

Supreme Lord 401

Chapter 401 Honor the Deceased

Blood, war, and death were a way of life in the Origin Expanse. They have always been there and will never disappear. After all, everyone desired wealth, influence, and strength.

All records about the Origin Expanse made it clear that the Origin Expanse was a golden opportunity to break past your natural limits and grow truly powerful. However, it was also a tremendously dangerous place where death was like a close companion. Death was like a constant shadow in the Origin Expanse.

A life full of war and danger was what everyone living in the Origin Expanse had to accept. Awakened could escape the dangers by staying outside the Origin Expanse, but the same didn't apply to Summons. They had to survive by adapting to the Origin Expanse and its rules, or they would fall and die again.

One could avoid fighting in the front lines by doing other jobs. Even those who had been summoned as Warriors and Knights could stay in the base to focus on being Guards, or training newly promoted Warriors. Their decision to stay away from the frontlines wouldn't be frowned upon. On the contrary, everyone would be thankful for their decision to guide the new generations and ensure that the crime rate in the settlement remained low.

However, those Combat Summons who grasped their weapons tightly and were ready to fight next to Michael had to accept their fate, whether it was their fate to become a War God on the battlefield or to turn into a corpse. All they – and Michael – could do to ensure that they lived longer was to give their utmost to train and consume various resources to accelerate their growth.

"I think everyone is too shocked about the death of their friends and future family to understand that our Lord is not at fault. Has everyone forgotten the past incidents where our Lord gave his utmost to protect and strengthen his people whenever he got an opportunity? Our Lord would never abandon his people in the Elementals Cave!" One of the Scholars, who had been summoned as one of Michael's first 1-Star Summons, spoke loudly.

"Well...that's true. I couldn't really believe it when someone said that our Lord would abandon his people in the Elementals Cave... That doesn't really make sense," Another Summon added, starting to doubt those who blamed Michael for the death of his people.

"Our Lord treats us nicely. He tries the hardest to increase our strength and produce more high-quality Armaments for his combatants. He is not like other Lords who throw their subjects onto the battlefield mindlessly. No...our Lord always fights on the frontline, never paying attention to himself. He might not look like he sustained an injury, but has anyone seen the bags under his eyes? Our Lord looks like he didn't sleep for a whole week!" A Soldier whom Michael had trained once in the past, declared, pointing at Michael's exhausted face that had deep black bags under his eyes.

Michael didn't even know that he looked like he didn't sleep for a long time. He had just woken up from a long sleep, after all.

'Rather than sleepy, I'm hungry. The rations I ate in the last few days were...not exactly nutritious.' Michael thought, unsure when it had been the last time he ate a proper meal. It had probably been a few days.

Now that the Scholars, Soldiers, Librarians, and other Summons took his side, Michael felt much better. He had been worried that everyone would go against him, but it seemed like he had been too worried about their reaction.

More and more of his subjects began to speak in support of Michael, resulting in those who had questioned his leadership and intentions growing more silent as the minutes passed. At some point, only two to three Summons remained adamant at finding fault in Michael's actions. They were 100% certain that Michael would throw everyone onto the battlefield sooner or later, and that he would abandon them once his territory would be near destruction.

After a long time, Michael spoke again. He cleared his throat and stared at the crowd of people.

"I will store the memories of what happened in the Elementals Cave in a Memory Crystal for everyone to access. That should be more than enough for everyone to see what I did and form their opinion of the situation," He said, retrieving one of the many Memory Crystals he had wanted to use to store some martial arts techniques and the information he had collected in the last two days.

However, he believed that it was more important to show everyone his point of view through his memories. Of course, that also included his little conversation with his army and the fact that he told them to stay behind. It would show that Michael had sensed early enough that something was off yet his people had still been adamant about following him.

'It's a bit cowardly to do that, but those who want to find fault with me will take advantage of me if I skip some memories. I cannot leave out this conversation.' Michael thought a little bit regretfully right before he filled the Memory Crystal with his memories.

The next thing he did was to throw the Memory Crystal to the subject who had blamed him first for the death of the 1,500 militants.

"Look at it and tell me clearly how I could have saved my people after we were stuck several hundred meters underground," Michael said.

He then turned around to face everyone else, "Some might say that I made a grave mistake in the Elementals Cave, but all I can say is that I have always given my best to strengthen my people and to protect them. Of course, I am not perfect. Of course, I will make mistakes. However, everyone present here can be certain of one thing; I will always give my best to learn from my mistakes and ensure that such incidents won't happen again. I will invest more into the protection of our military force, and make sure that my orders will be meticulously thought through and executed properly. Your trust in me won't be broken again!"

Michael could say a lot more, but he was pretty sure that a longer speech would have a negative effect and sound like a sorry excuse. So he let his words resound through the heads of the Summons around him for a whole minute before he began to speak again.

"Since I have been on the battlefield since the incident happened, I wasn't able to pay homage to their souls yet. I have yet to bid them a proper farewell and allow their souls to the afterlife," He said, his tone changing slightly. His voice grew louder and more emotional as the heavy weight weighing down on his heart crumbled ever so slowly, "Therefore, we shall feast in the name of the brave soldiers who succumbed to the treacherous Kitsun Lord's traps. May they rest in peace!"

Regaining the trust of his subjects wouldn't be an easy task. But Michael never considered it to be achievable just in one short speech either. He knew that his achievements as a Rookie Lord created the image of a Lord who always had an upper hand, someone who could win against all odds.

Of course, he wouldn't be able to win every single time. Michael would fail again. Not because he was too weak, or because he was too young to know better. No. He would face losses because that was normal in the Origin Expanse or even in ordinary life. In large-scale wars of hundreds of thousands of soldiers opposing a force with equal numbers, thousands – no, tens of thousands – would die.

Of course, Michael would give his utmost to ensure that the enemy forces would suffer bigger losses, but the future that awaited them was bound to lead to the death of many. This included the lives of his people. Something like that couldn't be avoided.

Both Michael and his subjects had to be prepared for the future.

Thus, in a way, it was better to face a setback now than later. It was still possible to argue with his subjects right now and to explain everything thoroughly. Once the population in his territory surpassed 100,000, or maybe even one million, it would grow increasingly more difficult to explain 'mistakes' or the death of the citizens' friends and family members.

Michael had to set up the foundation of understanding to not be blamed or live in guilt in the near future.

Luckily, when he mentioned about a feast to honor the deceased, everyone regained their composure. The Summon, who had blamed Michael for the death of his friends, was the only one who stared at him intently. He had seen a few glimpses of the memories stored in the Memory Crystal and finally understood what had happened.

Michael had warned his people that it would be dangerous in the Elementals Cave and that he got a bad feeling. However, his people pleaded to him to let them follow him inside the Elementals Cave. Even if one wanted to blame Michael for the death of 1,500 Combat Summons, it was hardly feasible.

Michael noticed that the Summon's gaze was lingering on him. However, he didn't pay any more attention to him. Instead, Michael focused on the preparations for the feast. He was starving.

The preparations took a while, but Michael helped without thinking about complaining. He used Extraction to help the cooks purify the water they used and to remove as many impurities from the meat and vegetables as he could. Several hours passed in the blink of an eye and a wide variety of dishes had been mass-produced for the entire population of the settlement.

36,000 citizens could feast on the wide variety of dishes until they would fall into a food coma from eating too much.

Of course, Michael wouldn't make the amateurish mistake of falling into a food coma. He wouldn't waste this opportunity.

No, he would eat as much as possible and continue until his stomach burst.

If not now, when else would he treat himself to feast until he would drop dead?

Michael deserved to treat himself to something special.

He survived fighting tens of thousands of Kitsun, and he killed the Kitsun Lord. In the meantime, Michael wanted to give something to his subjects as well. Not everyone was ready to fight near the front lines, but everyone gave their utmost regardless. There were only a few lazy subjects in his territory.

Of course, those lazy subjects had been the loudest when it came to complaining about the Elementals Cave incident.

But that didn't bother Michael too much anymore. The subjects who were important regained a firmer Link of Loyalty and that was all that counted.

Chapter 402 Kitsun Cloud

402 Kitsun Cloud

Michael woke up the day after the feast to honor the deceased. The last thing he could remember was to fill his stomach with food equal to or higher than his own weight. It had been heavenly.

Relieved that his subjects took the news of the disaster in the Elementals Cave much better than he could have hoped for, Michael turned into the incarnation of gluttony. He was like a starving beast, devouring a portion of all dishes like there was no tomorrow. The feast to honor the deceased had been too good and sumptuous.

After eating way too much, Michael ought to feel like dying once he woke up. But Michael didn't feel stuffy or bloated. If anything, he felt quite good.

His headache was no longer there to annoy him, and he was full of energy.

"Should I start Extracting now?" Michael asked himself as he left the bed to get a quick bath.

He washed up quickly and put on a comfortable set of clothes before he left his room. Outside the wooden manor he met Tiara, who had been waiting for him.

"Good morning, master! I forgot to hand over the Kitsun corpses I'd stored away when we went out raiding the settlements. Lilica and the others also have some bodies for you to extract," She said with a bright smile on her face.

Tiara was probably the happiest that the Summons didn't continue to blame Michael for the disaster in the Elementals Cave. She smiled vibrantly and was completely at ease.

"Can you get the Forest Elves and a hundred workers for me? I want to start extracting the Summons, Awakened, and the corpses of the bloodthirsty beasts," Michael requested, which Tiara accepted with a nod.

She turned around and rushed to the archery parkour course where the Emerald Leaf Adventurer team was currently practicing. After the battle against the Kitsun Lord and his forces, the Forest Elves felt that their archery skills had grown a little rusty. Of course, they were still excellent archers, but living in the Untamed Jungle where they had to fight their enemies at a close distance most of the time decreased their long-range accuracy considerably.

Observing Tiara as she ran through the thicket, Michael smiled faintly. He was glad to have Tiara by his side. Even if everything else would go south, Tiara would be by his side. That kind of reassurance was great to have. It fueled Michael with far more confidence than Tiara or anyone else could fathom.

In the meantime, Michael headed straight to the Alchemy's Lair where he found a few alchemists working on a wide variety of potions and pills. They were too engrossed in their work to notice Michael, but that was exactly what Michael was hoping for. Alchemists shouldn't be easily distracted.

He waited until one of the Alchemy Masters finished concocting a batch of Energy Nourishment Pills before he approached the Forest Elven Alchemist. She noticed Michael a little bit late and was surprised about the unexpected visitor, but the Forest Elven Alchemist regained her composure quickly.

"Good morning, my Lord. How may I be of service?" She asked formally and nodded politely.

