

Supreme Lord 591

Chapter 591 Expanding

Michael had only a day or two left before the Zentika Empire's forces would reach the border. That was barely enough to prepare a little bit to 'welcome' the Lionhearts and other forces.

Meanwhile, the Savannah Region was a little bit more silent than before...but that was what worried Michael even more.

'They're planning something. Are they aware of the Zentika Empire's issues? Do they know about the Heart of the Blazing Lion Army?'

Many questions flashed through his mind, but he figured that it was impossible to answer most of them. All he could do was to deploy a few dozen Scouts near the Savannah Region's border. His stealthiest Scouts were told to infiltrate the Savannah Region and procure as many pieces of information as possible.

However, Michael didn't expect a lot. He was pretty certain that his Scouts wouldn't be able to find out much.

'If the Council attacks, they'll probably deal with the Valyr Lordess first. Or they ignore the Valyr Lordess and use the Teleporters to invade the Untamed Jungle and my territory to take me by surprise.'

Michael considered a few plans to stop the Teleporters from invading his territory, but he decided against them.

Instead, of blocking the Teleporters, Michael hoped that they would invade his territory.

He adjusted some configurations on the Pillar of Territorial Awareness and increased the sensitivity to energy fluctuations. That increased the energy consumption of the Pillar of Territorial Awareness drastically, but Michael could live with that.

Countless dots appeared on the Pillar of Territorial Awareness. Most of them were green, indicating no threat to him or his territory. The new green dots that appeared showed old trees and weaker monsters.

Their energy fluctuations were insignificant to Michael and the like, but by adjusting the Pillar of Territorial Awareness' sensitivity they were picked up nonetheless.

'It should be impossible to hide spatial fluctuations now.'

Michael made a few more changes to trap the Teleporters if they dared to infiltrate his territory before he called some workers to the warehouse complex.

"Separate the duplicated blueprints and store them in the storage near the entrance. If you think that you found a rare blueprint bring it to the architect's office to have them appraise the blueprint. Report the find of valuable blueprints in the daily report."

The workers nodded slowly and followed his order. Michael stored the Ordinary Summoning Scrolls and decided to use them all.

Maybe it wouldn't be the most the best idea to use all 145,600 Ordinary Scrolls simultaneously, but the settlement had enough residencies to fit everyone. It would be a little bit crammed since most of his treehouse complexes were comparable to multi-leveled apartments where everyone would have to share rooms, however, that was merely a temporary issue.

By summoning 145,600 Summons, his territory would obtain a huge influx of workers. With more workers, it would be possible to expand his territory, either way. More residencies could be constructed in no time.

Michael put away the Artifacts, leaving merely the humongous mountain of Summoning Scroll Fragments.

6 Million Scroll Fragments.

He considered using the six million Scroll Fragments to form 600 Mythic Scrolls, but Michael decided against this quickly.

Legendary Scrolls had the highest probability of summoning an extremely powerful Summon.

Of course, Divine Scrolls would be better, but Michael didn't even want to imagine how many Scroll Fragments he required before he could combine them into a Divine Scroll. He was pretty sure that it would be far more than ten million. If Michael was unlucky, he would have to collect hundreds of millions of Scroll Fragments before he could form his first Divine Scroll.

But then again, Divine Scrolls summoned Divine Summons. If he were extremely misfortune he would summon a Peak 6-Star Summon with a Divine Scroll. Other than that, it was considered average luck to summon a 7-Star Summon and decent luck to summon an 8-Star Summon.

He was looking forward to procuring his first Divine Scroll, even though it might take a while.

Michael was far away from reaching that goal. For now, Legendary Scrolls were the best opportunity for him to gain extremely powerful Summons. Someone like Siegfried would be great, but even Tatjana was quite powerful.

