pinpointed the location of even more enemies. His crimson eyes stared ahead, and it didn't take long until Sun Demos found the deep imprints left by his invisible enemies.

The Veil of Invisibility was a great Soultrait. It hid all targeted allies from the enemy's sight, preventing them from being seen. It was? a shame that it was merely a 1-Star Soultrait that could only obstruct the sense of sight.

Veil of Invisibility was a cheap Soultrait that didn't require much energy to be activated and maintained. But one of its biggest problems was that the consumption increased exponentially as the number of targeted allies under the cover of the veil increased.

Furthermore, those with high perception could easily determine the ripples of energy surrounding the Veil of Invisibility and the invisible beings. Sun Demos couldn't sense or see the ripples of the ambient origin energy. Fortunately, that was not necessary after receiving Michael's support.

Sun Demos kicked the ground and lowered his body. In the next moment his body shot forward. His hands shot to the side, the extendable blades moving left and right, cutting and slicing through the enemy line of invisible Kitsun.

Blood spilled all over the ground while screams of unbearable pain filled the air. All of a sudden, Sun Demos felt something. The pulling force within him grew stronger. The taming bond expanded, his connection with Michael further strengthened to new heights. A golden glow manifested in his crimson eyes, and the streams of origin energy all around him were visible suddenly.

Being able to see the origin energy all around him, Sun Demos could also pinpoint the location of every enemy much more easily. They were invisible but the Veil of Invisibility soon turned into a hindrance and restriction. It seemed to hinder the reaction of the Kitsun, resulting in a clumsy fighting style against the fast and nimble Blood Oath Demon Monkeys.

Despite the slow reaction, being invisible was a great advantage against ordinary monsters. Unfortunately, Sun Demos was far from ordinary. He was able to grasp the Power of Michael's Soultraits and possessed enough intelligence to trigger simple Soultrait shortly after a wisp of knowledge streamed into his head.

Eagle Eyes activated, allowing him to see origin energy, thus rendering the Veil of Invisibility useless. In fact, the Veil of Invisibility turned into a nightmare as Sun Demos could fight without any restrictions while the invisible Kitsun were slowed down due to being surrounded by the Veil.

And that was something Sun Demos exploited to the fullest.

His blades cut through the air with exceptional swiftness, rapidly reaping the lives of his enemies. Fueled with rage and extraordinary power, Sun Demos ended the lives of two dozen Kitsun before they realized that something was wrong.

The Veil of Invisibility was removed shortly thereafter, sharpening the dulled senses of the Kitsun once again. But that came with a drawback as well.

As they were clearly visible again, the Kitsun were easily found by the remaining Blood Oath Demon Monkeys, who ignored their own injuries to attack and kill those who harmed them.

Meanwhile, Sun Demos' attention moved to the Awakened that were further away from the group of Kitsun Summons.

One of the Awakened pointed at Sun Demos, a purple bullet forming at his fingertip. Lightning crackled and a rumbling swept through the vicinity.

Sun Demos made his move. The thunder bullet was released with shocking velocity, hitting the area Sun Demos had been standing just a moment ago. However, there was no sight of Sun Demos.

He saw Pustan using the Thunder Bullet to kill a Blood Oath Demon Monkey earlier and reacted quickly by diving to the side, entering a thick bush to disappear from Pustan's sight.

Sun Demos shot through the bush, got up with a quick roll, and moved closer to the Awakened. Simultaneously, Glacicles formed on the ground, shooting through the bush to hit the remaining Kitsun Summons.

Instead of aiming at the Awakened, Sun Demos supported his subordinates to kill the Summons before moving on to attack the Awakened. Simultaneously, he tried his utmost to distract the Awakened.

Under normal circumstances, Sun Demos would have a hard time fighting Tier-3 Awakened. However, he was a Superior Existence at the Mid of the 2nd Tier and had access to Michael's Soultraits right now.

Meanwhile, the Awakened were Kitsun – physically weaker than other beings at the same Tier. Maybe even Sun Demos was stronger than them. He was definitely faster, and he enhanced his physical strength even further by using Enhancement on his entire body to further increase his strength and agility.

Taming's full power was unraveled for the first time, burning through Michael's and Sun Demos' stored energy like an oil coated candle, but Sun Demos didn't even notice at this point.

By now, all he could feel was tremendous power surging through him, and the addictive sensation it brought along.

Chapter 376 Monkey Might II

Sun Demos and Michael only had enough energy to maintain the Power Share function of Taming for three minutes. Adding the use of more Soultraits would reduce the active period for Power Share even further.

But that was perfectly fine because Sun Demos chose to fight aggressively against the Awakened. His entire body further strengthened through Enhancement, and Reinforced Sword Qi utilized to cover the extendable blades of his gloves. Due to that, Sun Demos had efficient means to kill his enemies.

Eagle Eyes fully unleashed acted as the icing on the cake, creating the means to predict his enemies' next moves and attack or dodge properly.

Sun Demos released several Glacicles toward the Kitsun Summons as he appeared in front of the Awakened. One of the Awakened shouted loudly, his gaze wavering as he looked at the Kitsun falling prey to the Glacicles. The Glacicles shattered on the Summons' necks, freezing them partially before the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys made their move.

The Blood Oath Demon Monkeys were already in a fierce battle with the Summons, and they used the opening created by Sun Demos to eliminate their enemies. The Glacicles shocked the Summons because they didn't expect to get attacked from behind. They were under the impression that the Awakened would have their back, but that was their grave mistake.

Despite the shock and pain, the Kitsun moved instinctively. Some stared back in horror, expecting more deadly attacks from behind to hit them. They shouldn't have done that. It was a fatal mistake.

Instead of more Glacicles attacking them from the back, the Summons were torn apart by the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys from the front.

It took less than half a minute to kill the remaining Summons. Unfortunately, not all Blood Oath Demon Monkeys survived. Some had sustained mortal injuries when the Kitsun had been invisible. All they could do was endure and kill their enemy before they succumbed to their wounds.

