

Supreme Lord 481

Chapter 481 Out of Power

Other than Enhancement, there were many other Support Soultraits at play. Two Berserkers used Soultraits similar to Lokai. They enhanced their physical strength and those their allies by a large chunk, while simultaneously elevating their energy circulation.

Their Soultraits made it much easier for Michael to use his Soultraits with a single thought and unleash a barrage of attacks. Given his usual combo of Glacicles that were either strengthened through Enhancement and Reinforced Sword Qi to increase their lethality or used as mass-produced projectiles to Insert traces of Extraction inside the enemies, Michael could now combine both means of attacks.

That was definitely not helpful for his rapidly decreasing mental power but the Extraction traces inside the enemy took root quickly. They drained the enemy's origin energy and tapped into their life force as well once Michael used Spirit Disturbance on them several times in a row.

Unfortunately, the Soul Techniques of the Tekur were quite powerful, nonetheless. The physically enhanced Tekur's power skyrocketed, and he pushed back the leading Warlock Centaur even after six-layered Enhancement and the Support Soultraits of the two Berserkers strengthened him.

The Golden Bell and the Infernal Aura's power increased the combat prowess of the physically enhanced Tekur even more. He slashed through the Warlock Centaur's abdomen, inflicted various deep gashes and nearly severed the Centaur's left arm.

The other Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs didn't have it much better. The Spheres of Light transformed into dazzling bullets. They were compressed and accelerated rapidly once they were released. Their velocity didn't reach the speed of light but the thunderous explosion that rang out once the Tekur released them was more than enough to instill worry and a seed of fear in the hearts of the prideful Warriors.

The Spheres of Light broke through the sound barrier and pierced neatly through the highly refined bodies of the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs.

A single glance was enough to tell that Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs would either bleed to death in the next ten minutes or they would end up dying in some other way.

Meanwhile, the Tekur with the Shadow Doppelganger turned out to be even more frightening than the Tekur using the Spheres of Light. Once his Soul Technique was unleashed, the Shadow Doppelganger split into five. Each of them was as strong as the original!

The Tekur and his five Shadow Doppelgangers began to beat the living shit out of six Berserkers. The Berserkers gave their utmost to deal with the Tekur, but not even their physical strength was superior at this point. Too many adverse effects of the enemies' Soultraits affected them, whereas too many enhancing Soultraits amplified their combat prowess.

The only advantage on Michael's side was that he was not yet injured. His Extraction traces had taken root in the enemies' bodies and they hadn't even been noticed yet. Maybe the Tekur could sense them but they thought that eliminating their enemies swiftly would be the most efficient way to deal with this issue.

While that was certainly true, Michael would never allow them to kill him. The reason was obvious. He didn't want to die.

Michael used the numerical advantage of the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs to his advantage. He used Leviathan Diffusion and eight layers of Enhancement to move in a zigzag pattern. Another use of the Power of Energy Imprint stored within the Legendary Ring was used up as he initiated the next step of his attack: He used Insert to insert several layers of Enhancement inside every Berserker and Warlock Centaur before Inserting Reinforced Sword Qi, and the Power of Extraction inside their weapons.

His mind was going crazy as a throbbing pain began to torment his mind, but Michael couldn't think of a better way to help the others. This time the Tekur were much harder to deal with than the ones before. They used their Soul Techniques early enough to inflict considerable damage. Simultaneously, their Soultraits weren't that bad. The Golden Bell and Infernal Aura were the most annoying. However, it was even more bothersome that the Mysterious Staff of the Tekur in the back invigorated all Tekur with vigor. It seemed like they were suddenly blessed with infinite Stamina now that the staff-wielding Tekur used his Soul Technique.

Fortunately, Michael's support allowed the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs to hold their fort against the enemies. He then used some of the power accumulated within Archangel's Grace to tend to the leading Warlock Centaur's wounds. Thereafter Michael used Spirit Disturbance with a total of eight layers of Enhancement on the physically enhanced Tekur.

The Tekur had once encountered Michael's Spirit Disturbance so he was prepared for the impact. However, the impact was not as strong as before. It was thrice as strong, sweeping through the Tekur's mind like there was no tomorrow. The physically enhanced Tekur was momentarily stunned, creating the opportunity the leading Warlock Centaur needed to cleave down with the heavy broadsword.

The heavy broadsword cleaved down and cut deep into the Tekur's shoulder...and stopped. Blood spurted out of the Tekur but he didn't die. If anything, the Tekur's body blocked the advance of the heavy broadsword. He wouldn't die from such a wound, not as long as the staff-wielder would keep on invigorating him continuously.

Michael's breathing grew ragged. He had long since tapped into the Extraction traces that had taken root in each of the remaining six Tekur, and more traces of Extraction found their way into the Tekur's bodies while he took a moment to catch his breath. However, Michael didn't allow the Extraction traces to unleash their full power yet. It was only now that he retreated to focus on using Enhancement onto the Symbol of Extraction. A surge of energy streamed out of the six Tekur and Michael devoured it all. He reused the energy he'd absorbed to apply more layers of Enhancement onto the Symbol of Extraction until the energy consumption of enhanced Extraction reached a terrific high.

Michael took note that the Tekur with the Golden Bell, the Infernal Aura, and the Mysterious Staff started to attack him. However, he evaded all their attacks using Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze. His mental power was hitting an all-time low, but Michael couldn't stop anymore.

Extraction devoured energy which was instantaneously consumed to maintain enhanced Extraction at its peak whereas the lifeforce channeled into his body. Most of the lifeforce entering his body was immediately consumed by his mind which converted the lifeforce into mental power to aid him in the final moments of his battle against the three Tekur, who'd decided to attack him simultaneously.

Michael was cut dozens of times but none of the injuries were lethal. Two or three attacks were serious but Archangel's Grace managed to heal him long before the wounds could turn into serious problems.

At last, the Soul Techniques of the six Tekur stopped. Their Soul Power was used up and their Soultraits' tremendous power deteriorated drastically. Their Soultraits were not even powerful enough to harm the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs anymore. After all, their Soul Power – the only means they could use to turn their weak-ass Soultraits into the highly dangerous Soultraits everyone feared – was drained and had to be recharged.

Michael managed to kill the Tekur with the Golden Bell Soultrait and the Tekur with the Infernal Aura before he slumped to the ground, bleeding from his eyes and nose. His entire back was drenched in sweat. The leading Warlock Centaur killed the physically enhanced Tekur. Meanwhile, the numerical advantage of the other Alliance members finally came to use once the tremendous power of the Tekur's Soultraits disappeared. The Tekur were still powerful in terms of physical strength but there was no way they could deal with the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs by relying only on their physical strength – not after Michael and the two Berserkers used their Soultraits to empower their comrades as much as possible.

At last, the battle ended. It was a fearsome battle, yet, oddly enough, no member of the Alliance died.

However, that didn't mean everything was fine. The Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs were knocked out. Some barely managed to retrieve a bunch of potions to tend to their wounds before they slumped to the ground. Others, on the other hand, crashed down and fell unconscious in the middle of the battlefield. Their comrades had to feed them potions to make sure that they would survive.

Michael forced his breathing to steady. It took him a while, but he managed to get up. He retrieved a Nutrition Serum from his War Rune and swallowed the content in an instant. The Nutrition flooded his body and mind, easing his headache considerably.

'I need a better mind-refinement technique or a Soultrait that focuses on enhancing my mind strength drastically. Or I should advance to Tier-3 and refine Caesurium Menta to the Peak of Stage three as quickly as possible.' He thought, running a hand through his hair.

He had been certain that he finally got accustomed to the tremendous power of the Tekur, but they surprised him with every encounter. The seven Enemy they'd fought just now had been much stronger than the rest. Why? Because they fought in a team. Their individual Soultraits were already quite strong given the Soul Power they'd accumulated but the reason they managed to nearly annihilate He and a group of Coalition members was their teamwork and the great synergy of their Soultraits.

Michael didn't like to acknowledge it, but he was 100% sure that he would have died miserably if he had encountered the seven Enemy all alone.

"Strength," He mumbled, eyeing the Enemy corpses. He really had to get his first Soul Technique.

Chapter 482 Self-way

"Can I get the Tekur corpses for a while?" Michael asked the leading Warlock Centaur, who'd introduced himself as Zeron Polik after the fierce battle against the Tekur.

"You want the Tekur corpses? Why?" Zeron asked.

"I want to test something with my Soultrait. You know, the Soultrait that allowed me to read the memories of the war criminals? Sometimes, I can still read the memories and thoughts of the dead. I am not too sure how long the duration is, but it should be worth a try, don't you think?"

Zeron frowned deeply. He didn't really want to give Michael the corpses of the Tekur because some of them were the kills of the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. Michael deserved some of them as his personal trophies, but all?

However, he recalled what Michael had done for their people and their leaders' words as well.

"As long as the merits of killing the Tekur are split fairly according to everyone's contribution I...we will be fine." Zeron answered, only for a Berserker from the side to add, "You can just return the corpses once you're done with your memory reading session, or whatever magic you're performing."

Michael was quite happy with that. It would be a little bit annoying to use Extraction in front of everyone without making it too obvious but it was not impossible.

He froze the ground around him using Glacicle and let sledges grow from beneath the Tekur. The sledges moved to him with a slight tug of origin energy.

"I will need full focus to complete my experiment. Please disturb me only if we're about to be attacked."

Once the corpses were handed over to him, Michael created a thick dome of Glacicle around him. The dome was thick enough to obstruct the curious mind from spying inside. Michael released the Dome of Extraction thereafter.

He began extracting the Memory Orbs, the treasures stored within their War Rune, their Artifacts, a large stash of SoulStar Fragments and two Soultrait Symbols. One of the Soultrait Symbols belonged to the Tekur with the mysterious staff whereas the other Soultrait was from the physically-enhanced Tekur.

The latter interested Michael quite a bit. However, he didn't even consider creating another soul socket in the Sphere of Light. The Soultraits were stored in the emerald box which disappeared in his War Rune alongside the other loot. Among the loot were Inferior Energy Stones and various other goods that none other than Michael could retrieve from dead Lords.

3100 SoulStar Fragments entered his consciousness where they were immediately used up to empower Spirit Gaze. Soon Spirit Gaze would advance to 6-Star!