She was a Grandmaster Beasttamer but could use a bow and arrow as well. Her Tier progressed rapidly as well, as expected from a Legendary Summon. Legendary Summons are among the fastest to grow stronger. It was one of the Blessings granted from the Legendary Summoning Scrolls – a temporary boost in the Summon's energy absorption and annexation rate.

Mythic Scrolls provided a similar boost, but it was inferior in any possible way.

Providing Legendary Scrolls with enough resources and suitable techniques would allow them to attain Tier-1 in no time. If the Summons were old and experienced like Siegfried, they would reach Late Tier-1 within a few days.

As they fight the Heart of the Blazing Lion's army they would advance to Tier-2 much faster than everyone else.

Thus, Michael created six Legendary Scrolls from the six million Scroll Fragments. Six golden scrolls with intricate crimson seals formed in front of Michael. The process of combining Scroll Fragments into Legendary Scrolls was as impressive as ever, but Michael didn't waste any time admiring the Legendary Scrolls.

It was time to start his next summoning session.

Michael called his citizens – the people who weren't at work – to gather in the territory center. They gathered around the Summoning Gate where Michael was busy retrieving the Summoning Cores.

Since Extraction was upgraded to a 7-Star Soultrait, Michael had to commit to the standard ritual. He had to extract the impurities within the Summoning Cores.

Even though he'd already extracted the impurities within some Summoning Cores five or six times, upgrading Extraction allowed him to find more specks of impurities to extract. Michael manifested Soul Grimoire and used a Soul Tear to amplify Extraction's potency once again.

Michael felt a surge in Extraction's power and flashed a vibrant smile as he unleashed the tremendous power of Extraction. The 19 Summoning Cores in his possession were clouded in golden light. They shimmered brightly, the prismatic white inside the Summoning Cores glistening as if tiny stars were sealed within.

Disgustingly reeking clots of impurities covered the Summoning Cores' surface. Michael spread out his energy to clean the Summoning Cores, revealing the glistening, well-

polished Summoning Cores. He didn't spend more than 30 minutes cleansing the Summoning Cores from impurities, but the results were quite satisfying. Michael inserted the Summoning Cores back into the Summoning Gate prior closing the metal hatched once again.

Unfortunately, his daily summons for today was already over. He would have loved to see whether he could summon 3-Star Summons through daily summons or if that was still impossible. Michael sensed that it was possible but he couldn't see how high the probability was. That was something he had to find out in the following weeks.

Once he was done, Michael thought a bit about the daily summons of the last few weeks. He welcomed some of them, but there were simply too many everyday to welcome everyone.

The last eight weeks had been quite fruitful. He managed to Summon 500+ 2-Star Summons and slightly less than 200 1-

Star Summons through his daily Summons. That number was several times higher than the number of 2-Star Summons many Lords managed to summon in half a year.

Most would have to depend on Mythic Scrolls to summon that many 2-Star Summons.

Michael took a deep breath and retrieved the mass of Summoning Scrolls in his possession. He spread out his energy and tore the seals of all 145,600 Ordinary Scrolls simultaneously.

A raging gust of wind swept through the territory center as the Summoning Scrolls unfolded near-simultaneously. The Scrolls ascended and swirled around Michael twice prior they shot into the energy pool of the Summoning Gate.

One minute passed before the last Ordinary Summoning Scroll disappeared inside the Summoning Gate's energy pool, and it took a few more minutes before the first Starless Summons emerged from the Summoning Gate.

The Starless Summons were confused. They looked left and right, their expression filled with fear, disbelief, and uncertainty. The flood of Starless Summons increased. More and more Starless Summons emerged from the energy pool, yet Michael welcomed all of them. He ordered the citizens to welcome the newcomers and introduce them into the territory.

His citizens turned into guides for the newcomers, leading them away from the territory center to make more space for the new summons to emerge.

Two hours passed in the blink of an eye. It was only now that the last Starless Summon emerged from the Summoning Gate.

The summoning of the 1-Star Summons was about to commence.

A few hours later, the last of the 145,600 Summons emerged from the Summoning Gate.