The rest attacked the remaining Awakened that were fighting their king. Sun Demos was having a hard time fighting several Awakened. Two were Tier-3 while the rest were Tier-2. Their Soultraits weren't strong except for Thunder Bullet but their numbers and Artifacts were impactful. They granted the Awakened and Kitsun an upperhand, allowing Pustan to drill three thunder bullets into Sun Demos' arm.

Sun Demos could evade the thunder bullets aimed at his head thanks to Eagle Eyes. Unfortunately, by closing the distance to Pustan to a few meters, Sun Demos turned into a huge target for the Awakened. He could see the thunder bullets approaching him, but the Monkey King wasn't fast enough to respond in time. The thunder bullet was almost moving towards him with the speed of lightning.

It was only fortunate that the bullet holes left by the bullet were rather small and that Sun Demos has superior regenerative abilities as well. All Blood Oath Demon Monkeys could regenerate extremely fast. As long as they didn't sustain lethal wounds, or lost a limb, they would be able to recover.

Sun Demos' left arm was rendered useless due to the bullets piercing his arm, but he ignored the wounds and pain. He achieved his goal by closing his distance to Pustan before utilizing Spirit Gaze. Most of his energy was consumed as he used Spirit Disturbance to catch Pustan off-guard with a spiritual attack. It reduced Sun Demos' Power Share period to less than 10 seconds, which was more than enough to eliminate Pustan and to get rid of Zaram as well.

The remaining Awakened were not that powerful, but Pustan and Zaram were troublesome. The Veil of Invisibility and Thunder Bullet were deadly Soultraits if used against large armies. If Zaram found Michael – or worse – barged into their territory with the reinforcement, Michael's territory would be no more. Only the Nature Spirit and the Forest Pixie might be able to sense the energy ripples caused by the Veil of Invisibility. The rest would be helpless against the power of the Veil of Invisibility.

Pustan could barely release his thunder bullet when Sun Demos' Spirit Disturbance hit him. It struck him hard, much harder than anything he'd anticipated to face. His vision blurred and it grew increasingly more difficult to stay focused to initiate an attack. For a moment he felt like collapsing on the ground, but his body didn't move anywhere. In fact, he could clearly feel that his body froze for a quarter of a second – which was just enough for Sun Demos' arm to pierce forward.

The extendable blade cut through Pustan's armor with ease, digging deep inside the enemy until the blade disappeared entirely in the Awakened Kitsun. Pustan's eyes widened, but the shock and pain grew even worse as the silver Qi covering the extendable blade was released, bursting the Kitsun's organs.

A cackle escaped Sun Demos' lips as he retrieved the extendable blade to tear through the next enemy. He released two Glacicles straight to Pustan's eyes, bursting his eyeballs before freezing the Kitsun's brain from within. By the time Pustan began to scream, he was already on the verge of death. Zaram was shocked to see his friend bleeding and injured all of a sudden, but he attacked Sun Demos nonetheless.

He was mentally prepared for everything that could happen, including mental attacks while his longsword cleaved down on Sun Demos.

The Blood Oath Demon Monkey King confused Zaram. He had seen monsters with Unique Racial abilities, even Monsters with unique powers granted from mutations. However, the Blood Oath Demon Monkey King in front of him seemed like an Awakened with numerous Soultraits – powerful Soultraits. None of Sun Demos' powers was weak. They were all extremely powerful and deadly.

It was truly frightening. I think you should take a look at

Zaram cleaved down with the aim to split Sun Demos into two. However, all Sun Demos did was to reveal a hideous grimace and cackle wickedly, manifesting a Qi Sword in front of himself. The Qi Sword broke through the tremendous force behind the cleaving sword, but the trajectory was altered.

Zaram moved back, changed his stance with a smooth motion and thrust the sword forward. His movement speed accelerated all of a sudden, taking Sun Demos by surprise. The attack was unleashed through a technique that strained the muscles in the entire upper body to the limit to create a singular, smooth thrust.

It drained a considerable amount of energy, and would leave Zaram exhausted, but the Kitsun understood that he had to kill Sun Demos right now if he wanted to survive. He had to go all out. There was no way that he could afford to underestimate the monkey just because it was a monster, otherwise, he would end up like Pustan.

His old rival had collapsed nearby, blood pooling around him on the ground. Pustan was still screaming but his voice lost power. His lifeforce would soon dry out, leaving the Awakened without any energy. He was bound to die, and Zaram didn't want to end like him.

As Zaram's sword thrust was about to pierce deep into Sun Demos' heart, the monkey king made his move. Zaram's body couldn't respond fast enough to evade the attack. He couldn't move a single finger. Fortunately, his eyes and mind were faster. Meanwhile, Sun Demos' mind responded the moment his Eagle Eyes perceived Zaram's attack. A thick Glacicle manifested right next to the sword's blade.

The Glacicle shattered at Sun Demos' will, releasing a burst of freezing mist that filled the vicinity. It shrouded Sun Demos and Zaram instantaneously, hiding what happened next from everyone's sight.

All they could hear was the sound of a blade piercing into flesh. In the next moment, Zaram cursed aloud, and the slick sound of a blade piercing through the flesh echoed again.

The freezing mist spread outward and dispersed in all directions, revealing Zaram and Sun Demos.

Zaram's longsword was stuck deep in Sun Demos' shoulder. It looked like it pierced the monkey king's heart, but Sun Demos stared at the Awakened Kitsun in amusement. The grin on his face was wide. The Kitsun missed his heart by a few centimeters due to the explosion of the Glacicle, and the freezing mist that had forcefully altered the trajectory of the sword by a few centimeters.

And to make matters worse for Zaram, Sun Demos' blade had found its target. Accepting Zaram's attack in exchange for being able to deliver an attack as well might not have been the best decision, but Sun Demos had to use the last second of Taming's Power Share to eliminate Zaram before he would lose access to Michael's Soultraits.