Michael consumed the Memory Orbs he'd extracted from the Tekur, retrieved the Dome of Extraction, and shattered the dome of ice around him. He walked over to Zeron and handed over two Artifacts and the bodies of the Tekur they killed.

"I am done. Though I might need a few hours to rest. My mind is fuzzy and my energy storage hit rock bottom," Michael said, issuing a small lie.

His energy storage was not a problem. If anything, his mind was the issue. His mind was assaulted by a torrent of memories which Michael had to digest slowly to study the Tekur's Soul Technique training method.

Three hours passed in the blink of an eye until Michael got up with a heavy sigh.

"Can I use the Compact Light Soul Technique with Glacicle?" Michael wondered.

He had a good understanding of the Compact Light Soul Technique and even received the tome to Compact Light to study it properly. He had yet to use Extraction on the tome because he didn't want to destroy the Soul Technique. The tome might come in handy. But then again, Michael figured that he could just insert his knowledge into Memory Crystals if he wanted to share his understanding and knowledge of Soul Techniques.

He erupted the Dome of Glacicle around him once again and retrieved all Soul Technique tomes that he had extracted since the start of the Interdimensional Flag War. Michael didn't hesitate anymore. He unleashed Extraction and retrieved a Wisp of Knowledge from every Tome. The Wisps of Knowledge were pulled inside his mind where the information, knowledge, and comprehension of the Soul Techniques impacted like a weird mixture of all possible natural disasters at once.

Michael felt like he was slowly turning into a masochist given that he tormented his brain so continuously these days. Unfortunately, there was no way that he could allow his mind to take rest now. He could rest once the Flag War was over...or once he was dead.

'I saw everyone using their Soul Techniques clearly. Their energy circulation and the powers of their energy circulations are clearly etched in my mind. I can do it. I should be able to use Compact Light to turn it into a Compact Glacicle...or something along those lines!'

Michael licked his dry lips recalling how the Tekur had used his Light Sphere Soultrait to create bullets made from compressed light. That was the basic concept- Compress a Light Sphere into bullets using the Soul Power stored within the Soultrait.

The energy circulation of Compact Light allowed the Tekur to tap into the Soultrait Symbol of Light Sphere and intertwine Soul Power into his energy. The energy was then utilized to activate a Light Sphere and initiate the whole process.

All Soul Techniques started in a similar fashion. They tapped into the Soul Power stored in their Soultrait Symbols, channeled their energy through the Soul Power to intertwine some of it and circulate everything through the body in a specific order to fuse Soul Power and Origin Energy. Once fused, Soul Energy was created which could then be used to activate and overclock their Soultraits.

After that the last steps of the Soul Techniques would be followed with great precision and the attacks were released, wreaking havoc on their enemies.

'All Soul Techniques require a different amount of soul energy. It is very specific so I will have to test around a lot using Glacicle instead of Light Spheres. It should be fine after a while, but I don't even know how much stronger Glacicle will become once used with a Soul Technique, or how long I need to replenish my used up Soul Power.'

'Can I use the Soul Power of Extraction, or Roc Eyes to fabricate Soul Energy and activate Glacicle with that Soul Energy as well? Or is it necessary to use the Soultrait specific Soul Power? Can I strengthen Soul Techniques by using other Soul Power, or create new hybrid techniques? What about unleashing stronger attacks? Most Common Class Soul Techniques have only one or two utilities that require a very specific amount of Soul Power to be used. There is almost no way to create variations...'

Variations would be harder to control. Therefore, the Tekur Soldiers didn't learn them just yet. They were mere Soldiers and already had difficulties unleashing the Common Class Soul Techniques mid-battle. Their age and absence of talent was a clear testament to their lacking experience.

Meanwhile, Michael had loads of experience. It wasn't exactly his own experience, but he saw a lot, witnessed even more, and he got the feeling that it was worth trying out everything little by little.

Maybe he could overpower the Tekur in the next battle using a self-made, or altered Soul Technique?

But before Michael could do various tests using Glacicles, he had to learn how to fabricate Soul Energy. At first, it would be fine if the Soul Energy inside his body was produced slowly but to utilize Soul Techniques mid-battle, he had to learn how to create them in an instant without getting distracted.

Fortunately, the principle of producing Soul Energy was already engraved on his mind. He saw it often mid-battle with Roc Eyes and experienced the Tekur creating their own Soul Energy through their memories as well.

The Wisps of Knowledge and underlying comprehension Michael had absorbed from the Soul Technique tomes created another pillar of support.

Michael used Leviathan Diffusion to circulate origin energy through his body and channeled it straight into his Sphere of Light. The Sphere of Light was easy to target. It was much bigger and accumulated some of the excessive Soul Power his Soultrait Symbols released every now and then. Michael decided not to tap into Glacicle's Soul Power but to intertwine the Soul Power of the Sphere of Light with his Origin Energy.

The origin energy and Soul Power collided and clashed at first. That was normal and it was quickly resolved as Michael took control of both origin energy and Soul Power. He intertwined the two powers slowly and began to circulate them through his body using Leviathan Diffusion. His Enlightenment

Mastery of Leviathan Diffusion was exceptionally helpful. It accelerated the fusion process and created the first bits of Soul Energy in no more than five minutes.

That was not enough to use it in battle, but Michael was satisfied. It was a pretty good starting line.

Michael continued to practice the production of Soul Energy. He didn't rush anything and fused more Soul power with Origin Energy within the next hour. As he got more adept at the most basic production method of Soul Energy, creating more Soul Energy became easier. It required less focus to fabricate Soul Energy and he could do other things simultaneously as well.

However, instead of multi-tasking, Michael's entire focus remained on Soul Energy Production. At least, until he'd accumulated enough Soul Energy to initiate experimenting with the Common Class Soul Technique aka Compact Light – just a bit altered.

One of the issues Michael had to pay attention to was Glacicle's characteristics. Every Soultrait had different characteristics. Light Spheres materialized spheres that dazzled like the sun. It could be morphed into any shape of his liking and wouldn't break easily either. Evidently light was very flexible. The same couldn't be said about Glacicle.

Glacicle was rather fragile and couldn't be shaped as Michael pleased. It had one particular shape and all Michael could do with it was to alter the size, length, and girth of that one standard shape. It was an Icicle whether compressed, elongated, or expanded to make it seem like a humongous wall.

The shape was a huge downside, which was also why Michael hoped to replace Glacicle somewhen. However, its strongest point made up for the downside of its singular shape. Glacicle could turn into freezing mist on command and revert back into Glacicles just as fast. The freezing effect and the freezing mist were what made Glacicle so special.

Michael believed that he could examine a lot with Glacicle and Compact Light Soul Technique, but he was not sure how long it would seize before he would locate acceptable results.

It was a gamble to experiment with Glacicle and possible incompatible Soul Techniques, but Michael was willing to seize the gamble if it could expand his strength significantly.

Chapter 483 Soul Power Recovery

Michael tried to make use of the altered Soul Technique in a real battle to see if his alteration and understanding made it possible to use his very first Soul Technique in a fight.

Interestingly enough, the start of the next battle was much better than expected. Since there was no storage for Soul Energy within the human body, Michael had to create some Soul Energy before they clashed with the next group of Tekur. He instantaneously circulated the energy intertwined with Soul Power through his body to create Soul Energy and channel it into Glacicle's Soultrait Symbol to overclock the Soultrait.

By activating Glacicle with Soul Energy, a large amount of the Soul Power stored within Glacicle was used-up to change into the overdrive state. Michael created several Glacicles. They were highly compressed into tiny needles and shimmered in an intense dark-blue hue. The Glacicle needles didn't look like the usual creations of his Soultrait. They radiated immense cold and tremendous power, which only intensified as several layers of Enhancement shrouded them.

Michael could create a total of six Glacicle needles with the little Soul Energy he'd created. He didn't strengthen one of the needles, applied only one layer to the second, two layers on the third, and so forth. Every Glacicle needles that followed had one more layer of Enhancement applied to it.

This was part of Michael's experiment. He wanted to see how much influence Enhancement had on the power output of overclocked Soultraits. Would it be 50% like usual, or would the effectiveness of every layer diminish?

Michael found out the answer soon. He unleashed the barrage of six Soul Glacicle needles to attack a Tekur. The needles burst through the sound barrier as they whizzed through the air and they easily pierced through the Tekur's carapace. One second the Tekur was ready to tear apart the Berserker in front of him and in the next moment his body was pierced and frozen from within.

'Enhancement' effectiveness deteriorates if used with Soul Techniques. Is it because Enhancement was not supplied with Soul Energy as well?' Michael wondered as he initiated the second experiment.

He disappeared from the Tekur's sight and let the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs fight with their lives on the line. Michael took a while to produce enough Soul Energy to use Glacicle once again. He took a deep breath and channeled the Soul Energy into Glacicle to create a single bullet made of ice. The Glacicle took the shape of a bullet. It was a little rough and wouldn't fit perfectly in a gun, but that was

not of great importance. Important was just that Michael managed to use the entire Soul Energy to conjure a single Glacicle.

The Soul Energy that had been drained to create six Needles was not used within the Glacicle Bullet. Michael's breathing grew heavier. He clearly sensed that the Soul Power within Glacicle's Soultrait Symbol was being drained every moment the Soultrait was kept activated with Soul Energy.

The origin of Soul Energy was not of great importance. Michael could even use Soul Power of other Soultrait Symbols to create Soul Energy and use it to activate other Soultraits. However, upon activating a Soultrait with Soul Energy, their Soul Power would be drained rapidly until the Soul Energy was consumed in its entirety.

This factor was also why it was so important to create a specific amount of Soul Energy for every time one wanted to overclock their Soultrait. You had to be prepared beforehand with enough Soul Energy to be able to fuel your attacks, otherwise, your Soul Power would be drained rapidly.

Michael didn't have too many issues with that. Compact Light was a Soul Technique that compressed the user's Light Spheres. Each Light Sphere required a specific amount to be compressed. Therefore, one could create more Light Spheres if one produced an excess amount of Soul Energy.

Glacicle was similar to a Light Sphere. Michael could create more Glacicles with a simple command and didn't have to pay much attention to the amount of Soul Energy inside him. All he had to be mindful of was to use up the Soul Energy until the last trace.