Michael didn't obtain a new 2-Star Summon, but he couldn't care less. The Links of Loyalty of 145,600 new Summons had been established, and their trust and loyalty slowly amplified as they obtained to know more about their Lord's territory, his actions, and his strength.

The tour guides did not only demonstrate the newcomers around. They spread the word about their Lord, creating a vivid image of Michael.

This vivid image naturally resulted in a firmed Link of Loyalty. His subjects felt safe and sound with Michael fighting in the frontlines, and with him treating everyone nicely. He paid attention to everyone. He neglected nobody, and he improved everyone's living standard as plenty as possible.

He was a good Lord.

Chapter 592 Legendary... Awakened

"119,529 Starless Summons, and 26,071 1-Star Summons," Michael stared at the list of newcomers, a smile blossoming on his face, "It looks like today's summoning session was pretty good. The number of 1-Star Combatants is disproportionally low, but that can be solved."

Michael didn't expect his newest Summons to fight against the armies of the Zentika Empire, either way. He wouldn't send his subjects into a death trap as long as he could avoid it.

Nobody below Tier-2, except those who were strong enough to fight against a Tier-2 Summon on their own, would be allowed to join the fights against the Zentika Empire and join the future battles in the Savannah's Regional War.

Michael was satisfied despite the low number of Combatants among today's summoning batch. His territory's population skyrocketed from 105,000ish to more than 250,000 in the blink of an eye. The recently established Links of Loyalty were also much firmer than Michael had anticipated, generating a considerable amount of Soul Power for each of his Soultraits.

Michael was confident that he could deal with far more powerful opponents now that Extraction reached 7-Star and that his Soul Power had increased.

However, he used the six Legendary Summoning Scrolls nonetheless. Having more powerhouses by his side couldn't be bad!

Michael tore the crimson seals apart and watched the Legendary Scrolls in anticipation. The golden parchment unfolded and ascended into the air slowly. His eyes darted to the intricate letters and runic symbols engraved on the inside of the golden parchments, but the parchment disappeared before he could get a good view. The Legendary Scrolls disappeared inside the energy pool.

The Summoning Gate's frame lit up, and it was only a matter of seconds before four golden stars illuminated the Gate.

'Hmm...four 4-Star Summons? Well...' Michael's first reaction was disappointment when he saw four outlines appear in the energy pool, but he quickly regained his senses when he noticed something.

The Links of Loyalty with the new Summons were created even before they appeared in his territory.

'Awakened? Why am I summoning Awakened?'

There was a distinct difference in the Links of Loyalty with Summons and Awakened. First of all, Links of Loyalty with Summons forced obedience. Summons would naturally trust their Lord and be loyal to him. Awakened had to obey their Lords as well, but they had more freedom than others.

In exchange for the freedom, their Links of Loyalty would provide more Soul Power.

And that was happening right now. Michael sensed a substantial growth in Soul Power from the six Links of Loyalty that had been established even before the Legendary Summons emerged.

However, once the first 4-Star Legendary Summons emerged, everything seemed to make sense.

Two young men, a teenager, and a youthful woman emerged from the energy pool. But they weren't Humans, Forest Elves, Berserkers, or Warlock Centaurs.

No, the four Awakened had a second pair of fluffy ears protruding from the sides of their heads and long, silver, black striped tails growing from their tailbones

The four Awakend were members of the Silverfang Tigerfolk!

But they were not the only members of the Silverfang Tigerfolk that emerged from the portal. A fifth star lit up on the Summoning Gate's frame and a burly man stepped out. The burly man wielded a spear and his muscles flexed while his eyes darted in all directions. He was ready to fight in an instant.

"Legion. Calm down," A silent voice that commanded obedience resounded behind the burly man of the Silverfang Tigerfolk as a sixth star manifested on the Summoning Gate's frame.

An old man, also from the Silverfang Tigerfolk, emerged from the Summoning Gate. He walked past Legion and ruffled through the teenager's hair before heading straight to Michael.

