

## **Supreme Lord 411**

### Chapter 411 Secret Vault

Michael traveled to the former territory of the Kitsun Lord alone while Sun Demos and his subordinates worked together with the Elemental Empress to kill the remaining Kitsun.

He didn't encounter many Kitsun until he reached his destination. As for the few Kitsun he encountered, Zark was more than enough to deal with all of them.

He traveled through the Untamed Jungle for three hours with great speed until he reached the main settlement of the former Kitsun Lord. Contrary to earlier, the main settlement was in a big mess now that the Kitsun Lord had been killed. Michael could sense Tiara somewhere inside the settlement. She paced through the demolished alleys, avoiding rubble of the collapsed buildings while hunting the last survivors of the Kitsun race.

Michael ignored her and moved to the wooden manor. He found a Tier-2 Awakened rummage through the wooden manor's rooms in the hopes of finding something of value. However, all the Kitsun Awakened found was Michael. As the Awakened noticed Michael, he panicked and conjured the Runic Gate that ought to lead him out of the Origin Expanse. But even before the Awakened could rush into the Runic Gate to escape Michael's grasp, Michael had already made his move.

He used Spirit Disturbance to slow down the Awakened, and conjured a Glacicle Sword which Michael released with a burst of energy. Only half a meter separated the Awakened from the Runic Gate, but the Kitsun never reached his goal. The Glacicle Sword pierced through his chest, pushing him further back. Groaning in pain, the Kitsun crashed on the ground, and stayed there, unable to get up.

Warm blood pooled onto the wooden floor. It drenched the Kitsun, who writhed for a few seconds before he stopped moving forever.

Michael didn't pay much attention to the Kitsun. He merely released his energy to engulf the corpse and store it inside his War Rune's storage. Afterward, he walked through the wooden manor to collect a total of 10 keys. The keys had been hidden in the weirdest places all over the wooden manor. Some were easy to find while others were near-impossible to find if one didn't know where to look for them.

After he collected the 10 keys, Michael retrieved an 11th key from his War Rune's storage space. The 11th key was one of the gains Michael made when he extracted the Kitsun Lord. Without the 11th key, nobody would be able to open the secret vault of the Kitsun Lord. As for breaking the secret vault open...that was easier said than done. The Kitsun Lord's memories stated quite clearly that not even Tier-4 Higher Existences with Superior combat power could open the secret vault with force.

Of course, Michael was likely to be able to open the secret vault once he reached the 4th Tier, but he could not afford to wait that long.

Therefore, the 11th key was crucial to him.

Michael left the wooden manor and he traveled to one of the most conspicuous spots where one could hide a huge 'secret' vault. He approached the Summoning Gate's platform and began searching for six holes. Other than the keys, Michael would have to open the locks in a specific order. But that was not all. The order was only one of the requirements to open the secret vault properly. He had to use the right keys to open the right lock at a specific time.

One had two tries to use the right combination before the secret vault would be sealed. It was possible to open the seal but that would require some conditions to be met. If one failed to remove the seal of the secret vault within 24 hours and open the secret vault properly the vault would incinerate everything stored within.

All in all, the mechanisms the Kitsun Lord had used to store his most valuable goods were much more complex and meticulous than his means to defend his territory. It showed quite clearly that he valued his wealth a lot more than his people and land when he was still alive.

But that might have been a good thing for Michael, so he wouldn't complain. Of course, he wouldn't. He was happy that the Kitsun Lord favored his treasures and neglected everything else. That was one of the main reasons why Michael could defeat the Kitsun Lord, in the first place!

"Don't worry. I will take care of your treasures. Just burn in hell, or some other shitty place!" Michael mumbled, a smile blossoming on his face as he finally found the fifth and sixth keyhole.

He searched his memories to find out which keys were used for what keyhole. Then Michael began his first attempt without showing a shred of hesitation. He moved swiftly, Eagle Eyes fully unleashed.

Four seconds after the first key was used the second one had to be opened. After that Michael was given six seconds to open the third lock on the other side of the Summoning Gate. 10 seconds later the fourth and fifth lock were supposed to be opened simultaneously.

Then Michael had to wait half a minute before he used the sixth and last key to open the path to the secret vault. Counting to thirty slowly, Michael hoped that he wasn't too fast or too slow. Fortunately, that was not an issue. He succeeded at his first attempt, opening a staircase that led under the ground – right beneath the Summoning Gate. I think you should take a look at

Michael stepped away from the platform. He approached the staircase and climbed down the stairs. The staircase was dimly lit by crystal torches, but it was not bright enough to see a lot. Only with Eagle Eyes was Michael able to tell what awaited him at the bottom of the staircase.

It was a humongous gate that spanned ten meters in width and twenty meters in height.

"Did you want to compensate for something with an entrance that big?" Michael asked, looking for four keyholes. He found them quickly and opened them in a specific order to open the humongous black metal gate.

The Gate opened, only to reveal a second Gate right behind the first one. But this time Michael didn't have to use numerous keys. He had only one key left that he used to open the final gate.

As he pushed the gate open, Michael's heart was filled with anticipation. His eyes scanned through the inside of the vault and his expression lit up.

The inside of the vault was more than 30 meters wide, 30 meters long, and roughly 20 meters high...and most of the space was filled with treasures.

There was not even ordinary stuff like elemental crystals or element seeds. No, the treasures were far more interesting and crucial. For once, Michael picked up a few tattered books that described experiments about elemental seeds, which fruits they produce, and what kind of seeds the Elemental Empress was the most proficient at producing. The experiments stated how many seeds the Elemental Empress could produce without problems and how much force the Kitsun Lord had to use to force the Elemental Empress to go beyond her limit.

The experiments were interesting if one ignored the part about the Kitsun Lord torturing the Elemental Empress. Hatred surfaced within Michael, but he had to suppress it. The Kitsun Lord was already dead. It didn't help being angry at the dead. Some of them were not worth thinking about. The Kitsun Lord definitely wasn't!

Other than the element seed experiments, Michael quickly found various potion recipes that used the fruits produced by the element seeds. Michael merely skimmed through the recipes but they seemed quite interesting. Michael would definitely use some of them in the future.

Other than the potion recipes and experiment logs, Michael found a wide variety of books. These books included instructions for Summons and how they could stimulate their latent talent to become Archers. That was quite intriguing. It was definitely a lot better than the books about torture methods and similar stuff he found right after.

'If I used Extraction on these books, I can get the Wisps of Knowledge from everything of value and store the knowledge in Memory Crystals. That should be the best way to train a bunch of Archers.' Michael thought right before his eyes landed on crates filled with tools.

He searched through the crates and found various forging tools, alchemy tools, and enchanting tools of extraordinary quality. Storing them in the secret vault was a huge waste. Michael stored the tools alongside the books, potions recipes, and experiment logs.

The secret vault was not really well organized. However, Michael quickly found some sort of logic in the chaos. He collected the rare ores that had been thrown in the corner of the secret vault. Then he found a few maps that showed the Savannah region and the regions that lay around the savannah.

The Untamed Jungle was also outlined. Most of it, at least. That was when Michael found out for the first time that the Savannah region and the Zentika Empire's plains bordered a rather small part of the Untamed Jungle. Apparently, the Untamed Jungle was much bigger higher up in the north.

"Seems like I have loads of work to do if I ever want to control the entire Untamed Jungle," Michael joked lightheartedly after he finished studying the maps.

What Michael and others had considered the outer ring, and middle area of the Untamed Jungle so far couldn't even be considered the outer area of the entire Untamed Jungle. In fact, Michael's territory and everywhere he had been in the Untamed Jungle was just a small, somewhat isolated area, a negligible chunk of the vast and real Untamed Jungle.

It was just a small dot on the map of the Untamed Jungle.

Chapter 412 Add-On

It felt a little bit weird to find out that his territory was located in a small part of the Untamed Jungle's outskirts. Simultaneously it was not that annoying either.

The new information he obtained merely meant that the Untamed Jungle was a lot bigger than he initially thought. There was nothing wrong with that.

Other than the goods Michael had already plundered from the secret vault there was a lot more. There were various items and miscellaneous stuff that attracted Michael's curiosity.

"All those materials are required to upgrade the Summoning Gate to the Intermediate rank. It looks like the Kitsun Lord was only lacking 4 Basic Summoning Cores and 1 Intermediate Summoning Core. Well...and maybe some more or less minor stuff that can be procured with enough funds," Michael mumbled, not sure if he should be surprised or not.

He wanted to start collecting the materials required to upgrade his Summoning Gate soon as well. The number of Summoning Cores installed in his Summoning Gate were almost enough to meet the requirement, after all!

All Michael lacked was a single Basic Summoning Core, and the Intermediate Summoning Core to upgrade the Intermediate Summoning Gate now that he plundered the materials the Kitsun Lord had been hoarding for years. It must have been very difficult to procure some of those materials, which was why Michael was thankful for the Kitsun Lord's hard work, despite hating him for being a psychopath.

Michael's gratefulness reached new heights when he found out that the Kitsun Lord had obtained an add-on blueprint for Intermediate Summoning Gates. It was of extraordinary quality.

'Had the Kitsun Lord completed his Intermediate Summoning Gate and added the add-on, I would have never been able to eliminate him. Hah...'

The extraordinary-quality add-on blueprint was called [Summoning Gate Attachment: Portal]. It was special because of a very simple reason. Using the add-on's unique function one could travel in between Summoning Gates that have been linked to each other.

It was important to note that Intermediate Summoning Gates could link two Basic Summoning Gates to its base. Therefore, the add-on would have allowed the Kitsun Lord to move across his territory via Summoning Gates rather than spending half a day – or longer – in the Untamed Jungle.

A Lord could always travel through his linked Summoning Gates since his War Rune was connected to all linked Summoning Gates. But his subordinates couldn't do the same without the add-on. Using the Portal Attachment, Michael could come up with a wide variety of strategies to overpower his enemies in a battle – whether the battle focused on attacking his enemies or defending his territory.

