

Supreme Lord 491

Chapter 491 Tension

Michael was shocked at the sudden arrival of six enemies. Each of them used a Soul Technique to attack him.

Michael felt a layer of darkness pass through his eyes. His eyes dimmed for a moment and he lost the ability to see. Simultaneously, the sounds around him were muffled, which made it increasingly difficult to pinpoint where everyone was located.

It was the first time that someone tried to blind him, and it was far more uncomfortable than expected. He pulled Maria even closer to him and unleashed the Dome of Extraction to sense everything within. Every little movement was easily detected, thus pinpointing the location of the six Descendants attacking them.

Michael sensed a sword slashing toward his head. He twisted his body and pulled backward, while still holding onto Maria. Michael channeled a tremendous amount of energy into his Spirit Eyes and added a few layers of Enhancement, therefore dispelling the blindness lingering on him.

'Their Soultraits are stronger than that of the Tekur, but they don't possess nearly as much Soul Power. Spirit Eyes is stronger than your idiotic blindfold!' He cursed in his heart, manifesting a Soul Glacicle Bullet which he further strengthened with Reinforced Sword Qi before unleashing it at once.

The Soul Glacicle Bullet whizzed through the air with shocking velocity. It reached the nearest enemy in an instant and pierced through his chest.

"Wha...." The Descendant could barely exclaim in shock when blood splattered through the air. His chest was pierced through neatly and a flower of frozen blood blossomed. Michael released a small Qi Sword to slice it through the Descendant's forehead. It was a safety measure. After all, Michael had no idea if the other Descendants could transform into a disgusting Undead Skeleton as well. And he was glad he did not wait to find out.

Blood and brain mass spurted from the Descendant's forehead right before he collapsed to the ground. Michael didn't pay much attention to this. Instead, he was more worried about the rapid attack of another Descendant. He'd summoned a Sword using his Soultrait and used his Soul Technique to appear behind Michael, backstabbing him with ease. Michael had yet to manage producing enough Soul Energy

to activate Heavenly Beast Physique. He was too slow to react and ended up with a blade pierced through his back.

All Michael could barely do was to prevent his internal organs from sustaining damage. He groaned in pain and managed to procure more Soul Energy to use Heavenly Beast Physique. His physical strength shot to its peak and his natural regeneration increased rapidly.

Michael didn't move an inch. The enemy's blade was still inside him. Thus, he manifested two dozen Glacicle Swords with several layers of Enhancement and Reinforced Sword Qi shrouded before unleashing them onto the Descendant behind him from all directions. The Descendant had twisted his blade inside Michael's body and was about to tear it out with great force when the Enhanced Qi Glacicle Swords came from all directions.

The young Descendant was about to use his Elite Class Soul Technique a second time when he noticed that his Soul Power had been drained entirely. He possessed just enough Soul Power to use the weakest form of the Elite Class Soul Technique he'd obtained from the Hyuman. It was not possible for him to use it a second time.

All he could do was use his Inheritance Technique to unleash his Perfect Mastered Sword Style. His movements were smooth and fluid. He destroyed a dozen Enhanced Qi Glacicle Swords before they could reach him. But that was not nearly enough. The remaining dozen smashed into him. Some shattered upon impacting on his armor set, whereas the other pierced through his clothes, skin, and flesh.

The destroyed and shattered Glacicle Swords turned into freezing mist, which was then sucked toward the Descendant as Michael had also used Insert to push the freezing mist inside the enemies' bodies.

Two Descendants were dead, leaving only traitors to deal with. Unfortunately, that was easier said than done. Two of the Descendants had weakened Michael for a moment, using their Soultraits to blindfold him and muffle his hearing before they moved on to trying to capture and kidnap Maria Seraph.

They tried to remove Michael's hand from around her, at first, only to end up stabbing and cutting his arm until his embrace around Maria would loosen. However, Michael didn't let go of Maria. His arm was soaked in his warm blood and was trembling like a fragile branch caught in a typhoon, yet Michael never let go.

He promised to protect Maria so he would do that!

His Dome of Extraction expanded. He used Insert onto Extraction and allowed thousands of tiny Extraction tendrils to burst forth. The Extraction tendrils shot toward the four Descendants and entered their bodies without waiting to search for injuries to pass through their skin. Insert was the only shortcut they required to invade the targets' bodies.

Michael then used several layers of Enhancement onto Spirit Eyes once again. He used Spiritual Domination on the two traitorous Descendants who were trying to kidnap Maria Seraph. Their vision turned white for a moment and rolled up the moment the spiritual assault impacted heavily on their mind. In the next moment, they sensed something weird within their bodies. The spiritual attack nearly knocked them out, and it weakened their mental defenses for more than ten seconds. That was just enough for the Extraction tendrils to spread throughout their bodies to drain their origin energy and start growing by devouring their lifeforce.

The Aethyr Blade manifested in Michael's left hand. Strengthened with six layers of Enhancement and Reinforced Sword Qi, Michael slashed out. He pierced through the leather armor of the young man to Maria's left and severed his arm at once. In the next moment, Michael whirled Maria around himself to shield her with his body while simultaneously slicing through the throat of the Descendant, whose arm was flung through the air.

Simultaneously, a Soul Glacicle Bullet formed next to Michael. He'd produced just enough Soul Energy to produce the Soul Glacicle Bullet and release it a second before the other traitorous Descendant could recuperate from the shock left behind by Spirit Eyes' Spiritual Domination.

The Descendant's forehead was decorated with a hole and a crimson flower blossoming out of it. The next moment he collapsed, his brain and head chilled to ice.

Michael was slowly growing tired. Using his Soul Techniques was still acceptable but protecting Maria while dealing with six Descendants, all of whom were capable of using Soul Techniques was not exactly an easy task. As if that was not enough work, Michael was also supplying Maria with energy to ensure that she could cleanse the deadly fog soon.

There were still two more adversaries to kill as well.

Michael was just about to assault the remaining two traitorous Descendants when he saw a mass of thunder shoot through the air. The mass of thunder was none other than Killian Zeus, who was hurled through the surroundings like a Ping Pong ball. He crashed into the last two traitorous Descendants who screamed at the top of their lungs.

Killian roared loudly and jumped up. His armor of lightning and thunder expanded, shrouding one of the traitorous Descendants, who could only scream for a few more seconds before he fainted. The smell of burned flesh permeated the air, but Killian didn't care about that. He was about to charge back at Raven, only to realize that the Undead Skeleton had disappeared.

The deadly fog was still around but Maria was working hard to cleanse it. Cut off from the death swirl within the Undead Skeleton, the deadly fog couldn't recuperate. It was cleansed and expelled from the other Descendants, who'd breathed it in, just before Maria collapsed.

She was drenched in sweat, leaning against Michael, who could barely hold her. His arms were soaked in blood and so was his lower back. He trembled violently and felt like falling asleep at any moment. But instead of being foolish enough to collapse now, Michael stopped channeling energy into Maria. Instead, he used Leviathan Diffusion to weave energy into his body before using the bits of energy his Shard of Archangel's Grace had accumulated.

A faint halo created above his head as he used Archangel's Grace to stop the several bleeding wounds all over his body. Killian saw Michael using Maria's Soultrait and grit his teeth. He felt like unleashing his anger of having lost against the Undead Skeleton near the end by thrashing Michael, but that didn't seem right.

They had other things to do.

Maybe, he could deal with Michael later.

Killian thus turned to the other traitorous Descendants. Only one of them was still conscious, but that could be changed quickly.

"Don't kill them," Michael said weakly.

"Why? They deserve to be executed on the spot! Nobody will question me if I tell them that they were traitors. I have Maria as a witness," Killian retorted, not hiding that he was displeased with Michael.

Michael noticed that Killian mentioned only Maria as a witness, not him, but he wasn't particularly bothered about that. If anything, it was quite fun. He was still a nobody to Killian and High Society.

'Well, that will change soon probably. I exposed Extraction and Insert in front of Maria. She must have noticed that I have a lot more Soul Power than before as well. The Soul Power increase is something I could explain with some white lies, but the rest...definitely not...'

Michael shook his head. They had to solve one issue at a time. He was slowly getting tired of hiding his secrets and was starting to think that he couldn't care less whether others found out about them or not. It would make some things more difficult for him once Extraction's power was exposed, but other stuff would become easier to explain and deal with.

"I can read their minds. We need to know if there are more traitors among the Descendants, who they are, and what their plan is," Michael explained, his voice filled with seriousness.

Chapter 492 The Devilish Plan

Killian didn't want to agree but Michael's words somehow made sense.

"We need to figure out if the Descendants are the traitors or if their families turned against us. That's true..." Killian mumbled. He looked at Michael with more determination than before and nodded before throwing the unconscious body and the semi-conscious Descendant toward Michael, "Do your thing then. I will take a look at the others. They're unprotected and probably weakened. If a group of Tekur attacks, we will be doomed."

Killian couldn't bear to look at Michael and Maria all huddled up right now. They were so close to each other that it made him feel like throwing Michael to the side and running away with Maria. As long as Michael wouldn't be close to her it would be fine...but given how the current situation looked like there was nothing he could do about it. He grit his teeth and began cursing himself for being at fault for what happened. If he had been faster to defeat the Undead Skeleton he would have been able to take care of Maria instead of Michael.

Unfortunately, the Undead Skeleton had been a lot faster than expected. Michael rescued Maria from the death beam and the attempt of the six traitorous Descendants to kidnap her.

'Fuck this shit!'

Killian left Michael alone with four corpses, an unconscious Descendant and a semi-conscious Descendant.

Michael retrieved a mattress and a blanket from his War Rune to let her rest in a corner and give her some comfort in her sleep. He then turned to the semi-conscious Descendant.

Four Glacicle Swords manifested, strengthened with four layers of Enhancement and Reinforced Sword Qi. The swords pierced through the Descendant's arms and legs, pinning him to the ground. His screams reverberated through the camp of survivors, but nobody said anything. In fact, nobody could even see Michael at this point. Everyone but Killian was unconscious. And Killian did not even think about turning around to look at Michael.

Michael retrieved a handful of glass vials from his War Rune and fed Maria the viscous liquid inside them.