Michael's eyes widened in surprise, confusion, and disbelief.

'Tiara's people...I can summon them? They didn't die tho. And how is that kid here? He shouldn't have Awakened yet.'

His eyes traveled to the teenager, the youth's War Rune, to be precise. The War Rune was much smaller than ordinary War Runes. It looked more like a mole than an actual War Rune.

"You seem surprised, yet not." The old Silverfang noticed, "We had to use up the achievement points our Clan accumulated to allow everyone, even our youngest, to seek asylum in the Origin Expanse. A fraction of their War Rune awakened, just enough to bring them inside the Origin Expanse. However, they didn't manifest a Soultrait, and it will be harder for them to procure an Awakening Stone. Most won't be able to procure an Awakening Stone."

Sadness overcame the old Silverfang.

"We were too weak to protect our people and the youngest have to suffer because of that. We're seeking asylum within the Origin Expanse, but we are not even allowed to wander around. It was our only option to escape our enemies, but we never expected that we would end up imprisoned and at the Will of the Origin Expanse's disposal."

The old man was quite talkative, probably because he hadn't been able to talk to someone for quite a while.

"Fortunately, our time stopped. Years passed but it felt like seconds. Our bodies didn't age while we were waiting...waiting for the Will of the Origin Expanse to release one of us...to create an opportunity for us to regain our freedom."

Michael nodded slowly. The old man's words made sense, to some extent. He knew a little bit about Tiara's folk and their sacrifices.

"I don't know if you're truly free because the Links of Loyalty bind you," Michael pointed out the obvious, but the old man just smiled.

"That's true," Old Silverfang said, "But there must be a reason you managed to summon us. You should have some connection with the Silverfang who has been released by the Will. May, I inquire where our kin is?"

Michael raised one eyebrow. Legion, the burly Silverfang approached the old man and added,

"Where is our kin? Did you torture our kin? If that's the case, I will ki—..."

Legion couldn't speak any further. His mind was assaulted by a severe headache. Saying that he would kill his new Lord and Master wasn't exactly a smart move. The Link of Loyalty assaulted Legion for a while, while his questions remained unanswered.

'They don't know that the Will sent Tiara to me as personal Battle Maid. Maybe, I should keep that a secret.'

Tiara wasn't really his maid anymore. She was more of a warrior, in the first place. Michael also knew that Tiara held a high position in the hierarchy of the Silverfang Tigerfolk. If he wasn't mistaken she was their Leader's—....

"Master Tigris!!"

Tiara's voice interrupted Michael's train of thought. Her exclamation reverberated through the territory center, her shock apparent.

Michael turned to Tiara, whose expression lit up. She had dark circles under her eyes because she hardly slept in the last few days. Her entire focus had been to grow stronger and prevent an incident like the deaths of Liopham and Pheli.

Tiara had been gloomy all day and her mood expanded even worse knowing that Michael was busy dealing with other stuff. She, Mika, and Opars felt like staying close to Michael all day, but Immortal Knight shooed them away. They would only distract him.

However, seeing a familiar face from the past changed Tiara's mood instantaneously. She charged toward the old man and embraced him tightly.

Legion received back to his senses, the headache subsided and stared blankly at the young woman.

"Princess!"

'Right. Tiara uttered she was the Chief's daughter or something like that.'

Michael nodded subtly. He didn't care whether Tiara was a Princess, Queen, Empress, or a normal civilian. Tiara was a good girl. Her personality was great, she worked hard to grow stronger, and she improved everyone's mood with her presence.

The latter hadn't been the case in the last few days, but that was only obvious. Tiara had been in a foul mood since Liopham and Pheli died. She felt miserable. Of course, her presence wouldn't improve everyone's mood when she felt like that.

But that changed all of a sudden. The four Silverfang who'd emerged from the Summoning Gate first rushed to Tiara. They circled her and embraced Tiara while bursting into tears.