All the Portal Attachment required to be used was Monster Cores.

It was only obvious, but the Portal Attachment was one of the most valuable goods he obtained from the Kitsun Lord. It could become extremely useful in the future.

For now, he would have to procure the resources required to upgrade his Summoning Gate to the Intermediate rank and manufacture the Portal Attachment to use it once his Summoning Gate had been upgraded.

Fueled with excitement about his finds, Michael momentarily forgot about the most important point, and the reason he opened the secret vault in the first place- the treasures he wanted to sell to procure the funds to construct the Intermediate and Advanced levels of the Sacred Knight Temple.

When Michael recalled the motive with which he had begun searching for the secret vault initially, he continued to smile.

'I can produce a wide variety of potions now. Given the experiment log made about the Elemental Empress, I can use some of the elemental fruits to substitute a wide variety of materials as well. It should accelerate the mass production of Energy Nourishing Pills. Then again, elemental fruits are also quite useful for various other potions. I should talk to the Alchemists and ask them which potion will be the easiest and cheapest to mass-produce without compromising on quality.'

Now that Michael had plundered the secret vault of the late Kitsun Lord, he knew that he couldn't sell most treasures. They were too valuable to sell. He would require most of them in the future, either way. Therefore, selling them wouldn't be profitable.

But that didn't mean Michael didn't have other ways to make a fortune. He had yet to plunder the warehouses spread all over the settlements. The barracks and other places were also filled with items that could be sold for a small fortune. Michael would be an idiot if he didn't plunder everything, now that he had the opportunity.

Michael emptied the secret vault with a target in mind and returned to the surface. Dozens of energy shares reached him, indicating that Sun Demos and the Elemental Empress found a large group of Kitsun to slaughter. Michael accepted the energy shares and focused on his War Rune for a moment.

'I wonder how long it will take before I advance to Tier-3...Well, it's not like I'm in a rush. I haven't even been in the Origin Expanse for an entire year. It should have been roughly 8 months now.' I think you should take a look at

Advancing to Tier-3 before the age of 19 would be exceptional. However, it was very unlikely. He had too many high-ranked Soultraits that slowed down his War Rune's progress.

Michael thought that it would be good enough to reach Tier-3 before he turned 20. That was still pretty fast – almost two years faster than Danny – but it was somewhat feasible given his current progress.

'But I should upgrade Extraction and my other Soultraits until I turn 20. Maybe, I should prioritize upgrading my Soultraits as a goal rather than improving my Tier.' Michael thought before he chuckled lightly.

His train of thought was vastly different from everyone else. Others focused on studying their Soultraits in-depth and improving their Soultrait to unleash their power to the highest limit. Meanwhile, Michael

had yet to properly study one of his Soultraits. Everything he discovered of his Soultraits was by chance and instinct. He never really took time to diligently study his Soultraits until now.

Maybe that had to change.

Unfortunately, time was of the essence, and he had to focus on too many things that he had been neglecting quite a bit. This included his body refinement technique, Sacred Rectification, and his mind refining technique, Caesurium Menta.

Other than that, Michael had yet to procure proper martial arts techniques to learn. He had many Soultraits and could probably use some of them with many combat, or movement techniques, yet Michael never really put his focus on researching such techniques.

Only after meeting Zira did Michael's focus divert a little. He grew more interested in those techniques, which meant that he had to start researching soon to satiate his curiosity. Therefore, Michael had even less time for other things...and that was quite annoying.

Why was the day so short? Couldn't a day be 48 hours, or maybe even 72 hours?

Grumbling in his mind, Michael began to move through the Untamed Jungle. He visited all Kitsun settlements within the Untamed Jungle and plundered everything of value. Michael worked thoroughly and spent two days making sure that he didn't miss out on anything.

After that, he finally returned to his territory. Sun Demos and his subordinates, the Elemental Empress, Tiara, and close to a hundred Combatants who had followed Tiara into the battlefield returned a few hours after Michael. They got rid of all Kitsun and returned with the corpses and loot of those they had slaughtered mercilessly.

There were a lot more Kitsun residing in the Untamed Jungle than Michael expected. Therefore, he had to spend two hours extracting the Will's loot before he added the corpses to the satchel storage where the other Kitsun bodies were kept safely until the sealed container was manufactured.

"Wait. Shouldn't the sealed container be done by now?" Michael wondered. He paid a visit to the Alchemy Lair where he found the Forest Elven Alchemist from a few days ago. She smiled brightly upon



seeing him and retrieved a huge container that looked similar to a metal barrel. It was around the size of a human, which ought to be enough to store all Kitsun Clouds inside.

"You are already done? Good job. Here is a small reward," He said nonchalantly as he retrieved more than a dozen potion recipes. The alchemist's eyes widened and she stared blankly at Michael for a few seconds.

Michael just smiled in response and stored the tank-sized metal barrel. After that, Michael returned to the warehouse where he retrieved a total of 54,000ish Kitsun Corpses whose Kitsun Cloud Michael extracted. The Kitsun Clouds were stored in the metal container and sealed right after.

Once everything of value had been extracted from the Kitsun bodies, Michael got rid of them. He told his people to carry them out of the territory and offer the corpses to the Untamed Jungle as a tribute.

Even though the Untamed Jungle was not on his side, Michael didn't want to destroy the Untamed Jungle. It provided him with various opportunities. That was something Michael was grateful for. Thinking about it that way made Michael wonder if the Untamed Jungle was maybe actually on his side, or if it was neutral.

Thanking the Untamed Jungle by nourishing it with the corpses of his enemies was a good way to get rid of worthless corpses and to make sure that the Untamed Jungle would never be destroyed. If anything, the Untamed Jungle would expand and its environment would flourish, becoming even more beautiful and nourishing.

Once Michael was done with the Kitsun corpses, he spent the rest of the evening using the Summoning Scrolls he obtained from extracting the Will's loot from the thousands of Kitsun his people hunted in the last few days.

## Chapter 413 Learning

This time again, Michael wasn't really lucky. The small summoning session didn't lead to exceptional results.

He didn't really expect a lot so he wasn't too disappointed that he didn't summon a single Summon with combat-related occupations. That was weird, but also something he could accept now that he had the Immortal Knight, the Warrior Enlightenment Potion, and the Archer Book that taught a technique on how to stimulate Starless Summons to become Archers.

Therefore, it might actually be more useful if he didn't summon any Combat Summons.

Michael greeted his new Summons, introduced himself, and gave a short explanation about his territory. Then he told his other subjects to guide the new Summons through the territory and to explain all the rules to them.

'Since it's already late, should I just focus on practicing Pandemonium's Requiem?' Michael wondered as he sensed the massive unrefined energy inside his body. The War Rune wasn't working fast enough to refine the energy inside him faster than his subjects hunted Kitsun and monsters during the last few days. The unused energy resided within Michael and kept on amassing, forming an uncomfortable reserve that had to be removed sooner rather than too late.

Using Pandemonium's Requiem would aid the War Rune's refinement progress, which in turn would take care of the uncomfortable mass inside him on its own.

Michael made a decision and returned to his room in the wooden manor. He sat down on the bed cross-legged and closed his eyes. In the next moment, he started practicing Pandemonium's Requiem while simultaneously entering his consciousness where he saw the pillar of light and the massive amount of unused energy that had yet to be utilized to refine the War Rune.

Michael cleared his mind and focused on his technique. He had yet to reach a higher mastery of Pandemonium's Requiem, but he could tell that he was slowly getting closer to the Profound Mastery. The effects of Pandemonium's Requiem would improve drastically with higher mastery, therefore allowing him to refine his War Rune faster and absorb more energy from the surrounding area.

With that in mind, Michael spent the next 12 hours focusing on the individual steps of Pandemonium's Requiem. He controlled the energy that surged through every nerve of his body with great precision and willed it to revolve around the pillar of light where it was pulled inside and digested. The pillar of light brimmed with great vigor. It shone brightly as it expanded ever so slowly.

Refining his War Rune was not an easy task that could be rushed. It had to be done slowly if one wanted to avoid sustaining injuries. In the worst case, rushing to digest a large amount of energy could crack the War Rune, breaking it in the process. That was not worth the risk.

Hence, Michael stayed focused and only channeled as much energy as he wanted his War Rune to digest in half a day. He was done accelerating the refinement process of his War Rune for the night when the darkness shrouding the Untamed Jungle was replaced by the first rays of the sun. Happy with his day's efforts, he went to sleep peacefully. The sun had risen above the horizon when Michael got up from his bed.

He quickly took a bath put on some comfortable clothes to walk around his territory and left his room.

'If I keep going like this at night I should be able to finish digesting the rest of the amassed energy in a week...maybe 10 days,' Michael concluded with a wry smile.

Since he was still a Low-rank Tier-2 Lord, Michael obtained far too many energy shares and energy influx from Awakened and Summons of a much higher rank and Tier during the last few days. His War Rune was not accustomed to digesting the energy of hundreds of Tier-3 Summons and Awakened, let alone the energy influx of enemies at the Peak of the 3rd Tier.

Thus, Michael was actually quite happy with his plan. Spending 10 days to sweep through the Low rank and advance straight to the Mid-rank in a go was quite amazing. It would propel his combat prowess to the next level.

'I wonder how far I can go in the Battle Exchange. Will I be able to take away the Flag War Token from someone in the top 100?' Michael wondered, smiling at the thought of showing off his combat prowess as soon as he left the Origin Expanse.

But that wouldn't happen anytime soon. Michael had too many unfinished tasks to leave the Origin Expanse now. First and foremost, he had yet to digest the amassed energy within him. Before that was done, Michael wouldn't return to Piloq.

He left the wooden manor and received the daily report from one of his hardworking assistants. Reading through the daily report that included the content Michael had missed out on in the last few weeks, a smile crept up on his face. In the last few weeks, Michael had either been busy dealing with the Tritan

Alliance, or invading and killing the Kitsun Lord and his subordinates. That is why he hadn't gotten time to look after the development of his territory.