"Good morning. It's nothing. I am merely visiting the Alchemy Lair because I wanted to give you some resources to experiment with," Michael said as he retrieved a batch of elemental crystals and a handful of element seeds.

The seeds could be planted to produce element-attributed fruits, but Michael had to know how valuable they were first. If his Alchemists couldn't handle the element seeds yet, he would wait with the mass production and put the resources required to mass produce elemental attributed fruits aside for more important investments.

The Forest Elven Alchemist's eyes widened when she saw the elemental crystals and the element seeds.

"These...Are those what I think they are?" She asked, her gaze flicking from the crystals to Michael.

"They're elemental crystals. I have a decent stockpile of elemental crystals and wanted to split them up for the Alchemists, Blacksmiths, and Enchanters," Michael responded.

"No no no. Don't give it to the blacksmiths and enchanters. How about you give us your entire stockpile instead?" The Forest Elven Alchemist proposed, her eyes glimmering in excitement and desire.

'So they're that valuable...That's good!

Michael raised an eyebrow, but he didn't say anything at first. He took his time to consider what to do and spoke his mind afterward, "I will split up the stockpile equally. There is no way I will favor anyone right now. Everybody will get an equal chance to prove themselves. Provide the best results, and I will provide you with more elemental crystals in the future."

"There will be more in the future?"

"Of course. But your department won't get as much as others if the results are not good enough," Michael said, the corner of his lip tilting up.

The Forest Elven Alchemist pressed her lips together and nodded her head.

She then opened her hands with glimmering eyes, "In that case, can I get the portion for our department right now?"

Michael scoffed but didn't reject her request. He retrieved a large pile of elemental crystals before putting the last elemental crystal of their portion into her cupped hands.

"What about the element seeds?" Michael asked the distracted Forest Elven Alchemist, who shook her head to get back to her senses.

"Since I don't know what fruit will grow from the element seeds, I cannot say anything for sure. But the fruits should be useful one way or another. All elemental attributed fruits can be used to create potions. The only question is whether the potions will be useful for our purposes or if the potions can only be digested by certain races, who use them to temper their elemental attribute."

Michael considered her response and thought about it for a while. The Forest Elven Alchemist was very knowledgeable about the utility of various potions and ingredients. Thus, he thought about something that may or may not be useful.

Michael retrieved the corpse of a Kitsun and pointed at the gaseous lower body that was still intact even though the Kitsun was long since dead. Somehow, the gaseous black cloud was still hovering around the dead Kitsun's waist.

"I am not sure if you have ever seen something like that, but can this gas be used somehow? I could extract it for you if you want. It's mainly made out of oxygen and energy. The Kitsun race's body naturally absorbs enough energy and oxygen to maintain the cloud so they can float around. Maybe we can make use of that. What do you think?" Michael asked without any expectations.

He was pretty sure that the Kitsun's black cloud couldn't be utilized easily. There might be ways to make use of it, but it was more likely that the processing would require too much time.

"Floating you said? We could try to use the gas as a substitute for a Sibur Cloud and concoct a Sibur Swift Pot. I am not sure if it will work, but if it does, we will be able to create potions that can temporarily lighten the user's weight, thus increasing their swiftness," The Forest Elven Alchemist said after a minute of reconsideration, "If the cloud is potent enough, we might even be able to process it into a levitation potion. That way we can temporarily levitate over the ground, which could be useful for our archers to swiftly move through the Untamed Jungle."

Michael didn't expect the Forest Elven Alchemist's knowledge to be that vast. He thought that she would ask a few more questions or focus on experiments before coming up with possible uses of the Kitsun Cloud, which was what Michael decided to call it.

Of course, the Forest Elven Alchemist had yet to analyze the Kitsun Cloud, but her train of thought had proven useful. The Alchemists would most definitely find a way to make use of it. Therefore, Michael found another use for the tens of thousands of Kitsun bodies. Not only would the loot generated by the Will of the Origin Expanse be highly valuable, but the Kitsun Cloud might actually be just as valuable. 5

That was great news.

"Do you have a container in which I can seal the Kitsun Cloud upon extracting it? I don't really want to waste the Kitsun Clouds since our stockpile will be limited."

Michael's question was legitimate. He had yet to hunt the remaining Kitsun within the Untamed Jungle, but their number would decrease quickly as well. Once annihilated, Michael wouldn't be able to replenish the stockpile of Kitsun Clouds. Therefore, a container that could be sealed was a must.

"I don't have a container big enough for a large amount of compressed gas. But if you give me three to four days, I will have something ready. That is if the stubborn Enchanter doesn't fail me... again."

The Forest Elven Alchemist could tell that the Kitsun Cloud possessed great potential as a material. Thus, she didn't want to disappoint her Lord, and herself by wasting such a precious resource. The only problem was that she couldn't create a sealed container on her own. She could create a liquid that could temper glass containers to create near-perfect seals. Read the fullest content at n0velfullb0ok.c0m

However, to have a perfectly sealed container, the Forest Elven Alchemist would require the help of Enchanters and Blacksmiths.

"They will help you. Just tell them that I gave you an order that has to be prioritized above everything else. If they trouble you, just report to me and I will take things into my own hands. But that...will be ugly for those who disobeyed my orders." Michael said as a matter of fact.

His voice was nonchalant, but that was exactly what caused goosebumps to spread all over the Forest Elven Alchemist's body.

"I will make sure that you will be satisfied, my Lord!"

"Of course, you will," Michael smiled before he turned around, apparently done with the discussion.

He stored the Kitsun's corpse away again and left the Lair.

Now that he finished his task, Michael could finally focus his mind on Extraction. It was time to progress!

Chapter 403 Extracting

When Michael finally reached the warehouse, Tiara and the Forest Elves were already waiting for him. They retrieved all corpses and the other loot they collected in the Kitsun Lord's territory and handed all of it to Michael before waiting for further orders from their Lord.

Michael accepted the corpses and stored them in the satchel to organize everything a little. Then he looked over to the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team.

"I'm not sure if you got enough time to think about this already since we returned but we started talking about this topic in the war against the Kitsun Lord. It's about the Soultrait Symbols and upgrades of Soultraits. Have you guys considered what to do? Do you want to change to a proper Link of Loyalty and establish a Soul Pact with me to gain access to more Soultraits and the possibility to upgrade them, or will everything remain the same?" He asked the Forest Elves, who looked at each other for a few seconds.

After they witnessed Michael's combat prowess over and over again the Forest Elves wanted to grow stronger as well. They knew that there were many other ways to grow stronger than relying on Soultraits, but it was also common knowledge that Soultraits were as important – if not more crucial – than the Innate talent.

So what if you could absorb more energy than others, or comprehend martial arts techniques faster than everyone else? The moment you had to face an enemy at the same Tier with a 7-Star Soultrait, you would have to run away, or fight desperately hoping that your enemy couldn't control his mighty Soultrait.

Zira was the best example for such a case. Her Soultrait was utter trash, yet she was quite powerful. Zira worked hard to master a few rare martial arts techniques, resulting in her current combat prowess. She could deal with several Inferior Awakened because her combat prowess was ranked Elite. She was stronger than the average Awakened after all.

However, Zira was not strong enough to deal with enemies like Kaleb. Kaleb's 7-Star Soultrait was unique and extremely powerful. It was hard to control Frozen Nova, but Kaleb did a good job with studying his Soultrait. He was about to reach the Mid Tier-2 and was probably strong enough to deal with a Tier-3 Awakened single-handedly.

As long as they didn't have specific Soultraits that weakened Frozen Nova's might, even Tier-3 Awakened wouldn't be able to deal with him.

At least that was what Michael thought. He knew how high Kaleb's mastery of Frozen Nova was and that Zira had no way of destroying Frozen Nova's creations with a single attack. Kaleb could stall Zira and inflict minor injuries on her to wear her down slowly. Or he could go all out and obliterate her in one go by using his entire energy storage.

Therefore, Michael hoped that the Forest Elves would accept his proposal to change their Link of Loyalty into a proper one, and to sign a Soul Pact. He would be able to provide more Soultraits and upgrade their Soultraits to turn them into powerhouses like Kaleb.

"I don't think anyone here has a problem becoming your subordinate after working together with you for the past months. We might not love becoming the subordinates of another race's Lord, but you are different. So that fact can be safely overlooked," Lilica said, her cheeks a little red, "Nonetheless, we will have to speak to our family and the Elders about this. Becoming someone else's subordinate is a big

thing for us Forest Elves. I hope you can understand that we will have to leave for a few days to talk it out with our beloved."

"That's only obvious. I didn't expect you and the others to accept my proposal immediately. Take your time and talk it out," Michael responded to Lilica, unable to hide the smile on his face.

Since the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team was willing to follow him, Michael felt that the most important problem had already been solved. That was a good way to start the day.

"Now that that's cleared, I should focus on looting!" Michael said, his smile growing brighter than before.

As his voice faded, hundreds of golden tendrils shot out of his palms. The tendrils flickered brightly as they sought their targets. Michael accessed his Spatial Pouch and retrieved the bloodthirsty beasts he had hunted while wreaking havoc in the Kitsun Lord's territory.

There were around 3,000 bloodthirsty beasts in his possession with most of them being Peak Tier-1, or Low Tier-2 corpses. Using Extraction on them wasn't difficult. The only difficulty was that Michael did not only have to extract the loot generated by the Will, but that he had to dismantle the bloodthirsty beast corpses properly. Their fur, fangs, bones and most other parts of their body were quite valuable. At least that was what a quick analysis of their body parts suggested.

Dismantling 3,000 corpses was not a difficult task with 6-Star Extraction, but Michael had to spend a few hours to finish his job nonetheless. He wanted the corpses to be dismantled as perfectly as possible without any sort of damage. Wasting precious resources was not something Michael wanted to do, after all!

The workers Tiara brought to the warehouse moved the dismantled body parts to their designated area in the warehouse before they updated the information sheet of the warehouse's stock accordingly. They knew what they were doing and moved nimbly through the warehouse, putting everything away shortly after Michael finished dismantling the corpses.

Michael stared at the large piles of loot generated by the Will for a second before he stored everything away. Instead of daydreaming about his gains he might as well continue doing his job. There were close to 41,000 Kitsun corpses waiting for him to be extracted.

The number was a little bit higher than Michael expected, but it made sense.

More than half of the Kitsun had been killed and harvested in the final battle against the Kitsun Lord, and at least 10,000 Kitsun had been killed by the three Lords and their forces. In fact, Michael was pretty sure that the three Lords had given him the corpses of the Guards from the two other border settlements as well. The three Lords had conquered the border settlements shortly before Michael regained consciousness.