The Glacicle Bullet pierced through the air and hit one of the Tekur in the back. The Tekur had ascended into the air to attack the Alliance members with a series of wind blades and wind spears. Michael had been sneaking behind the Berserkers and the Warlock Centaurs to attack their enemies. His presence was barely noticeable. It was not noteworthy for the Tekur – until two of them died that is.

The Glacicle Bullets shot through the air and froze everything in its path. Even The Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs standing in front of Michael were not spared from the tremendous potency of the Soul Glacicle Bullet. It froze their skin as the bullet brushed past them. The Bullet penetrated the chest of the Tekur and lodged itself deep inside the target before it exploded, releasing a tremendous amount of freezing mist. The freezing mist was also overclocked and therefore several times stronger than usual. The Tekur hit by the Soul Glacicle Bullet froze on the spot, unable to do anything against the tremendous power that suddenly turned him into a frozen statue.

'An ordinary Common Class Soul Technique drains roughly a quarter of Glacicle's Soul Power. Fortunately, Glacicle is already a 5-Star Soultrait. That means its raw power is already quite powerful. Contrary to the Tekur Soldiers with their low-rated Soultraits, I won't have that much of a disadvantage once Glacicle's Soul Power is used up entirely.' Michael realized this before he joined the battle against the Tekur actively.

He had a lot to test, but it was more important to make sure that the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs around him wouldn't die. His individual power was bound to increase soon, but he felt bad for leaving the others to fend for themselves.

The second battle continued for a while. Unfortunately, the result of the second battle with Zeron and his team was not as successful as the first. Michael killed three Tekur once again, but it became more apparent that the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs around him were at a huge disadvantage against the Tekur.

Two Warlock Centaurs and one Berserker died in the battle.

Tension hung heavily in the air after all Tekur in the vicinity had been killed, but nobody was overly depressed. It was an honor to die fighting against powerful enemies. Tekur were definitely powerful and the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs considered the Tekur as worthy opponents. Therefore, it was an honor to fight them head-on with all their might. Of course, it would be an even greater honor to win against their powerful enemies, but it was not a disgrace to die in battle. If anything, it was one of the few deaths all Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs accepted unanimously.

Michael felt a little bit weird about that, but who was he to judge their traditions and values? If anything, he should respect them and learn from them.

The Origin Expanse was a place full of war and deaths. If it was honorable to die in battle – especially if you died fighting for your race, or territory – it would be much easier for Michael to stand in front of his subjects and tell them to get ready to fight. But then again it was mostly Michael's lacking expertise in leadership that stirred trouble when it came to controlling his subjects.

Michael shook his head and collected the Tekur's bodies. He created a dome of Glacicle around him and began using Extraction on them.

His focus was on one Tekur at a time as Extraction produced the SoulStar Fragments and extracted the remaining loot. That was also how he noticed something very interesting.

The pile of SoulStar Fragments that landed in front of him was a little bit smaller than before. The first Tekur he'd extracted created fewer SoulStar Fragments than the rest. But that was not the only thing Michael noticed. Michael clearly perceived that Extraction drained remnants of Soul Power residing within the dead Tekur.

The Soul Power accumulated within Glacicle's Soultrait Symbol was being replenished...via Extraction.

'Wait, wait, wait. So you're telling me that I can refill my Soul Power by extracting dead bodies of Awakened and Lords?? That is...amazing!'

Michael knew that Extraction was astonishing but he didn't even have the time to think about using Extraction in such an overpowered manner. The quantity of SoulStar Fragments he obtained after Extraction replenished his used-up Soul Power was less, but only by a small margin.

Replenishing his used-up Soul Power consumed roughly 10-15 SoulStar Fragments. Michael hadn't been using his self-made Soul Technique often, or in an exaggerated manner, which meant that the loss of 10-15 SoulStar Fragments might be considered rather high. However, each of Michael's utility of his Soul Technique resulted in the demise of one enemy. He could gain much more by abusing Extraction's newfound power!

'Does that mean I can convert SoulStar Fragments into Soul Power as well, or do I have to retrieve them straight from a recently killed Awakened?'

Michael was not sure about that but he could procure an answer rather easily. He produced some Soul Energy and created a small Soul Glacicle Needle which he released high into the sky. Now that some Soul Power was drained once again, Michael consumed a handful of SoulStar Fragments with the intention of recovering the used-up Soul Power.

And it worked. It actually worked!!

Michael licked his dry lips and finished Extracting the gains from all Tekur bodies. He then absorbed their SoulStar Fragments and stored away the two Soultrait Symbols he'd extracted.

'I don't really have to hold back in combat as long as I have enough SoulStar Fragments to regain the used-up Soul Power instantaneously.'

After that, he glanced at the Memory Orbs with an peculiar smile.

'If I were the Tekur...I would run...'

Michael then consumed the Memory Orbs. There was still a lot he had to learn about Soul Techniques if he wanted to generate his own Soul Techniques for each of his Soultraits...and that was exactly what he was planning on doing!

Chapter 484 Fusion

Now that Michael knew what he had to do to increase his combat prowess rapidly, he could focus on studying the Tekur's memories and alter the wide variety of Soul Techniques he'd procure. In fact, Michael was pretty sure that he could experiment a lot and create a new series of Soul Techniques. These techniques wouldn't be on par with Common Class Soul Techniques right off the bat, but that was something he could work on.

But before he focused solely on his Soul Techniques, Michael had to finish the upgrade of Spirit Gaze. The last battle helped him procure enough SoulStar Fragments to complete Spirit Gaze's 6th Star. The Soultrait Symbol shone brightly and exuded tremendous power.

Michael's pupils were now entirely silver, creating a stark contrast to his vibrant golden irises. Upgrading Spirit Gaze didn't stimulate an evolution. It didn't hurt that much either. Michael could easily endure the pain.

However, there was something else he realized. The link between Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze was growing stronger. It pulled the two Soultraits closer until they clashed. The fusion of Spirit Gaze and Roc Eyes began.

The moment the actual fusion was initiated, his eyelids grew heavy. He was forced to close his eyes and experience tremendous pain as millions of tiny melting needles pierced through his eyeballs. The pain was even worse than it had been when Eagle Eyes evolved to Roc Eyes. Michael could barely muffle his screams as he began to bleed from his eyes once again. But what Michael didn't expect to happen was that the pain would spread further. The pain of millions of searing hot needles piercing through his eyeballs spread over his eyelids and continued to expand.

'Why is it so painful to upgrade most of my Soultraits. How about giving me some power without tormenting me? Wouldn't that work??'

Michael cursed in his heart but all he could do was endure the pain and hope that it would be over soon. There was nothing else to do.

He tried to adjust his breathing using the Sun Soldier's Breathing technique but it had little effect. All it did was pass some time.

Michael grit his teeth and clenched his fists until his nails dug deep into his palms. Blood trickled down his fists as he kept enduring.

Time seemed to pass eerily slowly. The pain reminded him that a single second could feel like an eternity. It was terrifying. However, Michael endured it knowing that the rewards would be generous. He knew that his strength would skyrocket once again once all of this was over. Thus, he waited impatiently, pushing himself to his limits.

The Soultrait Symbols of Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze clashed with each other. Cracks formed all over the Symbols and they burst into countless tiny pieces. Following that, the Soultrait symbols disappeared.

The Sphere of Light within Michael hummed loudly. It was almost like the Sphere of Light was grieving the loss of its two Soultraits. Michael lost control of Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze, yet he didn't realize any of it. All he could sense was that the severity of pain increased manyfold all of a sudden.

The Sphere of Light glowed brightly whereas the shards of Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze were pulled together. The Essences of Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze swirled around each other like a helix. The link created between the two Soultraits had spread alongside the helix, connecting the two Soultrait to

create a proper double-helix. If Michael could see the structure of the Soulraits just now he would probably compare it to the physical structure of the DNA.

The Essence Helix as it was formerly called attracted the shards around itself. The shards were sucked into the Essence Helix that began to shape from anew, merging and fusing with each other over the course of several hours and took root in one of the two Soul Sockets they'd left behind.

The majority of the pain coursing through Michael's body dispersed the moment the newly fused Soultrait took root. A flood of information and understanding flooded his body and wiped away the pain that had tormented him for the last few hours. Michael grit his teeth and slumps to the ground onto his sweat-drenched back.

His wet clothes clung to his body like leeches. It was disgusting and made him feel uncomfortable. However, Michael couldn't move at this point.

All he could feel was his eyes and the discomfort inside his body. After Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze fused, only one of the two Soul Sockets were occupied.

The Sphere of Light revolved against this. He couldn't destroy the Soul Socket without harming the Sphere of Light, and harming the Sphere of Light was definitely not something Michael wanted to do. He had no idea what would happen if the Sphere of Light ended up damaged, or if it broke apart. The second possibility was the worst-case scenario but Michael couldn't be certain that it would never occur. It was not worth the risk.

That meant he had to use another Soultrait to fill the empty Soul Socket, otherwise, he would feel this uncomfortable emptiness within him until the end of time – or something like that. Michael didn't really plan to fuse a new Soultrait to his War Rune but it was not like he had a choice. Either he had to fuse a new Soultrait, or he would feel empty until he finally gave in to the demands of his Sphere of Light.

But before he gave in to the Sphere of Light's desires and demands, Michael had to find out more about the power of his fused Soultrait.

Spirit Eyes.

That was the name of his Soultrait. The flood of information and understanding he'd obtained told him about that quite clearly. The mass of information had been far more than usual as well. Nonetheless, Michael was struggling to understand everything.

'Spirit Disturbance still exists. The only difference is that the name changed to Spiritual Domination. Spiritual Domination is...thrice as strong as Spirit Disturbance...amazing. But there is also more now. Spirit Sight allows me to see the unseen. I can detect basically everything now. Ranging from Spirits to every last detail in the energy in my sight...and I can even process and understand most of it near-instantaneously. That's amazing...'

Michael was deep in his thoughts, going through the vast amount of information he'd obtained when someone approached him from the side. He saw a large hand reaching out for his shoulder.

Michael merely saw the figure from the corner of his eyes but he jumped into action at once. He rolled backward and jumped up in a smooth motion, steadying his feet and changing into a combat stance, ready to use his Soultraits and display Aethyr to fight the unknown figure when he realized who it was. It was Zeron.

But something was odd.

The figure was Zeron, the leading Warlock Centaur, but that was not the confusing part.