But he couldn't afford to neglect it any longer. Now that the population of his territory had expanded once again, more work was waiting for Michael. The piled-up work had to be dealt with, otherwise, all his hard work so far would go down the drain if Michael kept pushing work aside.

Michael took that into consideration and went to his small office where some files were waiting for him. He didn't really like sitting around doing nothing except reading through reports, but it was necessary...or was it not? Questioning the necessity of his work in the office, the young Lord's eyes widened.

His eyes began to gleam brightly and he shot up from the chair when he recalled an easy way out. Michael utilized Extraction to release a golden tendril of extraction from his palm. The tendril of extraction shot toward the stash of paper. In the next moment, the tendril began to extract the wisps of knowledge weaved into the paper. Michael's mind was filled with information about his territory's needs, the tasks of his workers, the stashed-up goods from the warehouse, the proposed development path of his territory, and much more. I think you should take a look at

His smile turned even more vibrant than before. He retracted the tendril of extraction once he was done and glanced at the now blank sheets of paper. The wisps of knowledge weaved into the paper had been extracted, therefore removing the ink in the process.

Michael grabbed the stash of paper to look through them and ensure that he had extracted all wisps of knowledge. Then he placed a blank paper in front of him and retrieved a pen. If he didn't have too much piled-up work, Michael would have told his assistant what they would do now. However, since he had a lot to catch up on, Michael would have to write down the orders for each task.

Digesting the newly gained pieces of information wasn't too difficult. Caesurium Menta and Memory Lane guided his memory and accelerated digestion while he wrote clear instructions for his assistants.

—The duplicated blueprints stored in the warehouses can be reorganized and moved to the wooden manor. The Lord will sell them alongside the next batch of Agriculture Blueprints to our human business partner. The distribution of the funds will be decided later.

—As the number of applications who want to become Warriors and Blessed Squires skyrocketed, the territory will hold a tournament to determine the first batch of Summons to be trained by the Immortal Knight. Once the Basic Level of the Sacred Knight Temple has been completed we will alter the rewards given out in the tournament. Energy Nourishing Pills, Body Strengthening Pills, and a wide variety of Potions can then be won in the tournament.

—The treasury of the Kitsun Lord brought forth various treasures. New potions will soon be brewed. We need to find out how effective these potions are for Humans and Forest Elves.

—The Alchemy Lair is allowed to use more funds than before to experiment with the newly procured materials. The Alchemists shall be rewarded for successful experiments.

—The Craftsmen, Carpenters, ... shall be allowed to create new inventions. However, they must take prior permission from their higher-ups so that the necessary precautions are taken beforehand to ensure that no accidents occur.

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The list of tasks and orders Michael scribbled down in the next hour or two was astounding. He used every single piece of paper on the desk to write down the orders before he called the assistant who rushed towards Michael.

"How may I help you, my Lord?" The assistant asked hesitantly. He knew that the amount of pending tasks was a lot and that the Lord was likely to spend the entire day in the office. But not even two hours had passed yet. Was their Lord tired already?

"I am done here. Take these and forward my orders. If you need something, I'm either here studying the maps of the surrounding regions, or moving through the territory to take a look at the territory's development."

"My Lord...you are done? But there was so much to—..." The young assistant began but closed his mouth abruptly when his eyes fell on the papers Michael handed to him. He noticed that the sheets were not the daily reports and information given to their Lord to read through. Instead, the sheets had an exhaustive list of tasks their Lord wanted him to forward to the others.

'He is already done? It has only been two hours?!?' The assistant stared at his Lord blankly, not daring to speak his thoughts aloud.

He felt like he was looking at a whole different person.

'The Lord hates staying inside the office...why is he suddenly so focused on the office and studying?' The assistant wondered, finally realizing that their Lord was not only powerful, and kind, but that he was also learning from his past mistakes.

Instead of hoping that nobody would attack him and his territory in the near future, Michael wanted to know all about his potential enemies.

Therefore, he began to study the Maps plundered from the Kitsun Lord's treasury and the memories of the Kitsun Lord.

Chapter 414 Promise

Michael didn't use Extraction on the maps spread all over the wooden desk. It might be easier to study the maps by extracting the knowledge wisps, but using Extraction on the maps would also erase the drawings. That was not something Michael wanted since he was sure that the maps would be useful in future warfares.

Hence, he studied the old fashioned way, trying to understand the vast terrain, topography and the distance of his territory from that of the other lords. While intently studying the maps for a second time, Michael learned lots of new things. He learned more about the Savannah region and the surrounding regions. Unfortunately, there weren't many detailed pieces of information about the surrounding regions. That was a shame, even if it didn't affect Michael too much. He wouldn't encounter anyone from the other territories anytime soon.

If anything, Michael was the most interested in the Savannah region since it was relatively close to his territory.

'The competition in the Savannah region is really fierce. I am really lucky here in the Untamed Jungle. Though...I have a lot more other issues to pay attention to. An entire Empire to deal with, for example.' Michael chuckled lightly.

He imagined what he would have done if he had spawned in the Savannah region instead of the Untamed Jungle. With Extraction as his Soultrait that would have been great. After all, there were dozens of small territories with various Awakened and Summons to kill and extract. It was a treasure trove for someone like Michael.

Of course, the Untamed Jungle was not bad either. So far, Michael obtained a lot from the Untamed Jungle, and he was grateful for that. The only big issue was the Zentika Empire. Thinking about the Zentika Empire, Michael wondered why the Zentika Empire had gone so silent. It had been a while since the Lord Rift closed.

'I really thought that they would attack as soon as the Lord Rift concluded. Maybe they have to fight some other kingdom, or empire right now? Not that I have anything against that. Stay busy for the next few years, Zentika Empire!!'

Michael felt a little bit of pressure after he learned about the dozens of territories in the Savannah region. The Lords of the other territories must have learned about the Kitsun Lord's death and that the Valyr, Zynur, and Laprix's territory was about to expand rapidly. The three Lords were not his allies, but they weren't his enemies either. If anything, Michael could consider them as the last line of defense separating other Lords from the Untamed Jungle and his domain.

The information Michael collected by studying the maps of the Savannah region was something he could use in the future even if they might not necessarily be useful for the time being. It was better to know all about one's potential enemies than to be ignorant until it was too late.

Sensing that more territory battles await him in the next few years, Michael felt the hunger for power arise within him once again.

Michael had always been in need of power, but now his needs had become a necessity. If he wanted to protect his territory, and people, and continue to expand to find out more about his ancestor and the Will of the Origin Expanse, Michael would have to grow a lot stronger.

He also required strength to ensure that no one could trample upon him, neither his own kind nor anyone else.

At the thought of other humans, Michael was reminded of his parents and he told himself that he would find them sooner or later. But before he found them, Michael wanted to be strong enough – mentally and physically – to be able to stand in front of them and face them head-on. He didn't want to search them just to hesitate to shout at them and blame them for everything they had done to him and Danny.

They were at fault for the brothers' miserable childhood and they ought to learn about this misery. Michael wanted to see their reaction and watch their expressions either crumble while faced with guilt and regret. But he also feared that they would simply stare at their own child emotionlessly. And if his parents would not give a damn about their older son's death, Michael wasn't sure how he would react. All he knew was that he was unlikely to control his emotions in such a moment and erupt with all the pent-up frustration.

But that was something for the future. For now, Michael required strength...a ton of it. He might have to deal with dozens of Lords and a whole Empire in the near-future, after all!

The easiest way for Michael to gain strength was through Links of Loyalty. More Links of Loyalty and more useful Summons would provide the best result to improve Michael as an individual and his entire territory. The Links of Loyalty would strengthen all of his Soultraits by providing Soul Power, therefore empowering Michael drastically.

Thus, Michael had to pay a lot more attention to the Links of Loyalty than others. He relied on his Soultraits' power and the advantage he gained over others by utilizing his numerous Soultraits.

Taking into consideration that firmer Links of Loyalty provided more Soul Power that was better in terms of quality, Michael began to note down the Links of Loyalty that were rather weak. Michael could roughly determine how long ago a Link of Loyalty was established and how it developed. He could feel whether the Links of Loyalty had once been firmer, and weakened later or if they had always been fragile.



Using this function, Michael began to note down the weaker Links of Loyalty. He forwarded the information to his assistant who would then find out what exactly the subjects with weaker Links of Loyalty disliked. If it was just their personality that was rotten and disgusting, Michael wouldn't pay much attention to them. It might be better to keep their Links of Loyalty like that, or possibly to get rid of the rotten apples in his territory altogether.

However, if some subjects with weaker Links of Loyalty had a good reason to lose trust in their Lord, Michael would pay more attention to satisfy their needs. That way, Michael could make sure to develop his territory into a place liked by everyone who was sincere in place of the disgusting and rotten apples. I think you should take a look at

Noting down all the information took much longer than Michael expected. But since it was needed Michael would have been forced to do it sooner or later either way.

Once done with the arduous task, he met the Elemental Empress.

"Finally, I found you!" The Elemental Empress exclaimed. She rushed up to Michael and barely stopped before smacking her head into his face.

"What's wrong? You know that you can speak to me via telepathy if something is urgent, right?" Michael wasn't too worried about the Elemental Empress. She didn't seem distressed right now.

If anything, she was excited.

"I know, I know. But I wanted to talk to you face to face!" She responded, waving her hands excitedly before continuing, "Either way, I talked to the Nature Spirit and the Forest Pixie earlier. They told me that I should make a request if I have an issue that has to be dealt with as soon as possible."

"That's not wrong, yeah. But wait... You can communicate with the Nature Spirit and the Forest Pixie? How?"

"Master, that's not important right now!" The Elemental Empress exclaimed

'It is though.'

"Far far far more important than that is my request. I heard that you claimed a huuuugeeee cave and that you turned a large underground ecosystem into an Underground Forging Hall. I also want a cave for myself!"

Michael recalled that the Elemental Empress had mentioned her desire to create her own Elemental Society some time ago. A large cave would be the best for her to contain the energy Elementals would naturally alter by simply being around on the surface.