'She would wake up in an hour or so. That's just enough time for me to deal with these traitors!'

He looked at the semi-conscious, traitorous Descendant whom he had pinned to the ground with four Glacicle Swords and smiled before using both Extraction and Mind Reader in combination. Extraction was used to torture the Descendant by tearing his insides apart to extract SoulStar Fragments and his Soultrait Symbol, whereas Mind Reader allowed Michael to read the idiot's mind and force him to think about stuff he wanted to keep hidden.

Michael did not even think of having mercy on someone who killed his own kind and nearly killed him as well. There was no need to be merciful to trash like those traitors. Instead, Michael tortured the Descendant while asking a wide variety of questions.

By the time Michael extracted the Descendant's Soultrait Symbol, his body began to react violently. The Descendant collapsed and...died. His Soul received a severe backlash from having his Soultrait ripped out when the Descendant died. Michael figured that the Descendant had been weak and that the idiot suffered a bit, but he did not expect him to die like this.

"Good thing Killian wanted to kill them, either way. At least, I got some intel," Michael murmured before he moved onto extracting the Descendant's Memory Orb. Thereafter he continued to use Extraction on the other Descendants, extracting a portion of their War Runes' storages, their Artifacts, Memory Orbs, SoulStar Fragments and Soultrait Symbols.

Michael was not sure how much time he spent on Extraction, but he noticed that Maria was staring at him.

'Did she see me use Extraction? No. More importantly...did she see the SoulStar Fragments and Soultraits?' He wondered, his heart skipping a beat.

Fortunately, it looked like Maria did not see anything. If she had seen the Soultrait Symbols, Maria would have been shocked. However, she just smiled faintly through her eyes while hiding everything below her eyes behind the blanket.

"Did we win?" She asked after they kept staring at each other for a few seconds.

"Of course, we won. I don't think you would be lying on a cozy mattress like this if we'd lost," Michael raised an eyebrow as Maria scoffed lightly.

She was just about to retort when her eyes fell on his blood-soaked clothes. Maria pulled the blanket aside and jumped up from the mattress.

"I'm sorry. I forgot that you were not injured. I will heal you immediately!" She uttered hurriedly, only for Michael to wave his hand, "I am fine. I healed myself."

Maria recalled that Michael possessed the shard of Archangel's Grace and sighed in relief. A smile blossomed on her face.

"That's good."

Her words were not filled with warmth and sincerity, taking Michael by surprise.

"I'm glad that you're fine as well. You did a good job clearing the deadly fog."

Neither was sure what to say after their words fell. It took Michael a few seconds before he cleared his throat and pointed toward the camp's center.

"How about we go to the others? I finished reading their minds. Unfortunately, they died shortly after. I was lucky enough to get some useful pieces of information though," Michael asked to which Maria could only agree.

"Pleasant information, hopefully," She murmured.

"Well. if it's good news to know about bad news. Then yeah, I got some pleasant information to share with everyone."

Maria's smile stiffened but she did not ask further. She had a bad feeling.

They made their way to the center of the survivor camp where a bunch of Descendants had already gathered around Killian. The Descendants looked distressed and worried. That was only obvious. Even Michael would be worried if he collapsed in the middle of the deadly fog. Killian must have shared the news of traitors in their own rows as well, therefore, creating the tense atmosphere in the camp.

"I really hope that you have some useful pieces of information. We lost close to 35 Descendants to these traitorous assholes. The only good thing is that they did not manage to kill more people before they moved onward to attack you. Their mission was probably to kill as many Descendants as possible before kidnapping Maria," Killian shared with Michael and Maria, whose expressions soured.

Michael was not exactly surprised by the news. He had expected some Descendants to die. The reinforcement of the Undead Skeleton arrived way too late, probably because they had been busy killing the injured Descendants, who had been further weakened in the deadly fog, giving them no chance to retaliate. They died just like that.

"Your prediction is pretty correct. They wanted to capture Maria Seraph and kill everyone else. I've got some useful information, though it might not be nice to hear," Michael responded to Killian, who gestured to him to go on.

"To summarize the information, we've got to deal with 100 traitors in the Flag War. All of them are Descendants of members of the High Society's families, nobility, and clans. However, everyone seems to have obtained different missions and items to make use of. Raven, or Sandro, or whatever he is called must have been a rather high-ranked disciple of a Hyuman because he led a few groups of traitors and gave them their missions," Michael began explaining.

"Basically, the mission with the highest priority can be divided into two tasks. First, everyone was told to keep their identity a secret as long as possible. The traitors were not told to wait until our guard was weakened. By the time they attacked, we would be helpless. That was the plan with the mission being to eliminate all prodigies from the Tritan Alliance. It does not matter whether the prodigies are Warlock Centaurs, Berserkers, or Humans.

Killing the prodigies during the Flag War would be the easiest way to keep the identity of the traitors a secret. The second task of the high-priority mission would be to capture Kaleb Zenovia and Maria Seraph."

Michael had to catch his breath and stopped his explanation for a moment. He allowed everyone to digest what he was talking about.

"One way or another, killing every Alliance member but the prodigies with 7-Star Soultraits was their plan. By failing to destroy the Dimensional Pillars, mankind would be forced to request help from the Supreme Human Alliance sooner or later. After all, if the Tekur race managed to turn the Lesser Dimension Gate into a permanent portal they would infiltrate the Lumina Stellar System and start their conquest by sending a handful of Divine Lifeforms over.

By then it would only be a matter of time before the Tekur reached Kelta and the solar system at last. Tekur would reach mankind and force us to the verge of extinction, thereby forcing humanity to accept the 'generous' proposal of the Supreme Human Alliance to join their ranks in exchange for protection, resources, and whatnot."

Michael finished his explanation with a deep sigh.

The tactic of the Supreme Human Alliance was dirty, but it would allow them to achieve what they desired – bringing all human races under one umbrella and teaching mankind a lesson they would never forget.

"That sounds fucked up," One of the Descendants next to Killian said. He wanted to shout at Michael and accuse him of lying, but Killian's serious expression stopped him from doing anything.

"So we actually have some traitors in our own rows? Well, given that Raven turned against us...against me...I can only assume that we cannot even trust our friends anymore."

Michael stared at Killian and nodded his head weakly. Meanwhile, Maria added, "That means the Flag War is not only a fight against the Tekur but also a battle against our own people."

Michael felt something deep within himself resonate with Maria's words.

"It's a struggle against the Tekur and the restraining chains of the Supreme Human Alliance...a necessary battle to retain our freedom...."

Chapter 493 Challenge I

It was interesting that the Supreme Human Alliance didn't seem to care about Awakened with High Class Soultraits. They were willing to kill them rather than making some effort to kidnap the Human Awakened with 6-Star Soultraits.

Maybe there were not yet enough traitors to kidnap that many Awakened, or they didn't have the necessary resources to control and restrain such a huge number. The latter was unlikely but it was possible that the Supreme Human Alliance was trying to wear down the Tritan Alliance slowly rather than smashing them to smithereens with a single bombardment of attacks.

None of their attacks caused tremendous damage, after all. That was until now. Since they decided to send out younger traitors, who were also Descendants and members of High Society, the Supreme Human Alliance took a great risk. If their plans failed – which happened to some of them – their plans and secrets would be exposed. That was exactly what Michael achieved. He exposed the traitorous Descendants and found out some of their names as well.

Michael felt like moving out at once. He wanted to find the traitors and get rid of them right away. Killian was of the same opinion. Unfortunately, too many Descendants were still weakened and reeling from the aftermath of being exposed to the deadly fog. Maria would have to spend a day or two tending to all of them.

In the meantime, Michael and Killian had to protect the camp of survivors. Raven could come back at any time to kill the weakened Descendants and kidnap Maria. That was not a risk they could afford. Thus, Michael and Killian ended up bored and without anything to do other than making sure that Maria was safe and sound and that the Descendants weren't attacked by a bunch of traitors or the Tekur.

"Fight me," Killian challenged Michael after they spent a day doing nothing special.

Michael was busy altering the Soul Techniques in his possession to create his own customized Soul Techniques for each of his Soultrait. He wanted to create a technique for Spirit Eyes, Enhancement, and Extraction as soon as possible since those Soultraits elevated his combat prowess to an entirely new level.

But he was also curious about Killian's combat prowess. Michael wanted to fight Killian as well.

"Hmm, alright."

Michael summoned Aethyr and the Spirit Armor Set at once before unleashing the Legendary Ring Artifact's dragon might. He exerted Leviathan Diffusion and began with the production of Soul Energy.

Killian was not a patient person, nor was Michael. Killian smiled when he saw that Michael was ready to fight him at once. He summoned his longsword, coated his body in the thunder armor set and compressed it tightly around his body. Thereafter several thunderbolts appeared around him.

"Try to survive, not that I bother about your survival though," Killian sneered while saying in a voice barely loud enough for Michael to hear.

Michael merely raised an eyebrow and he changed his stance at once.

He coated his body in a layer of enhanced Extraction to pull the surrounding energy toward him. The energy would be absorbed at once whereas Leviathan Diffusion would annex it within moments, turning the absorbed energy into usable energy in no time.

Michael conjured several Glacicle Swords, the tips of the blades coated in a golden hue. He released the Glacicle Swords the moment the thunderbolts zapped toward him. The Glacicle Swords clashed with the thunderbolts at once and shattered into countless pieces. The durability of Glacicle was not that high. Therefore, the thunderbolts pierced through the Glacicle Swords in one go. But the layer of Extraction used to coat the thunderbolts drained their energy rapidly.

Michael didn't enhance the Glacicle Swords because all he needed was to send the hue of Extraction toward the thunderbolts to drain their energy and to spread some freezing mist in the surroundings. The thunderbolts slowed down, but they were still extremely fast. Fortunately, Michael had already unleashed Spirit Eyes to predict Killian's attack pattern. He evaded the thunderbolts and noted Killian's next actions through the thick layer of freezing mist that separated the two combatants.

He was able to see every trace of energy within and around Killian, thus pinpointing him with ease. Meanwhile, Killian had more difficulties doing the same. Michael created three dozen Glacicle Swords in one go and released them toward Killian. The Glacicle Swords reached Killian, who evaded most of them, only to realize that the Glacicle Swords would shatter upon colliding with his thunder armor.