Zeron was not yet near him. The dome of Glacicle broke down somewhen in the last few hours, but there were still some of the dome's remnants. Zeron hadn't even crossed the dome's remnants yet. He was several meters away from him.

Only then did Michael recall something: Spirit Eyes had a third ability.

Prognosis.

Prognosis was similar to being able to predict the target's movements. The only difference was that he could see the movements before they actually happened.

Michael decided to use Prognosis on Zeron to see what he was doing and to find out how Prognosis worked, but all he could tell was that he had no idea whether Prognosis allowed him to look into the definite future or if the ability merely calculated the information at hand to anticipate the target's movements long before Michael's mind could do the same manually.

It was ominous, yet also extremely cool.

Michael was certain that Spirit Eyes would become very useful in the upcoming battles. After all, the Soultraits' power increased manifold, and the Soul Power which the Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze had accumulated merged within Spirit Eyes. Once he came up with a proper technique to use Spirit Eyes with a Soul Technique, his enemies would learn to fear him – if they didn't already.

"What is wrong with your eyes, kiddo?" Zeron asked Michael after he regained his exposure.

Michael's eyes had already been weird before, but the current state of his eyes seemed even more abnormal and out of place now.

"My eyes?" Michael asked, summoning Aethyr in its Shield form to look at the reflection of the polished silvery metal.

Michael's eyes didn't look much different than before. His iris was still radiant golden, and his pupils glimmered silver. His eyes were bright and full of vigor. But there was also the point Zeron mentioned. There was still something different in his eyes, and around them.

The blood vessels in his eyes were not red anymore. The white in his eyes was now permeated with golden and silver veins that had replaced the red blood vessels.

His eyes didn't look human anymore.

But that was not all.

The area around his eyes had changed as well. The golden and silver veins spread across his eyelids and the area around his eyes. The vein-like marks were faint, but upon activating Spirit Eyes they began to glow dimly, forming a symbol – a mark.

The mark didn't look special at first. But looking at his own eyes in the polished shield made him realize something after a while.

Michael was not sure why or how that happened but the Symbol etched on Spirit Eyes' Soultrait was now etched on his face.

'How am I going to hide this?'

Chapter 485 Constitution

Michael figured that it wouldn't be easy to hide the marks around his eyes. Even without activating Spirit Eyes one could see them, though subtly.

But then again, Michael didn't really plan to explain anything, in the first place. He felt like it would be the best idea to let others make their own speculations about the visible changes of his body – just like Zeke did. It bothered Michael a little bit but it was something that would have happened sooner or later. He couldn't hide his secrets forever. The only thing of importance was to hide it until he was barely strong enough to protect his skin from High Society and other greedy bastards.

'Well, whatever.'

In the worst case, Michael could attribute the Tekur for the changes of his body by saying that he obtained some tome and that he started practicing after he comprehended something. It was really not that troublesome. Probably.

"Since you don't want to talk about your eyes, let's talk about our next few steps. What are you going to do now?" Zeron asked Michael after realizing that Michael did not want to talk about his eyes.

"If we're going to continue traveling and fighting in this constellation, I would join your team for the time being. However, I was also told to travel around and search for other groups to make sure that

everyone gathers to fight the Tekur together. So I might as well leave if you and your comrades decide to make a different move," Michael answered.

"I think we're going to join the other Alliance members to fight side by side. We were lucky to confront rather small groups of Tekur, yet everyone nearly died. If not for your active participation in every battle, most of us would be dead by now," Zeron sighed heavily.

He didn't know how the young human did it, but he was strong enough to defeat some Tekur while being a mere Tier-2 Lord, though he was at the Peak of the 2nd Tier. It didn't make sense that Michael was this powerful, let alone that his combat prowess increased with every battle.

'Does he own some sort of Soultrait that allows him to refine his physique, or strengthen his Soultraits after defeating powerful enemies?' He began to wonder.

After observing Michael for a while now, it was pretty obvious that his eyes changed a lot since the young human Lord joined their team. Zeron saw how the silver sheen in Michael's pupils intensified whenever he finished his business with the Tekur corpses. The change in Michael's presence was also noticeable. It was only slight at first, not anymore though. Now that silver and golden veins spread through his eyes and around the eyes, Michael's presence was on another level.

Zeron was certain that Michael was much stronger than before.

'I should inform the Chieftain about this once we're out of here.'

Michael didn't know what was going on in Zeron's mind. They continued to talk for a few minutes and went their separate ways. Zeron and his group would meet up with the other Alliance Members whereas Michael decided to travel through the isolated dimension alone.

Having too many people around him meant that it was more likely for someone to find out about his secrets. Michael felt that it was already hard to keep his secrets in front of a few dozen Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. How was he supposed to keep Extraction a secret when he wanted to extract the Tekur corpses with hundreds of Alliance members around him.

That wouldn't work.

Therefore, it was time for him to travel around alone. He felt strong enough to do so, either way.

There was only one small issue he would have to solve now that he was leaving; he had to fill the empty Soul Socket that Spirit Gaze left behind by fusing with Roc Eyes.

Michael left after exchanging some pleasantries with Zeron and his comrades. His steps were nimble as he rushed in the opposite direction. He hoped to confront a bunch of Tekur in the next few days. It was also time to practice his altered Soul Technique a bit more and to use his creativity, knowledge, and understanding of Soul Technique to piece his own Soul Techniques together.

Once the distance to Zeron and his group was significant enough, Michael retrieved the emerald box and opened it. A stash of 55 Soultrait Symbols appeared in his view and he began to think hard.

"Second Skin is a really good Soultrait. Unfortunately, I don't think I can change into a different race while Second Skin is at a low rating. I cannot transform into a Tekur to backstab them by sneakily infiltrating their own rows. Invisible Projectile should be given to Mika in the future, and I'm not a fan of Soultraits that drain my lifeforce, or Soultraits with severe conditions to use them.

"With Archangel's Grace I have a Soultrait of some sort as well. I might want to fuse my own Soultrait in the future, but not now. It won't increase my combat prowess drastically while the Flag War is still on."

"How about Invisibility? Or the Tekur's Physique-enhancing Soultrait?"

At the end of the day, Michael had to make a decision. Invisibility might be rather useful but Michael liked to fight in the open. He could give Invisibility to someone else, who could make more use of it. Thus, he switched his attention to the physically-enhanced Tekur's Soultrait.

It was a 0-Star Soultrait right now, but that could be changed swiftly.

He retrieved the Soultrait with the Symbols that showed the human anatomy with great precision and fused it into his War Rune. A white tentacle shot out of the War Rune. It coiled around the Soultrait Symbol and devoured it instantaneously. In a matter of seconds, the Soultrait Symbol found its way to the empty Soul Socket where it was attached. Michael gained a new Soultrait just like that.

Information spread through his mind. The pieces of intel found a place to take root quickly and showed Michael everything he had to know. In the meantime, streams of molten lava began to course through his body. The pain was not as unbearable as it had been when Eagle Eyes evolved to Roc Eyes or as Roc Eyes and Spirit Gaze fused to Spirit Eyes. Nonetheless, the pain was not to be taken lightly.

"Constitution, 0-Star Soultrait. Improves the Constitution in all aspects. Meaning that the body, mind, and soul are tempered and some of the existence's flaws will be removed." Michael mumbled through his gritted teeth.

More information entered his mind, but one thing was evident. His entire body was being altered. The changes were not drastic but Michael could clearly feel the muscles in his body squirm and bulge. His energy veins entangled and some of the impurities clinging onto them like leeches were loosened.

Michael's pores burst open and a considerable amount of blood gushed out of him. The blood, however, was not pale red like usual. It was almost dark in color, shrouding the loose impurities within his body before expelling them all-together.

Michael shrouded his body with a layer of energy to store the blood-shrouded impurities in his storage bracelet. They could be thrown away and burned later. But for now it was best to store them away.

Nearly an entire hour passed before the changes within his body were completed. Michael had to consume several Apex Nutrition Serums and absorb the purified compressed energy within a handful of Inferior Energy Stones to provide enough energy and nutrition to complete all changes. However, the result was certainly worth it.

Constitution was merely a 0-Star Soultrait right now but it was far more unique than most Soultraits Michael had encountered until this day.

Just like the information said, Constitution improved his constitution in all aspects. His Body, Mind, and Soul felt stronger and his movements 'smoother' than before. His energy circulation improved, his mind was clearer than ever, and his body naturally absorbed the energy in the surrounding area. It even annexed the energy that entered his body naturally.

Using Leviathan Diffusion to boost the effect, Michael could now digest the compressed purified energy within Inferior Energy Stones much faster than before. Most important of them all, however, was that he could use the Tekur's Soul Technique along with Constitution. Constitution might still be a 0-Star Soultrait, but that was something Michael could change quickly.

Hunting a group of Tekur should do the deed.

Michael was getting a little bit arrogant and full of himself but he understood his limits regardless. He was aware of the various advantages he obtained by possessing so many powerful Soultraits, and what it meant to be in possession of the ability to create his own Soul Techniques.

It was draining to use various Soultraits with immensely high output, but he possessed as much origin energy as a Peak Tier-3 Awakened. That was something Michael got to know by observing the Awakened and Lords around him using Roc Eyes before. Now that he possessed Spirit Eyes, Michael could see the amount of energy residing within everyone with clear precision.

The things he saw made him understand that the amount of energy coursing through his body was abnormal. But why was that the case?

The answer was obvious.

Michael used several times more energy than others to refine his War Rune. He was in possession of 10 Soultraits and required far more energy than others to increase his rank. Only few possessed nearly as much energy as Michael while being on the same rank as him. Kaleb and Maria were like that.

But even their situation was different, somewhat. Michael presumed that the Sphere of Light was part of the reason why his War Rune required more energy to naturally strengthen his mind, body, and soul.

It was a Curse and Blessing at the same time.

However, now that he obtained Constitution, the Curse might turn into a full-blown Blessing. After all, he should be able to absorb far more energy than before.

All he needed was enough resources to absorb and upgrade Constitution.

Chapter 486 Heavenly Beast Physique

In the following six days, Michael was as busy as ever.

He learned that Spirit Eyes was a much stronger Soultrait than he initially expected and that by combining Spiritual Domination with the Soul Glacicle Bullet, he could kill one enemy at a time.

The Tekur didn't expect him to be capable of using Soul Techniques. Therefore, the first attack was always a great surprise. He used the Soul Glacicle Bullet thrice in a row to take out the most annoying enemies instantaneously before slowly wearing out the remaining ones.