"We destroyed the tunnels leading deeper into the cavern complex. If you want we can open one or two tunnels again. Once open we might have to face some monsters living deep inside the cavern system but we should be able to find a few large cavern halls for you to start creating a small society. Of course, I cannot say for sure how deep the cavern complex is. However, I might be able to expand the tunnels and cavern halls using extraction."

Michael didn't want to promise anything he couldn't provide. He had never ventured too deep into the cavern system, so he had no idea how dangerous it was deep down. All Michael knew was that the pressure deep down had been intense when he first sensed it. That meant something powerful lived down there. Other than the potential dangers, Michael never paid much attention to the structures of caves to learn how to expand them while ensuring that the cavern's strength wouldn't be compromised.

He had to be careful. Michael didn't want the entire cavern system to collapse because of him, after all.

"The same cave? Working together with the Underground Forging Hall.... That sounds great! We can provide Elemental crystals straight to the forging hall then! As long as the Society of Elementals has enough space everything will be alright. I will make sure to turn my cave into the most important source of income!!" The Elemental Empress exclaimed. She sounded exhilarated and happy to be of help.

It was even better that she could freely do whatever she wanted to do. She didn't even have to hesitate and could freely talk to her new master about anything she wanted. That was amazing as it was something she had never experienced before.

It was a new and welcome change that she embraced with open arms.

"You want to develop into my biggest source of income? That will be quite difficult," Michael replied in all honesty, "But I'm looking forward to it. I hope you can do it."

"Let's make sure to turn the Lizard cave into the Cave of the Elemental Empress!"

#### Chapter 415 Cave Hunting

Utilizing Extraction made it much easier for Michael and the others to remove the stones blocking the cavern tunnels.

Michael only opened two cavern tunnels that led deeper into the lizard cave, making sure that his combat force wouldn't get lost by straying too far from the entrance. He sent Sun Demos, and the Monkey Troupe down the second path while picking the first cavern tunnel with the Elemental Empress and Tiara.

Meanwhile, the rest of his military force was busy training a wide variety of techniques that Michael had inserted into Memory Crystals using the knowledge he had extracted from the Laxarta Library. Other than that, the Immortal Knight decided to train everyone equally on the training ground until he found some good seedlings to start teaching techniques that allowed the Starless Summons to amass Holy Power. After generating some Holy Power within their bodies, the Starless Summons would learn combat techniques that used Holy Power to reinforce their attack move, movement and whatnot.

Michael was interested in Holy Power. However, he didn't want to alter his origin energy permanently. Once he were to start practicing techniques that amassed Holy Power, his pillar of light would permanently be altered, turning into a Holy Sea. Thereafter, his future would be dependent on collecting martial arts techniques and Holy Power creation techniques. After all, the Immortal Knight's techniques were not perfect for someone like Michael. Michael was not even sure if he would still be able to use his Soultraits with Holy Power since not all Soultraits were compatible with Holy Power.

Thus, Michael decided not to test out techniques that involved the alteration of his Pillar of Light, and origin energy for the time being.

On his way deeper into the lizard cave, Michael had to listen to the Elemental Empress' constant chatter about her big dreams. It was interesting to listen to her, but the Elemental Empress was way too talkative. Her talkative nature turned even worse after the last Kitsun hiding inside the Untamed Jungle had been exterminated. After the death of the Kitsun all over the Untamed Jungle, the Elemental Empress felt liberated and freed from the shackles of the past.

Her true quirky personality was revealed and she seemed much brighter and optimistic than before. The Empress' attitude made Michael wonder if she was just a little child, but he had to acknowledge that it was quite calming to watch someone be mindless and overly happy about the smallest things in his little territory.

She didn't even seem to bother about the immense pressure that shrouded their entire being as they went deeper into the lizard cave's tunnels. The pressure continued to increase as they moved further down.

["We encountered some monsters. Large Lizards, Superior Existences, Mid rank of the 2nd Tier."] Sun Demos informed Michael at some point.

'It was a good thing that I destroyed the cavern tunnels when I was still weak. Superior Tier-2 Monsters would have been a hassle to deal with at that time,' Michael patted himself on the back mentally.

Defeating a bunch of Superior Tier-2 Monsters was hardly a problem for the current Michael. Because of that, he was fairly confident as they continued their journey deeper into the cave.

["Alright. Deal with them if you can. If they're too powerful, or have Unique Racial Traits you cannot counter with your numbers and physical strength, retreat. Retreating and re-organizing your formation and tactics is not shameful. Just make sure that you don't lose too many of your loyal subordinates!"] Michael advised Sun Demos.

Not long after, Michael obtained a few energy shares. That meant Sun Demos must have killed some of the Superior Tier-2 Lizards. However, before he could ask Sun Demos about the fight, he and his small team of three encountered a nest of Superior Tier-2 Lizards.

Michael had yet to attack the lizards when they released blazing blue flames in their direction. He was just about to manifest a wall of Glacicle in front of him when the Elemental Empress pushed herself forward. She released her own flames and shrouded the blazing blue flames that leapt toward Michael and Tiara. One moment the blazing blue flames had shot threateningly toward Michael and in the next moment, the Elemental Empress' flames devoured the flames entirely.

"That makes it a lot easier," Michael mused, using Enhancement on his lower body four times right before kicking the ground. The firm stone beneath his feet crackled as he launched himself forward. The

Wyverntooth Spear manifested in his hands right as he arrived in front of the closest Superior Lizard. He was certain that the Elemental Empress would continue to devour the blazing blue flames of the Lizard, eliminating the lethal danger from around them.

Showing not the slightest sign of hesitation, Michael shrouded the Wyverntooth Spear in four layers of Enhancement as well. Then a silver hue coated the spear blade. It was Reinforced Sword Qi that Michael had used to further reinforce the power of the Wyverntooth Spear.

The spear blade thrust forward rapidly and drew out blood as it sliced through the neck of the three-meter-large Superior Lizard. Michael aimed precisely, piercing right through one of the Lizard's soft spots. His attack was successful. The Superior Lizard roared out loudly in pain. It tried to claw and bite Michael before it was too late. However, Michael twisted the Wyverntooth Spear blade calmly. And just before pulling the blade out of the lizard, he released the coat of Sword Qi deep inside the wound he had inflicted.

The Superior Lizard's neck bulged suddenly, and a fountain of blood gushed out of its neck. Michael stepped aside quickly, expecting the large lizard to collapse on the ground and die miserably. However, that did not happen. The Superior Lizard was unwilling to die. Its movements grew weaker and slower than before, but it continued to attack Michael fiercely.

Michael had to resort to utilizing Eagle Eyes and Spirit Gaze to evade the Lizard's attack with ease and to inflict more injuries every time he evaded one of the monster's attacks. It drained some of his energy, but by coating his body in a layer of Extraction's golden light, Michael was able to refill most of his storage even before the battle ended.

Contrary to Michael's calm and composed fight that focused on testing the power of the Superior Lizard, Tiara, and the Elemental Empress fought together in an entirely different way. Tiara used her transformation Soultrait, Silvarean Tiger, to morph partially and obtain tremendous strength temporarily.

Her Inner Force and three intertwined Spirit Whips were also used and unleashed tirelessly to strike the Superior Lizard with heavy and powerful attacks. Simultaneously, the Elemental Empress released spears conjured from mythical fire in the direction of the Superior Lizard Tiara dealt with. The mythical fire spears were hot enough to burn through the Superior Lizard's scales. However, the spears' speed and force were too weak to pierce through the scales in one go. Therefore, Tiara struck the molten scales that had been struck by the mythical fire spears. She utilized the openings created by the Elemental Empress to kill the Superior Lizard as quickly as possible.

By working together, Tiara and the Elemental Empress defeated one of their enemies less than five seconds before Michael defeated his opponent.

Michael took note of the prideful expressions on Tiara and the Elemental Empress' faces when they noticed that they won against their Master.

'So...you guys want to challenge me?' He raised an eyebrow as he manifested six Glacicle Swords, which he coated in a layer of Reinforced Sword Qi. The next thing Michael did was to apply four layers of Enhancement on all Glacicle Swords.

Then the real struggle began...for Tiara and the Elemental Empress.

"Try to keep up with me!" Michael provoked the duo, his cheeky smile stirring Tiara and the Elemental Empress' emotions.

They did not want to lose against Michael. But just as Michael's last words resounded through the cavern, he'd already disappeared. He dashed ahead, his Glacicle Swords wreaking havoc with the dozens of Superior Lizards that ought to be stronger than the average...superior to other existences at the 2nd Tier.

But Michael didn't care. He blasted through the lizard cave, slaughtering one Superior Lizard after another.

The only time Michael slowed down was when he found a humongous cavern hall that was connected to several tunnels leading upward. He controlled the Glacicle Swords to revolve around him and slowed down to appraise the cavern hall.

It was not an underground ecosystem, but it was certainly as large – if not larger – as the Underground Ecosystem where the Temple of the Forgotten and the Underground Forging Hall were located.

"This place should be perfect for the Elementals Society," Michael mumbled to himself. He reached the other side of the cavern hall after walking for five minutes and found a single thirty-meter-high tunnel that led even deeper.

After he inspected the cavern tunnel and a few other tunnels that seemed to lead down as well, Michael took a step inside the largest cavern tunnel. A sense of curiosity filled his entire being, pulling him closer to the bottom of the lizard cave. He didn't really understand why he was so curious about the lizard cave, but the ever-increasing pressure weighing down on him certainly played a role.

But just as he took the second step into the large cavern tunnel the pressure intensified. His hair stood up on its end and a gust of hot air brushed past his face.

But the gust of hot air was not all that came from the bottom of the lizard cave. There was also something even more ominous. Whispering voices traveled through the cavern tunnel as well, making his skin prickle.

"Stop right there, Cursed Child!"

"You are not ready for this Trial. Not yet!"

"There is no need to rush anything, Cursed Child. Follow your destined path, otherwise, only death will await you!"