However, it didn't even matter whether they collided with the thunder armor or not. Michael willed them to burst into freezing mist once they reached Killian's proximity, either way.

He then unleashed the portion of Insert he'd utilized on the Glacicle Swords. The freezing mist was drawn to the thunder armor and sucked inside.

Killian raised an eyebrow when he noticed that his thunder armor was fighting a fierce battle with the freezing mist around him. His body temperature cooled down and the hair all over his body stood up on its end, resulting in Killian making a move. He charged through the freezing mist to the right while firing a few firebolts through the mist. His aim was not perfect since he couldn't see Michael through the fog. However, he could roughly perceive his current position, and the fact that Michael had yet to move far away from his earlier position.

Killian released a burst of lightning from behind him and turned into a purple flash. He made a detour around the freezing mist and continued to charge around until he had accelerated long enough to reach

his maximum speed without the use of his Inheritance Technique. He circled around Michael in a wide radius and noted the young Lord.

Michael was only at the Peak of the 2nd Tier and was not supposed to be able to follow his movements. Neither should he be able to pick up his movements after he reached his max speed nor was Michael supposed to be able to respond quickly enough to turn in all directions with amazing agility as Killian circled around him.

But Michael did all of that with ease. The mark around his eyes – Spirit Eyes' stigma– shone brightly as he followed every single one of Killian's movements. His body turned around fast enough as well. It felt like his body responded instantaneously to everything Michael saw. It was confusing and definitely not something a Peak Tier-2 Lord ought to be able to do. Not against an opponent like Killian, at least.

'I heard he defeated Jirah. Seems like that was not a fluke.' Killian thought while creating several thunderbolts. He released them to bombard Michael from all directions while continuing to circle the young Lord.

Michael, however, responded even before Killian finished conjuring his thunderbolts. Glacicle Swords with golden tips appeared around Michael at once and they shot in the direction of Killian's thunderbolts even before Killian could release them.

'His reaction speed and predictions are...on a higher level than mine?' Killian realized, his eyes widening in surprise.

It was also evident that Michael utilized less energy. His Glacicle Swords diminished his thunderbolts just enough for Michael to evade them. He didn't have to spend any surplus energy to block anything. All Michael did was to weaken the attacks with the sole purpose of evading them with nimble movements.

Killian grit his teeth. It was the first time he was struggling to defeat someone at a lower rank. Usually, even the opponents at the Peak of Tier-3 were easily defeated. Most wouldn't require him to use his Inheritance Technique at this point. He could summon his thunder armor without the Inheritance technique due to his high mastery and his thunderbolts were among the most lethal attacks one could unleash with a 6-Star Soutrait.

His Soultrait allowed him to gain enormous speed and strength, yet Michael seemed to be able to counter both advantages. Michael Fang possessed far more energy than Killian expected. He was also a lot calmer and didn't panic for a single moment. His responses to the incoming attacks were well-organized and highly efficient.

It was easy to tell the reason Michael had been picked as one of the four variables in the Interdimensional Flag War. Killian had underestimated Michael as well. He didn't think much about the young Lord because he didn't come from a noble background. However, it was evident that Michael was one of the few extraordinary Awakened who had been discovered from a huge pool of ordinary folk.

Killian hated to acknowledge Michael's strength, but he was truly caught off-guard by Michael's physical strength, his body's reaction speed, and the calm and sorted way in which Michael was able to handle the situation. But the most shocking of them all was that Michael could easily predict Killian's next course of action. It was almost as if Michael could see the energy circulating through his body and manifesting around him.

'Wait? Can he see the energy around me? Is that how he predicts my thunderbolts and my next movements?' Killian wondered as he tried to figure out Michael's true strength. His movements were naturally amplified by origin energy. Killian had been taught from a young age to always use origin energy to strengthen his body and amplify his movements. That way his body would be always at its peak, and it would always exude an intimidating presence to those weaker than him.

Some called it the presence of nobility, while it was just some excessive origin energy hovering around the Awakened.

Killian's energy naturally moved through his body the moment he thought about making a different move. His energy would move first, and his body would follow suit. That was how Michael had a much easier time predicting Killian's course of action than everyone else. Killian's 'noble presence' was much more pronounced than that of everyone else.

Chapter 494 Challenge II

Michael immediately sensed the sudden shift in Killian's tactic, energy circulation, and positioning. His movements grew sharper and the energy within him traveled through his body with a slight delay, which made it increasingly more difficult to make precise predictions.

Fortunately enough, Prognosis was still working properly, just not at the same efficiency as before.

Killian was still surprised about Michael's ability to predict his attacks even after he made so many sudden changes. It showed that Michael was just as good at adapting to new situations as he was. That was a bit troublesome, but certainly something he could work with. Killian switched to using smaller thunderbolts that required less energy and a much shorter period to be manifested and released.

The smaller thunderbolts were still as fast as before but they were manifested earlier, making it increasingly more difficult for Michael to create Glacicle Swords in retaliation. He could still react in time thanks to Prognosis and his high proficiency in Glacicle, but Killian didn't show any mercy. He manifested dozens of thunderbolts at once and released them in various directions, precisely blocking Michael's paths of escape.

Two smaller thunderbolts grazed him, leading to high voltages of electricity coursing through his body upon impact.

Michael groaned in pain and stared down on his body. He hadn't used Enhancement or the Soul Technique of Superior Constitution yet, therefore his physique was not at its peak. The electricity currents that passed through him caused some harm.

Killian smiled in response and chose to enter close combat. Even though long-distance attacks seemed to work against Michael, Killian decided that it was time for the melee battle. He was much stronger in close combat with his great versatility, either way.

Killian's combat prowess couldn't be underestimated by any chance. He was good at almost everything. However, his swiftness, the fierceness of his thunder, and the thunder armor's characteristic to strike everything living in its range – other than Killian – was terrific. Adding his high Sword Style Mastery of the Lightning Saint's 42 Lightning God's Slashes, it was obvious that Killian's close-combat fights would be far more brutal and several times more dangerous for Michael to handle and counter.

Michael had much less time to respond to Killian's rapid attacks in close combat, after all.

But Michael was not in the mood to go easy on Killian and give him the opportunity to hit him once again. He had accumulated enough Soul Energy to use the heavenly Beast Physique thrice and manifest several Soul Glacicle Bullets. Michael wasn't about to jump into the hot water by using up every trace of Soul Energy at once.

Instead, he focused on a single use of Heavenly Beast Physique and to maintain it while simultaneously weaving enough origin energy through his body to use Leviathan Diffusion at full power. The energy weaved into his body and enhanced his strength further, only for six layers of Enhancement to join the fray, pushing his physique's capacity to the limit and above. His skin burst open and blood gushed out of him, taking Killian by surprise.

He was not sure what happened to Michael but his presence intensified all of a sudden. Michael charged ahead, cracking the ground beneath him as he kicked it. Michael turned into a flash, his body coated in a thick hue of white. At last, golden glittering stars coated Michael from all sides.

The Aethyr Blade burst forth. It transformed into a longsword coated in Enhancement, Reinforced Sword Qi, and a hue of Extraction. The blade whizzed past Killian's head, narrowly missing him. A strand of hair was cut off, resulting in an instinctive action from Killian. He unleashed his Inheritance Technique purely on instinct.

There was no way that he could deal with Michael without going all out. That was what his body and mind told him near-simultaneously.

'How can someone at the 2nd Tier be so fast and strong? What kind of fiendish technique did he use? Is that a Sacrificial Technique? No, his Lifeforce is not being drained. A special technique that boosts his physical strength? No, his energy level isn't dropping rapidly either. He is growing stronger instead of weaker. Is that an Inheritance Technique? A Soultrait?...ANOTHER Soultrait?!?'

Killian was going crazy trying to understand what Michael was doing. He had no clue what this young Lord was, but one thing was clear. Michael was a monster. There was no other explanation.

He'd seen Michael fight the six Descendants who betrayed their own kind, while simultaneously protecting Maria. He'd channeled energy into her while dealing with the six traitors using a wide variety of Soultraits and powerful attacks. Killian had yet to determine the potency and effect of all of Michael's Soultraits, but he had seen more than enough to understand that Michael had too many powerful Soultraits.

Was he also a traitor? That shouldn't be the case. He protected Maria and killed the other traitors. He searched their memories and shared the intel he procured without hesitation. Michael helped the Tritan Alliance before as well. His swift help allowed them to retrieve the exploration spaceship and find out about various plans of the Dark Heaven organizations.

But what if that was a trap? What if the Supreme Human Alliance tried to use Michael as the rising star of the human race just to expose him as one of their members? They could reveal his identity to the whole human race across the solar system and Kelta once Michael was strong enough before sharing knowledge about the Supreme Human Alliance, their ideology, the massive amount of their resources at their disposal, and the offers they had to make for everyone willing to join their mission.

The more Killian thought about Michael the more his confusion and doubts grew. Michael didn't seem like a bad guy, but he was confusing. He gave Killian the chills, which was something not many were capable of – even less in the case of people at his Tier. Yet, Michael was capable of doing that while he was at a lower Tier. He was merely a Tier-2 Lord, yet Killian couldn't help but feel that the young Lord was creepy.

His Inheritance Technique was unleashed to the peak of Killian's understanding and mastery. The thunder armor erupted and expanded, turning into a half-armor, half-domain. The domain portion of the thunder armor lashed out at Michael, who was standing in the middle of a small thunderstorm before he could respond.

All Michael could do was endure the attacks that impacted. The thunder hit him, resulting in high-voltage electricity coursing through him from all directions.

Oddly enough, it didn't look like Michael was in unbearable pain. He was suffering and in pain but it seemed bearable. Michael's clothes and skin burned, but he was still standing on his feet. It was almost like his physique possessed natural elemental resistance. Or was it lightning resistance?

Michael was no stranger to pain and he could tell that he had been hit worse before. There was no problem for him to endure the pain. The only issue was that he couldn't move properly and he couldn't initiate a counterattack easily. Fortunately enough, that was not necessary. Michael had already responded to the lightning strikes hitting him. Every lightning strike that struck him would Insert more and more Extraction threads into the thunder armor and domain.