Sun Demos couldn't evade the attack either way. Thus, he decided to attack instead.

Zaram stared at Sun Demos with wide eyes after sensing his near-suicidal move. The moment his sword cut deep into Sun Demos, he realized that the attack was not going to kill the monkey king. It would weaken him and drain him as the fight progressed, but that was already it. Zaram had been about to pull back to get a grip over himself and prepare a second attack, but Sun Demos moved ahead, ignoring the razor-sharp blade sinking deeper into his chest.

His focus had been on counterattacking even if the injury grew worse and more painful.

But Sun Demos endured it all. He endured the pain and used it to dig his extended blade deep into the Awakened Kitsun's neck.

Cackling like the madman he was, the monkey king twisted the blade before tearing it out of Zaram.

Zaram's eyes almost popped out of his skull. In the next moment, blood spurted out of his neck, and he collapsed on the ground.

'I can't believe I'm actually dying. How can this be? At the hands of a monster at that... How...This... I...I am not supposed to end like this...It can't be...'

But before he could finish the thought, the world turned dark.

Chapter 377 Power Share

[Back in the Savannah region]

The energy within Michael's body was drained rapidly as Taming's Power Share was unleashed to the fullest.

He released threads of Extraction in the surroundings that connected to the streams of origin energy all around him. Extracting and annexing the energy in the surroundings via Extraction allowed him to make up for the drainage of energy to a certain extent. Unfortunately, it was not enough to replenish his energy storage.

'Power Share consumes way too much energy. I feel physically much stronger than before, but how am I supposed to use Power Share properly without affecting the utility of my other Soultraits?' Michael wondered for several minutes before they reached the nearest border settlement in the Kitsun Lord's territory.

The Golden Stinger Wasp would soon be back from its courier mission, which meant that they use all kinds of tricks to deal with the Kitsun's settlements.

But before they attacked, Michael had to make sure that he replenished his energy storage a little. Hence, he retrieved one of the Energy Nourishing Pills from the Elemental Empress and consumed it. The energy within the pill was released in waves as the layers of the pills were removed inch by inch.

With his eyes firmly shut, Michael practiced the Pandemonium's Requiem technique to aid the digestion of the Energy Nourishing Pill and the annexation of the energy stored within the pill.

Several minutes passed silently before Michael opened his eyes once again. The Power Share between Michael and Sun Demos ended, and the Blood Oath Demon Monkey King spoke to him telepathically.

["I killed the assassins. Thank you for guiding me in this fierce battle, Master!"]

Michael was not sure what he did to receive Sun Demos' gratitude because it had been Sun Demos who unraveled the Power Share function of the Taming Soultrait. Nonetheless, it was a good thing that Sun Demos had been able to take care of the problem in the Untamed Jungle.

["I'm glad that you survived. I hope you could avenge some of your fallen brethren. If you and your troupe are confident of continuing with the guerilla warfare tactic, you can do so. However, I think that you should retreat to reorganize your troupe, and ensure that everyone's wounds have been tended to before you come up with a new plan. They know that you move around in small groups, and I doubt that the Kitsun Lord sent out only one group of assassins."]

According to Sun Demos' earlier reports, the reinforcement consisted of 20,000 combat Summons, and several hundred Awakened. It was basically the Kitsun Lord's whole army. After all, the Guards and Awakened stationed in the border settlements couldn't just abandon their posts and leave for war.

Michael never thought that Sun Demos and his monkeys were strong enough to deal with the entire reinforcement. The guerilla warfare tactic was merely a means to stall the reinforcement and enrage the enemies to force them to make mistakes. Through provocation, Michael hoped to outwit the Kitsun Lord sooner or later.

Maybe, he had already outwitted the Kitsun Lord. But that was still questionable – especially after the majority of Michael's army had been eliminated even before the war between them began officially.

["If you want to continue fighting, retreat in the evening at the latest. The Kitsun Lord might change his plans and send the reinforcement over to our territory. In case that happens, I want to be informed the moment the reinforcement changes their trajectory. You and your brethren can stall time in the worst case scenario. After all, you can use my Soultraits to a certain extent now – even if it's just for a short time."] Michael ordered before adding a few more commands.

His mind was racing, and plans were formulating like crazy. Unfortunately, making use of most plans was quite difficult, and the scenarios were unlikely to happen, in the first place.

Nonetheless, it was better to be safe than sorry.

After all commands had been sent out whether it was to Sun Demos, or Blaire and the main scout team – which Michael had left at the base to stay vigilant and report anything that looked and felt suspicious – , Michael used the next five minutes to test out something.

He first tried to use Power Share on his own. Since Sun Demos could use it subconsciously in a fit of desperation, Michael hoped that he could use it actively and intentionally now that he had already felt the sensation of Power Share once before.

Trying to replicate the feeling of Power Share a second time was not easy. Activating it intentionally was different from feeling it from the bottom of his heart – Sun Demos' heart, to be precise. Michael closed his eyes and entered his consciousness where he moved to the Symbol of Taming. He began to insert traces of energy inside the Symbol of Taming by activating the Soultrait.

But instead of trying to manifest a third taming circle, or to communicate with Sun Demos or the Elemental Empress, Michael focused on the two taming bonds that were anchored in the deepest parts of the Taming Symbol.

Sun Demos' taming bond was thick and firm. It was much easier to perceive than the Elemental Empress' taming bond. Thus, Michael began to channel more energy into Sun Demos' taming bond. He tried to send a portion of his consciousness to the monkey king to recreate the same feeling from before.

Sun Demos' consciousness within him had been much more apparent when Power Share was activated. Thus, Michael did exactly the same. The energy inside him surged toward the taming bond, and something began to change. Michael felt his physical strength increase and his thoughts become more violent.