Michael listened to the whispers, his feet frozen to the ground.

'What the hell?!'

#### Chapter 416 Whispering Voices

Michael's feet were still rooted to the ground when the Elemental Empress and Tiara reached him.

"Master, I collected the Superior Lizards you killed earlier. Don't worry, I didn't leave a single corpse behind!" Tiara exclaimed, hiding the fact that she had been eager to compete against Michael.

The disappointment she felt when Michael slaughtered the Superior Lizards with ease single-handedly while she had to team up with the Elemental Empress to hunt them down so as to not sustain an injury was evident on her face. It was only fortunate that Michael was not there to see her expressions.

Tiara calmed down quickly, happy that Michael was powerful enough to fight strong enemies without breaking into a sweat, but unhappy about the fact that she felt useless and not needed. Did Michael really need her if she was this weak?

Her Master gave her his beloved Soultrait as a gift, and he even upgraded it for her to make sure that Tiara's combat prowess would increase drastically. But why did Tiara still feel so weak compared to Michael? Was the difference between them really that much?

The Elemental Empress didn't sense anything weird. She knew that Michael was just too powerful. If not for his unique powers he wouldn't have been able to defeat and kill the Kitsun Lord, after all.

It would be even weirder if Michael was not stronger than Tiara. That was also why nothing was wrong about this situation in the Elemental Empress' mind. All she cared about was finding a place to establish her Elementals Society.

That is why the Elemental Empress' joy knew no bounds when they found the humongous cavern hall. She ran towards Michael, who was still far away from them even after they reached the cavern hall, and in her haste almost bumped into him.

"W-What...is that?!? This pressure...this...thing?!??" The Elemental Empress asked, her voice barely audible. She stuttered and retreated involuntarily until she was outside the entrance of the large cavern tunnel. Her blazing body flickered violently, her fear apparent.

Michael regained his senses upon hearing the Elemental Empress. The whispers in his ears had yet to disperse but he tried to ignore them to retreat slowly. Michael didn't dare to look away from the darkness that shrouded the cavern tunnel until the whispers in his ears disappeared.

"What was that?" The Elemental Empress repeated herself.

Unfortunately, Michael couldn't answer that either, "I don't know."

It was not the first time Michael was called 'Cursed Child'. In fact, Michael had always known that he and his family were cursed. Their first ancestor was the culprit and the reason his descendants were still



suffering was due to the curse of the Will of the Origin Expanse. But Michael didn't really understand how the whispering voices determined that Michael was Cursed Child, why would they refer to him like that, let alone what the whispering voices meant by 'trial'.

The intense pressure originating from the bottom of the cave was peculiar and somewhat unique. It had to be something that was either created by the Will of the Origin Expanse or something man-made, created by a powerful being. Maybe it was a monster with great power as well.

Michael had no idea, and he didn't really want to find out either, not at the expense of his life, at least. He was curious about the things he would find at the bottom of the cave, but he took the warning of the whispering voices seriously.

'So the cave has the Temple of the Forgotten on the first sub-level, and something else at the base?' Michael asked himself rhetorically.

He sighed heavily and shook his head in denial. However, just one gaze at the Elemental Empress was enough to tell Michael that he had not imagined anything. The Elemental Empress was overflowing with fear. Their taming bond made that quite clear.

"I don't think we will have any issues as long as we stay on this level. Do you want to build your society here? The cavern hall is huge, and it shouldn't be too problematic to use the paths that lead sideways. Maybe there will be more cavern halls connected to this one," Michael suggested.

He was not sure why but the whispering voices sounded friendly and trustworthy. Michael asked the Elemental Empress if she heard the voices as well, but she shook her head. Apparently, he was the only one who could hear the voices. Tiara, curious as to why Michael and the Elemental Empress were so distressed, decided to step into the large cavern tunnel. She barely put her right foot inside the cavern tunnel when something eerily assaulted her. Tiara screamed aloud and fell onto her butt. She scrambled back hastily and escaped the eerie power even before she could get up from the ground.

"Did you hear something?" Michael asked Tiara, who could only shake her head.

She had gone deadly pale and looked like she was about to faint. Fortunately, she remained conscious.

"If we create a large gate at the entrance of the large cavern tunnel – and every other tunnel that may lead downward – I will be fine. The pressure in the cavern hall is quite intense but getting accustomed to it will strengthen the mentality of all Elementals born and raised here. It should be quite useful to temper our minds," The Elemental Empress expressed her opinion hesitantly.

She felt that the cavern hall was the perfect place to establish her society, but the 'thing' at the bottom of the cave worried her. Not knowing what might await them in the future was bothersome. Therefore, a sealed gate would be the bare minimum to be safe – or at least feel like she and her society would not be under a constant threat.

"It won't be a problem to seal the cavern tunnels with gates. Once we're strong enough we can venture deeper down. But I feel like that will take a while," Michael said, trying to keep his cool.

He didn't like that some whispering voices called him Cursed Child and that they called the thing at the bottom of the cave a 'Trial'. Michael had never heard the term Trial used with respect to the creations of the Will. If anything, the Will would create Legacy Ruins, or Inheritance Dungeons to honor the achievements of the deceased, and to make sure that their achievements could live until the end of time.

'Fuck this nonsense. Let's just put this aside until I know how to deal with it.'

Michael didn't plan to end up frustrated today. Unfortunately, that was easier said than done now that he encountered another mystery. To vent his frustration, Michael decided to kill the remaining Superior Lizards. The cavern hall was humongous and they had many monsters residing within it.

Michael didn't distinguish between them and cleansed the cavern hall. The next thing he did was to test out whether the large cavern tunnel was the only tunnel with whispering voices or if there were more of them.

Interestingly enough all tunnels leading downward could be marked with a sudden increase in pressure. It was suffocating to move through the tunnels that led deeper into the cave. However, only the largest cavern tunnel inflicted deep fear within the Elemental Empress and Tiara. It was also only the largest cavern tunnel that sent whispering voices to warn him.

Michael did some experiments with the cavern tunnels, but he ended them quickly when he received a message from Sun Demos.

["We ventured deeper into the cave and found a large cavern hall. It is very dark, but I think I can see the Elemental Empress' flames."] Sun Demos reported.

A few minutes later Sun Demos and the Monkey Troupe found the Elemental Empress, Michael, and Tiara.

"The cavern tunnels from above must be connected to this cavern hall. That means we should venture into the other cavern tunnel that leads to the surface to take care of the remaining monsters," Michael mumbled to himself before he gave out orders, "Sun Demos. Take Tiara and the Elemental Empress with you to eliminate the remaining monsters. I will take care of the gate. Nobody is allowed to enter the large cavern tunnel. If you do, you might die, either way. I'm just warning everyone beforehand."

Once his order reached the others, Michael turned away and went to the Underground Forging Hall. He walked to the Warfare Department where every member was fully focused on creating siege weapons for war. They didn't have as much work as others because they had been focused on inventing defensive measures that could be well-hidden amid the flourishing environment of the Untamed Jungle, camouflaging their weapons and attacks.

Michael never constructed thick walls to protect his territory. The walls would have to rise high above the tree top of the tallest trees to block the invasion of all types of enemies. That would defeat the purpose of having a defensive wall in the first place as it would attract too much attention and point a huge target on the huge settlement in the middle of the flourishing Untamed Jungle rather than safeguarding it.

In an effort to invent various means to improve the camouflage of the settlement, many had come up with unique ideas – including the Warfare Department. They created large-scale weapons that could be hidden beneath the canopy of humongous trees. By working together with Enchanters and Alchemists, the Blacksmiths of the Warfare Department were able to create a mechanism to reduce the size of Ballistae and Scorpions. They were hidden within the trees inconspicuously and would unfold once certain enchantments engraved into the trees would be triggered.

A small storage of Scorpion bolts and other projectiles was kept with the compromised siege weapons to ensure that the defenders would be ready for battle at any point.

Meanwhile, in times of peace, nobody would be able to pinpoint the siege weapons other than those who've been shown and talked about the exact location.

Understanding the expertise of the Warfare Department, Michael chose to give them a big order.

"Please build a huge gate that can only be unsealed with my energy!"

#### Chapter 417 Habit & Fool

Even though there was something at the bottom of the cave neither Michael nor the Elemental Empress wanted to leave the cave. For one, the cave was in his territory, so he had to deal with potential issues sooner or later, either way. Other than that, Michael had already constructed the Underground Forging Hall in the cavern.

The Temple of the Forgotten was also in the cave. Even his miners could mine day in and day out in the cave since the humongous cavern system had various ore deposits. Meanwhile, the Elemental Empress' decision was mostly based on her gut feeling. She felt that it was dangerous to move deeper into the cave through the large cavern tunnel, but she could also tell that nothing bad would happen. If anything, the pressure spreading through the entire cavern system was something that could aid her society to grow stronger and more resilient.

Therefore, the Elemental Empress decided to create her base in the cavern hall on the second sub-level after clearing all the potential threats from the other tunnels with the help of Tiara and the Blood Oath Demon Monkeys.

Michael, on the other hand, returned to the surface. He had a lot to do.

First of all, Michael strode through the settlement to absorb the changes all around him with his senses. The settlement was bustling. People were busy working wherever Michael looked, some were distressed, while others smiled brightly. As Michael passed by the training ground, he noticed that more Summons than usual had decided to join the daily training session of the military. Upon seeing a familiar old man, the Immortal Knight, Michael finally understood why.

Everyone was hoping to be picked as the first students of the Immortal Knight. They hoped that their fate would change and that their power and status would elevate to a new height.

Theoretically, that was not a bad thing. However, Michael figured that the Immortal Knight wouldn't pick anyone as his student if all Summons were too obsessed with power and status. Siegfried Dragoon was rather strict, put great importance on loyalty and determination, and he relied on his senses and gut feeling to determine which Summons would be good seedlings and who would never be able to become a Blessed Squire.

Michael greeted the Immortal Knight with a thin smile, to which the Immortal Knight responded by gesturing to him to come closer.