Michael's tactic was rather simple. He killed the Tekur with Support-type Soultraits as quickly as possible. Their Soultraits would either weaken Michael or strengthen their allies. Therefore, they had to be killed before they decided that Michael was too powerful for them to tackle without using their Soul Techniques.

To their misery, Michael was faster in utilizing the Soul Glacicle Bullet and Spiritual Domination to take down those enemies before they even thought about using their Soul Techniques.

Some battles were a little cumbersome, but Michael managed to not get truly overwhelmed and make serious mistakes. The only issues Michael faced were that the power stored within Archangel's Grace was about to be used up, and that the Power of Energy Imprint within the Legendary Ring Artifact was empty as well.

Fighting alone resulted in more injuries and a much higher energy consumption on his side, after all.

Despite the dangers he faced, the results of his hard work were apparent. First of all, Michael earned an enormous amount of loot, ranging from Soul Technique Tomes, and Inferior Energy Stones, to Artifacts, Soultrait Symbols, and SoulStar Fragments – a ton of them.

It was perfect.

His comprehension and understanding of the Soul Glacicle Bullet were also pretty high. It was not difficult for him to produce just enough Soul Energy to conjure a Soul Glacicle Bullet in an instant. He could use the Soul Technique mid-battle, and the same could be said about Dark Glacicle Needles. It was a variation of the Soul Glacicle Bullet, a split version that released six slightly weaker needles instead of a Soul Glacicle Bullet.

While his comprehension of the Soul Techniques was impressive, Michael was even more satisfied with the development of the Constitution Soultrait. Constitution was upgraded to Superior Constitution when it became a 5-Star Soultrait. His natural physical strength, energy circulation, speed and every other aspect of his constitution were now on par with a Tier-3 Awakened.

Michael required less layers of Enhancement to fight head-on against Peak Tier-3 Tekur than before. Yet, instead of using less, he continued to apply six layers of Enhancement onto his body to overwhelm the Tekur with his physical prowess.

Once Constitution upgraded to Superior Constitution, Michael's body turned into a black hole. At least, that was what it felt like. The surrounding energy was naturally pulled toward him and Michael could retrieve tens of Inferior Energy Stones around him to absorb their energy passively. The energy was first used to fill his energy storage to the brim and keep it full before the excess energy was supplied to his War Rune.

His War Rune received a constant influx of energy. Michael didn't even have to think about refining his War Rune as the Superior Constitution and his War Rune worked autonomously. The only thing Michael had to pay some attention to was to move around to make sure that there was enough energy in his surroundings or to retrieve a handful of Inferior Energy Stones every few minutes.

Michael could decrease the time needed to refine his War Rune given the passive effects of Superior Constitution. It was a godsend, and exactly what Michael required to keep up with everyone else around him. As long as he improved Superior Constitution, he should be able to refine his War Rune and stay on the same rank as his peers and others without having to slaughter millions of monsters and enemies for their energy influx.

It would be really expensive to get hold of enough Inferior Energy Stones, but at least Michael now had the means to refine his War Rune swiftly even if he needed much more energy than others.

There were only five days left before they would be thrown out of the isolated dimension, but Michael had yet to find another Dimensional Pillar.

The Dimensional Pillars were actually not easy to walk past and miss. They ought to be easy to find given that the entire isolated dimension was a flat area. The only elevations were near the Dimensional Pillar. How was it possible for Michael to miss the remaining Dimensional Pillars while traveling through the dimension for so long?

Interestingly enough, he didn't encounter many groups of humans either. He found some Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs on his way, but Michael's highest probability was to find a bunch of Tekur.

That was also how Michael ended up with 19,500 SoulStar Fragments in his possession. Michael felt like using his SoulStar Fragments to upgrade a 5-Star Soultrait to 5.5 Stars. That way he could increase the Soultrait's power considerably without having to upgrade it fully.

But Michael was also in need of SoulStar Fragments to replenish his used-up Soul Power. He spent several hours everyday training Soul Glacicle Bullet, experimenting with his self-made Soultrait Symbols and increasing his mastery of the Heavenly Beast Physique – the Common Class Soul Technique that had been used by the Tekur owned Constitution before him.

The Heavenly Beast Physique didn't require much Soul Energy to be activated. However, his Soul Power was rapidly drained with every second the Common Class Soul Technique was kept activated. It drained an enormous amount of Soul Power, yet the effect of the Common Soul Technique was tremendous. For a few seconds Michael could fight head-on against a Tekur Healer at the Mid of Tier-3 without using a single layer of Enhancement. His physical prowess ended up being on par with a Mid Tier-3 Lord without Enhancement!

Michael wanted to reach Perfect Mastery of the Heavenly Beast Physique to increase the Soul Techniques' output and maximize the utility of Soul Power. It might allow him to fight with someone at the Peak of Tier-3 without having to rely on Enhancement. Adding several layers of Enhancement to boost his power even further would turn him into a powerhouse with the ability to crush his enemies.

Just thinking about the Soul Techniques' Perfect Mastery made his heart leap. Then he thought about Spirit Eyes, Extraction, Enhancement, and his other Soultraits. They were in need of an amazing Soul Technique to increase his strength even further. Maybe if all of his Soultraits obtained a Common Class Soul Technique, he could deal with a Higher Lifeform at the Lowest rank of Tier-4. It was unlikely – highly unlikely, maybe even close to impossible– but a possibility, nonetheless.

Michael was satisfied with the gains he made in the Flag War one way or another. The Soul Technique Tomes were all safely secured in his mind as highly compressed knowledge. Michael could store his knowledge and understanding in Memory Crystals, which was probably something he would do to help the Forest Elves and Tiara to increase their combat prowess. He was not sure if they possessed Soul Techniques and if they could use them given that none of them was a Lord with a tremendous amount of Soul Power, but he hoped that they could use some sort of Soul Technique in emergencies.

Other than the Soul Techniques, Michael extracted a bunch of Body, Mind, and even Soul refinement techniques. Michael had to research the techniques to make sure that humans could use the techniques without facing any consequences, but he was confident that he would finally be able to start refining his Soul, even if it was just by a little.

Michael's strength, his resources, and the treasures at his disposal accumulated slowly. He was not as weak as before and he had the means to support his own expenses to a certain degree. Selling the translation of a single Soul Technique should bring in a fortune. If that was not enough, Michael could still make use of his loophole to create an infinite amount of Mythic Summoning Scrolls to trade and sell.

Last but not least, there were still a bunch of Soultrait Symbols he could sell. He wouldn't sell them easily but if he was desperate for money, Michael could sell his Soultrait Symbols and a bunch of SoulStar Fragments. Fortunately, it would never come to that. Michael would make sure that he wouldn't sell his most valuable treasures just like that.

If anything, he would make use of them to establish connections with other races, strike deals with true powerhouses to gain their favor, and bind them to himself.

Every single Soultrait Symbol would turn into a valuable asset once sold or traded.

But to make sure that he was considered seriously, Michael needed even more strength than he possessed right now. The results of the Flag War would pull lots of attention to him, and it was not as if his vibrant golden eyes with silver pupils would lessen the attention he already received. If anything, the situation would turn worse.

Other than that, there was still the Mark of Fate that connected him to Maria Seraph, somehow. High Society was likely to pounce on him like starving Hyenas. Therefore, Michael had to be prepared.

"I might as well hunt until the Flag War is over. If I can upgrade Superior Constitution to 6-Star I should be able to further accelerate the refinement of my War Rune. Using Heavenly Beast Physique with 6-Star Superior Constitution should give me an advantage over everyone else as well. That's perfect!" Michael murmured to himself when he noticed something from the corner of his eye.

A large group of more than 100 Descendants entered his sight.

Amid them was Maria Seraph, and he also spotted Killian Zeus, who was following her like a neglected puppy.

Michael squeezed his lips together and was ready to turn away. He'd rather evade a troublesome encounter like this.

Unfortunately, a group of Descendants, scouts, noticed him.

"Isn't that Michael Fang?"

"What is Maria's Primal Amplifier doing here? I thought he was dead."

"Looks like he is alive though."

"This is getting troublesome. Killian is here as well..."

"Will they kill each other?"

Michael sighed inwardly and shook his head. He had the bad feeling that today and the last days of the Interdimensional Flag War would be annoying.

"I wonder. Will we kill each other?" He murmured, surprised that he was not sure if he wanted to clash with Killian, or if he should evade it.

Deep down a blazing flame ignited within him. Michael didn't want to back down against Killian or go out of his way to please that jerk. Why should he?

There was no need for Michael to retreat.

He didn't do anything wrong, and he would beat the shit out of Killian if he said otherwise, or he would try to, at least.

'This is getting interesting...'

Chapter 487 Killian, The Shadow & Death

"It's good to see you, Michael. I was already wondering where to go looking for you," Maria Seraph greeted Michael with a smile.

She grasped his hand and pulled him behind her, not even waiting for Michael's greeting. Maria ignored his subtle resistance and urged him, "I need your help with something. Please follow me!"

Michael raised his right eyebrow and stared blankly at Maria. She ignored the people around her and continued to drag Michael through the small camp. It was a basic camp made with Artifacts created from the combined efforts of blacksmiths, alchemists and enchanter. Expanding tents, campfires with enough firewood and even a miniature infirmary that expanded once enough origin energy was channeled inside it appeared in Michael's view.

Maria's actions didn't go unnoticed. Many saw the way she tightly held Michael's hand as she rushed through the basic camp with him in tow.

"This bastard," One of them cursed under his breath. His thinking escaped his lips before he realized it, but the Descendant didn't really care. All he could pay attention to was the anger and jealousy that blossomed in his heart.

"Who the hell does he think he is? Why is Maria holding his hand, in the first place?!"

The tension in the camp increased exponentially within seconds. Michael was not even in the camp for five minutes, but he had overthrown the camp's power balance and had managed to irk quite a lot of people without doing anything. Bolts of lightning zapped through the surroundings. They crashed into the ground and tore the earth apart.

Killian Zeus was standing in the center of the camp. He had been near Maria when they heard about the scouts' encounter with one of the variables – Michael Fang. Maria was beyond exhausted from tending to the wounded for so long but upon hearing that Michael Fang arrived she regained her vigor. There was no hesitation in her actions as she jumped up from her chair to rush toward Michael and pull him behind her.