'Usually everyone from an alliance can obtain the Will's loot even if they didn't participate in the battle. That should mean as long as they haven't claimed the Kitsun bodies yet, I should be able to obtain all the loot...right?' Michael asked himself even though he knew that he was theoretically correct.

First of all, he was the first to attack the three border settlements. Therefore, he was considered as a contributor in the three Lords' conquest of the border settlements either way. Second, if the Lords conceded their loot to Michael, the Will of the Origin Expanse would accept it – under normal circumstances, of course.

Taking these factors into consideration, Michael was a little curious about how many Summoning Scrolls, Artifacts, blueprints, and Summoning Scroll Fragments he was about to extract from 41,000 corpses.

He began to extract 1000 Kitsun corpses at a time. He inserted the tendrils of Extraction into their bodies, extracted the Will's loot, and stored them back inside the storage satchel. Other than the Kitsun Cloud, Michael didn't really require any body parts of the Kitsun. Thus, he had to wait for a few more days before the sealed container for the Kitsun Clouds had been manufactured and ready to use. Michael could then extract the Kitsun Clouds and carry them safely before throwing the Kitsun corpses into the wild where the Untamed Jungle would devour them to receive nutrition.

A few more hours passed before Michael finished extracting the loot of 41,000 Kitsun. Huge piles of loot had been generated, and Michael stored all of them in his War Rune. He had to make enough space since he was not yet done with Extraction. More than 600 Awakened were still waiting to be extracted.

"59 Tier-3 Awakened, and only two Peak Tier-1 Awakened. That leaves exactly...565 Tier-2 Awakened. It looks like it's about time to get rich," Michael mused to himself before retrieving a box with multiple

gemstones embedded in the frame. It was the same box Michael had procured inside the Lord Rift – the box that contained the recipes for the Body Strengthening Pill and the Energy Nourishing Pill.

A locksmith had been able to open the emerald box without breaking it. To be precise, the locksmith altered the configuration of the emerald box, allowing Michael to imprint his energy into the emerald box to open and seal it as he pleased. No one but Michael with his energy imprint could access the emerald box now without breaking the box and destroying everything stored within. It was a pretty good safety net, even though it would be a little bit problematic if someone actually broke the emerald box. After all, Michael wanted to store the Soultrait Symbols he extracted inside it.

But Michael was not too worried. It would be good if the content of the emerald box would be destroyed the moment the emerald box was crushed.

'If the box breaks that only means someone stole it before. It's better to lose all Soultrait Symbols than accidentally empowering my enemy with dozens of Soultraits. That would be more disastrous than just losing the Soultrait Symbols!' Michael told himself before he began extracting the Awakened corpses.

Michael didn't pay much attention to the Artifacts, blueprints, and Summoning Scrolls he extracted. His main focus was on the SoulStar Fragments, the Soultrait Symbols, and the Memory Orbs. They were of the most value and had to be treated with great care...or not.

Michael destroyed all Memory Orbs other than the Kitsun Lord's Memory Orb without batting an eyelid. Why did he do so? It was pretty simple. The Kitsun race's memories were disgusting. Most people wouldn't be able to overcome living through the memories of the Kitsun as if they were their own.

These weak-willed people would have an existential crisis and they might end up losing their sanity. It hadn't been easy on Michael, Tiara, and the Forest Elven Adventurers to consume a Memory Orb of the Kitsun, and Michael didn't want to be at fault for accidentally turning one of his subjects into a mindless idiot.

As for why he decided to keep the Kitsun Lord's memory orb...Michael was not yet sure whether he should consume the Memory orb or not. He was certain that the Kitsun Lord's most valuable treasures were hidden somewhere, and the only way to find them without any further trouble was through the Kitsun Lord's memories.

However, Michael was not sure if he wanted to live through the memories of the Kitsun Lord as if he was the one committing all those disgusting acts. Since he hesitated it was better to store the Memory Orb away until he knew what he wanted to do. As long as the other Memory Orbs were crushed indiscriminately everything would be alright.

"Soo...first I'll store the Artifacts, blueprints, and Summoning Scrolls away," Michael mumbled, his eyes gleaming as he looked at the two stashes of Soultrait Symbols and SoulStar Fragments.

It was great to look at. That was for sure!

Chapter 404 Soultrait Experiments

404 Soultrait Experiments

"Setting aside the Artifacts and other loot...I extracted 32,359 SoulStar Fragments, and 43 Soultrait Symbols...amazing!" Michael exclaimed once he was done counting the SoulStar Fragments and Soultrait Symbols.

While staring at the pile of SoulStar Fragments and Soultraits, Michael broke into a bright smile. He was not sure how many SoulStar Fragments Extraction had required to be upgraded to 6-Star, but he was pretty sure that it had been roughly 30,000 SoulStar Fragments. That meant he should have enough SoulStar Fragments to upgrade another Soultrait to 6-Star - if not for the Sphere of Light had not increased the amount of SoulStar Fragments required to upgrade his Soultraits.

"I am fine with all combat Soultraits being at 5-Star already. Well, Glacicle will probably require 1,000 SoulStar Fragments to complete the upgrade to 5-Star, but after that my Soultraits should be powerful enough for the time being," Michael mused to himself, falling deep in thought.

He had a total of 9 Soultraits right now. Most of them were extremely powerful and that was something Michael was grateful for. However, the biggest downside was that his War Rune required a lot more energy to reach the next rank than others. Even with all the energy he had absorbed during the last few days, Michael's War Rune would barely reach Mid Tier-2 once everything had been digested.

Killing dozens of Tier-3 Awakened and the Kitsun Lord wouldn't be enough for him to break the barrier to reach the Late rank of the 2nd Tier. And that didn't even include the tens of thousands of Kitsun he and his people had killed in the last few days.

That was shocking but also understandable. High-ranked Soultraits were known for increasing the amount of energy required to refine the War Rune. That was also why Kaleb and the rest were so focused on gathering resources and utilizing the best energy absorption techniques - which they did either way by practicing their Inheritance technique.

The most suitable energy absorption techniques had been incorporated into the Inheritance techniques, allowing Kaleb and other Descendants to consume and digest far more resources than others. Therefore, they progressed faster than others even though they required far more energy to reach the next rank. The only downside was that they used up a tremendous amount of resources. Ordinary people wouldn't have enough money to afford the monthly expenses of the Descendants. Even if ordinary Awakened possessed the same techniques as the Descendants, they wouldn't be able to grow as rapidly as the Descendants. That was the reality most people didn't want to accept. It was simply too cruel for those born in an ordinary household.

Fortunately, Michael wasn't in a rush. He didn't have to progress as fast as the others. As long as he studied his Soultraits in-depth, he could grow much stronger even if his Tier didn't increase as fast. As long as his Soultraits and mastery of them grew proportionally, Michael would never be weaker than Kaleb, Lincoln, Zeke, and everyone else. That was something Michael believed firmly.

Michael studied the Soultrait Symbols for a while. Since he hadn't fused them into his War Rune, he didn't know the Soultraits' names nor their true power. All Michael could use as a means to determine their power was his memories. He recalled some Kitsun Awakened and what they could do with their Soultraits. Unfortunately, that was not too helpful.

"Master, may I suggest something?" Tiara asked, seeing how much Michael struggled to determine whether the Soultraits were worthy to be stored in the emerald box or if they would be totally useless for their purpose.

"Go on," Michael said without thinking twice. He glanced over to Tiara who pointed at the Soultraits first and then at herself.

"How about I fuse the Soultraits with my War Rune? Then I make notes about them using the information influx provided by fusing with the respective Soultrait. Once I've finished taking notes, you can Extract the Soultrait again," Tiara proposed lightheartedly.

At first, Michael's eyes lit up hearing what she proposed, but it didn't take long before he began to frown.

"What about the lasting damages? I am pretty sure that tearing a Soultrait out of your War Rune will result in a backlash," He pointed out his doubts, only for Tiara to shrug.

"We can test it out with one Soultrait Symbol and see how much it will affect me. If the Soultrait is not fused to me for too long, extracting it shouldn't result in too much damage. I might feel a little weird for a few days, but I should be fine. It should be worth the effort in exchange for finding out the name and additional information of the Soultrait Symbols you've extracted. You can create a proper rank for the Soultraits to determine whom you want to give certain Soultraits in the future. That should be quite helpful, don't you think so?"

"Tiara has a good point. I would offer my help as well, but you might not accept my help since we have yet to switch to the proper Link of Loyalty and establish a Soul Pact between us," Lilica said a little bit regretfully, but Michael waved his hand off.

"If the backlash of extracting recently fused Soultraits is not too high, I would gladly accept your help. That way, we can share the burden evenly among the two of you. Of course, that is only feasible if the backlash is not too painful and if it's temporary. If the War Rune is permanently damaged from the backlash we will have to think about something else," Michael informed honestly. He had no intentions of rejecting Lilica's help but he also wanted her to be aware of the possible risks.

She had already obtained a Soultrait from him that he upgraded to 4-Star, yet Lilica didn't flee. Even if he gave her another 1-Star Soultrait to test out its power and write down the information and name of the Soultrait, Michael genuinely doubted that Lilica would run away with it. In the first place, she would have to leave the Origin Expanse to escape his grasp because he would be right in front of her while she made notes.

Furthermore, Lilica wouldn't be able to return to the Origin Expanse without finding a way to spawn somewhere else than the Untamed Jungle. Michael would hunt her down if she betrayed him, after all. 3

Simply put, the effort to escape from Michael's grasp was not worth it. Not in exchange for betraying Michael...for a single 1-Star Soultrait at that. Only stupid fools would try to run away from Michael instead of tightly holding onto him like the golden goose he was. 2

"I can help as well," Mika said, raising his hand high into the air.

"Me too," Opars added, followed by Liopham and Pheli who joined as well.

"That's great. In that case, let's start right away," Michael said before he released a white tendril of energy from within his War Rune. The tendril devoured the 32,359 SoulStar Fragments, leaving only 43 Soultrait Symbols behind.

Contrary to Soultraits, SoulStar Fragments could always be taken out of his War Rune. As long as they hadn't been used for other purposes that is.

The initial test to find out the backlash caused by extracting a newly fused Soultrait was done by Tiara. The Soultrait she fused to her War Rune was bound to her in less than 20 minutes. Tiara wrote down the name of the Soultrait, what it could be used for, and how much it cost to use the Soultrait. After that, Michael used Extraction to remove the Soultrait.