Sun Demos' wrath and anger about the death of his subordinates flooded Michael alongside the monkey king's superior physical strength.

'So emotions will be transferred as well when Power Share is activated? It feels like my personality is being affected as well. My thoughts feel...wilder than before. Are our emotions and instincts overlapping?' Michael fell deep in thoughts, wondering what else Power Share affected.

'It feels like our beings are being fused to a minor degree. A temporary fusion of power...that's great, but also weird...'

It was obvious that the Power Share function required way too much energy to be maintained over a long period. Three minutes was the maximum limit of the fusion, and that didn't take into consideration that both Sun Demos and Michael had to utilize their origin energy to use other Soultraits and consume it to enhance their body as well.

'I wonder if our physical features change through Power Share as well.' I think you should take a look at

Looking over to the Elemental Empress, Michael decided to end his experiment with Sun Demos.

His taming bond with the Elemental Empress was not that firm and strong like with Sun Demos, but Michael's perception was well developed. He pinpointed the taming bond and inserted traces of energy into the taming bond. Alongside the energy, Michael channeled a trace of his consciousness through the taming bond.

All of a sudden, the Elemental Empress screamed aloud, startling Michael just as he felt a faint connection to the Elemental Empress' fire attribute.

He looked over in worry and stopped his experiment at once. Michael felt that the energy consumption upon activating Power Share had been extremely low, but the pained expression on the Elemental Empress' face showed him quite easily that the prerequisite for Power Share was a firm and strong taming bond.

"Sorry for startling you. I hope it didn't hurt too much," Michael said as he rushed over to her.

"So much information...what are you? So many powers..." The Elemental Empress blabbered, looking at Michael as if he was a monster.

'Looks like she is not hurt. That's good.'

Michael smiled lightly in response to the Elemental Empress' words, but his train of thought changed quickly.

'Could it be that the energy consumption increases with the distance between the two targets? Or is it the amount of power that is being shared at once? But then again the Elemental Empress has great powers even if she is currently Tierless.'

At the end of the day, Michael had to do a lot more experiments to find out how Power Share worked and how to decrease the energy consumption. Michael was not discouraged by the thought of experimenting with the Taming Soultraits. On the contrary, it was quite exciting.

If Taming had a variety of other functions that would be great. Furthermore, with Taming possessing functions that had to be explored, his other Soultraits were probably just like that as well. The

information one receives upon fusing with Soultraits was merely basic information and innate inferior proficiency.

To put it in simple terms, one learned how to use the Soultrait upon manifesting, or binding it. However, the more in-depth your comprehension and understanding of the Soultraits' complexity, their powers, origin and foundation, the more functions could be unraveled.

He had known that Reinforced Sword Qi and Extraction could be used in different ways than it was 'supposed' to, given that the information he received was different from the way he used these Soultraits right now. However, it had been quite natural for Michael to manifest Qi Swords thanks to the fact that his brother had always played around with Qi Swords.

As for Extraction, it was a power he couldn't quite understand. It felt like he could Extract anything he wanted to as long as he possessed enough energy. But that didn't really sound feasible. After all, Extraction was not a God-like power. It was currently only a 6-Star Soultrait and Michael didn't even know how much longer he could upgrade it.

Was there even a limit to upgrading Soultraits? Did some Soultraits have a limit, or would they all evolve at some point?

What if Extraction became a 10-Star Soultrait? Would he be able to extract the Origin Expanse itself? What was the limit of his Soultrait?

Could he upgrade Extraction past 10-Stars? Would he break the laws of the Universe that way?

Each question was worth researching. They were interesting and Michael desired an answer to all of them.

However, the answers were not something he could acquire just because he wanted to. It would take a while before he reached the level required to find an answer to the questions.

But that was fine. Michael had a lot more to do aside from researching.

He was in the middle of a war, after all!

Chapter 378 Portal & Intentions

Once the Golden Stinger Wasp had returned, Michael's energy storage was also filled to the brim.

Icarus and his mate ascended into the air. However, nobody was sitting on the Greater Eagles' backs. Instead, the Greater Eagles had become decoys for the guards of the border settlement.

By now, everyone should have been informed about the Greater Eagles, Michael, and the others. It made sense to travel quickly through the Savannah region on the Greater Eagles' back, but they were quickly exposed as well.

It was rare to find two Greater Eagles in the Savannah region, let alone that the Greater Eagles were headed to Beast Ranches, only to depart a few minutes later, leaving behind death and chaos.

Wherever they went, the Beast Ranches were destroyed at those locations. They were even present when the main settlement had been under attack. Therefore, it didn't require a genius to conclude that Michael was in control of the Greater Eagles.

The border settlement's watchguards should have found the Greater Eagles the moment they ascended into the air. That was reaffirmed by the sound of a loud horn reverberating through the border region and the commotion that ensued.

"Are you sure that you can handle it?" Michael asked the Elemental Empress for the hundredth time.

His words may feel like he was uncertain but the confidence in his eyes was a big contrast to his voice. The Elemental Empress was not sure what to think of Michael, but she nodded her head.

"As long as I don't have to teleport anyone other than this little wasp back and forth, I will be fine. I might not be strong yet, but I know what I can handle," The Elemental Empress responded, resulting in a nod from Michael.

He held his arm out and looked at the Golden Stinger Wasp.

"Go for it," Michael said, and the Golden Stinger Wasp stung him with an energy stinger.

Now that he was marked, the Golden Stinger Wasp could swap its location with Michael for the next ten minutes. The distance didn't matter.

Tiara, the Elemental Empress, Lilica, and the other Forest Elves were marked as well. This completed the first step of their plan, which was followed by the second step.

The Elemental Empress waved her hand, creating a swirl of golden energy in front of her. The swirl expanded and morphed into a fist-sized portal through which the Golden Stinger Wasp disappeared when it received Michael's permission.