The Extraction threads would spread, therefore depleting Killian's energy even faster.

Killian could clearly sense that his energy was drained rapidly, but he didn't worry much about that. He sensed an opportunity to attack Michael and charged ahead, swinging his longsword rapidly. Lightning enveloped his sword as he struck out and a sudden burst of strength elongated the sword blade. The

blade accelerated and sliced through the air, leaving an arc of electricity currents behind as it was on the verge of cut through Michael.

Killian could already see Michael's dead body in front of him when he recalled something: Michael was not actually a monster. He was a human, and he was on his side. Michael saved his life once – doing something a betrayer wouldn't have done in this situation.

Instead of helping Killian, he would have helped Raven in the tent, forcing Killian to consume the Death Orb before disappearing with Maria, kidnapping her while Killian would have turned into an Undead Skeleton that wanted to destroy everyone. Michael had received several chances to do that if he wanted to, yet he didn't take any. If anything, he stayed loyal to the Tritan Alliance.

He had the potentiality to grow into a valuable support pillar for the Tritan Alliance and the human race. Killing him was not something Killian should have thought about in the first place.

"Fuck!" Killian cursed aloud, dispersing the thunder around him, and stopping in his tracks.

He thought about what he was on the verge of do just now, grit his teeth, and removed his Artifacts. The raging anger within him died down and a cursed expression appeared on his face.

"I really sense shit now. Feel lucky that I want to beat the shit out of the Tekur and the Supreme Human Alliance more than you... Fuck off, bastard!" He bellowed, only to turn around and walk away.

Michael's eyes narrowed.

'What was that? Did our fight end just like that? We were just on the verge of reach the climax!'

Michael had seen the blade approaching him with the intention to kill. It was not surprising to have such intentions in the heat of the moment while fighting an exciting battle. However, Michael was also fully aware that he could change the trajectory of the attack by sustaining a more or less severe injury before counterattacking.

Aethyr was already transformed into a sevenfold enhanced glow with blades sticking out of it. The blades were further reinforced by Extraction, Insert, and Reinforced Sword Qi.

Michael was certain that he would have won the fight if they'd continued just a bit more. The only cumbersome task would have been to alter Killian's Sword Path.

But...the battle ended just like that...with Killian surrendering because he didn't want to end up accidentally killing Michael.

'Why is he acting like he is a cool player? Bastard! I want my thrill back!!'

Chapter 495 What now?

Michael was confused about the sudden end of the battle. It was truly a shame that Killian stopped midway.

'Did he think that he won and decided to end the battle before accidentally killing me? That idiot should have known that I'm not that easy to kill...'

At the end of the day, Killian's thought had been nice. He didn't want to kill Michael. Nonetheless, it was a little bit dissatisfying. Michael wanted to say something to Killian and clarify that their fight was not yet over, but Killian Zeus had already turned into a flash and left.

"Where the hell do you think you're going?" Michael grumbled. Wasn't it their mission to protect Maria and the other Descendants in the camp, right now?

Michael shook his head. Thinking about Killian Zeus, he was a little surprised. He was actually certain that Killian would try to kill him since he was known for being violent, and possessive. It was easy to tell that Killian liked Maria.

"Maybe he is a more decent human being than everyone thinks?" Michael mumbled, recalling Killian's words, 'He hates the Tekur and the Supreme Human Alliance, huh?'

It was interesting that Killian hated the Supreme Human Alliance given that most humans would suggest that joining the SHA was a good idea. The protection, resources, High Class Soul Techniques and other

things the SHA offered were extremely valuable. By using the Supreme Human Alliance's network, their technological advancement and various other advantages, mankind would be able to advance rapidly.

The only problem was that the SHA would limit their contact to other races drastically. Their ideals were mind-blowing, and their hatred toward other races was intense enough to consider anyone a traitor who communicated, or traded with other races. That was also why the SHA despised those supporting the Tritan Alliance. They were extremists in that regard.

But then again, human greed didn't know any bounds. The boundless greed of humans was also why Michael was quite surprised that so many members of High Society wanted to get closer to the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs, instead of cutting ties with the Tritan Alliance to join the SHA.

However, thinking about possible reasons for High Society to reject the Supreme Human Alliance, Michael quickly found a handful.

'The Supreme Alliance and the dark organizations they founded ended up killing too many humans. The bad blood between the SHA and our people should be reason enough to make it impossible to return to friendly terms. So many big families and households suffered due to their merciless punishments. They will never join the Supreme Human Alliance.'

The Lavita family was one of the best examples. They lost their precious family members in a terrifying attack of Dark Heavens. It was only obvious that the Lavita family would never join the Supreme Human Alliance, and they would give their utmost to persuade others from joining as well. Many families clashed with Dark Heavens and other dark organizations led by the Supreme Human Alliance. Their encounters ended in a bloodbath at all times.

And now they chose to send traitors into the Flag War to kill all human Descendants other than Kaleb and Maria. Their plan failed, but it was only a matter of time before the Supreme Humana Alliance would switch to more dangerous plans.

Was it really the Supreme Human Alliance's plan to make humans join their mission? Why would they resort to such extreme violence to achieve their goal then?

Michael had a hard time understanding their course of actions and reasoning.

Their plans and ways to 'convince' other human races to join their mission to become the supreme ruler all over the universe were far from logical. It made him wonder how many human races had been forced to join the Supreme Human Alliance, and how many ended up becoming the servants and slaves of the Hyumans.

Michael couldn't tell for sure, but his entire being revolted whenever he thought about the Hyumans. His gut feeling told him to stay vigilant of them and to never think about trusting them.

'I really hope we can catch the traitorous Descendants and their families. If not, High Society will end up in chaos.'

He might not have a favorable opinion of High Society, but Micheal was also not naive enough to believe that the general populace would be unaffected if High Society ended up in chaos. The collapse of the High Society would result in even more chaos, and uncertainty about the future. That was not something Michael wanted to happen.

"What are you doing standing around here, Michael?" A voice reached him from behind. It was Maria, "I saw your fight with Killian. You did well. I didn't expect that any Descendant could fight on par with Killian. Seems like I was mistaken."

Maria smiled as she approached him. A faint halo manifested above her head and semi-translucent wings sprouted from her back. She used Archangel's Grace to heal his burned skin. Her fingers brushed past his head once she was done healing him. The corner of her lip uptilted.

"There is no need to worry about your hair. It didn't burn."

Michael didn't have the time to worry about his hair yet, but hearing that his hair was intact was great news. Her words pulled him out of his train of thought, finally freeing him from the tormenting worries that had flashed through his mind.

'There is no need to ponder too much about future issues. One step at a time, idiot.' He told himself, before smiling back at Maria.

"Thanks for that," Michael pointed at the skin that had regrown.

"How is the situation over there?" He asked, his eyes lingering on the infirmary in the camp.

Maria shifted her weight from one foot to another in discomfort, her shimmering hair waving in the air.

"I did everything I could. As long as they survive the backlash of having consumed the Essence of Death for a few minutes, they will be fine. If not they were either lucky enough to sustain some more or less serious damage from the Death Essence – damage I cannot tend to without the necessary tools and resources –, or they will die..." Maria's voice was grim as she neared the conclusion of her reply and her shoulders sagged defeatedly.

Michael patted her back lightly, "You did everything you could. Now it's on them whether they can survive or not."

"What are we supposed to do now? Most of them are weakened and they won't be able to reach their peak condition until next week. Their combat prowess is severely restricted. Fighting Tekur resemble that is close to impossible...and that leaves—..." Maria couldn't even finish her sentence. She pressed her lips together and looked to the ground.

Never did she believe that joining the Interdimensional Flag War would end up like that. All she'd wanted to do was to join the Battle Exchange to get closer to her peers and try to figure out if there were any potential Amplifiers for her. She discarded that idea quickly and decided to focus on training and getting stronger to make sure that as many Alliance members as possible would survive in the Interdimensional Flag War.

Unfortunately, her plan didn't work out too well. The attack on Piloq happened, Michael turned into her Primal Amplifier, and now there were traitors among the Descendants.

The Tekur were already difficult enough to fight against, but there were now enemies in their own rows as well. How were they supposed to survive like that?

Michael agreed that their situation was not the best. However, he was not as worried or gloomy as Maria. That was probably because he could kill a bunch of Tekur on his own, whereas Maria had to depend on others to protect her. Archangel's Grace was not exactly a Soultrait used for combat, after all.

"We will protect the camp until everyone is fit enough to travel. It might not be the best plan, but I know where more than 200 Alliance members have gathered. Most of them are Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. We can trust them – more than the Descendants, at least."

It was a bit troublesome to ponder that they couldn't trust their comrades anymore, but they could work around that somehow. Michael decided that it would be better not to think about the traitors too much. If they exposed themselves, Michael would dispose of them, but that was it. He didn't have to seek them actively.

"So we stay here for a day or two and join the others later? You want to make sure that the traitors can't find an opportunity to attack us, don't you?" Maria asked, her voice slowly regaining confidence and determination.

"Basically. Raven and the others attacked because they were at an advantage. If we didn't reach Killian before it was too late the entire camp would be dead and nobody would know that there are traitors among the Descendants. With a few hundred Alliance Members around us, it is more unlikely that the traitors would dare to attack us again. Their mission is to eliminate us silently without getting exposed, after all."

Michael felt that his plan was pretty simple, but it should work. The only issue was that he couldn't say with 100% certainty that the traitors wouldn't dare to attack large groups of Alliance members. Not every traitor had the same mission, and Michael didn't know the true extent of everyone's mission either.

All he had was some pieces of information that may or may not be useful if applied properly.

"If no Tekur finds this camp, we can stay here until the conclusion of the Flag War. Destroying one Dimensional Pillar is already a good achievement. We're slowly getting closer to destroying the Lesser Dimension Portal, and expelling the Tekur for good," Maria suggested while also agreeing with Michael's view.

Unfortunately, Maria's suggestion was shattered into smithereens as Killian returned, the energy inside him boiling resemble crazy.

"Three groups of Tekur are on their way!" Killian shouted, causing Maria and Michael to look into each other's eyes.

"Looks resemble we've got to dismiss your suggestion."