Given that Tiara had accepted the tendrils of Extraction to invade the deepest part of her being where the Soultrait Symbols were anchored, it was not that difficult to extract the Soultrait. It would have been a little different if she rejected the tendrils of Extraction and if she was hanging at the Soultrait Symbol desperately to prevent Michael from extracting it. But since that was not the case the extraction was smooth. It hurt Tiara a little but the damage was barely like a prick of a needle, something she could deal with.

It was far less painful than the time Michael removed Spirit Whip from his Sphere of Light. Therefore, they could continue with their experiment. Everyone fused a Soultrait to their War Rune at a time. They made detailed sheets and wrote down everything that could be useful to know. Once they were done they would walk up to Michael and allow him to remove the Soultrait Symbol once again.

By the time Michael called it a day, he was satisfied with their first trial. In total they had spent four hours fusing with 43 Soultrait Symbols, writing down their names and information, and removing the Soultraits once again.

Tiara and the Forest Elves were a little exhausted, but they were glad to be of help. Michael studied the information sheets and began to rank the Soultrait Symbols. He even ordered the Soultraits to make sure that he would put the Soultraits aside, which he wanted to give to Tiara and the Forest Elves after the other tasks had been finished.

'Invisible Projectile should definitely go to Mika. He will become our Divine Archer. But what about Shadow Cage and Shadow Spikes? They seem like a great combination to give someone who has no good Soultrait. Or maybe someone who already uses a Soultrait related to shadows and darkness?'

Creating theories about who to give certain Soultraits and how the Soultraits would affect their attack power was something Michael loved to do. It was very interesting and most definitely something he could work on all day.

However, instead of doing it all day, Michael put the Soultraits in the emerald box once he was done.

Interestingly enough there was only one big disappointment among the 43 Soultraits he had extracted. Everything else could become somewhat useful once upgraded, probably at least.

But not the Kitsun Lord's Soultrait. Shockingly enough, the Kitsun Lord's Soultrait was useless to Michael and the other Awakened. It had a highly restrictive pre-requisite to be utilized properly. It required the Awakened to possess a cloud-like lower body such as the Kitsun race's Kitsun Cloud to unleash its full power.

Therefore, the Kitsun Lord had been lucky to manifest his Soultrait, but it was of no value to Michael.

That was a shame.

'Well, whatever. I got 42 useful Soultraits and a shitload of SoulStar Fragments. And there are thousands of Summoning Scrolls waiting for me to be used!

Chapter 405 One Million

Since the Sphere of Light increased the number of SoulStar Fragments required to upgrade a Soultrait, Michael didn't have enough Fragments to upgrade one of his Soultraits to a 6-Star Soultrait. It was unfortunate, but maybe that was for the better. After all, his Soultraits were already quite powerful, and

it might be better to save the SoulStar Fragments to upgrade the Forest Elves' Soultraits once they decided to follow him until the end.

The only thing Michael desired to do with his SoulStar Fragments was to upgrade Glacicle to 5-Star. It was already at the border separating 4-Star from 5-Star, so Michael wouldn't have to spend too many SoulStar Fragments to complete the upgrade. Therefore, he did just that. He spent 1251 SoulStar Fragments to complete Glacicle's upgrade to a proper 5-Star Soultrait.

As the outlines of the fifth Star were filled to the brim, traces of information entered his mind. At first, the traces of information were shallow, but the pieces of information quickly evolved into tidal waves. Michael learned various new things about Glacicle, including a new power on how to use it. The latent potential of Glacicle was unleashed, unraveling new powers to use with little to no effort.

Michael tried to use one of the new powers right off the bat. He focused on Glacicle and created freezing mist around his hands. Since Glacicle was upgraded to a 5-Star Soultrait, Michael's immunity to cold temperatures increased drastically. The cold resistance was heightened with every creation made by Glacicle itself. Therefore, Michael didn't feel any discomfort as he controlled the freezing mist in his hands. It moved around him at his will and transformed into Glacicles on command. Creating and controlling freezing mist to a certain extent was one of his new powers.

The other new power was to alter the form of Glacicles to a higher degree. He could easily transform the freezing mist into Glacicles, or objects of similar shape. Conjuring a Glacicle Sword was also much easier than before. Even the compressed Glacicle Sword was not too difficult now that Glacicle was a 5-Star Soultrait.

'Control, a wider variety of uses, and the energy consumption for ordinary Glacicles decreased considerably. Compressed Glacicles cost as much energy as ordinary Glacicles required before I upgraded the Soultrait. That's pretty neat.'

Now all of Michael's combat-type Soultrait had reached 5-Star. This left Soul Grimoire as the only 1-Star Soultrait, and Mind Reader at four stars.

That was 9 Soultraits in total, creating a tremendous powerful ability set for Michael. The ability set was more than enough to deal with powerful enemies even if their War Rune was more refined than his. It was exceptional!

With dozens of Soultrait Symbols and more than 30,000 SoulStar Fragments left to use, Micheal had a great starting point. However, he decided not to rush anything. Instead, he diverted his focus to the loot extracted from the Kitsun.

"I extracted a total of 2,496 Artifacts. 469 Tier-1 Artifacts with most of them being either 1-Star or 2-Star, 1,995 Tier-2 Artifacts with the majority being 1-Star Artifacts, and 32 Tier-3 Artifacts. All Tier-3 Artifacts are either useless for me, or they don't fit anyone's combat style. What even is a Cloud Enhancing Belt?! I don't have my own personal Nimbus Cloud!" Michael grumbled a little but the smile on his face widened.

No matter how little use the Artifacts had to him, most of the Tier-1 Artifacts were Weapon Artifacts. It was a similar case for the pile of Tier-2 and Tier-3 Artifacts, even if it was not as prominent as it was in the pile of Tier-1 Artifacts. One way or another, Michael could earn more than two billion dollars by selling the Tier-1 and Tier-2 Artifacts. And that was the bare minimum he could get without negotiating. After a thorough inspection and finding the right buyers, Michael was more likely to get four billion, maybe even more.

This number didn't even take into account that he had 32 Tier-3 Artifacts. Procuring Tier-3 Artifacts was extremely difficult, especially natural Artifacts generated by the Will. The type of Artifact didn't even matter as long as its external enhancement was powerful. They were sought after and could be sold for hundreds of millions as long as they found the right customer.

Selling his gains to Kraft Viton was probably the best way to earn a fortune. But then again, Michael was not sure if he shouldn't try to barter with the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. They might not be able to give him the same amount of money as Kraft Viton – since they didn't use the same currency in the first place – but he should be able to purchase a wide variety of goods that were hard to come by in the human market.

'The Forest Elves might give me a good price as well. I should have someone appraise the Artifacts before collecting the offers from the Forest Elves, the Berserkers, and Kraft Viton to figure out from where I can gain most.'

Putting the Artifacts aside, Michael looked at the stash of blueprints. There were a total of 18,724 blueprints spread out in front of him. Michael saw a few familiar blueprints, but most of them were unknown.

Interestingly enough there were three types of wells, and fountains that were empowered with the energy accumulated within monster cores. They were quite interesting and could be used well in his settlement. It was worth taking into consideration to construct one of them since the Water Elemental Mage of his territory died in the Elementals Cave as well. Michael had to provide enough food and water for tens of thousands of subjects. Therefore, an abundant source of water nearby would be welcome. That was for sure.

"Sort the blueprints and write down every single one of them. I want a report about the blueprints once you're done," Michael ordered the workers, who immediately started to organize the blueprints right off the bat.

'Now to the most important part of the day!' Michael ticked off one item off his to-do list, letting the workers do their jobs without paying too much attention to them.

A huge pile of Summoning Scrolls and Summoning Scroll Fragments emerged in front of him. Michael took a deep breath and smiled vibrantly as he released his energy to engulf the Summoning Scrolls and Fragments to count them properly.

"27,040 Summoning Scrolls, and 1,331,200 Summoning Scroll Fragments. That's what I call a jackpot!" Michael exclaimed, rubbing his hands in excitement.

In fact, the number of Summoning Scrolls he extracted was a little less than what Michael expected. He thought that he would easily obtain more than 30,000 Summoning Scrolls since most Kitsun were already at the 2nd Tier. Despite that, the Fragments were the reason why Michael was truly happy.

The Summoning Scroll Fragments were enough to form exactly 53,248 Summoning Scrolls, or 133 Mythic Scrolls with an extra 1200 Summoning Scroll Fragments. That was quite exciting, and it made Michael's heart do a little happy dance.

133 Mythic Scrolls should be enough to summon a dozen 3-Star Summons. The probability of summoning a 4-Star Summon was also not too low. One 4-Star Summon should appear within 133 Mythic Scrolls. At least, that was what Michael was hoping for.

Losing 1,500 trained combatants had been quite harsh on Michael and his people, but that could be solved with 133 Mythic Scrolls or more than 50,000 Ordinary Summoning Scrolls.

However, before Michael could decide whether he wanted to transform the Summoning Scroll Fragments into 133 Mythic Scrolls or 50,000+ Ordinary Summoning Scrolls, he noticed that the Summoning Scroll Fragments began to stir.

Some Fragments escaped his shroud of energy by force and ascended high into the air where they revolved around each other. More and more Summoning Scroll Fragments escaped Michael's grasp. They revolved around each other as thousands, no, tens of thousands of them began to swirl around in a circle.

The number of Fragments shrouded by Michael's energy decreased rapidly. Several minutes passed in the blink of an eye before less than 350,000 Summoning Scroll Fragments were still in his shroud of energy. There were exactly 331,200 left now.

As for the one million Summoning Scroll Fragments that revolved around each other... they pulled closer to each other and merged with one another. The merging process was similar to how Mythic Scrolls were formed from 10,000 Fragments. But it was not the same. It was on a completely different scale!

The parchment of the fragments changed in color as the million Summoning Scroll Fragments were sucked into each other until there was only one left.

A single Summoning Scroll conjured from the merging of one million Summoning Scroll Fragments.

The Scroll was golden in color and had a vibrant ruby seal that contained the tremendous power of the Summoning Scroll.

"Is that...What is that?!?" Tiara blurted out as goosebumps appeared all over her body. She had never seen, let alone felt something like the golden scroll. Its presence was enough to stir her heart and force her to retreat.

It was terrifying, yet a vibrant smile appeared on Michael's face. He glanced over to Lilica, whose expression was filled with shock. She barely regained her senses and her gaze flicked to Michael, only to shudder ever so slightly.

"Is that what I think it is?" Lilica asked uncertainty in her voice.

"I guess it is," Michael responded, his eyes shimmering brightly as he stared at the golden scroll that was engulfed in a golden hue. The golden hue felt heavy which made it hard to approach it. However, Michael ignored the heaviness as much as possible.