In the meantime, the Greater Eagles had long since arrived above the settlement. They dove down to the settlement, their wings pressed tightly against their bodies. The two monsters screeched loudly and continued their dive until they reached the range of the guards' arrows. The guards standing on the walls released the first barrage of arrows. They aimed precisely at the Greater Eagles, certain to hit them with most arrows.

But just as the first arrows were about to hit, the Greater Eagles spread their wings wide open. Their descent stopped mid-way, and their fall slowed down to a minimum. The Greater Eagles flapped their wings and ascended higher into the air once again, their screeches loud and clear.

Less than 10 arrows had hit the Greater Eagles, and only one of them had been strong enough to push through the monsters' thick plumage. They continued to screech and mock the guards all while initiating a second dive to distract the guards and enrage them.

Michael sensed that the Greater Eagles were not injured, and sighed in relief. He didn't really like using his monsters as bait, but it would be fine as long as they didn't move too close to the settlement and the guards. Ordinary arrows shot from Tier-1 or Tier-2 Summons wouldn't kill them immediately even if some may hurt a little.

Less than a second after the Golden Stinger Wasp disappeared, Michael felt the space around him twist. Embraced by a golden membrane, the energy stinger lit up. His position was swapped with the Golden Stinger Wasp's position thereafter.

One moment he stood next to the others hidden from the sight of the border settlement's watchguards, and the next moment Michael appeared inside the border settlement. He had bypassed the settlement's walls thanks to swapping positions with the Golden Stinger Wasp, which appeared next to him again.

The Golden Stinger Wasp had jumped through the spatial portal created by the Elemental Empress. It switched locations with Tiara, who appeared next to Michael with a faint smile.

"Having someone with the Power of Space is quite useful. Having the Golden Stinger Wasp and the Elemental Empress work together was a good idea. The Elemental Empress can be helpful like that while she is Tierless," Michael said with a thin smile on his lips.

He gave Tiara a thumbs-up and added, "Your idea was great!"

Tiara's smile widened at the compliment, but her joy was disrupted by the interference of Lilica. She appeared next to Tiara, followed by the remaining Forest Elves, and the Elemental Empress, who arrived soon after. I think you should take a look at

In the meantime, the first guards and Awakened appeared in the small alley in the outskirts of the border settlement. That was where Michael and the rest had appeared, while the Greater Eagles endangered their lives to distract as many enemies as possible.

'Looks like they have a hostility orb as well. Well...that is not surprising. They can easily locate and pinpoint us everywhere now.' Michael chuckled lightly at the thought.

It was quite obvious that the Kitsun Lord made ample preparations to protect every border settlement. The border settlements had to be protected, otherwise, the enemies of the Kitsun Lord would barge into his territory and destroy everything, just like Michael had done.

The Kitsun Lord committed a grave mistake by ignoring Michael's existence in the southern part of the Untamed Jungle. He didn't consider Michael a worthy enemy because he was only a Tier-2 Lord with a

few dozen Tier-2 subordinates. Michael never expanded his territory quite like the Kitsun Lord either. He had only a single settlement, if one could consider it a settlement, in the first place.

Michael had a small town without thick and well-developed defensive walls to aid in the defense of his people. But that was also the most likely reason why the Kitsun Lord underestimated him.

Michael used the flora and fauna as a means to hide his territory and protect it. He focused on a single town to turn it into the core of his future territory and used his funding to strengthen his people, provide the best armaments, and much more.

The Orb of Hostility in his possession was of extraordinary quality, and always activated. It was configured at an output of 100%, and consumed far more monster cores than most Lords were willing to spend for 5-10 settlements. Even with the Orb of Hostility activated at its limit, Michael used his scouts to check for hostile activities before moving through the surroundings at all times. Every change in the surroundings would be directly reported to him and his people, allowing them to make plans for all kinds of adverse scenarios.

Michael didn't require walls to defend his territory because no enemy would be able to reach his town and citizens. The traps, his combat forces, and more than a hundred plans for various scenarios had been created to counter all kinds of problems and possible invasions. Furthermore, it was much better to make use of the Untamed Jungle's flora and fauna rather than cutting down everything. It was harder to find the territory as it was located deep in the wild and unruly jungle, and easier for him and his army to attack the enemies from all directions.

Michael was the Lord of the Untamed Jungle, and he wouldn't start neglecting the Untamed Jungle if he could instead use it to annihilate the threats from outside. He could eliminate the strangers, who never fought in the Untamed Jungle by exploiting the topography, and everything habituating in the Untamed Jungle, just like he did against the forces of the Jungle Expedition.

One way or another, the current threat was different from the time he fought against the Jungle Expedition.

Michael was not the same as before, and the same could be said about his allies. Not even the faintest glimmer of worry could be found in their eyes facing a large group of Kitsun Guards and Awakened.

The space around them was narrow. But Michael had expected that. He told the Elemental Empress to teleport the Golden Stinger Wasp to a secure place near the settlement's outskirts. A dark, and narrow cobblestone alley between time-worn, half-timbered buildings were certainly a secure place for a tiny wasp to appear. The alley was a quiet, hidden gem, shielded from the bustling main streets. It allowed Michael and the rest to arrive safely inside the border settlement without any obstructions.

Unfortunately, the defensive measures of the settlement were glaringly visible – which was also expected.

The cobblestone alley was uneven and speckled with moss and weeds, creating a slippery surface. But Michael's focus had long since moved to the crowd of Kitsun charging into the narrow alley. It looked like the Kitsun attacked without a shred of hesitation from a distance, but with Eagle Eyes and Spirit Gaze activated, he could see the hesitation and the tinge of fear that flashed through their eyes.

The Kitsun all over the Kitsun Lord's territories had already been informed about the attacks of the last 24 hours. They could gauge how strong Michael and his people were. Seeing the determination and fearlessness of the small group that had been insane enough to attack an entire settlement with a group that didn't even have 10 members didn't help either. On the contrary, it added fuel to the flames of fear that began to ravage inside the hearts of the Kitsun.