Maria sighed heavily, but she gave him a nod. The halo above her head intensified while the wings sprouting from her back expanded.

It was time to fight.

Chapter 496 Exposed?

Killian, Michael, and Maria were lying on their backs, their chests heaving up and down heavily. Their muscles were sore, and their brains felt like someone had trampled on them for ten minutes straight. The clothes were clinging tightly to their bodies.

They stared into the cloudless artificial sky in silence. All one could hear was their heavy breaths.

Maria felt like she would faint at any moment, whereas blood pooled around Killian and Michael. Not all of the blood belonged to them, but a considerable amount of it was actually theirs. Their arms and legs had been cut deeply, and Michael's stomach had been cleaved open for a few seconds in the battle against 22 Tekur as well. Fortunately, Maria had been ready to heal him and Killian at all times. She healed Michael the moment his stomach was cut open.

It hurt like hell, but Michael hadn't been in mortal danger thanks to Maria's quick actions.

One way or another, the two young men and Maria defeated 22 Tekur on their own, while protecting the camp of survivors behind them. It was an achievement worth celebrating. However, nobody felt like celebrating. All they felt was pain all over their body alongside soreness. The soreness continued to spread through their body. It was nasty.

"How many Soultraits do you have, Michael?" Killian asked after fifteen minutes of silence. His breathing had stabilized and he could lift his arms to retrieve a bunch of potions to recuperate faster. His energy began to replenish and the soreness all over his body subsided.

Killian's question didn't hold an ounce of frustration or jealousy. He was just...shocked.

Because they fought against 22 Tekur at once, Michael had been forced to Insert origin energy into Killian mid-battle. He Inserted seven layers of Enhancement into Killian's body as well. It was a necessity, otherwise, everyone in the camp would have died.

The 22 Tekur were a large group with more than 10 Tekur possessing Soultraits and Soul Techniques that further enhanced their comrades. Michael and Killian had to work together and use everything at their disposal to take out one Tekur after another. Sometimes, they were injured but their trust in Maria was enough for them to keep fighting with all they had. Meanwhile, Maria focused on tending to their wounds and keeping an eye on the situation all over the battlefield.

She warned Killian thrice about an incoming attack from behind. Meanwhile, Michael moved around and acted fast enough to protect himself. He didn't need Maria's warnings.

Killian's combat prowess with seven layers of Enhancement and enough energy to release his strongest attack several times in a row was terrifying. Michael witnessed it first-hand, but he was still having a hard time comprehending that someone could be this strong as a Lesser Lifeform. It was quite shocking.

But then again, Killian was only able to deal this much damage because of Enhancement, his origin energy, and Insert.

Michael knew that he used most of his Soultraits to their limit as well as the Soul Techniques he'd comprehended. No matter how he looked at the fight, anyone could tell that Michael used at least six Soultraits.

"More than enough," Michael responded, not willing to talk more about it.

Killian noticed that, but he wasn't going to leave it at that, "I know that you got more than enough Soultraits."

He clicked his tongue and added, "You've got some unique power that allows you to create Soultraits, and strengthen them, don't you?"

Michael's heart skipped a beat, but he kept staring into the cloudless sky without a word.

"I didn't think too much about your Soultraits and strength before, but when we fought, I noticed something. I recalled a few chats with my Uncle when he came back home from drinking too much." Michael continued to stay silent as Killian added,

"Oliver, my uncle, often complained about Alice and her disciple. He was drunk, so started talking gibberish after a while. But I clearly recall him saying that it made no sense for Alice to pay so much attention to her disciple. He might have had two Soultraits during the assessment at the start of the year, but they didn't contain much Soul Power. The Soultraits of Alice's disciple were only 2-Star, or 3-Star at the highest," Killian said, propping himself up on his elbows.

His head flicked to Michael, who was still staring into the sky.

"But, did you know that Alice never had an official disciple? She only taught her brother...and you. And you have more than 2 Soultraits, and they're definitely not mere 3-Star Soultraits. Oliver is in love with Alice so he researched a lot about you. That is also how I know that your Ice Soultrait and the Sword Qi Soultrait came from a Lord Rift. At least, that is what you uttered before. You might not have lied, but I feel like it's not the entire truth."

A knot formed in Michael's throat, but the more he listened to Killian the calmer he got. The knot in his throat loosened and was untied.

"Even if I change my answer, what are you going to do with it?" Michael didn't intend to sound threatening, but he was ready to do what had to be done to safeguard his secret. It was that simple.

"What I'm going to do with it? Nothing, really. I am just curious about the truth," Killian gave it a shrug. His eyes turned sharp as his eyes moved across the battlefield where the severed corpses of the Tekur lay. The Tekur's unmoving bodies were spread all over the battlefield. Not even one escaped their grasp.

"I'm certainly the strongest Descendant below Tier-4, but even I cannot easily block the techniques of the Tekur. I guess that they use Soul Techniques like Raven did before he transformed into the Undead Skeleton. His Soul Technique forced me to stay in one spot. I couldn't move a single inch even though I am usually stronger than that bastard," He revealed in all honesty.

"But I could disregard their debuffs and curses thanks to Maria cleansing them instantaneously and the boost you provided. I doubt that we could have defeated this many Tekur with only myself and Maria protecting the rest of the camp.

Maybe we could beat the shit out of the Tekur and the Supreme Human Alliance using your power. That might allow mankind to grow in its entirety without having to rely on the Supreme Human Alliance. You can read the memories and minds of the Tekur with one of your Soultraits. That should allow you to learn about the Tekur's Soul Technique which you could then store inside a Memory Crystal. The memory crystal could be analyzed by our researchers and we could start creating our own Soul Techniques in the next few years.

Don't get me wrong. I hate you, but your powers are really useful. Even your Mind Reading Soultrait can be of great use. It has the potential to help us procure Soul Techniques which would strengthen mankind as a whole, giving us a huge leverage in dealing with the Tekur once everyone is in possession of their own Soul Technique."

Michael never heard Killian talk this much, and he was not exactly sure if he liked this side of that nasty bastard. Killian was not dumb, and he was not as narrow-minded as Michael initially thought. He respected those with useful Soultraits and strength. Michael possessed both. So it was obvious that he was curious.

While the two chatted, Maria's condition had improved a bit. She lifted her upper body to look at the two Awakened and decided to join their conversation, "I think your power is unique as well, Michael. I could sense something old, ancient, within you. It was something I never experienced before."

Killian furrowed his eyebrows. He didn't like where the conversation was going, but he chose to keep listening to Maria.

"But, I understand that you will attract the attention of High Society, and the traitorous families if you were to reveal your power. Since you're not officially affiliated with any family yet, you will probably turn into the prime goal for most dark organizations, maybe even High Nobles, Sects, and Guilds the instant you expose yourself. It makes sense for you to attempt hiding your power, for the time being, at least."

Michael heard the tone hidden in her voice. Maria stressed on a few words intentionally.

'Not yet officially affiliated with any family...for the time being...Are you calling dibs on me, or what?'

He felt a bit odd conversing indirectly about his power. However, it was also weirdly relieving that someone finally found out about his Soultraits' power.

Michael guessed that more people had found out about his secrets at this point. Some thorough research should be more than enough to tell that something about his strength was odd. Not even a year ago, Michael had been tested to have less than 300 Soul Power Units with two Soultraits. If they were to repeat the same test now, he might easily surpass his former record – by a huge margin.

The only reason High Society didn't find out about his secret yet was that their interest in his progress had been close to non-existent. That was about to change.

Interestingly enough, Michael wasn't too worried about the future. If anything, he could finally put the pedal to the metal and get moving. Lots of trouble might await him once everyone found out about his secrets, but Michael had overcome so many ordeals and adversaries that a few more didn't really matter.

He was confident to survive and grow stronger after every challenge.

A smile crept up on his face as he realized something.

'It seems that my secret is not that much of a secret anymore. Looks like I can tell Kaleb and the others the truth soon.'

His heart experienced much lighter than ever. Finally, he didn't have to worry about his secret anymore.

Now the only worry left behind was how to make sure that nobody might kidnap him and turn him into a prince locked up in a tower.

Chapter 497 Envy

Michael couldn't hide that he felt a little bit weird at the thought of his most important secrets being exposed, but he figured that it would have happened sooner or later either way.

The transformation his eyes underwent due to Spirit Eyes' evolution was just the beginning, but it was certainly enough to take others by surprise. As long as someone interested in him put two and two together, they would obtain the answer they sought. That was fine with Michael. The hiding game was over.

This made many things a lot easier than before. With that in mind, Michael collected the corpses of the Tekur and created a dome of Glacicle around him without telling Maria and Killian what he was going to do.

The dome surrounding him allowed Michael to be at ease. Nobody could stare over his back to watch what he was doing and it was a lot more quiet inside the dome, giving him enough freedom to focus entirely on the task ahead.

Michael began to use Extraction on the 22 Tekur. He spent the next three hours procuring Memory Orbs, SoulStar Fragments, Soultrait Symbols, Artifacts, and small portions of their War Runes' spatial space.

He obtained several Soul Technique tomes on which he used Extraction to extract Wisps of Knowledge. Michael then consumed the Memory Orbs and Wisps of Knowledge, further widening his understanding of the Tekur race, the creation of Soul Techniques, and the other techniques they used.

Even though Michael believed that he made the biggest gains from procuring so many Soul Techniques, it was evident that the Tekur race's other skills were not bad either. As long as they were suitable with human anatomy, Michael could start practicing them, replacing most of his techniques in one go.

'The knowledge and techniques they've accumulated over the last centuries or even thousands of years is crazy. It's no wonder that old races with great legacies are usually considered to be of a higher 'class'. Even Tekur Soldiers possess better body, and mind refinement techniques than I do. Only Leviathan Diffusion might be on par with their energy circulation technique.'

Michael was not really surprised. The Tekur race was several times older than the humans of the solar system. The progress of the human race might be fast, but it was not yet on par with a race that had access to the Origin Expanse for an entire millennium.