Legion stared at the intimate scene in front of him, a single tear trickling down his cheeks.

"As you can see, your kin is alive and well. Tiara is a bit tired, but that's it. She's working hard to grow stronger, to help her people and protect this place." Michael told Legion before pointing at the spear, "I can take the spear for a moment if you want to join them."

The corner of his lips curled upward when he noticed Legion twitching. He glared at Michael, but his expression softened quickly when he saw that Michael smiled amiably at him. Michael had a nice smile, and his eyes were clear as well. There was no sign that he mistreated Tiara or one of his other subjects.

Taking a good look at the surroundings, Legion caught sight of that multiple races lived in the territory. They lived together like the Demi-Humans in ancient times. It brought back memories of the past.

"I'm fine. It's enough to know that they're all alive and well."

Michael shrugged. He didn't comprehend everything about the Silverfang Tigerfolk's situation, their traditions, and values. There was no need to nudge Legion into doing something he didn't want.

"But I'm curious about something," Legion uttered all of a sudden, his following words attracting the attention of the hugging Silverfangs as well.

"How did you manage to Summon us? You're only a Tier-3 Lord, and I don't believe you've accumulated enough achievement points to summon us. Meanwhile, our Princess has yet to reach the 3rd Tier. I doubt she has enough achievement points either. She was too surprised to be related with this."

Michael rubbed his head and smiled dryly.

"To be honest, I am not sure either."

Chapter 593 Loans

Michael shrugged helplessly.

"I didn't even know that I could summon Awakened. I'm just as surprised as everyone else," He revealed in all honesty, "All I did was use six Legendary Scrolls. I expected to summon some deceased powerhouses...not Awakened..."

Michael glanced at Master Tigris. It was easy to tell that the old Silverfang couldn't fight anymore.

The old Silverfang had a hunched back and could barely walk two steps before it looked like he lost balance. Michael didn't even know how often he imagined the old Silverfang on the ground already.

Maybe, he was a magic user, but Michael didn't get that feeling from Master Tigris. The same applies to the teenager. The young Silverfang was not old enough to manifest his War Rune. He was, at best, comparable to a Starless Summon.

The others might be able to fight, but only Legion looked like a proper warrior. That was quite disappointing. Six million Summoning Scroll Fragments down the drain...

Of course, he was happy for Tiara, however, the timing could have been better. Only Legion might be able to help them against their enemies. Even that might not be feasible.

Tiara's eyes shot wide open.

"You summoned them through Legendary Scrolls? That's possible?"

Michael nodded slowly.

"Master Tigris emerged through the Summoning Gate when six stars lit up. Legion stepped out when five stars were lit up, and the rest came in a batch with four stars."

He didn't try to sound displeased or anything like that, but Michael had never been a good actor. He sighed deeply and raised his hands helplessly.

"It's great that we can bring your Clan to my territory b—.... Nevermind that. I don't want to mess up your reunion. You have been working hard. Spend some time with your people. I'll finish the last preparations for war."

'War?' Legion's ears perked up, his eyes locked onto Michael, who could only shrug. He gestured to Tiara.

"She can tell you about the issues and enemies. Make sure to rest up a little and talk about everything you have to talk about. The next few days might be a little bit busy for everyone."

A guilty expression covered Tiara. Michael smiled in response and ruffled through her hair.

"Don't overthink. Everything will be okay."

Tiara pressed her lips together but nodded. The news that Legendary Scrolls could summon her kin was great...for her, at least. It was not that great for Michael because he needed powerful subjects right now. The six Silverfangs were Tierless and only Legion was both experienced and healthy.

Michael turned around and left, giving Tiara and her people some privacy

He sensed the Links of Loyalty established with the Silverfang Tigerfolk people and noticed that the link was unusual. It felt like their Link of Loyalty was connected to Tiara as well.