"It is a Legendary Summoning Scroll!"

Chapter 406 Legendary Cripple

Michael's hands trembled in excitement as he picked the Legendary Summoning Scroll. It weighed heavily in his hands even though its actual weight was not even 500 grams.

'A Legendary Summoning Scroll...is that actually one?!' Michael wondered, barely able to contain his excitement.

Legendary Summoning Scrolls were said to be among the most precious treasures within Ancient Ruins, Rifts, and Dungeons. They could also be procured outside these unique places, but there was only a minuscule chance to have one Legendary Summoning Scroll dropped from the corpse of a Mythical Existence.

Just like Mythic Summoning Scrolls dropped from Superior Existences every now and then, Mythical Existences dropped Legendary Summoning Scrolls – though rarely.

Yet, someone like Michael could procure Legendary Summoning Scrolls by combining a million Summoning Scroll Fragments. How insane was that?

'If I extract the Summoning Scroll Fragments from an Ordinary Summoning Scroll....will 27,000 Ordinary Summoning Scrolls and 331,200 Fragments be enough to form a second Legendary Scroll?' Michael wondered all of a sudden. His eyes moved to the stash of Ordinary Scrolls and his eyes began to glimmer. There was only one way to find out.

Thus, he used Extraction on ten Summoning Scrolls to find out how many fragments he obtained.

Unfortunately, he was disappointed big time with this experiment. Using Extraction on 10 Ordinary Summoning Scrolls rewarded him with merely 100 Summoning Scroll Fragments. That was a lot less than Michael had hoped for.

'100,000 Summoning Scrolls for 1 Legendary Summoning Scroll...

Well, that is actually better than I expected. A Legendary Summoning Scroll is likely to Summon a 5-Star Summon, after all.'

Michael had yet to use Extraction on Summoning Scrolls purchased on the market. He never tried to do that, but he could instinctively feel that Extraction wouldn't be able to obtain as many Fragments as he received from the Scrolls he had procured through hard work.

'Even if Extraction can only extract 5 Fragments from a purchased Ordinary Scroll that means I would need 200,000 Scrolls to form one Legendary Summoning Scroll. If an Ordinary Summoning Scroll costs 5,000\$, I would have to spend one billion...that is...actually quite feasible.'

Even if the rate of Extraction were to be much lower than anticipated, Michael doubted that he would have to pay more than 10 billion to procure enough Ordinary Scrolls to form a Legendary Summoning Scroll.

The only issue was that no shop would allow Michael to mass purchase that many Summoning Scrolls. The demand for Summoning Scrolls was always extremely high. Thus, shops were regulated to avoid selling too many Summoning Scrolls to Lords. Every Lord had only a specific monthly quota that was adjusted according to their Society Rank, Tier, and unique achievements.

As a Tier-2 Lord without special Society Rank or achievements, Michael could probably purchase 50,000 Summoning Scrolls a month, but that was about it.

Therefore, it would be much easier to use his funds differently. He could still get hold of 50,000 Summoning Scrolls a month and extract them to slowly accumulate the Fragments required to conjure another Legendary Scroll, but it would be a slow and arduous process. Even then it should be worth it.

But those thoughts and ideas were for the future. For now, he has one Legendary Scroll, 27,040 Ordinary Scrolls, and 331,200 Summoning Scroll Fragments to use.

330,000 Summoning Scroll Fragments were merged into 33 Mythic Scrolls, leaving Michael with enough chances to summon a few 3-Star Summons.

While that would have excited him before, Michael's whole attention had moved to the Legendary Scroll.

"Even if I'm extremely unlucky, the worst Summon I can get will be a 4-Star with one unique trait," Michael mumbled, while Lilica spoke his next thought aloud,

"Of course, you hope to be lucky enough to summon a 5-Star Summon, maybe even a 6-Star Summon."

Michael was not too sure about the probability for each star rating, but he had heard rumors about someone summoning a 7-Star Summon with a Legendary Summoning Scroll. That was something one could usually only get by being extremely fortunate when using a Fortune Summoning Scroll.

Michael knew his luck well enough to understand that he wouldn't be able to contain his excitement and expectations anymore, Michael left the warehouse and moved to the Summoning Gate. All Scrolls were stored in his storage whereas the Legendary Scroll rested in his hands. It vibrated violently as if eager to be used immediately.

That was exactly what Michael intended to do. He tore the ruby seal from the Legendary Scroll the moment he reached the Summoning Gate. His impatience was evident as Michael stared at the Legendary Scroll as it unfolded itself.

The golden scroll ascended into the air through the will of unknown forces. It revolved around Michael while revealing the content written within it.

Michael was curious about the ominous black letters written on the golden parchment, but he didn't dare to use Extraction to extract the wisp of knowledge that the Legendary Scroll contained.

It would be interesting to get to know more about the summoning principle, but it wasn't worth potentially destroying a Legendary Scroll merely to obtain some sort of information.

The golden scroll stopped revolving around him as a trace of resolve entered Michael's mind. He knew what kind of Summons he required the most right now.

Combatants!! The more high-ranked combatants with great potential the better.

Michael stared at the Legendary Scroll with a firm resolve. However, the moment the Legendary Scroll dashed toward the energy pool of the Summoning Gate, Michael closed his eyes.

He didn't dare to look at the Summoning Gate, fearing that his cursed luck would result in turning the Legendary Scroll's great power into a non-combat 4-Star Summon.

Of course, that wouldn't be bad either, but it was not what Michael wanted.

obtain a 7-Star Summon. But what about a 6-Star?

"Oh my gosh!" Liopham blurted aloud. That was not common for the Forest Elf, but the same could be said for the usually quiet Pheli.

"Wow. That's amazing!" She squealed, shaking Opars who was standing next to her with his eyes wide open.

Curious about what was going on, Michael opened his eyes. He looked straight at the Summoning Gate where six bright stars illuminated the Gate's frame.

"6-Star!!" Tiara exclaimed at the same moment.

'As if?!' Michael's mind thundered, and his heart began to beat wildly. He pressed his hands together and grit his teeth trying to suppress his excitement.

Any type of 6-Star Summon would be great, but Michael hoped that his last bits of luck wouldn't betray him right now.

'A combat Summon please!' He screamed in his heart as the outlines of the Summons formed in the energy pool.

Time slowed down for Michael as his entire being focused on the situation ahead of him. The 6-Star Summon emerged from the Summoning Gate, revealing his imposing figure to the outside world – or so Michael had hoped to happen.

Unfortunately, reality looked a little bit different from what Michael had been hoping for. The 6-Star Summon in front of him was not a huge wall of muscle but an old man wearing silver armor that seemed way too heavy for him.

The old man moved slowly from the Summoning Gate's stage, the heavy armor pulling him downward. But that was not all. A huge broadsword was fastened to the backside of his armor. A single glance was enough to tell that the huge broadsword was, at least, as heavy as the old man's heavy armor.

'What the fu—...' Michael was just about to curse when he noticed that the old man slipped. The old man was about to fall when Michael shot forward to break his newest summon's fall. He caught the old man and felt the weight of the old man's armor and sword for the first time as well.

"Holy shit!" Michael cursed aloud. 'That's fucking heavy! How can this old man even move in this heavy armor? Isn't he Tierless?!'

Despite looking like a roughed-up man in his 70s or 80s, the old man summoned to his territory as a 6-Star Summon was quite powerful. The armor and sword he wielded must be weighing hundreds of kilograms, yet the old man could walk around it despite being Tierless.

He might have had difficulties walking and fell over near the edge of the Summoning Gate's platform, but that was not the important part.

Michael removed the heavy broadsword from the old man's back, which allowed the old man to move freely. Circulating energy through his body to make sure he could carry the broadsword somewhat

easily, Michael stared at the old man for a while. Only then did he realize that one of his arms was missing, replaced by a prosthetic arm that moved like an ordinary arm would.

'That is my 6-Star Summon? I...don't know what to think about that...' Michael thought, feeling a little let down as the Link of Loyalty with the unknown old man was formed.

The Link of Loyalty was not firm, but it wasn't shallow either. It provided him with a fair amount of information upon getting completed, which was how Michael found out who the old man was and what he was capable of.

"Head of the Sacred Knight temple. Also known as the Immortal Knight Siegfried Dragoon," Michael mumbled which the Immortal Knight responded with a faint chuckle.

"Since you were able to Summon me I can hardly call myself Immortal Knight don't you think so...my Lord?" Siegfried Dragoon asked with a chuckle. He realized quickly that the Link of Loyalty suggested he call Michael 'Lord'. That didn't sit well with the Head of the Sacred Knight Temple. Unfortunately, he couldn't do anything about that since his Lord had yet to allow him to ignore the formalities.

"You must have survived countless battles to be honored as the Immortal Knight. Of course, a title is just that, a name given by others. It doesn't mean that you're actually immortal," Michael responded with a shrug, his gaze lingering on the old man.

"Something about you feels different. Will you ever be able to fight?" Michael asked rather straightforwardly when he sensed that something about the old man was off. Siegfried Dragoon might be physically powerful, more so than others. However, something deep inside him seemed to torment him. That was what Michael sensed through the faint link of loyalty at least.

"Your perception is quite good. Our Link of Loyalty has just been completed, yet you can already tell that something is wrong with my constitution," Siegfried Dragoon said, a sad smile forming on his lips. "Since you're worried about my combat prowess, I think I should tell you about it now rather than later."

Siegfried paused for a second before he continued.

"I won't be able to fight for you."

Michael tried not to sigh the moment the words rang through his ears. He could have guessed that already. It was such a shame.

Unfortunately, his 6-Star Summon didn't seem tha— " But I can reconstruct the Sacred Knight Temple with the powers I possess." Siegfried said, a smile forming on his lips.

"Your powers?" Michael asked, a glimmer of hope resurfacing in his eyes.

"I have the power to instruct and train your subjects. I can stimulate their latent potential and turn them into 1-Star Blessed Squires, 2-Star Holy Knights, or even 3-Star Sacred Knights if their potential, loyalty, and belief are strong enough!!"

Michael froze in front of the old man when he heard what he said. It took him a few moments to digest what he heard just now.

'I hit the fucking jackpot!!'

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Chapter 407 Sacred Knight Temple

Too many aspects about the 6-Star Immortal Knight called Siegfried Dragoon confused Michael quite a bit.

For a Summon to have 6-Stars, their potential must be impeccable, they must have attained various achievements and their power must have been great. However, all Michael could see in front of him was an old man, who was quite strong but unable to participate in battles, let alone war.

The only reason Michael was not frustrated about summoning Siegfried Dragoon with the Legendary Scroll was that the Immortal Knight could reconstruct the Sacred Knight Temple.