To others, it looked like a lonely beauty had reunited with her lost lover after decades of separation.

Killian Zeus' eyes were filled with fury. He stared at the scene in front of him, his eyes turning into sharp slits.

"That bastard was Michael Fang?" Killian asked, faintly recalling a youth who'd been around the Berserkers on the first day they arrived in Piloq, "This weakling is compatible with Archangel's Grace? That is utter nonsense!"

His comrades seated near Killian didn't even have to answer their friend. It was obvious that Killian wouldn't hear them either way. He was already in his own little world of dangerous, rage-fueled thoughts. Even if they wanted to say something it was better to stay put. Killian can be dangerous in 'these' situations. He was like a different human being – not that he had ever been a warm and pleasant person to be around.

Killian grit his teeth and glared loathingly at Michael, who disappeared with Maria in a large tent.

'If Maria could select another Primal Amplifier I would kill you on the spot, you motherfucker!' He growled in his heart, the lightning bolts around him crackling ominously, causing more and more destruction. The Descendants seated around him had to jump back to evade the lightning bolts. They erupted energy shields around their bodies and stared at Killian with mixed emotions.

Maybe today he was going a little bit out of hand, more than usual.

A lightning armor manifested naturally around Killian as the raging thinking overwhelmed his rational mind.

Everything would be so much easier if he can just kill Michael and retrieve the Mark of Fate. He could become Maria's Primal Amplifier by accepting the Mark of Fate and allowing his War Rune to transform. Everything would be perfect if it was that easy.

Once he became Maria's Primal Amplifier, the Zeus family wouldn't shy away from using the majority of their resources to make sure that their prodigious Descendant and Maria can get married. That way the Zeus and Seraph family could become close allies and create the strongest partnership, thus solving various future problems.

It would be perfect!

The children born to Killian and Maria were bound to become prodigies and their families can prosper. But all of this was not reality. And there was only a single person stopping him from turning it into one.

Killian growled silently as he turned around. Thinking about marrying and having her bear his children was a pleasant thought, but it left a sour aftertaste to think that the woman he wanted acted like an innocent maiden overflowing with excitement around another man.

He took a deep breath in, let the oxygen circulate through his lungs, and exhaled slowly. Electricity currents filled the air as Killian exhaled.

'Only one person can become a Seraph's Primal Amplifier. Even if I cannot become her Primal Amplifier anymore...I can still become her First Amplifier. All I need to do... '

It was difficult to scheme against others in a world filled with technology, security cameras, and recording devices. Killian would have a hard time getting rid of Michael without leaving any traces. Inside the Origin Expanse, something like that would be pretty simple. Unfortunately, they were not in the Origin Expanse right now.

But what about the isolated dimension? Recording devices didn't work in the isolated dimension and the crystal watch malfunctioned as well.

"I need to lure him away from everyone else," Killian mumbled, his eyes glowing maliciously as a plan formed in his mind.

He turned away from the large tent and moved aside. Now was not the time to let anger fuel him. He had to stay calm, come up with a flawless plan, and execute it neatly.

Killian walked over to his tent and entered it, his mind churning with various thoughts. Several pairs of eyes peeked through the shadows, their attention locked onto Killian and the emotions that ravaged through his body like torrents of wild, uncontrollable energy.

"Should we use him, Sir Raven? His insatiable condition is perfectly suited for 'it'." One of them murmured while hiding in the darkest parts of the shadow where a pair of violet eyes glowed brightly.

"Seems like we found a perfect target. His mental instability and emotional turmoil are the definition of perfection. To think that Killian Zeus will become our target. All he needs is a little push," Another figure, Raven, clad in shadows responded, his eyes shimmering in a bright purple hue.

The figure retrieved a small object, an orb filled with darkness. Purple threads spread across the surface of the orb like bolts of lightning, but that was not it. The threads were not what they resembled. They were millions of miniature seals that had been woven into the orb to confine the things inside forever. Wrinkled, bony hands pressed tightly against the inside of the orb, their nails scratching the surface from within.

"We've only got one chance. Do you really want to use this, Raven?" A third figure asked, her voice filled with bits of uncertainty.

"One chance is all we need. We've got the main target and this. It should be more than enough to get rid of those disgusting traitors and show High Society what it means to go against the natural order," Raven responded, his voice growing colder as the words left his mouth. He took a deep breath to calm his boiling emotions, closed his eyes before his voice echoed through the vicinity once again, "Our mission is crucial. No room for mistakes. Capture the targets alive and kill everyone else! Auar Hyumana Supremaca!"

"Auar Hyumana Supremaca!" The other figures repeated, pledging their lives to humanity's supremacy.

The figures disappeared in the shadows one after another, leaving Raven all by himself.

He eyed the black orb for a moment and watched death within moving around, desperately trying to escape the eternal seal.

"If that's what it takes I'm willing to sacrifice all the Descendants," He murmured before his eyes traveled back to Killian's tent.

Raven traveled through the shadows in the next moment and appeared inside Killian's tent. Killian was standing in the middle of his room, one hand pushing back his short, golden hair. His hair all over his body stood up on its end when he sensed the energy fluctuations inside the tent. Instinctively, he turned around, ready to summon the thunder armor in an instant.

Raven's eyes shot wide open as tremendous power surged through him at once. Killian acted a little bit faster than he expected. He'd grown stronger once again.

Soul Energy surged through Raven's body as he activated an Elite Class Soul Technique, the technique he'd obtained not too long ago. Raven activated his Soultrait in its strongest overclocked form and faced Killian Zeus, whose body stopped obeying his commands.

Killian Zeus' eyes widened. He stared at a familiar face, a good friend of his, but the friend looked nothing like usual. The charade was over. There was no need for Raven to hide his real self anymore.

"Isn't it funny? By using a mere Elite Class Soul Technique I can strengthen my Soultrait enough to stop you with brute force. Isn't that amazing? That's the power of the Supreme Human Alliance, you know?" Raven laughed, staring at the arrogant bastard in front of him with a devious smile.

"Well, I guess you don't like us, but that will change soon enough, don't worry," Raven laughed, yet his voice was emotionless, ice-cold.

"I have a small present for you, straight from the Hyumans, who were generous enough to lead me away from the wrong path I've been treading. The present shall help you find your way back to the correct path – the path to humanity's supremacy!"

Raven stepped forward with slow and confident strides. His smile widened even further as he appeared right in front of Killian. He used his Soul Technique to force Killian's mouth wide open.

"Have fun witnessing thousands of deaths before you turn into death itself. I will savor every moment of you bringing a calamity to your own people!" Raven laughed like a maniac and was just a second away from pushing the dark orb into Killian's mouth when a noise from behind him forced him to a halt.

"What kind of kinky play is going on here?!?"

Chapter 488 Interlocked

Michael didn't even know what happened until he was dragged inside the large tent.

The tent was spacious but it was crowded with dozens of Descendants lying on mattresses. They were wounded and had to be tended to. Some lost a limb or two, whereas others were covered in deep, visceral injuries. Injuries caused by elemental wounds were also visible everywhere.

It was not pleasant to look at.

Michael felt a little weird staring at the Descendants in front of him. The strongest prodigies of the youngest generation were in front of him, beaten up, some even on the verge of death. Were those Descendants really the same people Michael had been worried about?

Reflecting on his behavior, Michael felt that everything was just a big joke.

"I think you understand what I want to do," Maria Seraph said, still holding Michael's hand. Her fingers were intertwined with his and they locked hands.

Michael stared at Maria without saying anything. He couldn't hide his surprise.

"I've never done this. Please, don't block my access to the Mark of Fate and such," Maria pleaded while trying to suppress the heat rising to her ears.

She utilized Archangel's Grace at once, conjuring a pair of white wings behind her and a dazzling halo above her head. Simultaneously, Michael's War Rune began to shine brightly. The Mark of Fate glowed and a small projection of a miniature angel conjured on the backside of his hand.

The miniature Angel moved on top of the interlocked hands and knelt down to pray. All of a sudden, a second pair of wings sprouted from Maria's back. Her dazzling halo expanded and the range and power of her ability increased rapidly alongside.

Michael heard Maria exclaim quietly under her breath as she sensed the tremendous power that was surging through her body. He could see her power thanks to Spirit Eyes, and he had to acknowledge that it was nothing like before. The only time her power felt even stronger was during the bombardment on Piloq. That time Michael had been channeling a tremendous amount of energy into her body. It was not the same as this time.

Right now, Maria relied on her own energy and the Mark of Fate to unleash the power of Archangel's Grace. Michael activated Spirit Eyes and watched intently as healing currents swamped the spacious tent. He observed keenly as the pained expressions of the injured Descendants dispersed. The tormenting pain vanished as their wounds were stimulated to heal rapidly.

Even those unlucky enough to have misplaced their limbs in the earlier fights encountered a surprising change in their bodies. Their bodies were stimulated, and the lost limbs began to regrow. Michael observed the regrowth of their limbs with great interest. A single use of Maria's Soultrait wouldn't be enough to regenerate their limbs entirely but their bodies might actually attain enough stimulation to regenerate the rest on their own.

Michael couldn't be certain about this, but he was confident that the crippled Offspring could be tended to. Maybe, they would recover and be hale and hearty before the isolated dimension threw them out after the Flag War ended.

'So that is the raw power of Archangel's Grace solely enhanced with the Primal Amplifier. Maria didn't even have to tap into my Sphere of Light to borrow my Soul Power. She didn't use her Inheritance Technique, either. How potent would Archangel's Grace be if used with the Primal Amplifier, multiple other Amplifiers, and Heaven's Descent?' Michael wondered, swallowing hard as he imagined the grand prowess Maria could attain in the future.

She didn't have a Soultrait like Michael, but he was certain that Maria would become one of the strongest powerhouses across the Tritan Alliance – maybe even farther.

Michael's attention was pulled to a particular thought, something he began to wonder now that he'd learned some Soul Techniques on his own.

'I wonder how powerful an Inheritance Technique would be when combined with a Soul Technique.'

Maria's labored breathing pulled Michael out of his train of thought. He glanced at her and noticed that Maria was about to collapse. Michael gently held her by the shoulder with his left hand to support her. His other hand was still tightly interlocked with Maria's left hand which was now drenched in sweat.