That might change in the future given that he obtained so many Soul Techniques, but they would have to see how it would change the tides in the future. For now, Michael was more interested in the SoulStar Fragments he'd procured. The 22 Tekur bodies provided him with 11,423 SoulStar Fragments, therefore totalling to an amount of 30,923 SoulStar Fragments in his possession. That was enough to manifest the 6th Star of another Soultrait – even if it was only one of the Soultraits from the Inner area of the Sphere of Light.

'Should I save them up until I get enough to upgrade Extraction?' He wondered for a moment, only to shake his head.

Michael had a bad feeling about the last few days of the Interdimensional Flag War. Saving up would mean that he didn't use all of his means to increase his strength, which was something he couldn't afford right now. The Flag War was merciless and if they were unlucky, the Alliance would have to face a pincer attack from the Tekur and the traitors in their own ranks.

The only Soultraits he could upgrade with close to 31,000 SoulStar Fragments were Enhancement, Reinforced Sword Qi, and Superior Constitution. Out of them, Reinforced Sword Qi was put aside because Michael didn't use it that often. That left only Enhancement and Superior Constitution.

'Am I going to focus on providing more Support for my existing Soultraits and inserting Enhancement into my allies, or will I focus on Superior Constitution? I will be able to use Heavenly Beast Physique for a much longer period and the effect will be twice – if not thrice – as strong. My natural recovery will be much faster and I can absorb more energy naturally. It will mix well with Extraction and allow me to fight longer and strain my body even more than before...'

The more Michael thought about it the easier it was to find the answer he sought. While Enhancement was an amazing Soultrait, Michael's body was already at its limit when he tried applying seven layers of Enhancement onto it. Even if the potency of Enhancement increased significantly, it was not as if Michael could apply more Enhancement layers onto his body. For that, he would have to strengthen his physical body with Superior Constitution, or more intense body refinement sessions.

That left Superior Constitution as the most suitable 5-Star Soultrait to be upgraded. The only downside was that upgrading Superior Constitution had been rather taxing. It was quite painful to improve his constitution. Fortunately, that was something Michael could solve rather easily.

'Spreading out the upgrade over a long period should do the deed.' He thought before starting to put 100 SoulStar Fragments near Superior Constitution's Soultrait Symbol.

The Soultrait Symbol began to vibrate violently. Dozens of tiny milky-white tendrils shot out of the Soultrait Symbols and inched closer to the SoulStar Fragments. They coiled around the Fragments and dragged them inside the Soultrait Symbol where they were devoured and digested in one go. Following the digestion process, the SoulStar Fragments took effect. Golden specks moved across the surface of the Soultrait Symbol for Superior Constitution and gathered next to the 5th Star.

The outlines of the 6th Star didn't form yet but the golden specks were gathering, eagerly awaiting to digest more SoulStar Fragments. Michael didn't sense any major changes within his body. However, he could subtly sense the minuscule movements within his body.

Thus, he decided to add a batch of 10 SoulStar Fragments every minute, hoping that injecting 30,000ish SoulStar Fragments over the course of more than two days at regular intervals would help him avoid the discomfort and pain of upgrading Superior Constitution to a 6-Star Soultrait.

Spirit Eyes had been painful enough and Michael was not sure if he could afford to be incapable of fighting for the next few hours. Another group of Tekur could appear at any time, and Michael would have to be ready to fight at once.

He destroyed the dome of Glacicle around him and got up from the ground.

"According to the memories of these Tekur, no Alliance member or group of Tekur was nearby for the last two days. I cannot promise anything, but I believe we should be somewhat safe until tomorrow," Michael said, pointing at the Tekur bodies next to him.

Neither Maria nor Killian uttered anything, but they looked at him intently. He wondered if they could sense the SoulStar Fragments inside him, but that didn't seem feasible.

"Ah, right. You can read the memories and minds of others. I forgot," Maria mumbled, only for Killian to ask, "Do you have to touch them or can you read our minds from a distance as well?"

Killian glared at Michael, but that was nothing new.

"I need physical contact. The closer to the head, the better," Michael answered with a smile, "But I don't need to read your mind to tell you that you cannot stand the sight of me. You might not feel like killing me anymore because I helped you in your tent, or maybe because you think my abilities are useful enough to let me live, but I can say, for sure, that you hate me."

Michael glanced over to Maria after an intense stare-down with Killian, only for Maria to tilt her head.

"Anymore? Why would you want to kill Michael, in the first place? If he did something to harm you, how about talking it out now that we have some spare time?" Maria proposed.

Killian's lips parted as if he wanted to say something, but he recalled Maria's blush when Michael embraced her and that her behavior around Michael was different than her usual attitude around others. She was reserved and distant around others. But with Michael...she seemed more open. Not a major difference yet, but small differences that would sooner or later develop into something else.

He shut his mouth and shook his head, "It's a guy thing. There is no need to talk about it. I fought with Michael before and can tell that he deserves to stay alive. That's the only thing you have to know."

Even if it hurt, Killian knew that Maria never considered him as something more than a friend. Their families were quite close because their parents had been in the same class before. They traded a lot and never lost the connection they established decades before. Therefore, Killian knew Maria from when she was a little child. They were both children and played together a lot.

However, he was never more than a childhood friend – one of many at that. Maria treated him with great respect and was always polite to him, but she never treated him like he was special.

Even if he were to confess his feelings, Killian felt that the time was not right and...that he was already too late. Maria didn't have a trace of romantic feelings toward him. They were merely comrades and childhood friends.

'I really hate this bastard!' Killian thought, glaring at Michael, who could easily imagine what Killian was thinking.

He didn't have to use Mind Reader to read an open book, after all.

"Either way. Let's stay vigilant until the others have recuperated. We shouldn't stay here for too long. Encountering more Tekur groups in this location is only a matter of time," Killian pointed out and the others agreed at once.

Less than five days were left before they would be expelled from the isolated dimension.

All they had to do was to survive that long. It couldn't be that difficult, right?

Chapter 498 Cohort

It took 36 hours before all injured Descendants regained consciousness and enough strength to travel a long distance without hindering the rest of the group. That was just enough time for Michael to upgrade Superior Constitution to a 6-Star Soultrait.

After the first Descendants woke up, Michael realized that investing 10 SoulStar Fragments a minute was not enough. He accelerated the upgrade by channeling 15 to 20 SoulStar Fragments into the Soultrait Symbol for Superior Constitution. It was quite easy to adjust the input according to the level of discomfort, which made everything far less painful than fusing Spirit Eyes had been.

Now that 36 hours passed, Superior Constitution advanced to a 6-Star Soultrait officially, and Michael had to acknowledge that the changes in his body were drastic. After the upgrade was completed, a surge of information and pain passed through his body. The star level advancement provided him a final spurt of strength before connecting the reinforced areas all over his body with great precision.

Michael closed his eyes to perceive the changes in his body and realized quickly that he possessed far more Soul Power than before. He could use the highest threshold of Heavenly Beast Physique for more than a minute without having to sacrifice a SoulStar Fragment to replenish a portion of his Soul Power instantaneously. However, Michael was not even sure if he would have to use Heavenly Beast Physique that often, or that long, in the first place.

The changes to his physique were far more advanced than the increase in his Soul Power. If Superior Constitution at 5-Star allowed him to attain the physical strength of a Lowest Tier-3 Awakened, Michael was now stronger than a Low Tier-3 Lord, who possessed a physique enhancing Soultrait.

Once Superior Constitution upgrade had been completed, Michael's body expelled a large amount of impurities. The people around him were surprised, at first, and disgusted when the pungent smell of his

impurities reached them. The odor was too overwhelming, however, Michael felt relieved to see the large, smelly mass of impurities. His body felt lighter and he could absorb the surrounding energy three times faster than before and two times more in volume. It was only a matter of time before Michael naturally advanced to Tier-3.

His energy storage expanded as a result of Superior Constitution's upgrade and he felt more refreshed than before. Michael could also sense that his Stamina was drained much slower and that his Soul Power replenished much faster. The energy veins within his body had grown thicker and firmer and his natural regeneration was several times higher than before.

Last but not least, his skin was smoother than ever and the old scars that had covered his body from previous injuries had disappeared. Michael's skin had an even texture and one could easily make out his muscles, veins, and energy veins. Staring at them pulled Michael into a trance for several minutes.

"We'll be leaving now. You're coming with us, right?" Maria asked, pulling Michael out of the trance.

He looked at her and nodded.

"I will probably separate from the group once we find out where the others are gathering. I want to deal with a few more Tekur and search for the remaining Alliance Members. Maybe I can find a few traitors as well. It would be great if I could find out more about the Supreme Human Alliance's plans before it's too late."

Michael felt that it was much easier to talk to Maria since their fight with the Undead Skeleton. Maria was still formal with him but she was a bit more relaxed, and their conversations were not sprinkled with awkward silences like before. There was no need for her to live up to someone else's expectations around Michael. Everyone expected something from her. They wanted her to be at her best 24/7 and had countless demands, ranging from acting as someone's healer to being interested in their marriage proposals and reciprocating favorably.

Everyone had some sort of expectations and hopes when they talked to her. But that was not the case with Michael. He didn't demand anything from her.

They had enough time to spend talking about various things in the last 36 hours. Maria was interrupted every now and then because some members of her loyal fan club woke up and rushed at her to ensure

that she was doing well. Most of them collapsed after they moved so suddenly moments after regaining consciousness, whereas others felt weak to even lift a finger.

However, Maria was oddly thankful that her fan club didn't bother her. It was great that they were busy taking care of their own well-being because it permitted her to find out more about Michael, how he felt about the Mark of Fate, and what he thought about High Society, the Seraph family, Dark Heaven, the Supreme Human Alliance and many other things.

Maria could be herself for once and she made full use of it.

"I really hope that everything will be alright," She mumbled to which Michael reacted with a smile. He didn't fill her heart with fake promises that everything would be fine and that everyone would survive. Instead, he only gave her a smile that was reassuring and looked at her with eyes filled with determination.

Michael may not be able to promise her something he couldn't be 100% certain of, but he was capable of giving his utmost to bring them to a safe place and help as many as possible to survive.

It didn't take long before the tents all over the survivor camp were removed. In no time the surroundings were cleared. It looked like the camp never existed, in the first place. Michael moved to the front of the group, activated Spirit Eyes to scan the surroundings for any danger, and started with a light jog toward the fallen Dimensional Pillar.