The sensation was weird, however, Michael could tell that he obtained the usual benefits. Simultaneously, the toll each Link of Loyalty with an Awakened ought to inflict...wasn't there.

'Tiara carries the burden. She is taking responsibility for her entire Clan...' Michael realized.

Tiara might not be a Lord, but she was the reason the Silverfang Tigerfolk had been summoned to his territory. Thus, the Will of the Origin Expanse forced her to take responsibility for her kin.

In the meantime, Michael obtained all the benefits. The Silverfang Tigerfolk had to obey him and they would fight for him sooner or later as well.

'Maybe it's not that bad. Their Link of Loyalty is growing stronger rapidly now that they know about their Princess. Tiara will tell them about me, which will further strengthen the Link of Loyalty, providing a boost in Soul Power. I have no time to act like a spoiled child. Get your act together!'

Michael slapped his cheeks firmly and focused back on the most important issues.

The Heart of the Blazing Lion army had roughly 150,000 seasoned Soldiers. Dealing with all of them was never supposed to be a walk in the park. The number of seasoned combatants in his territory didn't exceed 2,000 and the remaining 8,000ish Warriors, Knights, and other combatants would have to combine their prowess to inflict considerable damage.

Michael's strongest weapons were his combat prowess, the Awakened fighting by his side, his tamed monsters, and the unique environment in the Untamed Jungle.

Michael and his subjects knew the outer rings and middle area better than most monsters. The terrain was advantageous for them and it would allow them to do considerable damage to the Heart of the Blazing Lion.

However, the advantageous terrain was not a permanent solution. It wouldn't win the war against the Zentika Empire, not even with the Monster Horde's aid.

Dealing with the Zentika Empire's army alone was not feasible either. Well, at this point...Michael was not certain if he could be strong enough to obliterate the Heart of the Blazing Lion army alone. However, Michael couldn't split his body. He couldn't fight everywhere at the same time. It was possible that he would survive fighting against the Heart of the Blazing Lion army alone, but he couldn't fight 150,000 enemies simultaneously.

Some would escape his grasp and attack his territory, bulldozing it mercilessly.

That was also why Michael decided to call the Untamed Awakened – which he called them lovingly – to gather.

Mika and Opars were also available at the meeting. They were caught in a bad depression, but the thought of getting stronger to fight against the Teleporters in the future and tear their bodies apart was enough to force them to get up and get their act together.

Michael didn't expect Lilica to arrive until a few days later, but she appeared from her Runic Gate merely as Michael was about to talk about Jungle Loans, Soultrait Symbols, and Soultrait Upgrades.

"You're already back?" Michael seemed at Lilica, who looked both exhausted and distant.

However, upon looking at Michael, her expression crumbled. She pressed her lips together and sighed heavily.

"Liopham and Pheli's parents didn't take their deaths well. The Elders told me to make certain to take revenge. They also told me to ask if you require reinforcement. They'll gladly help to get rid of the Council of Xylon...."

Michael raised one eyebrow but he didn't say anything to that. He gestured to the other Forest Elven Adventurers, which Lilica took as a sign to walk over to them.

Mika embraced Lilica tightly. She patted the young Forest Elf's back and consoled him.

Michael cleared his throat, attracting everyone's attention.

"From today onward, the Jungle Shop will give out loans. Jungle Loans are simple credits with low-interest rates. You can get Jungle Points through Jungle Loans, allowing you to purchase Soultrait Symbols, and Soultrait Upgrades up to 4-

Star. The purchase of two Soultraits and three upgrades to 4-

Star are discounted heavily since we're at war. HOWEVER, purchasing a discounted Soultrait and Soultrait Upgrades means that you cannot terminate your contract with me anymore."

Michael didn't have an endless supply of SoulStar Fragments and couldn't offer too many Soultrait Upgrades Fortunately, he was certain that the Untamed Awakened would focus on procuring more Soultrait Symbols. Getting something new was more exciting than upgrading something old, after all.