Temples were facilities similar to the training grounds. But while training grounds didn't provide any special advantages, Temples possessed the function to harness the power of the beings entering it. The comprehension and training progress of anyone entering the temple would improve drastically. At the

same time, Temples had the power to promote and change the occupations of Summons as long as they reached the necessary requirements.

These requirements didn't include enlightenment, but that didn't mean the conditions to be promoted in a Temple were easy to fulfill.

That was part of the reason why the Immortal Knight said that he possessed the power to stimulate the latent potential of Michael's subjects.

Unfortunately, constructing a temple wasn't an easy task. It required hundreds of unique devices that could only be produced with blueprints. Therefore, one had to collect hundreds of blueprints before one could even think about starting the construction of a temple. As for the Sacred Knight Temple, it was an advanced construction with the means to promote Summons to 1-Star Blessed Squires, 2-Star Holy Knights, and even 3-Star Sacred Knights.

If Michael was not wrong, he would have to collect more than a thousand blueprints and collect various objects that harbored Divine Energy.

"You don't have to be worried about the blueprints or the Sacred Knight Temple's library. The Will provided me with a storage device that contains all the books and blueprints required to construct the Sacred Knight Temple. If not for the Will's generosity I would have been quite useless until the Sacred Knight Temple had been constructed," Siegfried Dragoon said in all honesty before he added, "Even though my unique traits are dependent on the level of the Sacred Knight Temple, I can use my traits to a certain extent. It shouldn't be an issue to train a few Blessed Squires while you focus on the construction of the Sacred Knight Temple."

The Immortal Knight retrieved a small medallion which he handed over without a second thought. The medallion was a storage device that contained tens of thousands of books, and hundreds of blueprints.

'Well, damn. Looks like I have a new large-scale construction project to work on.' Michael mused to himself before he turned back to the Immortal Knight.

Michael had noticed something particular when Siegfried spoke and he was intrigued enough to find out more.

"What do you mean that your traits depend on the level of the Sacred Knight Temple? Does that mean you are bound to the Sacred Knight Temple and that your traits will get stronger alongside the construction progress of the temple? If that's the case, what are your traits and how powerful are they right now?" Michael asked, his eyes filled with curiosity.

Having a powerful 6-Star Combat Summon would have been nice as well, but Michael felt that having the means to create his own army filled with Sacred Knights, Holy Knights, and Blessed Squires was a lot better. He was not sure how strong Blessed Squires were, but 1-Star Summons with unique occupations were usually a lot stronger than ordinary occupations. Therefore, Blessed Squires should be stronger than Warriors.

"I am indeed bound to the Sacred Knight Temple. The bond is also why I am capable of channeling Holy Power through others to stimulate and harness their bodies. That way, I can help soon-to-be Knights gather Holy Power a lot faster than they would by practicing the techniques that I'll teach them. Other than the Holy Power stimulation, I am also pretty good at instructing others. This is the second trait I possess; Instruction. Summons will learn combat from me within half the time they would usually require to understand certain facts about their weapon and how to utilize it efficiently. My traits will grow stronger as I complete the Basic Level of the Sacred Knight Temple. It won't be difficult to train dozens, if not hundreds of Blessed Knights at that point."

The more the Immortal Knight spoke the better Michael felt about having summoned someone like that old man. His earlier worries and disappointment disappeared into thin air as he realized what a valuable resource he had obtained. It was truly exceptional.

Of course, Siegfried required numerous things to unleash the full extent of his power. The Sacred Knight Temple had to be constructed, which was an extremely expensive task. It was a humongous project since the Sacred Knight Temple required various training facilities, sleeping rooms with special engravings that allowed the trainees to gather Holy Power even in their sleep, a gigantic library, places to pray and harness their minds, and whatnot. It wouldn't be easy to create the temple even if Michael was not in possession of the blueprints and books for the temple's library.

'Should I just sell the Mythic Scrolls alongside the Artifacts? Maybe that will be enough to purchase the materials to construct the Sacred Knight Temple. Or maybe it won't be enough? Though...it should suffice for the Basic level of the Sacred Knight Temple. That would already be quite helpful to create a small army of Blessed Squires, and a handful of Holy Knights...right?' Michael thought, retrieving a bunch of blueprints to figure out what materials he required and how high the level his engineers, crafter, enchanter, blacksmiths, and other subjects had to be at to construct the unique devices.

"It looks like the next few months will be a big mess. I need money...

loads of it," That was Michael's first thought. Lilica, Tiara, and the other Forest Elven Adventurers moved to Michael's side, intrigued about the blueprints their Lord had just retrieved.

Siegfried looked around and sensed the atmosphere around him. The Lord was the center of the territory, but as an old man who had lived for centuries before he succumbed, the Immortal Knight was able to tell a lot more about territories and the pillars that supported the development of the territory.

Using his superior perception, the Immortal Knight could immediately sense that the atmosphere in Michael's territory was filled with trust and loyalty. Both were required to become trainees in the Sacred Knight Temple. However, there was also something else that hung heavily in the air.

'The trust of some Summons decreased not long ago. But not for all of them. Why? The aura of death around the Lord is thick and heavy. He killed many enemies less than a week ago. Was his territory in war with another Lord? Did he lose the trust of some Summons because his military force was not on par with the Lord's individual combat prowess? Or was there something else?... Seems like I have to find out more about our Lord before it's too late...The Sacred Knight Temple and my powers cannot be in the hands of an unworthy Lord,' The Immortal Knight thought, his gaze shifting back to Michael.

'If you're unworthy, I will take back everything I gave...and I will make sure that nobody will be able to possess my powers. I would rather die and let my legacy disperse than follow an unworthy Lord!'

Michael noticed the attention he received from his new Summon. He couldn't guess what the Immortal Knight was thinking about, but Michael didn't have to be a genius to understand that most Summons with a high star rating were stubborn and unwilling to serve someone they didn't consider worthy. That was quite common to find among Summons with a high star rating since most of them had been powerful Lords in the past themselves.

For someone like the Immortal Knight to be a 6-Star Summons even though he was incapable of fighting he must have been a powerful Lord in the past. Siegfried Dragoon's achievements must have been exceptional and his knowledge as vast as the ocean to be resurrected as a 6-Star Summon even if he didn't possess the means to fight for himself.

'Just watch me!' Michael shouted in his mind, staring back at the Immortal Knight with a confident smile.

He then retrieved the remaining blueprints and gave them to Tiara.

"Please organize the blueprints and check what we need to construct the Basic level of the Sacred Knight Temple first. If you have the time, make a thorough report about the workforce required to construct the temple, the materials we need for every level, the costs to maintain the temple once completed, and whatever else you can think of," Michael ordered Tiara, who nodded her head.

He glanced over to Lilica and Opars before gesturing with his head to make sure that the two Forest Elves would follow Tiara.

Now that he could put aside the issues about the Sacred Knight temple for an hour or two until Tiara returned with the detailed report to read through, Michael returned his focus back to the summoning process.

He decided against selling the Mythic Scrolls and used all 33 Mythic Summoning Scrolls simultaneously. Michael was in dire need of powerful subordinates right now, and he couldn't get himself to sell the Mythic Scrolls. They were just too valuable for his territory's development. Furthermore, he had yet to hunt the remaining Kitsun in the Untamed Jungle.

By killing the remaining Kitsun, Michael could probably farm enough SoulStar Fragments and Ordinary Scrolls to make some quick cash.

Then again, Michael had a much better idea to make a fortune even if the prospect of actually doing it disgusted Michael.

'If it helps my territory...I might as well do it...'

Chapter 408 Trade

Michael was now standing in front of the Summoning Gate with 33 Mythic Summoning Scrolls and 27,040 Ordinary Summoning Scrolls surrounding him. He released his energy outside his body and broke the seals of all Scrolls simultaneously.

The Ordinary Scrolls and Mythic Scrolls began to unfurl and ascend into the air before they shot straight into the energy pool of the Summoning Gate.

What followed was rows of Summons stepping out from the Summoning Gate. There were thousands of them and most of them were confused, unsure what was going on.

Fortunately, Michael had already notified his people to move to the Summoning Gate and act as tour guides through the settlement. His subjects would show the newcomers around and tell them all about the settlement to make sure that the new Summons could settle down quickly into their new home.

It was a good thing that Michael didn't have a lot to do to integrate his new subjects into the territory. 27,073 new Links of Loyalty were formed near-simultaneously, which affected Michael for a while. It didn't hurt to create many Links of Loyalty simultaneously, but the information about his new subjects, and the bits of Soul Power every new Link of Loyalty provided weren't something one could digest that quickly.

Michael had 39,000ish Links of Loyalty until now, but the number increased to more than 66,000 within minutes. It was only obvious, but Michael had to spend a minute or two to digest the influx of information.

'Is that some sort of joke?' Michael nearly blurted aloud when he foraged through the new Links of Loyalty to learn more about his new subjects' occupations.

"Since when is my luck so twisted?" He wondered when he noticed that 25,952 out of 27,040 Summons resurrected through Ordinary Scrolls turned out to be 0-Star Summons. Among the remaining 1,088 Summons not even 100 turned out to be Warriors, Archers, Assassins, or any other type of Combat Summon. Most 1-Star Summons in today's Summoning session were carpenters, engineers, Alchemy Apprentices, Locksmith Apprentices, and a lot more other non-combat occupations.

Even among the 33 Summons that entered his territory through the Mythic Summoning Scrolls, only two of them were Combat Summons; Berserkers at that. The remaining 31 Summons were either Alchemists, Blacksmiths, Architects, or Master Engineers. He was lucky enough to summon four 3-Star Summons with 33 Mythic Scrolls, but they weren't Combat Summons either. One was a Master Locksmith, another one was a Grand Thief, while the remaining two were Supreme Bakers.

Michael was happy about the Bakers. Their arrival was more than welcome for a glutton like him.

But despite the happiness, Michael felt a little weird as well. Until now he never summoned such a low number of Combat Summons. He didn't summon any monsters, or Demi-Humans either.

'Did I mess up the summoning probability by inserting the Kitsun Lord's Summoning Cores in the Summoning Gate? No...that shouldn't be it. Was I just unlucky? No. I cannot really call myself unlucky either. I have the Sacred Knight Temple and Warrior Enlightenment Potions to create more combatants...'

At first, Michael was a little displeased about the lack of Combat Summons in today's summoning session. Given the number of combatants he lost in the recent war against the Kitsun Lord, he had been hopeful to fill up the numbers to some extent. However, he quickly found himself accepting the situation. Even without the Sacred Knight Temple, Michael didn't really have a reason to complain. He had a total of 11 purified Summoning Cores that would summon 11 Summons with either one or two stars every day. There was no need to worry too much about the lack of military power in his territory.