Nonetheless, they had to get rid of the invaders, otherwise, the wrath of the Kitsun Lord would be waiting for them. The Kitsun Lord wouldn't kill them. No, he would torture them until they wished that they'd died thousands of deaths.

Satisfied with how things were moving ahead, Michael smiled. The air was tinged with the scent of aged wood, earth, and the faint whiff of herbs from a nearby garden. However, the most apparent was the smell of fear permeating the dark alley.

Origin energy circulated through his body, and he kicked the ground all of a sudden.

Michael crossed a distance of ten meters in the blink of an eye, the Wyverntooth Spear manifesting in his hands.

In the next moment, Tiara appeared next to him, her body transforming.

Pure excitement flickered in her eyes and she accelerated, pushing past Michael to enter the horde of Kitsun in front of her without a shred of hesitation.

Today was going to be a bloody day.

Chapter 379 Blazing Globe

The moment Tiara used the Silvarean Tiger Soultrait, silver fur grew out of her body. Her hair shimmered vibrantly, and her eyes transformed, becoming much sharper than before with a tint of gold mixed into her tiger-like eyes.

A blueish spear danced around her as she manifested her Artifacts. It was a Spirit Weapon, which Michael specially crafted for Tiara in the Relic of Draka not too long ago. It enhanced Tiara's Agility drastically, further reinforcing her combat prowess.

Charging into the crowd of Kitsun, Tiara struck everyone in the first row with a Spirit Whip before she swiped the Spirit Spear across their necks. Her motion was simple but extremely fast. The velocity of her spear swipe couldn't be blocked as the Kitsun was momentarily stunned by the sudden mental attack.

Rendered incapable of blocking Tiara's attack, their throats ended up severed in an eerily simple manner. Fountains of blood spurted out of their throats, painting the old cobblestone pathway of the abandoned alley crimson.

The Kitsun in the second row and behind were shocked to see her. Their eyes widened and they instinctively wanted to retreat. However, all they could do was to move ahead. Their brethren from behind pushed them ahead, forcing the Kitsun at the front to face Tiara head-on.

Tiara moved quickly. The space around her was narrow, but she could make full use of every inch of it. The Spirit Spear thrust forward, piercing through the steel chestplate of the Kitsun in front of her before drilling deep into the Kitsun's chest. But instead of decelerating and being forced to put some effort into pulling the spear blade out of the Kitsun's chest, Tiara used her Inner Force Soultrait to naturally reverse the force of her spear thrust.

Instead of slowing down as the spear blade dug deeper into the enemy's chest, the Spirit Spear was pulled out naturally without the need to use additional force. It was time-saving as well and ensured that nobody could attack Tiara as she focused on other opponents.

Her Spirit Whips lashed out again, but she didn't strike one of the enemies close to her. Instead, her focus was on the weaker Kitsun Summons in the middle of the crowd. It was not difficult for her to perceive the strength of her opponents. Therefore her Spirit Whips struck the Tier-1 Summons, whose bodies tensed up and froze in their tracks as the mental attack impacted heavily.

Being pushed from behind, but unable to move further ahead, the Summons struck by the Spirit Whip couldn't even keep their body steady. The heavy impact of the Spirit Whip resulted in the Summons losing their balance. They fell down to the ground all while the Kitsun from behind were pushed further ahead.

The Kitsun on the ground were unable to get up because there was no more space above them. However, they weren't stomped upon either because the Kitsun's lower body was in a compressed gaseous form. Their lower bodies looked like black clouds that were interconnected with each other.

Earlier that day, Michael told Tiara and the rest that the Kitsun's cloud-like lower body was maintained by consuming energy and the surroundings' oxygen. This was something Tiara decided to use against them. The Kitsun were still in need of oxygen to survive.

The Kitsun lying on the ground regained their composure soon after they'd been struck by Tiara's Spirit Whip. But they were unable to get up due to the crowd above them, which resulted in the space between the Kitsun and the ground becoming a prison without oxygen.

'This girl is really cruel,' Michael thought as he watched Tiara's fight.

It had been quite a while since he arrived next to her, but the narrow alley didn't allow Michael and Tiara to fight side-by-side. They wielded spears and required some space to unleash the full power of their attacks. But that wasn't really a pressing issue. Tiara was doing an exceptional job, and Michael could release Glacicle Swords enhanced with Reinforced Sword Qi and Enhancement to blast large holes into the crowd of Kitsun, shredding their bodies cruelly.

It might be a little bit annoying to fight a flood of Kitsun in a dark, narrow alley because they could easily stall time and turn the fight into a battle of attrition. However, Michael and Tiara could easily rip through their enemies with the use of their Soultraits.

A single enhanced Qi Glacicle Sword was powerful enough to burst six to ten heads before the Kitsun could do anything against it. Meanwhile, Tiara's swift and nimble movements allowed her to reap a life every second.

But Michael felt that they were still a little bit too slow despite killing more than a hundred Kitsun in the first minute they'd arrived at the border settlement. They had been slow enough to allow the stronger guards and Awakened stationed in the settlement to gather and come up with a plan to eliminate the invaders after their stamina had been drained.

Michael didn't want to give the strongest Guards and Awakened a chance to strike them at a bad timing. He whistled twice and pulled back. Tiara's tiger ears flinched when she heard the whistling. She used Inner Force to pull most of the strength she was about to exert to attack into her legs. Tiara jumped back and appeared next to Michael with a trace of sadness spread all over her face.

Tiara didn't want to end the battle already. She wanted to strive forward and advance with the spear, just like a spearman was supposed to. The spear existed to advance, and not to retreat.

But Michael ignored her grumbling. He smiled gently at her while sending a telepathic note to the Elemental Empress, who moved in front of him. I think you should take a look at

"Don't hold back," Michael told the Elemental Empress before he released his Dome of Extraction to devour the origin energy in the surroundings.