'I wanted to go to the Bilrox ranch... Well, I can do that later as well,' Michael thought. He shrugged and approached the Immortal Knight.

"Good morning, My Lord! How about joining my first training sequence held on this humble training ground?" Siegfried asked in a pleasant voice.

Having expected as much, Michael gave Siegfried a simple nod, "Of course. But I hope you don't expect a miracle. I have never been trained professionally in a martial arts technique, and my knowledge about weapons is not exceptional either."

Michael couldn't consider his brother's training proper tutelage. If anything, his brother only provided him with some basics about the sword and how to not cut off his fingers. Daniel Fang's teaching was incomparably different from the proper teachings provided by the Instructors who trained the Descendants.

The Instructors inside the Sapphirelake Military Academy were also much better than Danny because they spent lots of time fixing their students' flaws. That was also what Alice had been trying to do. The only issue with Alice Zenovia had been that she'd never expected Michael's mastery of weapons to be that low. She had no idea how to fix someone's flaws if he couldn't even execute a simple technique properly.

But that was only obvious. Michael never learned a specific technique to begin with. All he did to survive was to rely on Cleave Fenrir's memories and his experience with the spear and the bow to make it seem as if he knew what he was doing. Practically, Michael knew what he was doing thanks to the memories that had been etched deep into his mind. But theoretically...Michael's fighting technique relied heavily

on his instincts. He had no proper technique to rely on. Therefore, he would usually enter a state in which his instincts took over his mind to fight his enemies.

This worked very well since the memories of various combat styles, tactics and tricks had been deeply imprinted into his subconscious. Having devoured close to a hundred Memory Orbs up until now, Michael had a lot more practical combat experience than anyone his age. But, once again, that was practical, not theoretical.

Michael witnessed the memories of the Awakened whose Memory Orbs he had consumed as if he was the one who fought, and trained.

"You have never been trained by a professional? Then you must be a natural. Your people have been praising your god-like combat prowess for the last ten minutes. And we gathered on the training ground maybe 11 minutes ago," Siegfried Dragoon said, sounding a lot more serious than before.

"It's difficult to explain. I mostly rel—..." Michael was about to explain his circumstances when the Immortal Knight shot forward. His humongous broadsword had been replaced by a dulled longsword that swung out to meet Michael head-on.

After the Immortal Knight removed his heavy armor set and the heavy broadsword, his reaction speed, movement speed, and tremendous physical strength came to full display.

Michael narrowed his eyes, twisted his body to evade the sudden attack by a hair's breadth and coated his left hand in a layer of Reinforced Sword Qi. The silver coat of Qi shrouding his hand turned into a razor-sharp blade that cut through the flat side of the Immortal Knight's longsword.

'Who the hell said that he cannot fight?!' Michael cursed in his mind. Siegfried was slightly surprised after seeing how easily Michael evaded his attack. His Lord was not just able to disarm him but even destroyed him while evading the surprise attack.

"Never been trained properly, huh?" He mumbled, kicking the ground to push himself ahead.

The Immortal Knight hurled the remains of the broken longsword toward Michael's head while his right leg moved forward. He was just about to pull Michael's left leg away when he noticed that a glacier-blue

icicle had formed right in front of Michael's left foot. Siegfried's leg collided with the Glacicle, blocking his second attack easily.

In the next moment, Michael pushed forward, his eyes glowing golden. Michael blocked the sword hilt that had been thrown at him and he arrived in front of the Immortal Knight, his left hand stopping mere centimeters away from Siegfried's exposed neck.

Siegfried looked at Michael, a thin smile blossoming on his face.

"I think I understand what you mean. You have more Soultraits than most people I know, and you know how to use them instinctively. But that is also why you rely a lot on your Soultraits and the advantage you gain from them. That's not bad, per se, but it turned into a habit for you to rely on your Soultraits. I wonder what would happen if you ever encounter someone with a Soultrait that blocks your energy circulation or seals your Soultraits temporarily. You know, there are even devices that can block Soultraits for a short period. They might be rare, but it wouldn't surprise me if you were to encounter an enemy with such a device in the future," The Immortal Knight explained, ignoring the Qi blade's tip that was hovering less than five centimeters away from his neck.

"Would you still be able to overpower your enemies, or would you lose against them in a fight without Soultraits?" The Immortal Knight concluded easily after a quick spar that didn't even last half a minute.

"Given your habit, you would end up distressed, unsure what to do after your Soultraits have been sealed. You yourself said that you don't have a technique and that you have no great expertise with weapons. So...why the hell are you still relying on your Soultraits instead of fixing your flaws, my Lord? Because it is easy? That is just foolish!"

'Because it is easy...That certainly is foolish,' Michael forced a smile on his lips. His time in the Origin Expanse had never been 'easy', and he had always given his utmost to grow stronger, protect his territory, and strengthen everyone around him. Expanding and fortifying his territory, ensuring that he had enough funds to pay for everything that had to be taken care of, and finding business partners to earn even more money was far from easy.

It was also far from easy to be thrust into battles against enemies far stronger than yourself. Using Soultraits to close the humongous gap that existed between the Tiers might be considered 'taking it easy', but Michael didn't have the time to spend decades until his weapon mastery reached a level where he, a Tier-2 Lord, could kill a Peak Tier-3 Awakened as easily as he did with his Soultraits and little to no training.

Michael could say all of this aloud and give the Immortal Knight an earful, and that he shouldn't speak so lightly about taking it 'easy'. But Michael was not that much of an idiot. He had his episodes of stupidity, but Michael could also tell that the Immortal Knight wanted to teach him. He wanted to guide Michael to make sure that the young Lord could pinpoint the flaws in his strength on his own and work on them. Siegfried Dragoon was trying to show him a path to grow far stronger than he could fathom.

Michael had yet to experience the potential of powerful techniques and the true essence of weapon mastery, after all!

#### Chapter 418 Queen

"Since you have so many Soultraits, it will feel unnatural to stop using them for a while. However, I hope that you can attend my training sessions once in a while and that you won't use your Soultraits while training with me. Once you find a technique and a weapon that are compatible with you, you will notice that your combat prowess increases drastically," The Immortal Knight explained Michael calmly.

"After you reach a higher mastery with your technique and gain a great understanding of your chosen weapon, it will feel natural to combine both your techniques and weapon with your Soultraits. The first time you combine your Soultraits with your techniques you will know how much you've grown."

The Immortal Knight shared a lot of information and tips with Michael. He spoke for more than 15 minutes about the difficulty to deepen one's mastery with high-ranked techniques and to learn the true essence of a weapon, and that it would take years. Right after telling Michael how difficult everything was and how long it would take, the Immortal Knight switched over to pinpointing the benefits of techniques and the essence of weapons.

Michael didn't understand everything the Immortal Knight said, but one thing was obvious; He had to find a high-ranked martial arts technique that was suitable to him. In fact, Michael would have to find several high-ranked techniques, including a proper movement technique that allowed him to adjust his stance and combat style at any moment, and a breathing technique.

It was a good thing that his body refinement technique and mind refinement technique were neutral and that they didn't change his physique, or train of thought. If not for that, Michael would have to work much harder to either 'fix' the changes, or find techniques that were compatible with Sacred Rectification and Caesurium Menta.

Since that was not necessary, Michael was satisfied.



That left only one prerequisite to solve- He had to find a suitable weapon.

Michael was certain that he would be fine with spears and that he was quite compatible with them. However, the Immortal Knight gave him a mission- to test out a wide variety of weapons before making his decision.

Just like that Michael's to-do list expanded by several points.

He ordered the Weapon Department in the Underground Forging Hall to forge all weapons they had ever learned to forge. Then he had to procure a few more weapon forging blueprints to tick off the first point on the to-do list which was finding the weapon he was the most compatible with.

Then he had to study the essence of his new weapon, procure a Breathing Technique, a Movement Technique, and a Martial Arts technique that were all suitable to him and his weapon. In fact, if the weapon he chose was highly suitable for a wide variety of combat styles, Michael might have to procure multiple martial arts techniques.

But that was not even all. Another point on his to-do list was to join the Immortal Knight's training sessions to fix his bad habit of relying too much on his Soultraits. Michael realized that he had been naive to believe that no one could temporarily seal his Soultraits and that he never considered the possibility.

If all it took was a device that sealed all energy in a specific range, Michael wouldn't be able to use any energy other than the one residing within his body. Maybe it was possible to use Eagle Eyes, and Enhancement on his body, but Michael couldn't be certain about that either.

The ultimate truth boiled down to the fact that Michael had a lot to prepare, a lot to do, and his expenses were bound to increase even higher given that high-ranked techniques were hard to find. Furthermore, they were extremely expensive if purchased, and practicing them over a long period would consume lots of energy, nutrition, and possibly a valuable resource. Michael would have to prepare a batch of Energy Nourishing Pills and Body Strengthening Pills to fuel his body with energy and nutrition if he wanted to practice high-ranked techniques over a long duration. And that was something he would have to do if he wanted to catch up with the mastery his peers had already attained of their Inheritance techniques.

Michael learned once again that no matter how much money he had he would always stay poor. His territory, his people, and his own progress drained his wallet much more than the gains he made. All his funds were already reserved for future tasks. No matter how satisfying it was to grow stronger and how far his territory developed, it was a little bit frustrating to know that he was just a poor fool with a huge list of never-ending expenses.

This made him chuckle a little. He thought that he would be a wealthy tycoon now that he emptied the treasure trove of the Kitsun Lord. But the opposite was the case. He was dirt poor all over again.

Michael tried to distract his mind from thinking too much about his financial status. He began to train with the Immortal Knight for the next two hours while giving his best not to use his Soultraits. That was easier said than done. Michael had been using his Soultraits instinctively whenever he was in need of more defense, more attack power, or the ability to predict his opponent's movements with great precision. Whenever his strength fell short against his enemies, he would apply layers of Enhancement to his body. If his weapon was not sharp enough, layers of Enhancement and Reinforced Sword Qi would be applied instinctively to make sure that he could cut his enemies, and so on.