If anything, Michael should worry about the lack of funds for the Sacred Knight Temple. Once Michael's assistants finished taking notes about the new Summons, Michael read through their reports. He found out that many Starless Summons were willing to fight as long as they could gain the benefits provided to the military.

These benefits included special techniques, Energy Nourishing Pills, and Body Strengthening Pills. While it was likely that the military force would have to fight life-and-death battles in the future, the Energy Nourishing Pills and Body Strengthening Pills allowed the Summons to change their fate, receive better perks, and improve their status amongst peers.

They had been no names in the past, but now they gained the opportunity to change this. Their new lives as the subordinates of a generous Lord were an opportunity to make up for the regrets of their past. If they died at the hands of monsters in the past, they would now give their utmost to grow strong enough to be the ones hunting monsters. In the future, they would get to know the other people in the settlement, and they might even find the love of their life. By then, they would need the strength to protect their loved ones and earn enough to make sure that their loved ones would live in luxury.

Michael had yet to learn how to motivate his subjects actively to ensure that his military force would expand quickly, but that didn't seem to be much of a problem now that he had the opportunity to construct the Sacred Knight Temple. The Sacred Knight Temple's existence would be more than enough to motivate thousands of Starless Summons to try and change their destiny. If they had the means to fulfill the requirements, the Starless Summons might as well become 3-Star Sacred Knights in the future.

Becoming 3-Star Summons would elevate their status significantly, and they would be given far more resources than most, therefore resulting in their Tier increasing faster.

In turn, that would increase their lifespan, allowing them to live a much longer life than the average. Their fate would change and they would enter an unknown future full of possibilities.

After understanding what he lacked the most, Michael wanted to construct the Sacred Knight Temple as soon as possible. Since he was not good at holding speeches, and manipulation, he wanted to use other means to make up for everything he lacked.

Thus, Michael retrieved the Memory Orb of the Kitsun Lord once he received Tiara's thorough report about the materials and manpower required to construct the Sacred Knight Temple.

"I looked through the materials and noticed that the Forest Elven Tribe might have everything you need. Do you want me to ask if I can bring the materials later?" Lilica asked not long before Michael wanted to digest the Memory Orb, "The goods for the Basic Level of the temple may be expensive, but I am pretty sure that I can negotiate with the Elders."

Michael tilted his head and considered the possibilities for a moment. Instead of leaving the Origin Expanse and asking the Berserkers, Warlock Centaurs and Kraft Viton how much they would offer for his Artifacts, he might as well stay in the Origin Expanse and make use of the time dilation effect inside the expanse to have more time to spend elsewhere.

Lilica and the other Forest Elves of the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team had to leave for a while to speak to the Elders either way. They had to talk to them about the changes of the Links of Loyalty and the Soul Pact that Michael had proposed in exchange for providing the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team with SoulStar Fragments and Soultrait Symbols.

Since they had to leave the Origin Expanse for some time either way, Lilica might as well make use of that time to sell all Artifacts, or trade them for the materials to construct the first level of the Sacred Knight temple. The Artifacts should be valuable enough to purchase the required materials. Even if they weren't, Michael could provide more goods soon enough.

"Do you need Artifacts ranging from Tier-1 to Tier-3?" Michael asked Lilica, who nodded almost instantaneously.

"Of course, we need Artifacts. Which race doesn't need Artifacts?" She responded with a light chuckle. Michael just smiled and retrieved all Artifacts he had extracted from the Kitsun not too long ago.

"In that case, please trade them with the materials required to construct the Sacred Knight Temple's basic level. If it's not enough, tell the Elders that I will pay the rest in a few days," Michael told Lilica, who flashed a bright smile at him.

Somehow, her smile looked scheming, which worsened even more as Lilica added, "Don't worry. I will get everything you need even if I have to sell my kidneys!"

'You don't have to go that far.' Michael thought but he just smiled back at her.

"Can you provide one of our best rooms to Siegfried Dragoon if he wants to rest now? If not, please give him a tour of the settlement. He must be curious about his new home," Michael ordered Tiara, while knowing that the Immortal Knight was actively listening to their discussion.

Michael had also noticed that the Immortal Knight inspected his surroundings with great interest and vigilance. Even if Michael hadn't ordered Tiara to give him a tour, the Immortal Knight would have found his way through the territory sooner or later.

"I will excuse myself now. I have a date with a sadistic bastard," Michael said, joking lightly before he turned away.

The Immortal Knight didn't know what Michael was talking about but Tiara and the Forest Elves frowned when they heard what he said. They saw the Memory Orb in his hands and knew exactly what would happen.

Michael didn't really want to witness the Kitsun Lord's memories, especially not the memories of him committing all those disgusting acts, but the potential gains were more than enough reason to give it a go – even more so now that he needed to find out where the Kitsun Lord hid his wealth. He had a Sacred Knight Temple to build, after all!

"No risk no fun...or so they say..." Michael muttered as he reached his room in the wooden manor.

He consumed the Kitsun Lord's Memory Orb and witnessed the memories of Haro Ki as if they were his own.

Chapter 409 Memories

409 Memories

Haro Ki's life and choices had been predetermined from the moment he was born.

The Ki family was not a family with high social standing, but they were successful merchants that focused on the production of elemental crystals and element seeds. One of the Ancestors of the Ki family raised a newborn Lesser Elemental to become an Elemental Emperor by nurturing it for several centuries. Unfortunately, the Elemental Core of the Elemental Emperor sustained massive cracks as the Core of a Lesser Elemental was never supposed to advance to an Emperor-level Core.

Despite the cracks, the Elemental Emperor was able to produce an heir by sacrificing a part of his damaged Core. The Emperor created another Emperor-Level Core that would birth an Elemental Emperor once enough origin energy had been supplemented to it.

The Ancestor of the Ki family from a thousand years ago was already old and he didn't have anything of value left. His territory was about to disappear due to his unhealthy obsession with the Elemental Emperor. All that was on his mind had been the Elemental Emperor rather than the protection of his territory.

Therefore he lost his territory all while the Elemental Emperor he raised with painstaking efforts died. Only the Emperor Core was left behind. Too old and weak to raise another Elemental Emperor, the Ancestor of the Ki family decided to hand over the Emperor Core to his youngest son. His youngest son was still in possession of a territory. It was large and filled with resources that could be used to nurture the Emperor Core, create an Elemental Emperor, and use the Elementals to fight one's enemies.

From the day the ancestor handed over the Emperor Core to one of his descendants, it became a tradition to create Emperor and Empress Cores for the descendants of the Ki family, therefore allowing the subsequent generation of the Ki family to create their own society of elementals that would fight for them.

Haro Ki was no different. His War Rune manifested when he reached adulthood, and he obtained the only Empress Core his father's Elemental Emperor had been able to produce over the course of decades. Raised in an environment filled with the desire to torture their servants and slaves, Haro Ki never thought that it was wrong to hurt others. On the contrary, he believed that others should feel grateful that he was willing to hurt them. It was a sign that he was interested in witnessing their pain. They should thank him for that kind of generosity!

However, while Haro Ki was interested in inflicting pain and suffering on others, he quickly lost interest in continuously torturing his slaves and servants. They didn't react much to his actions, which made him feel bored quickly. Therefore, the Origin Expanse turned out to be a heavenly place that was made for him.

The moment he entered the Origin Expanse, he learned about the true pleasure provided by torturing those who never felt much pain, in the first place. His territory was located in the Untamed Jungle, which ought to be a disadvantage. The weakest monsters located in the Untamed Jungle were at the Lowest Tier-1 with Common combat prowess. That should be strong enough to deal with a Mid Inferior Tier-1 Kitsun. In fact, even three Mid Inferior Tier-1 Kitsun might not be able to deal with the monsters of the Untamed Jungle. The jungle monsters knew their territory well and possessed enough intelligence to use the surrounding environment to their advantage.

But it was not a disadvantage for Haro Ki. He awakened the Cloud Domain less than a minute after he entered the Origin Expanse. Afterward, he used the ten days grace period granted by the Will through the protection barrier that protected every newly constructed territory for the first ten days of its appearance. Haro Ki accumulated the Cloud Domain while being still inside the territory's protected area. Then he spread the Cloud Domain to strike monsters in their sleep. He shrouded them with the Cloud Domain, deprived them of their sight, the ability to absorb the surrounding energy, and the oxygen they needed desperately to survive.

Suffocating them slowly, Haro Ki's Cloud Domain expanded and he continued to hunt monsters without a need to enter the dangerous areas. His Soultrait might have been rather low-ranked but since it possessed an extremely high restriction, it harbored tremendous power. Not everyone possessed a gaseous body part. Therefore, Haro Ki had been extremely fortunate to manifest the Cloud Domain – even more so since the Cloud Domain was a perfect tool to torture a large number of people at once and make them suffer as much as possible.

Haro Ki enjoyed watching the monsters of the Untamed Jungle suffer as they suffocated due to his attacks. He advanced to Tier-1 quickly and expanded his territory inch by inch. It didn't take long before he had accumulated enough energy to awaken the Empress Core he had obtained from his father.

It was time to awaken the Elemental Empress of his territory. But beforehand, Haro Ki collected a wide variety of Soul Pacts to make sure that he could bind the Elemental Empress to himself by force.

Haro Ki spent his time channeling energy into the Empress Core in which several weeks passed. The Elemental Empress was born after the 4th week, and her fate for the next decade was predetermined by her birth. She was forced into signing a Soul Pact even before her form had taken shape, and she was bound to Haro Ki.

After this day, a period of excitement and pleasure began for Haro Ki. He began to torture the Elemental Empress, and force her to create more Elemental Cores which would then result in the birth of dozens of Lesser Elementals. While he tortured the Lesser Elementals, many died at Haro Ki's hands until he decided to use the Lesser Elementals as a combat force against his enemies in the Savannah region.

Five territories lay adjacent to the border of the Untamed Jungle. None of the territories dared to expand into the Untamed Jungle, but they fought each other to determine the true Ruler of the Savannah region. Neither had expected the attacks of a Lord who spawned in the Untamed Jungle. One of the territories was overrun by 10,000 Lesser Elementals – mostly because the Fire Elementals turned themselves into large-scale bombs that tore down the settlements of their enemies. The memories spreading through Michael jumped a few years ahead to Haro Ki using the Cloud Domain against a Lord who had annexed several other territories. The Lord's military power exceeded 100,000 combatants and he was crowned as the most likely candidate to become the ruler of the Savannah region. He was feared by many due to his tremendous power.