In the next moment, he sent a wave of energy through the Elemental Empress' taming bond, filling her with the purified energy of a Tier-2 Lord.

The Elemental Empress' body flared up. A large blazing flame conjured in front of her, looking like the sun. Streaks of fire pushed out of the globe of fire as the Elemental Empress used her mental power to compress the flames. A tint of azure blue shone through the center of the blazing globe as the Elemental Empress conjured more flames to compress them within the globe.

The blazing globe was compressed, yet the raging flames expanded rapidly. In a matter of mere seconds, the globe of fire filled the entire path in front of Michael and the rest.

Then the blazing globe was unleashed upon the panicking Kitsun.

Despite being flames conjured by a Tierless being, the Elemental Empress was still...the Elemental Empress. Her main attribute was fire as well, indicating her great control and innate affinity toward fire.

Not even fire-attributed monsters at Tier-1 were likely to survive the Elemental Empress' flames without sustaining burn marks from her flames. But now that Michael had given the Elemental Empress his origin energy, the blazing flames were even stronger.

Screams of despair and unfathomable pain spread through the surroundings as the globe of fire paved its way through the dark alley that shone brightly as if it had been blessed by the sun.

The pungent smell of burned flesh and smoke filled the searing hot air in the alley. However, nobody said anything as they stared at the devastating sight in front of them. Michael had just transferred a little bit over half of the origin energy stored inside him to aid the Elemental Empress, but he never expected that this much energy would be enough to annihilate the crowd of Kitsun inside the alley in a single move.

Unable to evade the attack, the crowd of Kitsun had been forced to take the impact of the blazing globe of fire head-on. The Tier-1 Kitsun died on the spot, burning to cinder even before the globe passed by them. However, even the Tier-2 Summons were having a hard time. Their gaseous lower bodies evaporated into thin air, while their skin and big portions of their flesh were scorched and melting.

Losing their gaseous lower bodies meant that they had to recreate the black cloud of their lower body from scratch. That would usually take a day or two – or a few hours if one was proficient at controlling the power that allowed them to move around freely. But they didn't have hours. In fact, the Kitsun didn't even have minutes.

Seconds was all they received as a hail of Glacicles manifested and rained down within the searing hot alley. The alley was so hot that the cobblestone path had molten, yet the Glacicles were unaffected by the heat – even if it was just for a quarter of a second. Michael released them with a burst of energy before they could melt.

The Glacicles pierced into the half-burned bodies of the Tier-2 Kitsun, ending their miserable lives.

Michael didn't feel any mercy for the Kitsun. If not for being pressed on time, he would probably ignore the half-burned bodies of the Kitsun.

They would die with those burns sooner or later, either way. Unfortunately, he was running short on time and needed the energy influx he received from every kill. The energy influx and energy shares he obtained during the last 24 hours had been a lot more than he expected. The energy surging into his pillar of light was enough to refine his War Rune to a considerable degree.

If he continued to fight like this with his team, it would only be a matter of time before he reached the Mid-rank of the 2nd Tier.

He could catch up with the other participants of the Battle Exchange, fight for his own Flag War Token, and fight in the Interdimensional Flag War.

Of course, that was just a distant goal on Michael's list.

Obliterating the Kitsun Lord and all Kitsun in and near the Untamed Jungle was the highest priority for now.

Chapter 380 Burned

Now that the alley was cleared, Michael and the others had a much easier time moving through the settlement.

But instead of randomly moving through the settlement without a goal, Michael channeled more energy into the Elemental Empress' taming bond. He replenished her energy while continuing to extract the energy from the surroundings via the Dome of Extraction.

In the meantime, the Golden Stinger Wasp marked the Elemental Empress once again. After the Empress was marked, the Golden Stinger Wasp shot higher into the air to fly above the buildings.

The Golden Stinger Wasp flew through the settlement and swapped places with the Elemental Empress wherever it found old and dry wooden constructions. Once teleported to such structures, the Elemental Empress would set everything on fire. The Golden Stinger Wasp continued to swap places more than a dozen times until the mark on the Elemental Empress wore off. In those dozen swaps, the Elemental Empress burned down several smithies, two barracks, three old watchtowers, and an entire district constructed with sturdy, yet inflammable wood.

As the Golden Stinger Wasp and the Elemental Empress worked together to burn down the border settlement, Liopham used his Swift Soultrait to reach the center of the settlement in the blink of an eye.

He unleashed his other Soultrait, Rage of the Primal, at its full power, creating a two-meter-tall totem that lured every Kitsun to the center of the settlement. An interesting thing about Rage of the Primal was that it enraged its targets, forcing them into a Berserk-like state that enhanced their strength. The stronger the target the stronger the effect of the Berserk-like state, and the more intense the rage surging through their entire being.

Therefore, the strongest Kitsun quickly gathered near the totem of the Rage of the Primal Soultrait. They charged at the totem and destroyed it in less than a minute. During this minute several hundred Guards and two dozen Awakened had gathered in the plaza at the center of the settlement, attracted by the commotion and the totem.

Mika and Opars made use of this vast space to go all out. They didn't want Liopham's preparation to go to waste. Mika retrieved a Piecker from his War Rune's storage. He put it lightly on the bowstring and used the entire energy stored inside him to use Duplicate Arrows.

The Piecker began to glimmer brightly in response. However, the preparations for the attack were not yet done. Opars released his Soultrait, Energy Imprint, several times on Mika. Filled with energy once again, Mika used his energy to activate Duplicate Arrow at its full power a few more times. He then used the last burst of energy provided by Energy Imprint to activate his other Soultrait, Pierce.

The Piecker shone bright like a shooting star as Mika released the bowstring, unleashing the strongest attack the young Forest Elf had ever created.