"Are you done, or do you want to keep holding hands?" Michael teased lightly. Maria, still breathing heavily, glanced down at her hand squeezing Michael's tightly, and turned beet red. She let go of him in a hurry before hiding her hand behind her back.

Maria's legs were about to give in once again when Michael used his other hand to steady her.

"Good job. Archangel's Grace is even stronger than I expected," Michael changed the topic lightly. The tips of his ears were red and hot as if they'd been set on fire. However, he ignored that sensation and acted like usual.

"That's...That's only because of the Mark of Fate. It increased my power tremendously. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to save half of them. Now each of them will survive. Thank you!" Maria said, grinning sheepishly.

"I don't really think I deserve to be praised for this. I was just standing there holding your hand. It's not like I strained myself like you did," Michael responded with a shrug.

Most people would kill for the chance to hold Maria Seraph's hand and to be close to her, yet Michael could do it just like that. It was very unfair in the eyes of those desperate souls who'd been yearning just a glance from Maria. Of course, Michael didn't care about their opinion.

Nonetheless, he had to acknowledge that Maria's personality matched her otherworldly beauty. She ignored the people around her to drag him into the tent and heal everyone. She went on and beyond to ensure that everyone would survive – that everyone would get back to their prime. Michael wouldn't have healed the cripples just yet. They'd misplaced some limbs but wouldn't have died from the wounds. All he would have done in Maria's stead was to ease their pain and simply ensure that they survived.

However, Maria was different. She was not someone who merely wanted to pay her patients a quick visit and dust her hands off saying they were too injured to be saved. Maria wanted to ensure that her patients could get a life worth living for. The Offspring who misplaced their limbs would have a hard time regrowing their limbs after a certain period. The longer they waited the higher the lasting damage would be. Therefore, Maria did everything she could to ensure that they wouldn't have lasting damage to begin with. She made sure to utilize her skills and talent to the best of her ability.

Maria cleared her throat, noticing how intently Michael stared at her. She felt odd maintaining eye contact with him right now. A weird sensation caused her body to tense up and her heart to beat wildly. Michael's vibrant golden eyes pulled her into a trance. Yet, despite feeling odd, Maria couldn't say that she hated this feeling.

It was uncomfortable, yet not something she didn't like – even thrilling to some extent.

Maria cleared her throat after a few seconds of silence.

"It's good to see that all of them will survive. But that's not because of me. We would all be dead by now if not for Killian's help. He arrived when the Tekur struck us. With his support we were able to kill the remaining Tekur and save many Descendants."

Michael raised an eyebrow hearing Maria appreciate Killian so much. Maria didn't feel like a person who would praise others a lot.

"Are you guys a couple? You and Killian." He thus asked, just making sure that he knew what was going on and if Killian's hatred toward him as Maria's Primal Amplifier might be justified.

Maria blushed, but her answer surprised him quite a bit, "I...never had a boyfriend."

Michael looked at her and smiled. Suddenly, his eyes were pulled to somewhere behind Maria and his eyes widened. Spirit Eyes was still activated from before and he saw something that shouldn't be there. He was certain.

"Someone activated a Soul Technique in the camp," He murmured, turning back to Maria with a dead-serious expression, "Does anyone here comprehend about Soul Techniques? Is that a thing for Descendants?"

Maria didn't expect Michael to grow so serious all of a sudden, but she thought about it for a moment.

"Soul Techniques? I think I heard about that term from my mother before. I think it was about finding a secret tome in some ancient ruin. It's written in an ancient language and the researchers of the High Society are currently deciphering the texts. They've yet to make any major breakthroughs though. Oh, yeah. I think my mom said that they assume that the Tekur might be using Sou—..." Maria was stopped abruptly by Michael as he lifted his hand.

"So nobody knows how to use a Soul Technique?"

"N-no...why?" Maria was still unsure where Michael was going with the conversation.

"Well...we might have a problem then," Michael murmured, using Leviathan Diffusion to weave energy through his body. His Superior Constitution came to display as he charged out of the tent with shocking acceleration.

Maria was still tired but she got a bad feeling seeing Michael run off. She rushed behind him, her eyes narrowing.

"Killian's tent? Why are you going there?" Maria asked while trying to catch up with Michael.

"Killian?" Michael asked aloud, but his eyes narrowed.

What he'd been seeing was definitely not Killian. It was someone else...and a weird mass of something dark. But it was not darkness. Through his Spirit Eyes, it looked more like...death...

Michael didn't hesitate and barged into Killian's tent where he found an unknown Descendant overpowering Killian with a powerful Soul Technique...and the Death Orb that was about to enter Killian's mouth.

"What kind of kinky play is going on here?!?"

Chapter 489 Skeleton

Maria had no idea what was going on but her instincts told her that the black orb near Killian's mouth was nothing good.

Killian's head was red, and veins protruded from his temples and neck. A droplet of sweat trickled down his forehead, showing how much he struggled. Yet, Killian couldn't escape the cloaked man's grasp.

His movements were sealed.

Michael frowned deeply, his eyes lingering on the Death Orb. He produced Soul Energy on a whim and manifested a Soul Glacicle Bullet. It drained his Soul Power considerably, but Michael didn't pay any attention to that. He released the Soul Glacicle Bullet without asking any questions.

The bullet shot through the tent with a terrific velocity. It burst through the chest of the Descendant attacking Killian and exploded once it was deep inside Raven's chest. Raven was bound to freeze to death.

Raven didn't expect anyone to intervene in his plan. He shouldn't have made enough sounds to attract attention. Nobody dared to enter Killian's tent or get close to it, in the first place. There was no way that someone would simply decide to barge into Killian's tent, all of a sudden, at that. But it happened. It didn't make any sense.

Raven was surprised about the sudden entrance of Maria and Michael, and it was even more astonishing that Michael didn't hesitate to release an attack with the intention of killing a fellow human. It was totally unexpected and caught him off-guard.

Fortunately, Raven had a backup plan.

He looked down at the gaping hole in his chest, smiled lightly, and glanced at Michael, "Looks like we got a change of plans."

Raven pulled the Death Orb closer and pushed it deep inside the gaping hole in his chest. A pained expression appeared on his face but he forced a smile on his face once again.

Dark blood gushed out of the gaping hole. It mantled the Death Orb that began to hum. The millions of miniature seals etched on the surface of the Death Orb lit up and cracked. The seals were coated in blood. They distorted into grotesque letters before dispersing entirely.

The Death Orb cracked open, unleashing the eerie energy that had been stored within it for thousands of years.

Killian regained control of his body as the Death Orb cracked. He retreated and appeared next to Michael and Maria. His breath was heavy but his eyes focused entirely on the situation ahead of them.

The three young Lords witnessed a sudden change in Raven's expression. His eyes lost their luster and the vigor in his body was devoured. Deep wrinkles suddenly covered Raven's youthful face as he aged several decades in a matter of seconds. His skin decayed and the flesh beneath his skin corroded, leaving a putrid smell in the air.

Michael swallowed his saliva when he saw through his Spirit Eyes that the Death Orb's energy swept through Raven's body. It drained his life in an instant before doing...something to Raven. Michael was not even sure what was going on before the Death Orb shattered.

The death energy stored within the Death Orb was unleashed at once. It drained the last bits of life within Raven and turned him into...something. Meanwhile, the majority of the death energy burst out of Raven. It filled the air in an instant and decayed Killian's tent within seconds. Thereafter, the death energy expanded rapidly, filling the entire camp of survivors.

Killian groaned as the death energy passed by him. His skin began to corrode, forcing him to summon the Lightning armor. The lightning coating his body zapped violently, trying to repel the death energy that permeated the air all around him.

Meanwhile, Maria was forced to use Archangel's Grace to cleanse the air around her. She was already drained from tending to the injured Descendants' wounds, yet she was forced to use her Soultrait once again.

Meanwhile, Michael covered his body in a thin layer of extraction. He separated the purest portions of energy within the death energy and pressed one hand against Maria's back.

Michael sensed that she was drained and understood that it was necessary to help her. Maria's remaining energy was not nearly enough to even last for two minutes. She was utterly exhausted.

His War Rune glowed up and the projection of the miniature angel manifested once again. However, Michael only paid attention to Inserting some purified origin energy into Maria to ensure that she could cleanse the air around them.

Afterward, his attention was pulled to Raven, who stood still in the same position as before. At first glance, it looked like Raven was nothing more but a bunch of useless bones. However, it didn't take long before the bones began to move. The motions were subtle but there was certainly movement. The Death Orb had shattered but the death energy within Raven had taken root in his heart. It had evolved into a swirl of death energy that spread through every single bone within Raven's body.

Michael saw the tiny dark threads that connected Raven's bones and the brightly flickering soul fire that formed in his empty eye sockets.

'Are we playing Undead Arise, or what?' Michael cursed in his mind, his head flicking to the back when he heard pained groans and desperate screams from the back.

"The others!" Maria exclaimed, her eyes widened in terror. She turned around, only to see that everyone had already breathed in some of the death energy that rapidly spread through the surroundings. Everyone clutched at their throats in terror, their eyes wide open in shock, and their skin slowly began corroding.

"I need to help them!" She screamed and was about to rush to the others and overdraw her energy storage to unleash Archangel's Grace once again.

"Don't be an idiot. We've got to kill this bastard first, otherwise, the death energy will never cease!" Michael shouted back at Maria before letting her go. He could continue to Insert to give her more energy, but Michael was certain that she would run away and use every bit of energy in an instant to help the others. However, her solution was not feasible.

Defeating Raven and cleansing the air afterward, on the other hand, was a permanent solution.

"Kill him? Sandro looks more than dead already, "Killian cursed, "He is nothing like before. He attacked me all of a sudden...his strength manyfold higher than before. He was babbling about some Elite Class Soul Technique, Hyumans, and the Supreme Human Alliance "

Killian might not like Michael, but he figured that he needed some help. Sandro's Soul Technique was strong enough to overpower him. Meanwhile, Michael's ice bullet had been quite powerful. Killian sensed the power within the ice bullet. It was certainly enough to kill most Late Tier-3 Awakened.

Sharing the information in his possession ought to help Michael gain a better understanding of the predicament and find a solution together.

As for the hatred Killian felt toward Michael, it could be ignored for the time being. At this very moment, all that mattered was to survive and to defeat mercilessly Raven.

They could fight later to resolve their issues.