A complete overhaul of his natural combat style that relied on instincts and the usage of Soultraits to intentionally not using his Soultraits changed everything. Michael never expected that it would be this difficult, but training two hours with the Immortal Knight proved him wrong.

It had been disastrous, but a good experience to understand where he was standing right now...a painful and jarring reality that opened his eyes.

Once his training session ended, Michael left the training for the Bilrox ranch. After the Summoning Gate and the wooden manor had been shifted to the central area of the Untamed Jungle – or what Michael had presumed to be the central area until the Kitsun Lord's maps proved him wrong – Michael hadn't gotten the time to take a look at the development of the Bilrox ranch.

Bilrox feathers might be of decent value, but their value paled in comparison to most of Michael's sources of income. Therefore, he began to consider the Bilrox as animals that could carry heavy weights. They were rather fast and strong, but that was already it. Michael had some plans with the Bilrox, but to make them work he would need an even and smooth path in the Untamed Jungle – possibly even a street – and connections to different territories in the Savannah region and beyond.

Turning the Bilrox ranch into a huge caravan of traveling merchants sounded like a good idea. Unfortunately, he didn't possess enough rare resources, let alone the necessary workforce to put aside enough guards, merchants, and other helping hands to send out a caravan of traveling merchants.

The guards of the traveling merchants would have to be Tier-3 at the very least. If they were weaker, the caravan would probably be raided long before it passed through the Savannah region. That was something Michael wanted to avoid by all means.

Thus, he had been putting aside the development of Bilrox ranch for quite a while. The importance of the Bilrox ranch changed only after a unique phenomenon appeared. Michael read about it in the daily reports not too long ago. Apparently, one of the Bilrox gave birth to a Bilrox Queen.

As a result of the Bilrox Queen's birth the tamer who had been tending to the Bilrox Queen's mother was promoted to a 2-Star Breeding Master. It was an interesting change of events and something that intrigued Michael quite a bit.

According to his knowledge about Bilrox, Bilrox Queen could only be born in a safe environment. There could only be one Bilrox Queen in every Bilrox horde, controlling every single one of them through telepathy. Rumors said that the Bilrox Queen was connected to all Bilrox through the Link of Loyalty.

Therefore, Michael wanted to find out more about the Bilrox Queen, especially after he found out that the Bilrox Queen's presence would naturally nourish the Bilrox of her herd. They would reproduce faster and give birth to stronger Bilrox. Some of the newborn Bilrox may even be born with Unique Racial Traits and elemental affinities.

If that was really true the appearance of the Bilrox Queen could prove quite beneficial for his territory. It could turn the Bilrox Ranch into one of the most profitable businesses. After all, all Elemental affinities could be used in various ways. A Pyro Bilrox could help the blacksmiths in the Underground Forging Hall to forge, a Nature Bilrox could help the farmers tend to the farms, and Glacial Bilrox could help the cooks preserve foods, or aid them in the invention of 'new' dishes.

Elemental Bilrox would naturally improve the living conditions in the territory. But they could also change all war tactics drastically. If the Bilrox Queen's existence strengthened Bilrox that would mean that the Bilrox's racial limit would increase. That meant ordinary Bilrox would be able to reach the 1st Tier, or possibly even the 2nd Tier. A physically strong and fast Bilrox at the 2nd Tier would be a perfect mount for the Cavalry. This would be even better if such a Tier-2 Bilrox had a Unique Racial Trait or an Elemental Affinity!

Hoping that his wild imagination would be somewhat close to the truth, Michael finally reached the Bilrox Ranch.

'Beautiful Queen, where are you hiding?'

#### Chapter 419 Freedom

The Bilrox Queen was round and fluffy with bright, golden feathers. She had large, round eyes that glimmered like a starry night and rushed to Michael upon seeing him. Rather than looking majestic and powerful, the Bilrox Queen looked cute and harmless.

Her short, stubby wings fluttered vibrantly as she wobbled her way to Michael with her small feet.

Even though the Bilrox Queen couldn't fly, her legs were strong and sturdy. She could run much faster than many monsters at the same Tier. Upon reaching Michael, the Bilrox Queen opened her small, cheerful beak and issued a distinct series of tones. The sounds she made were a mixture of chirping, and sharp, piercing whistling notes.

"Little Queen, don't run away from me!!" A young voice resounded far behind the Bilrox Queen. It was a young man with short brown hair, clear dark eyes, and slim stature.

He was the Tamer with the mission to tame the Bilrox Queen. The young Tamer had to make sure that the Bilrox Queen wouldn't try to riot and escape the Bilrox Ranch with the other Bilrox.

Unfortunately, the young Tamer's attempts until today weren't fruitful. The Bilrox Queen didn't attempt to escape yet, but it was not difficult to tell that she didn't like to be confined in the Bilrox Ranch's fences.

"You can open the Gates. It's fine," Michael said, caressing the Bilrox Queen's otherworldly soft plumage. She lowered her head to rub it against his chest. It was almost like the Bilrox Queen could understand every single word Michael said just now.

"Open the Gates? But the Bilrox would run away then. That's just foo—...Oh my! My Lord, I apologize. I am terribly s-sorry!!" The young Tamer hadn't realized it was Michael who had given the orders before. All the young Tamer had seen was the Bilrox Queen running away from him, and that she barely stopped

when she reached someone else. The young Tamer thought that another Tamer had arrived to give him a helping hand.

"It might be foolish, but Bilrox love freedom and safety the most. Before the population of the Bilrox herd increased, the Bilrox Ranch was more than enough for them. However, their numbers are increasing. Therefore, the Bilrox Ranch won't be enough for them to stay happy and not feel cooped up like hens. This will decrease their reproduction rate and the value of their feathers. They release special hormones that aid reproduction, and the growth of young Bilrox, and hormones that make their feathers glimmer brightly," Michael explained calmly, not minding the tamer who had just deemed his suggestion 'foolish'.

Bilrox had been mentioned several times in the books of the Laxarta Library. Having extracted and consumed the Wisps of Knowledge from the books, Michael's mind was filled with a tremendous amount of knowledge. Unfortunately, Michael had yet to learn to tap into this knowledge at his will. That was also why he had to continue practicing the Memory Lane technique. At a higher level, Memory Lane allowed him to search through his memories and mind with far greater precision.

Despite the difficulties of remembering some things on command, Michael was not too worried. He remembered a lot whenever he was doing something related to specific fields. Michael recalled information about the Bilrox after he saw the Bilrox Queen and her brightly shimmering plumage.

"But wouldn't they run away then, M-my Lord?" The young Tamer asked, lowering his head in front of Michael.

Even though Michael didn't intend to intimidate the young Tamer, the difference in their strength and status was enormous. Michael's gaze was straightforward, filled with determination, and some sort of power that made it hard to lock eyes with him. But that was not all. Michael's presence was unique. It enveloped everyone and commanded both attention and submission. The young Tamer was not sure if that was because of the Link of Loyalty established between them or if the reason was something else. However, the Tamer was certain that Michael's power was far greater than his own and that his Lord was thousands of times more important than he would ever be.

"I already said it before. Bilrox love freedom and safety. They know that they're safe and sound here. Open the gates and give them the freedom they desire. They will notice soon enough that the Untamed Jungle is not as safe and sound as the Ranch. Don't worry, and wait patiently for their return. Once they're back they can leave whenever they want, but they won't move too far away from the territory knowing that dangerous monsters could attack them at any time," Michael finished his explanation neatly as he continued to caress the Bilrox Queen's plumage.

He was not sure if he wanted to let the Bilrox Queen hear everything he said, but it might actually be better if she could understand him. As long as the Bilrox Queen understood the true intent behind his words it would be fine. After all, Michael wished to give the Bilrox everything they desired. In exchange, he hoped that they would learn to value the worth of the Bilrox Ranch and the safety they received by living in his territory.

"As you command, my Lord!" The young Tamer said, lowering his head even further. The Bilrox Queen looked at the young man and chirped loudly. It sounded almost like the Bilrox Queen was scolding the Tamer for daring to keep her herd confined for such a long time.

Michael smiled and patted the Bilrox Queen. She continued to rub her head against his chest to thank him – or so Michael thought. He was not sure why the Bilrox Queen approached him earlier when he showed up. Michael could only make guesses about her behavior.

Once the gates were opened most Bilrox were confused. They stared at the open gates with a glimmer of excitement. But instead of charging outside, they looked around to see what would happen when one of their brethren would dare to step out of the fenced Bilrox Ranch.

"You are their Queen, their leader. Take the first step and be a role model for your kind," Michael said before he gently pushed the Bilrox Queen away from him. He looked over to the opened Gates and smiled, "Go. But come back with your little friends later again. And make sure not to stray too far. The monsters of the Untamed Jungle are not to be taken lightly."

The Bilrox Queen only stared at Michael for a while. She took her time to nod and turn away. Her focus diverted from Michael and turned to the opened gates. Once she kicked the ground, the Bilrox Queen's big and fluffy body propelled toward the gates. She ran with short but quick steps and charged outside while making a long series of high-pitched chirping noises.

The other Bilrox noticed their Queen's movements and listened to her commands before they began to move as well. They followed their Queen and charged outside.

The Tamers stared at the scene in front of them with uncertainty and confusion. Not everyone had been informed about Michael's command just yet. They thought that something bad must have happened and were just about to pursue the Bilrox to capture them and bring them back when they noticed their Lord standing in the center of the Bilrox Ranch, looking at the Bilrox with an amused smile.

"It's fine. They will come back," Michael reassured his subordinates, "I hope everyone present can start taking notes of the changes the Bilrox will undergo now that we allowed them to roam around freely." They nodded quietly to him in response.

'And I hope that there will be major changes, otherwise, I put the Bilrox Ranch in danger without generating any positive results.'

Michael was certain that his decision had been correct. He didn't want to confine the Bilrox because they ought to be free. It would be even better if they could get more comfortable with the citizens of his territory. Maybe some of them would even become friends by chance. Bilrox were great mounts with high endurance and even higher speed. If anyone could turn into a Cavalry Duo with them it would increase the prowess of his army considerably!