He was the only one who knew where to run, thus he was at the front. But Michael also had Spirit Eyes, which allowed him to see in a radius of several kilometers in any direction with great precision. He could see even further if one added the slight distortions behind his sharp field of view. That was enough to pinpoint enemies and allies long before they could reach the large cohort of more than 100 Descendants.

At first, the Descendants were displeased that Michael seemed to lead them, but Michael made it clear that Killian was the leader of the group. Michael didn't really care about the leader position and it was much easier to push all responsibility on Killian. Everyone trusted him because he was a member of the Zeus family and because his combat prowess was well known. Most people hadn't seen Michael fighting now that he was much stronger than ever, and it was not like he planned to reveal his strength to everyone, in the first place.

Some people were better off not knowing about his strength. They were a hassle.

Unfortunately, that was not easy because it didn't take long before their cohort was welcomed by two groups of Tekur. One group of five Tekur ran through the ever-expanding plains five kilometers to their left, whereas another group of four Tekur appeared to their right. The group to their right was only four kilometers away from their location and it was only a matter of time before they saw the 100+ Descendants jogging through the plains as well.

"Killian, come over for a moment," Michael called out. His voice resounded through the rows of Descendants, causing some to grumble. They felt that Michael was impolite and rude. He was not even a noble, yet he dared to talk to their leader and the savior of their group like this!?

Killian hated Michael but he didn't care about the way the young Lord spoke to him at this moment. Michael's expression clearly showed that there was no time to complain.

Killian appeared next to Michael, where he found out about the two groups of Tekur.

"Should we take them by surprise, or do you think it would be better to wait until they approach the group?" Michael asked.

"They won't approach a group of Descendants that big. If anything, they'll be trying to create large-scale attacks to injure as many Descendants as possible before retreating. They'll stalk us and repeat the same tactic until everyone is worn out, or dead."

"So you want to deal with them before they can become a problem," Michael questioned and Killian nodded.

"We should split up and deal with one side each," Killian added, to which Michael agreed.

He used Insert to apply six layers of Enhancement on Killian before using Insert once again, but this time, he used it on the layers of Enhancement he previously applied on Killian's body. That way he could prolong the duration of Enhancement working on Killian before it would wear off.

"You got five minutes to reach, and kill them," Michael explained before applying seven layers of Enhancement onto himself.

He used Leviathan Diffusion to weave more energy into his body and began to produce enough Soul Energy to execute Heavenly Beast Physique. However, Michael did not yet use Heavenly Beast Physique. Instead, he pressed his feet against the ground causing the ground to burst open as he dashed ahead.

"Don't be embarrassed if I'm done before you."

That was all Killian could hear before Michael turned into a flash. The Tekur noticed Michael quickly, and it didn't take long before he unleashed his Soul Techniques, further accelerating his speed. He appeared in front of the closest Tekur from the left group, summoned the Aethyr Blade, and cut him in half, using the razor-sharp blade and brute force in great harmony.

Killian cursed in his heart, unleashed his Inheritance Technique in its strongest form, and turned into a bolt of lightning. He appeared in front of his enemies shortly after Michael, where he wreaked havoc using the tremendous power that surged through him.

In less than two minutes, Killian finished the battle. He stored the Tekur's corpses and jogged back at full speed. Killian was 100% certain that he would be faster than Michael, but he didn't realize how close it would be before he noticed that Michael was also on the way back to the group.

Killian accelerated further, allowing him to reach the assembly just before Michael arrived, but not the slightest bit of happiness could be seen on Killian's face. Michael had to run a longer distance to reach the Tekur and get back.

Killian seemed to lose out on everything when it involved Michael.

'He has grown even stronger!'

Chapter 499 Chaotic Battlefield

After their encounter with the two Tekur groups, the situation in the Descendants cohort changed considerably. Nobody took Michael lightly anymore. If anything, the Descendants started to respect him. Witnessing how Michael was able to challenge Killian as an equal was enough to catch them off-guard. It made them rethink their first impression of Michael.

Michael and Killian started challenging each other without speaking a word. They didn't talk about the challenges out loud but whenever they encountered one or multiple groups of Tekur they glanced at each other and charged ahead at full speed. Usually, Michael would insert several layers of Enhancement on Killian to make sure that the Zeus' Descendant could deal with the enormous number of enemies. It might not be necessary, but Michael thought that it was better to take the safe route. After all, they had yet to encounter one of the three Elite Soldiers.

Michael was wondering where the Elite Soldiers were located, however, he was far more concerned about the situation with the traitorous human Descendants. The Descendants cohort found a group of Berserkers that was being attacked by human Descendants. Some Descendants from the cohort knew those traitors. They were friends, or had been.

While the other Descendants hesitated to attack their friends – or former friends – Michael didn't even think about showing mercy. He used the Heavenly Beast Physique, applied several layers of Enhancement onto his body, and conjured one Soul Glacicle Bullet after another. His speed was shockingly high, allowing him to appear behind the traitorous Descendants before they could kill the Berserkers using their Soul Techniques. Using the advantage of his extraordinary speed, high reflexes, and perfect vision to advantage, Michael released one Soul Glacicle after another, bursting the traitorous Descendants' heads and chests in one go.

Only 24 hours were left before the isolated dimension would expel all of them, but it looked like the real battles were just about to begin.

"Thank you for saving us," One of the Berserkers said, recalling Michael from the team battles. He had seen Michael around Lokai, Thaor, and Mekhaz, and knew that they were friends.

"But do you know what happened there? They attacked us out of nowhere. Aren't we a team?"

The Berserker didn't strike Michael as the smartest, but that made things easier.

"Our group was attacked by some traitors as well. It seems like the Supreme Human Alliance's influence reached us," Michael explained briefly. There was no need to go into detail. The only important thing was that some traitorous Descendants attacked them before as well.

"The Supreme Human Alliance? I think the Chieftain warned us about them before. He said that we shouldn't trust every human we encounter in the Origin Expanse. Not everyone is our ally."

Michael forced a smile and nodded, "That's basically it. The downside is that we have no idea who betrayed us. Do you want to join us on our way to the destroyed Dimensional Pillar? We want to gather as many Alliance Members as possible before the Flag War ends."

Since only 24 hours were left before the Flag War ended it was not exactly important to band together. They could sit out the next 24 hours and wait to get expelled from the isolated dimension. But Michael had a bad feeling about that.

"That sounds good. We were just about to move in the same direction. I sense death from over there."

Michael didn't know that the Berserkers could sense death, but apparently that was a thing. And it was not something he looked forward to. He bit his lower lip, stored all corpses in his storage device and gestured to the Berserkers to join them.

By now, there were corpses of roughly 30ish Tekur and nine Descendants stored in his War Rune's storage. He had yet to extract their SoulStar Fragments, Memory Orbs, a portion of their storage, and their Artifacts. It would be best if he could extract them instantaneously and use the SoulStar Fragments to strengthen his Soultraits a little bit more, but that was not possible. He would need some more time and privacy to do so.

Killian didn't love the Berserkers but he could respect their fighting spirit. They exchanged some words before departing to the destroyed Dimensional Pillar. Michael and the others expected to encounter maybe 200 to 250 Alliance Members over there. Maybe, there would be less if they had decided to change their position and search for more Dimensional Pillars to destroy.

But that was not the case. There were not only 200 to 250 Alliance Members near the destroyed Dimensional Pillar. When Michael and the others reached the pillar, they found a large camp with almost 500 Alliance Members, and they were not alone. There were also 150 Tekur, with three of them having an obsidian-colored carapace.

The Alliance members were struggling. They struggled against the tremendous power of the massive number of Tekur they had to face simultaneously.

Unfortunately, there was more they had to take into consideration. Four small groups of human Descendants raised their weapons against their allies. They stabbed their own comrades in the back, further weakening the already fragile line of defense.

Michael narrowed his eyes the moment he picked up the happenings on the chaotic battlefield with Spirit Eyes.

"150 Tekur with three Elite Soldiers attacked our people. The human traitors exposed themselves as well. We've lost more than 30 alliance members to them already," Michael revealed, barely loud enough for everyone to hear.

His head flicked to Killian, who nodded grimly. Michael then glanced at the Berserkers and the other Descendants who had mostly recuperated. It looked like everyone was ready to fight.

Michael used Insert with Enhancement on Killian and the strongest Descendants and Berserkers in the cohort. He had been accumulating the Power of Enhancement within the Legendary Ring Artifact. Therefore, he could use all of it right now. After applying five layers of Enhancement on more than a dozen Awakened, the accumulated Power of Enhancement had been used up. But that was fine. The dozen Awakened gained tremendous strength from Enhancement, even if it would only last five minutes.

These five minutes ought to be more than enough to reach their opponents and aid their comrades.

"Charge!!" Killian roared at the top of his lungs, his body turning into a humongous thunderbolt as he charged ahead.

The others charged ahead as well, including Maria, who'd executed her movement technique to reach the injured as quickly as possible.

Michael stared at the ground for a moment, a trace of uncertainty lingering in his eyes. However, this uncertainty dispersed quickly. It lasted only a mere second before the Dome of Extraction erupted from his body.

He activated the Heavenly Beast Physique, added seven layers of Enhancement onto his body and kicked the ground to catch up with the others. He passed by most of them and reached Killian just before they barged into the chaotic battlefield. Killian's gaze locked on to the Tekur right off the bat, whereas Michael decided to eliminate the human traitors first.

They split up without saying a word, however, their understanding of each other's plan was precise. Michael could easily take out the enemies within their own rows. That was not something Killian could do with his Soultrait. He would, most likely, injure his comrades in the process of hunting down the traitors. Michael did not have such a problem.

He manifested two Aethyr Daggers, coated them in several layers of Enhancement and Reinforced Sword Qi and began his dance of death. Spirit Eyes fully unleashed allowed Michael to pinpoint his enemies with ease. He moved through the rows of allies and cut down the human traitors one by one.

Simultaneously, he unleashed the Dome of Extraction to drain their life force, origin energy, and to continue draining them even after they died. Extraction tendrils shot out of the Dome of Extraction and extracted their SoulStar Fragments even after the enemies were already dead. The SoulStar Fragments entered Michael's body immediately. Nobody could see them, but even if someone could, it wouldn't matter at this moment.