'Supreme Human Alliance? Elite Class technique... The Hyumans reached some households of the High Society already. Traitors are participating in the Flag War! Fuck!!' Michael shook his skull disbelievingly.

He was about to say something to Killian when he noticed that Sandro/Raven began to move. The Skeleton shot forward, his entire bony body cloaked in death energy. His hand shot toward Michael's neck but Michael didn't even think of allowing Raven to get closer. He used the Heavenly Beast Physique Soul Technique in an instant and manifested another Soul Glacicle Bullet.

Michael didn't want to drain his Soul Power this rapidly, but he was not sure how strong Raven was in his new form. The Death Skeleton screamed danger. It was definitely not an opponent Michael wanted to deal with at this point.

But there was nothing Michael could do about it. He added several layers of Enhancement to his body and weaved origin energy throughout his entire body using Leviathan Diffusion. That way Michael's body reached the highest possible state at his current rank. His body was brimming with strength, yet he could barely evade the bony hand that shot out towards him.

The Soul Glacicle Bullet burst forth, smashing hard against Raven's Skull. Yet, instead of breaking anything, the Soul Glacicle Bullet shattered without causing any lasting damage. Not even the freezing mist seemed to cause much damage. All it did was disperse some of the death energy coating Raven's skeleton. However, the bits of death energy that dispersed were quickly replaced by more death energy.

"Your attack is too weak!" Killian shouted, unleashing a tremendous bolt of lightning in Raven's direction. The bolt of lightning zapped through the air and struck hard on the target's chest. Raven was flung backward the moment the lightning impacted. However, he wasn't injured or slowed down. Raven got up from the ground, more death energy coating his chest.

"The hell..." Killian cursed, whereas Michael shouted aloud, "The swirl of death energy in his chest is a storage. It's being used up to spread the deadly fog through the camp and to renew him!"

Michael was glad to possess Spirit Eyes. It allowed him to see far more than most people could. He swiftly figured out the secrets of the Skeleton's tremendous power. The only question was; how the hell were they supposed to kill an Undead being whose body was protected by an enormous amount of death energy? The death energy compressed into the Skeleton's chest was not small by any means!

"Is that so? In that case, let's pummel that bastard until there is no more energy left!" Killian thundered, expanding his thunder armor.

Lightning filled the entire tent, destroying the deadly fog all around him.

Michael and Maria had to retreat to avoid Killian's uncontrolled lightning.

"Cleanse the air. I will give you more energy. Go all out, okay?"

Chapter 490 Bickering

Michael's train of thought was pretty simple.

Since the deadly fog that drained everyone's lifeforce was connected to the death swirl in the Skeleton's chest, cleansing the deadly fog would force Raven to release more energy to keep the entire camp shrouded.

Michael had no idea what Raven's plan was but given the little intel at his disposal, he figured that Raven had been ordered to kill as many Descendants as possible. Was that a punishment for allowing the Tritan Alliance to come to existence? Michael had no idea. All he knew was that the Skeleton focused on the deadly fog while fighting with Killian.

'Once the death energy swirl is drained, the Skeleton should collapse. It's 'kept alive' by the energy swirl, after all.' Michael concluded. The only downside was that the death energy swirl was overflowing with a tremendous amount of energy. It possessed more energy than ten thousand Inferior Energy Stones. That was bad.

The only advantage was that Raven's Skeletal structure couldn't bear the death swirl's entire energy. The death swirl could only circulate a minuscule amount of its energy through the skeletal structure of Raven to control him with great precision. It was not as if Raven's combat prowess increased by leaps and bounds. The only downside was that the death energy enveloped Raven's body as well, granting him an extraordinary defense.

Michael considered bombarding Raven with Extraction, but his Soultrait didn't remove the death energy lingering in the air. Even after he extracted the purified energy within the death energy, the essence of death would remain. That meant Maria had to do the deed. She had to cleanse the camp.

It was a relief that Michael could aid Maria. He released Extraction through the ground and exerted Insert to insert threads of Extraction everywhere in the deadly fog. The deadly fog was drained of its purified origin energy. In response to his actions, the ground shimmered in a golden hue. Extraction threads shot out of the ground for everyone to see.

Michael hated that he had to expose the Extraction threads but there was hardly anything he could do about it. He noticed the shocked expression on Maria's face and pressed his lips together in a thin line.

'Surviving is more important.' He told himself, using Insert to channel the energy that entered his body and traveled straight into Maria.

Michael had already stopped using his Soul Techniques and he was now looking straight into Maria's eyes. "Use Heaven's Descent."

He allowed Maria to tap into his Soul power and use her Inheritance Technique. The Inheritance Technique combined with the natural amplification of the Primal Amplifier ought to be enough to cleanse the camp of survivors swiftly.

Maria looked at Michael, accepted the energy that flooded her veins, and swallowed hard. She had no idea what Michael was doing, but it was apparent that he had done something. It was now time for her to do something as well. She grasped his right hand with both of her hands and channeled origin energy into Archangel's Grace.

The projection of the miniature angel manifested above her hands and knelt down in front of her. But that was only the beginning. The might of Heaven's Descent was unleashed as three pairs of majestic wings sprouted behind her and a dazzling halo conjured above Maria's head. In the blink of an eye, Michael's Soul Power was momentarily drained.

The Sphere of Light vibrated violently as if trying to revolt against Michael's decision, but he discarded his body's natural instincts to retain everything that ought to belong to him. He allowed Maria to take every bit of Soul Power within him even if he ended up feeling extremely fragile and vulnerable until his Soul Power returned.

Maria's eyes widened in shock when she realized just how much Soul Power resided within Michael. She stared at Michael in disbelief just to see the youth smiling at her cheekily.

"Quit staring and start cleansing. You can stare at me as long as you want once this is over," Michael joked, causing Maria to scoff.

"Who wants to stare..." Maria could only say before a beam of death energy shot past her head. Michael barely saw Raven initiate an attack and he instinctively pulled Maria closer to him.

"Focus hard on your fucking task, Killian!" Michael bellowed, causing Killian to glare at Michael through his thunder armor, "I'd love to swap places with you. I would much rather hug Maria than fight Raven in this bone-bastard form!"

Killian continued to curse in his mind when he saw that Maria's cheeks blushing red. Michael had pulled her into his embrace to protect her from the death beam, but that didn't mean Maria could act all flustered and shy...in front of another man at that. Killian grit his teeth, cursing himself for allowing the Skeleton to attack Maria, and hating Michael for being such a lucky bastard. Fortunately, he could redirect his anger and frustration toward the Skeleton, letting loose the turmoil of emotions in his heart to beat the shit out of the seemingly unbreakable Skeleton.

Michael glanced at Killian from the corner of his eyes, a wry smile blossoming slowly. Killian might be a jerk, and a feisty, annoying asshole, but he was straightforward and honest. Those were actually not bad traits. Michael enjoyed having a rude, but honest person around him much more than a people pleaser who talked bad about others behind their backs. Killian might be a bit too violent, yet that was something Michael did not mind.

He'd thought about challenging Killian before and now that urge increased once again.

'Once we get rid of this bastard, I will challenge you!' Michael promised himself.

Meanwhile, Maria fought in Michael's embrace. He'd pulled her close to his chest to protect her from the death beam and to keep her near him. It was much easier to protect Maria while she was right next to him rather than keeping some distance. Maria's heart beat wildly, which Michael realized once he noticed that he was embracing her like a lover. He relaxed his embrace a little but didn't let go of Maria completely.

"Trust me and focus on cleansing. I will pull you away if something happens," Michael whispered into her red, blushing ear. Maria closed her eyes shut and tried to focus with her entire being on Heaven's Descent and Archangel's Grace, but not only to ensure that the cleansing would work out. Instead, she also tried to cleanse her mind of impure thoughts.

Raven tried to attack Maria once before the remnants of his memories made him recall that he was not supposed to kill her. Maria was the only one in this group whom he was not allowed to kill. As for the rest...they had to die.

Raven switched his target back to Killian. Since he was already in a battle with Killian he might as well kill that fool. His protection layer of death energy and the non-existence of pain in his new form meant that he could fight tirelessly for days. Meanwhile, Killian's energy decreased swiftly. His breathing technique allowed him to reduce his stamina consumption and ensure that the energy in his body was distributed equally to keep him full of vigor, but it did not mean that he had infinite stamina and energy. He would run out of power soon if he continued to fight in such an extravagant manner.

By the time Killian was taken care of, Raven could deal with the remaining Descendants and Maria's Primal Amplifier. That was under the circumstances that the Descendants were still alive. He hoped that some would still be alive, otherwise, he'd transformed into the Incarnation of the Death Knight Likar for no reason.

The only issue Raven had to face was that he couldn't use his Soul Technique anymore now that he sacrificed his mortal body. He accepted the death energy inside him and transformed into a being that was neither truly dead nor alive. But that was what Raven had to do to defeat Killian.

If it had only not been for the inopportune timing of Michael and Maria, he would still be alive and Killian would have become a Death Knight. That would have been a lot better. Fortunately, Raven's emotions had been strong enough to relay several missions to his incarnation before his memories and thoughts were devoured alongside his fleshly body.

Maria got hold of her emotions and executed Heaven's Descent at full power. Pillars of light encompassed the entire survivor camp and hundreds of projections of Angels manifested all around the base. They unleashed their divine power and cleansed the proximity swiftly. The divine power first shrouded the injured Descendants. They calmed down and fell asleep soon after their skin stopped corroding. Divine power entered their bodies to expel the death energy most of them had breathed in before.

Maria's breathing grew rougher as the projected Angels used more of their divine power to tear apart the tenacious resistance of the deadly fog. The energy Michael channeled into her was rapidly drained, forcing Michael to insert more energy into her. That meant he had to expand Extraction's tendrils and tap into more of the death energy around him and purify it.

Extracting every bit of purified energy around him meant that he left the death essence behind, but Spirit Eyes revealed that Maria's Soultrait could tear apart even the essence of death. It was a terrifying Soultrait that had no limit as long as enough people around her were willing to lend their Soul Power for Maria to use.

The deadly fog dispersed slowly, forcing Raven to unleash more energy from the death swirl. Michael and Killian were slowly turning into a burden to fight against.

It was only fortunate that Raven was not alone.

At that moment, six figures emerged from Michael and Maria's shadows.

Raven's reinforcement had arrived.