However, the Lord couldn't do anything against Haro Ki's Cloud Domain...not after Haro Ki sacrificed 20,000 Kitsun to drain their energy and Kitsun Cloud to expand his Cloud Domain faster and increase its power. The Cloud Domain continued to drain the surrounding energy and oxygen to expand over the course of 24 hours, watching the enemies suffer until Haro Ki finally decided to infiltrate the enemy's territory with it. The Cloud Domain spread throughout a large portion of the enemy's territory, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians even before it reached the main army of the Lord. The Lord put up a brave fight against the tremendous power of the Cloud Domain, but he failed at the end of the day. Haro Ki utilized the exceptional power of the Cloud Domain very well. All he had to pay attention to was to cancel the utilization of Cloud Domain once it reached a specific size. After it crossed a certain threshold even the Kitsun Lord couldn't control the Cloud Domain anymore. This threshold naturally increased as Haro Ki accumulated more Soul Power by advancing his Tier and expanding his territory's population. Once the Lord and his army of 100,000 members had been eliminated, the Kitsun Lord was unstoppable. He looted his enemy's corpses with a simple touch and harvested the goods generated by the Will of the Origin Expanse to expand his territory and summon more Kitsun. At the same time, he

digested the energy influx obtained from every kill slowly and steadily, improving his Tier over the course of time.

Even though Cloud Domain was a powerful Soultrait, it had a long cooldown. The larger the size of the expanded cloud and the longer he used it, the longer Haro Ki had to wait for the cooldown to end before he could use his Soultrait once again. That was a big downside of his...1-Star Soultrait. It was extremely powerful due to its restrictions but the restrictions were also what deemed such a lethal Soultrait to be just a 1-Star Soultrait. It could only be utilized by a few beings, and those beings could only draw out their full potential once every few months. Therefore, Haro Ki decided not to rely on his Soultrait all the time. He created Beast Ranches with bloodthirsty beasts and focused more on the Elemental Empress – something he loved to do. His obsessiveness with the Elemental Empress increased, which resulted in the creation of many more Soul Pacts that wore down the Elemental Empress both physically and mentally.

Instead of continuing to expand his territory right after the cooldown of Cloud Domain ended, Haro Ki decided to come up with a foolproof plan to eliminate the three most tenacious Lords bordering his territory; the Valyr, the Zynur, and the Laprix. Their territory was located next to each other and Haro Ki wanted to make use of that.

He desired to attack the three Lords simultaneously, using Cloud Domain's true power to the full extent once he advanced to a Higher Lifeform. He had amassed more than enough wealth and means of transportation for everything necessary. Yet, before he could even make use of his entire wealth an unknown variable had shown up, foiling his carefully crafted plan.

Michael Fang, a Lord from the Untamed Jungle appeared out of nowhere...and he took what was the most important to him.

He took the Elemental Empress!!

Chapter 410 Kitsun Lord's Wealth

The day Haro Ki lost the Elemental Empress his obsessiveness overshadowed rational thinking and his gut feeling that was telling him to stop right there and to eliminate his enemy's roots before anything else.

Haro Ki could have eliminated Michael easily, however, his obsessiveness forced him to search for the Elemental Empress and pursue her to get her back no matter the cost.

But that was exactly what cost his territory a lot...and the reason why Haro Ki died at the end of the day.

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Groaning in pain, Michael regained his senses after what felt like an eternity. It had been the first time that someone's Memory Orb had been this detailed, sharing vivid memories that spanned over a decade of someone's life.

If it had been anyone else, Michael might have been fine with that. For example, Cleave Fenrir's memories would have been worth it. Michael would have loved to see decades of his ancestor's life...but not Haro Ki's.

Michael gagged and doubled up when he recalled all the things the Kitsun Lord did to his enemies. After spending hours witnessing everything as if he were the one committing the heinous actions, Michael ended up vomiting on the ground. His breath was labored and his mind was in a big mess.

"Fucking bastard! Good thing I killed you, son of a bitch!" Michael cursed as the memories continued to torment him.

That was one of the biggest downsides of the Memory Orbs. One digested the memories and lived through them as if they belonged to that person – even though they were someone else's. If Michael's willpower had been just a tad too weak, he would have never been able to understand that the memories weren't his own. He could have ended up thinking that he was this disgusting monster, which would have played tricks with his mind and changed his kind nature drastically – forever.

Fortunately, Michael understood that the memories originated due to a villain's actions, a true psychopath at that. He understood that the Kitsun Lord's memories made him feel uneasy and were

trying to overwhelm his mind. That made it easier to differentiate between his own memories and the Kitsun Lord's. Nonetheless, it would take him some time to get used to the acts of that heartless monster.

"The Kitsun have to die. It would be even better if their entire race disappeared... They should just annihilate each other. How can an entire race be so evil?!?"

Michael pitied the Elemental Empress. He couldn't believe that the Empress was still so talkative and energetic even after living through hell for a decade. Most beings would have been crushed mentally, or their personality would have taken a huge toll. However, not the Elemental Empress.

The Elemental Empress was just happy that she was finally free. It was even better that Haro Ki had been killed. The fact that she would never have to meet the Kitsun Lord again was the best. Of course, it was a little bit annoying that she was still not completely free to roam the Origin Expanse. However, the Elemental Empress was not dissatisfied with Michael, his people, the territory, or the Untamed Jungle.

If anything, Michael could clearly sense through the taming bond that the Elemental Empress was eager to eliminate the remaining Kitsun to start a new life from scratch. She was eager and looking forward to witnessing the events of the future and the Elementals society she desired to create.

"At least I found out where that bastard hides his most valuable treasures. To think that he had been hoarding a portion of his fortune every year. That's good for me, but shitty for you, dead asshole!" Michael murmured to himself. He released his origin energy to clean up the mess he made in his room.

Then Michael began to sort his thoughts and memories. He wanted to make sure that not even a snippet of the Kitsun Lord's memories would merge with the memories that ought to be his own. They had to be clearly distinguished!

Michael spent two hours sorting through his thoughts and memories until his mind was finally a little bit more organized than before. The memories of the Kitsun Lord still bothered him, and they might eventually affect his train of thought and personality a little bit, but Michael could say with certainty that he wouldn't turn into a sadist.

He would revert to his true nature soon enough. That was more than enough in exchange for a vast fortune of wealth.

Now that Michael knew about the Kitsun Lord's wealth and where it was hidden, he was ready to leave his territory and collect everything. Of course, he wouldn't tell the other Lords about this. He might not have anything against the Valyr Lordess or the two other Lords, but that didn't mean he would share the Kitsun Lord's wealth with them. His help had been far more crucial against Haro Ki than their support in the final battle to allow them a generous share of his hard-earned loot. Furthermore, their territory was about to expand quite a lot thanks to his intervention. I think you should take a look at

"If I send out my people to clear up the Untamed Jungle from Kitsun, it shouldn't be a problem for me to enter the Kitsun Lord's former territory to collect the loot as well. The Lords won't even notice that I moved from my territory!" Michael mumbled, leaving the wooden manor while informing Sun Demos about his new mission.

["I know that you want to eliminate the Kitsun. Take the Elemental Empress with you, and get rid of them. The Elemental Empress will have a spatial satchel that can be accessed by everyone. Insert your energy into it whenever you want to access it and put the corpses of the Kitsun inside it. I will harvest the loot once you're done cleaning up the Kitsun in the Untamed Jungle."] Michael ordered Sun Demos, who reacted with great vigor.

["I have been waiting for this moment, Master! Thank you for allowing us to take revenge for our fallen brethren. I will pick up the Elemental Empress at once!"]

Michael chuckled lightly before he responded to Sun Demos once again, ["Pay attention to the scouts. I will send out Blaire Tracer and her team to find the Kitsun that will flee and hide in the Untamed Jungle. Make sure to kill them all. Don't leave them the chance to reach their former glory again. It will be a hassle to fight them again. Let's do a thorough job!"]

After that was said, Michael searched for Blaire Tracer whom he gave the mission to scout the former territory of the Kitsun Lord. She was given the task of pinpointing the Kitsun's location and making sure that none of them could escape.

It was important to note that Michael didn't plan to claim the Kitsun Lord's former territory yet. He was better off with only one settlement right now. First of all, Michael didn't have enough guards to protect two settlements. The members of his military force hadn't crossed the number of 650 yet. That included the new Warriors and Archers he summoned in today's summoning session.

Even if it wouldn't take long before his military force exceeded 1,000 or even 2,000 members with Siegfried Dragoon's support, Michael wanted to make sure that each of his settlements was impossible to raid. Therefore, it was better to have only one settlement at this point.

He didn't lack space to expand his main settlement, in the first place.

Other than that, his population was not exactly high just yet. Once the population of his territory crossed a few hundred thousand it might be worth setting up a second settlement. As for now, Michael didn't see the need to do that in the next few months.

Because he didn't need the Kitsun Lord's territory anytime soon, Michael decided to give the territory back to the monsters of the Untamed Jungle. Once his territory's population was considerably high and he had enough combat prowess he would expand his territory to the western part of the Untamed Jungle. But that was something the future could tell. Michael had no idea when exactly he would expand his territory.

He was not exactly in a hurry.

It was better to develop his main settlement until no one harboring ill intentions could get close to it without being found and executed on the spot rather than spreading his forces to protect several settlements. That was one of the reasons why the Kitsun Lord ended up losing against Michael. His territory was ginormous but each settlement had only a few thousand guards and dozens of Awakened. The Kitsun Lord's entire combat force had been more than 50,000 Combat Summons and close to 1,000 Awakened, but dealing with a small portion of that at a time wasn't really a big problem – especially due to their inferior combat prowess.

Michael approached the Elemental Empress and handed over the satchel. Sun Demos and his subordinates arrived not long after. Once all pending tasks were completed, Michael looked for Tiara, only to hear that she went out to hunt the remaining Kitsun with others.

That was not unexpected, but Michael would have felt better if Tiara had informed him before her departure. It didn't really matter much though. Tiara would be fine and she would ensure that her subordinates would survive as well.

'There is no need to worry about her. Tiara should soon reach the Mid-rank of Tier-2. Her combat prowess is ranked Superior as well now that she obtained Spirit Whip.'

Michael was a little worried but it was not as if the remaining Kitsun were powerful. If anything, the remaining Kitsun were utterly lost and probably much weaker than ever. Tiara would hunt them easily.

One way or another, Michael had to travel to the Kitsun Lord's former territory as well.

His treasures were waiting to be plundered, after all!