Michael hoped for the best. He spoke to the Tamers a little bit longer to find out what they needed and what they lacked to progress further. He recalled a few books from the Laxarta Library that may or may not be useful for them. Therefore, he retrieved a few Memory Crystals, copied some of his knowledge into them, and gave the Crystals to the Tamers. By inserting bits of energy into the Memory Crystals, Michael could help them to read the Taming, and Breeding Books from the Laxarta Library through his memories.

"If there is nothing else, I shall leave. The Farmers are still waiting for me," Michael said to the Tamers, who seemed to hesitate, "Tell me whenever something bothers you. I will try my best to give a helping hand. If you don't want to tell me now or think that now is not the time, please report to my assistants once you are ready to speak. There is no need to worry."

Michael was not sure if his presence was too intimidating, but many Starless, or 1-Star Summons had a hard time facing him after he defeated the Kitsun Lord. It could also be the tremendous amount of energy surging through his body that made it hard and suffocating to look in Michael's direction. He had yet to digest all energy and refine his War Rune to the Mid-rank of Tier-2 after all.

"We...we talked about it before in our group...b-but how about creating more Beast Ranches? Some of us are not c-compatible with Bilrox...so we...we have a hard time adjusting to the Bilrox...Some of us are more compatible with ordinary livestock, or other monsters..." One of the tamers dared to speak up. He was pulled back by the other Tamers, who looked at him in horror, but Michael just smiled.

"More Beast Ranches? Please tell me more about it!"

## Chapter 420 Synergy of Nature

Since he decided to spend more quality time with his subjects after defeating the Kitsun Lord, Michael didn't rush anything. He didn't want to waste his time doing anything, but talking and discussing crucial topics about the development of his territory was certainly not a waste of time.

Michael ended up talking to the Tamers close to two hours before he left the Bilrox Ranch. He promised them to create two more Beast Ranches. One with livestock like Titan Pigs, and Servant Cows to breed in order to procure highly nutritious milk and meat. Titan Pigs and Savant Cows could be bred in large numbers to feed the Soldiers to make sure that they would have enough nutrition to practice Body Refinement techniques. That was a good way to save precious money and to be independent of the meat procured through daily hunting in the Untamed Jungle.

Michael agreed to the livestock Beast Ranch but was a little hesitant about the other Beast Ranch. Apparently, two Tamers were famous for taming Bloodhounds, and Silver-eyed Sparrows. Bloodhounds were fierce monsters but once tamed they could be used in hunting parties to pursue monsters. Meanwhile, Silver-eyed Sparrows were easy to tame, but hard to train. According to the tamer, Silver-eyed Sparrows could be trained to send messages to each other through their high-pitched voices.

As long as they built their nests far away from each other, one nest could warn another about threats and the invasion of enemies all over the Untamed Jungle. It was a complex network of Silver-eyed Sparrow nests that required finesse and hard work to train the Sparrows until they could forward warnings properly. However, once the Sparrows reached that level they would turn into an extraordinary alarm system.

Michael was curious about the Silver-eyed Sparrows but he was a little worried about Bloodhounds in his territory. If not trained properly, they might wreak havoc inside his territory. In the worst case, they may even attack the Bilrox. If Bilrox felt unsafe in a previously safe environment, they would flee and create a new safe haven somewhere else. Michael couldn't afford to lose the Bilrox now that a Bilrox Queen appeared. Therefore, he had to think a lot about what to do now.

'In the first place, where am I supposed to be getting my hands on a stock of Titan Pigs, Savant Cows, Bloodhounds, and Silver-eyed Sparrows? The Zentika Empire is off-limits, and the Untamed Jungle doesn't have such monsters. Should I send the Valyr Lordess a message? Maybe they have what I need?' Michael wondered on his way to the Farmers, the 4-Star Nature Spirit, and the Forest Pixie. The Botanica Sorcerer was also present, patiently waiting for Michael's arrival with the Head of the Farmers.



Once Michael arrived at the farmland, he was greeted by a beautiful sight. In between the humongous trees of the Untamed Jungle stood a majestic tree that seemed to embody the very spirit of nature. Michael couldn't determine the type of tree very easily as the majestic tree seemed to change every moment. It had gnarled and weathered bark resembling the wrinkles on the face of a wise elder. The tree's roots reached deep into the earth, anchoring into the ground to withstand all kinds of disasters.

It was the Nature Spirit that had grown into the majestic tree after months of absorbing energy and nutrition.

Around the Nature Spirit, a mesmerizing scene unfolded. The Forest Pixie, tiny and radiant, danced in the sunlight that filtered through the Nature Spirit's leaves. Its delicate, semi-translucent wings shimmered like spun gold, casting tiny shimmering rainbows upon the earth.

The ethereal being continued to dance around, its laughter bright and tinkling like wind chimes. It weaved intricate patterns through the air, each movement delicate and as majestic as the Nature Spirit itself. In its presence, the air and origin energy seemed to merge, creating ripples in the surrounding area as the energy and potent power were led to the farmlands.

Michael never witnessed how exactly the synergy between the Nature Spirit and the Forest Pixie worked. He always thought that the Nature Spirit would absorb energy through its leaves and send it into the ground through its roots to nourish the ground and stimulate the farmlands. However, it seemed that the essence of life itself pulsed through the Nature Spirit and that the Forest Pixie aided the Nature Spirit in the distribution of pure lifeforce. The soft rustling of leaves filled the air as the Nature Spirit swayed gently in the breeze. The Nature Spirit was still smaller than the trees around it. Nonetheless, Michael felt that the Nature Spirit was the center of it all. The energy of the forest converged in the Nature Spirit, creating a haven where the boundary between the natural and the mythical was blurred. The tree was not merely a living entity, it was the embodiment of Michael's territory, a sanctuary where the magic of nature thrives and the cycle of life begins.

Michael was enchanted by the beautiful scenery in front of him. He noticed too late that his entire body was covered in goosebumps, or that the Botanica Sorcerer and the Head Farmer were staring at him. Upon noticing them, Michael smiled lightly, trying to hide his embarrassment.

"It is a majestic sight, ain't it, my Lord?" The Botanica Sorcerer asked, looking excited. He understood the Lord's reaction since he had felt just like his Lord when he first witnessed the playful synergy between the Forest Pixie and the Nature Spirit.

"Thanks to their hard work everything grows faster and we have fewer issues with snails. In fact, ever since the Forest Pixie joined the territory we have yet to find any rotten crops. All ripe fruits and vegetables are of great quality and we were able to expand the farmland without any issues. After all, the range of the Nature Spirit's domain expanded thanks to the Forest Pixie," The Head Farmer explained before hurriedly adding, "My Lord."

Michael didn't say anything at first. Thus, the Botanica Sorcerer spoke up once again, "The Nature Spirit will soon advance to the 2nd Tier. By then its domain will expand again. The Forest Pixie will probably be stimulated enough to reach the 1st Tier. Once both the Nature Spirit and Forest Pixie have advanced, we should start planting herbs, flowers, and other rare ingredients of better quality. Once ripened their quality will be even better than before. This should help the Alchemists to create potions and pills of better quality. The Energy Nourishing Pills' effectiveness would increase by more than 30% with ingredients of higher quality! That would be great, My Lord, wouldn't it?"

Michael regretted a little bit to have talked so little to the Farmers and the Botanica Sorcerer. They were knowledgeable and knew what they had to do and what they needed to make the most use of the environment within the Untamed Jungle, and the domain effect created by the Nature Spirit and the Forest Pixie.

"That's exactly why I came here. I have some rare goods that require experienced farmers to tend to," He said, retrieving two pouches filled with Element Seeds from his War Rune.

The Element Seeds were produced by the Elemental Empress. Michael collected them from the treasury where they had been collecting dust. The Kitsun Lord had yet to meet the necessary requirements to plant the Element Seeds. They would have withered under his observance. Fortunately, Michael had the Untamed Jungle, the Nature Spirit, the Forest Pixie, a Botanica Sorcerer, and hundreds of Farmers to help him out with that. He was certain that the Element Seeds could grow easily with the aid of everyone – especially with the notes made by the Kitsun Lord's subordinates. Most conditions to grow the Element Seeds had been written down in great detail. Therefore, it would hardly be a problem to grow elemental fruits and vegetables in his territory.

The Botanica Sorcerer and the Head Farmer picked one pouch each and looked inside. The insides of the pouches were filled to the brim with grain-sized seeds. They didn't look anything special other than their vibrant color distinguishing them. Traces of elements could be found within each of the seeds, but it was hard to notice with the bare eye. The traces of the elements were not as vibrant as the seeds' color but they were definitely there.

Michael retrieved the notes made by the Kitsun seeing that the Botanica Sorcerer and Head Farmer were having problems figuring out what exactly the seeds were. Their perception was not as high as Michael's. Thus, they couldn't sense the traces of elemental energy within them.

"This will probably help you understand what you're holding," Michael said before he chuckled lightly. He was not sure how rare element seeds were but most people he asked about them knew about their existence. Therefore, he expected the Botanica Sorcerer to know about it.

Unfortunately, that didn't seem to be the case.

"Wait...what?!?" The Head Farmer exclaimed as he finished reading the first page of the notes. His hands began to tremble and he hurriedly closed the pouch filled with elemental seeds. He rushed over to Michael and returned the pouch.

"I don't deserve to hold such treasures. Please pardon me. I don't want to be flogged!!" The Head Farmer apologized profusely and was about to kneel down on the ground when the Botanica Sorcerer reacted as well. His eyes were filled with shock and his hands trembled as well. However, he didn't act as quickly as the Head Farmer.

"My Lord...is that what I think it is? Do you want us to plant all of these? There...must be hundreds of Element Seeds....each of them is worth a fortune. And...a-and I cannot really promise anything. I was never given a privilege like this...Tending to Element Seeds...This...This is a dream coming true!!"