The tension all over the plaza skyrocketed as the Kitsun realized that they had been lured to the wide-open area through Liopham's Rage of the Primal Soultrait. A trace of confusion and fear enveloped the air like a heavy shroud as surges of energy pulled their attention to the two Forest Elves.

One of the Forest Elves released a brightly shining arrow from his bow as the Kitsun's gaze began to linger on them. The shining arrow cut through the air with great velocity. It pulsed brightly as if it was a living, breathing being and began to twinkle as it reached the highest point of its journey through the air.

The moment the arrow reached the highest point, the vibrant shimmer engulfing the arrow dispersed. The Piecker split into two, then four, then eight, then sixteen. Not even a full second passed before the glimmering Piecker evolved into a hail of shooting stars. A hail consisting of 1,024 arrows descended from the sky.

At first, there was a distant, haunting whistle, like the mournful cry of a ghost that reached the ears of the Kitsun. The haunting whistle quickly evolved into a cacophony of harrowing sounds that drowned every other noise. The hail of arrows blocked out the sun for a moment, casting ominous shadows across the plaza.

Then they fell down like relentless rain that blurred the line between the sky and the earth. Each arrow was like a deadly missile that sought the blood of their enemies.

The Guards and Awakened in the plaza scrambled for cover, seeking refuge behind their shields and Soultraits' powers, or even the bodies of their living brethren as the arrows reached them.

Then the sound of arrows piercing deep into the flesh of the targets reverberated through the surroundings followed by screams of pain and commands. The metal armors were ripped apart by the tremendous penetrative force of the Pierce-enhanced Pieckers. The Pieckers didn't even slow down as they continued to tear deep wounds into the flesh of the unprotected Kitsun.

The result of Mika's attack was devastating. If the arrows didn't kill the targets, the Kitsun either ended up severely injured, or barely evaded the full onslaught of the duplicated arrows. But those who could evade the arrows were few. They either used their own brethren as meat shields, or they were Awakened with Artifacts, or Soultraits that allowed them to protect their bodies with the use of a considerable amount of energy.

Most Summons ended up with several arrows in their chests, each of them having easily pierced through their armor. The destructive force and penetrative power of Pieckers after they'd been strengthened with Pierce was simply not something a Summon or their ordinary armor could compete with.

Those who survived the hail of duplicated arrows were shocked, but also relieved. They had survived against all odds, and could retreat now – or so they hoped. I think you should take a look at

As long as they didn't have to face the invaders anymore, the Kitsun were fine with everything else. At this point, even the cruelty of the Kitsun Lord's punishments and the fear of his fury didn't seem that bad.

At least they had managed to survive and could escape the enemy now.

But just as the Guards and Awakened in the plaza thought that the worst was over, Pheli and Lilica arrived at the plaza. They appeared next to Mika and Opars, only for Liopham to arrive next to them as well.

"We should clean up this mess. Michael wants some more Awakened to extract," Lilica said, her eyes shining in excitement.

After witnessing the tremendous firepower of the Elemental Empress, her worries about the future of their territory were set ablaze. They burned down and the ash dispersed in all directions just like the surroundings. If she had been sad and worried about the growth of their army earlier, the bloodthirsty beast corpses and Kitsun corpses in their spatial storages were enough to resolve them.

The Elemental Empress would also add to their economic power gradually. Lilica's only worry had been Michael and the dangers of facing the Kitsun Lord. Elder Silram messaged Lilica via the communication crystal after Michael's chat with him. He informed Lilica about the dangers of the Kitsun race, and what they should pay attention to.

Unfortunately, Lilica received the message a little too late. Michael and the army he brought along to the Elementals Cave had already been outwitted. The army had been decimated, leaving Michael in an irrational and emotional state.

It was great that Michael could overcome the loss of so many trusted subordinates to make sure that he wouldn't endanger even more subordinates. Despite that, Lilica felt that Michael's actions were too risky. She initially didn't like that Michael was hellbent on charging into the Savannah region to fight the Kitsun Lord's forces there. She thought he was being rash and it was not the best move.

That is why Lilica was relieved to see the Elemental Empress' great prowess and that Michael could make use of her properly. He didn't hold a prejudice against her even though his subordinates died because of the Lesser Elementals' self-destruction. This allowed them to progress that far into the Kitsun Lord's territory, and to destroy a big portion of the border settlement 15 minutes into their invasion.

"EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team. Get ready to strike!" Lilica shouted while using her Soultraits, Weakness Detection, and Precise Aim. With her longbow tightly grasped in her left hand, she nocked a Piecker on the bowstring, pulled back, and fired after a second.

The arrow whizzed through the air and claimed the life of a Tier-2 Awakened, whose energy barrier was lifted a quarter of a second before her arrow impacted.

The four remaining members of the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team prepared themselves for battle as well. They readied their bows and began to reap one life after another, using their eerily accurate aim and the fear they'd instilled in the hearts of the Kitsun to their advantage.

As the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team killed everyone in the plaza, Michael and Tiara split up as well.

They began to hunt down the remaining Awakened stationed in the settlement. The corpses of Summons were not that useful to Michael anymore since his storage was already quite full at this point. But the same couldn't be said about Awakened corpses. Michael could always make space for Awakened in his storage space.

Their value was a hundredfold higher than Kitsun corpses, and Michael wouldn't leave behind any if he was given enough time to clean up the settlements properly. But time was a luxury he could not afford.

Thus, he moved through the border settlement with Eagle Eyes and Spirit Gaze fully unleashed. Michael used Spirit Disturbance on his enemies, and he even applied several layers of Enhancement onto Spirit Gaze to further strengthen the lethality of Spirit Disturbance. That way, harvesting the lives of the Awakened Kitsun became even easier.

Barely an hour passed before Michael left the border settlement with Tiara, the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team, the Elemental Empress, and the Golden Stinger Wasp by his side.

Icarus and his mate were already waiting outside for them, ready to bring them to the next destination.

Concurrently, the settlement behind them was set ablaze and in utter chaos.