Michael had acknowledged that his Powers would get exposed in the next few days, or weeks. At most, it would take a few months before even the densest person around him figured out what his Soultrait was capable of. Therefore, Michael focused on the fight ahead instead of holding back just to keep Extraction a secret. He, or the people around him might face severe consequences if he was to hold back, and Michael didn't want to be responsible for the deaths of the people around him. If anything, he wanted to help them.

He extracted the SoulStar Fragments from the corpses of the human traitors and used some of the SoulStar Fragments to replenish his rapidly drained Soul Power for the Heavenly Beast Physique. Using the Heavenly Beast Physique drained the Soul Power accumulated within the 6-Star Superior Constitution quickly. It was not instantaneous, but he could only utilize the Heavenly Beast Physique for a minute before the Soul Power within the Soultrait Symbol was drained. Fortunately, that changed by using SoulStar Fragments as a fuel.

It was painful to watch his precious SoulStar Fragments getting used up the moment they were extracted, but the utility was tremendous. Michael could continue to use Heavenly Beast Physique and focus on manifesting some Soul Glacicle Bullets to deal with the more annoying human traitors.

The human traitors used Soul Techniques as well, but it was evident that they were not adept at producing Soul Energy. Their mastery of the Soul Technique in their possession was also not that great. Michael, who possessed the experience of dozens of Tekur, was on a whole different level than them.

Michael's Soul Energy production was rapid and his mastery of both Soul Glacicle Bullet and Heavenly Beast Physique were leagues above the human traitors.

This allowed him to overwhelm the traitors and kill them with a single strike, or Soul Glacicle.

Not a single trace of guilt was visible in his eyes as he reaped lives.

Chapter 500 Hold his Fort

The human traitors were dealt with, their corpses, and the SoulStar Fragments within had been extracted and stored safely inside Michael.

The energy influx he obtained from killing them increased his War Rune's refinement degree, resulting in ripples of origin energy passing through his body. Superior Constitution altered his physique to naturally absorb the energy in the surroundings and annex it at once. Therefore, the energy absorbed by the Dome of Extraction was annexed instantaneously, ready for Michael to use.

It was only a matter of time before Michael advanced to Tier-3, but that wouldn't happen before the Flag War ended. Michael doubted that he could absorb so much Origin energy in such a short amount of time.

With Spirit Eyes fully activated, Michael's eyes flicked across the chaotic battlefield. He pinpointed the 150 Tekur Soldiers, followed by the three Elite Soldiers with their obsidian carapace. However, there were no more human traitors for him to hunt. Michael had defeated them all.

'I only killed 30ish traitors just now. There should be some more somewhere,' Michael guessed after adding the number of traitors he and Killian defeated before to the traitors he killed just now. They had defeated a total of 46 traitorous Descendants until now. That still left a large chunk of potential traitors alive.

It was frustrating that he couldn't accurately point them out, but there was nothing he could do about that. That meant, Michael had to change his strategy. He decided to start dealing with the Tekur.

A burst of pain swept through his Spirit Eyes as hundreds of Soultraits were unleashed simultaneously all over the battlefield. Michael could see every trace of energy that was being used, altered, or repelled. It hurt for a moment, but he forcefully adapted to the sensation.

He witnessed death and destruction everywhere and began to search for the perpetrators. Instead of searching for the Tekur that caused the most physical damage, Michael wanted to find those who caused the most overall harm. That usually referred to the Awakened with Support-type Soultraits, Curses, or Amplifications. However, it could also refer to the Healers. In such a large-scale battle, the Healers were usually the most threatening to either side. They had to be dealt with and killed as quickly as possible.

Michael pointed out a few Healers, but they were well protected. The Elite Soldiers were positioned near most Healers. They protected a few Supporters as well, probably because their Soultraits played a major role in large-scale battles such as this one. Michael didn't want to deal with the Elite Soldiers at once. Instead, he focused on the people around him and made sure to watch the teamwork of the Tritan Alliance.

The members of the alliance worked together much better than Michael expected. It was nice to see that not many died even though they faced the full power of so many Tekur.

The Tekur were already utilizing their Soul Techniques, draining their Soul Power rapidly to unleash K.O. attacks. Many worked out, killing dozens of Alliance members in one swoop, but most were either blocked or evaded. Michael took that as a sign to start moving.

He stopped utilizing Heavenly Beast Physique for a moment, removing the intense presence that shrouded him instantaneously and rushed through the rows of humans, Berserkers, and Warlock Centaurs. Michael utilized Enhancement to give the strongest Awakened around him a burst of strength lasting several minutes.

It was not a long-lasting reinforcement to their power, but the burst of strength ought to be enough to give them an upper hand on the battlefield for quite a while.

Michael's energy was drained rapidly, but he recuperated the used-up energy just as quickly. The Dome of Extraction was unleashed to the fullest, draining the energy in the surroundings to keep Michael's energy storage filled to the brim. That was also why he was brimming with vigor and energy when he finally reached Kaleb, the rest of Kaleb's team, Lincoln, Zeke, and the others. Quinn Karta was also there, the corner of his lip curling upward when he saw Michael.

"You always arrive at the perfect timing!" Lincoln exclaimed, erupting a huge earthen wall to block a house-sized fireball from incinerating him and his allies. The fireball burst apart, the flickering flames spreading across the battlefield. Another Descendant used his Inheritance technique to manifest a dragon from compressed water. The dragon looked like a humongous snake that slithered through the air, extinguishing the dancing flames in the air before they could affect anyone.

"I wouldn't want to miss this," Michael responded with a smug smile. Lincoln rolled his eyes, but he halted in his tracks for a moment when he saw the marks around Michael's eyes.

Zeke had seen them as well.

"Like seriously...What the fuck is wrong with your eyes?!" He cursed loud enough for Michael to hear.

It was rare for Zeke to react like that, but Michael guessed that it was obvious. The marks around his eyes and the intense, vibrant silver of his pupils made it clear that his eyes had changed even more compared to the last time they saw each other.

"I will explain everything later. Focus on the fight, and use Eye of Illusion on the Tekur I will attack with Spiritual Domination!" Michael could only say, forcing everyone to return their focus to the battlefield. He could always explain everything later. Now was not the time to do so!

"Spiritual Domination? Wha—..." Zeke asked, unsure how to tell what exactly he was going to do, only to witness firsthand what Michael meant soon enough.

Zeke's voice reached Michael's ears while he was already busy introducing several layers of Enhancement into Zeke, and most importantly, his eyes. Once that was done, Michael amplified his own eyes which glowed brightly alongside the marks on his face. Spirit Eyes was released to the fullest, smashing into a group of Tekur that was about to barge into their frontlines.

The Tekur began to sway left and right. Blood gushed out of their eyes and they screeched aloud. Two Tekur, who were flying across the sky, lost control of their wings and crashed heavily to the ground. Zeke's eyes widened in surprise, but he felt Michael's gaze on himself and reacted quickly.

He unleashed his Inheritance Technique, World of Illusion, and used Eye of Illusion at its strongest. The Tekur were unable to block the illusion from taking root in their minds as Michael's Spiritual Domination rendered their mental defenses useless. Michael used 7-layered Enhancement and Heavenly Beast Physique to unleash the full potential of his physical strength and speed to cross the gap to the Tekur. Aethyr Blades appeared in his hands, shrouded in enhanced Reinforced Swords Qi right before they cut through the enemies, killing them one by one.

Quinn Karta appeared next to Michael, using his Soultraits to teleport to another position and aid Michael in the battle against the weakened Tekur. Three Tekur were capable of blocking some attacks of the duo, but most attacks penetrated their defenses and inflicted severe injuries. Michael continued to accelerate, making his team members wonder about the threshold of his physical limit as silver lines cut through the air. It looked like Michael's blade cut through the fabric of space itself as his power blasted at his enemies in ripples, reaping his enemies' lives one by one.

Tendrils of Extraction shot out of the Dome of Extraction the moment the first Tekur died. They invaded the Tekur bodies through the inflicted wounds and drained their SoulStar Fragments, and the remnants of origin energy left within the corpses. Once the bodies were drained of Fragments and energy, Michael stored them inside his War Rune's repository space before retreating with Quinn Karta.

He smiled at the fallen noble, who returned a serious nod.

Michael used up a handful of SoulStar Fragments to replenish the Soul Power he'd used up in the earlier fight and prepared for the next battle.

Kaleb stared at Michael in confusion and excitement. He was not sure what happened to his friend, but Michael's combat prowess had heightened even more than before. Michael had been rather average in terms of physical strength before. Not anymore though. Right now, Michael's physical strength exceeded the brute force most Tier-3 Awakened could unleash. At least, that was the case as long as the terrifying presence of a fierce beast shrouded him.

However, even without the terrifying presence, Michael's physical strength exceeded the norms of a Peak Tier-2 Awakened. Michael had long since surpassed the limits ordinary Tier-2 Awakened could reach.

Michael expanded the Dome of Extraction, consuming more ambient energy. He rushed over to Kaleb, pointed to a group of ten flying Tekur, and said, "I will shoot them down from the sky, you finish them!"

In the next moment, a surge of origin energy was inserted into Kaleb Zenovia alongside a 6-layered Enhancement.

"Go all out!"

Michael released Spiritual Domination to strike the ten Tekur one by one. Their bodies stiffened and they screeched out at the top of their lungs as they lost control of their wings for two seconds. That was just enough to pull them down from the sky, push them into the ground, and for Kaleb Zenovia to unleash six-fold Enhanced Frozen Nova with surplus of energy.

Kaleb Zenovia's Legendary Ice Staff rose high into the air and the temperature plummeted below zero instantaneously.

His glacier-blue eyes shimmered in excitement as tremendous power surged through him. In the next moment a humongous ball of compressed ice, releasing freezing chill and glacier-blue liquid that looked like melting ice – just really cold – manifested above the ten Tekur.

Kaleb broke into a cold sweat and the energy within him was drained in an instant, but the assault connected. The Frozen Nova crashed down onto the humongous plain, smashing the ten Tekur into smithereens before freezing their remnants for all eternity.

"Damn."