The strongest Soultraits were still expensive, which made it difficult to purchase multiple Soultraits while simultaneously upgrading all of them to 4-Star.

"The Jungle Shop has already received all necessary pieces of information about Jungle Credits and the Soultrait Symbols that can be purchased. I realize that some of you have already accumulated a decent amount of Jungle Points. Use them wisely to upgrade your equipment, procure new Soultraits, or upgrade your existing Soultraits!"

Since he couldn't split his body to fight on all frontlines simultaneously, Michael could as well empower his subordinates and ensure that they would be strong enough to deal with multiple Adventurers at their level, simultaneously.

By investing in the Untamed Awakened's growth, Michael would gain a lot more in return. His military force would grow rapidly, and the Untamed Awakened would be able to eliminate more and stronger enemies. Investing in the Untamed Awakened would grant excellent benefits. That was something Michael learned from the Savannah's Regional War.

He had too many enemies to fight at once. The Trilance was probably doomed at this point, and the Council of Xylon found out about him as well. They didn't like him either. But that feeling was reciprocated. Meanwhile, the Zentika Empire wasn't in favor of his existence either.

He had too many sides to fights. Michael presumed that the majority of enemies were either at the higher ranks of Tier-2, or lower ranks of the 3rd Tier. Even if they were weaker, their numbers would transcend theirs manyfold.

The Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs cheered loudly. Their thunderous cheers reverberated throughout the territory center before spreading deeper into the Untamed Jungle. Meanwhile, the Forest Elven Adventurers glanced at him.

Mika was the first to speak up

"Will the discount count for us as well? For two Soultraits and three upgrades?" He asked.

The young Forest Elf knew that they had already been given various benefits from Michael, but he had to be brazen. Michael's answer determined whether Mika, Opars, and Lilica could utilize the same benefits of the Jungle Shop and Jungle Loans as the Untamed Awakened.

"I gave you your Soultraits and upgraded them because I needed your strength then. I don't expect to receive anything in return," Michael answered slowly, "But if you want the benefits of the Jungle Loans and Jungle Shop, you'll be given the exact same requirements."

If they purchased discounted Soultrait Symbols and Soultrait Upgrades, the Forest Elven Adventurers would never be able to abandon Michael. Even if he were to lose his Lord Powers, the Soul Pact would prevent them from doing anything to harm Michael.

"That's fine then. Please give me the biggest Jungle Loan. I need more power!!" The young Forest Elf declared, a blazing flame igniting in his eyes.

Chapter 594 Quick Trip [Bonus]

Most Untamed Awakened could only afford one new Soultrait Symbol, one Soultrait Upgrade to 4-Star, and one Soultrait Upgrade to 3-Star.

Nobody could afford to upgrade their Soultrait to 5-Star, but that was expected. Upgrading a Soultrait all the way to 5-Star costs between 2500 to 3500 SoulStar Fragments. Michael couldn't give a discount for such a heavy expense even if he wanted to. He had less than 12,000 SoulStar Fragments left.

Maybe, everything would have been a little bit easier if he had more. However, upgrading Extraction to 7-Star had been high highest priority. It was his main Soultrait, after all.

Most Untamed Awakened decided to purchase one Soultrait that suited their combat style and upgraded it as high as possible. But there were also a few Awakened who chose to purchase two Soultrait Symbols. They upgraded them to 2-Star before fusing with them. Their reasoning was pretty simple. They wanted to use three Soultraits whose powers could be combined to create a more versatile fighting style with more surprise effects.

At the end of the day, the Untamed Awakened purchased a total of 53 Soultrait Symbols and 4,560 SoulStar Fragments for Upgrades. Michael doubled down and secretly added more SoulStar Fragments to upgrade all 2-Star Soultraits to 3-Star Soultraits. He asked some Awakened if they were willing to expand their Jungle Loan with a special loan to upgrade some of their Soultraits to 4-Star.

That way, Michael ended up with 4,000 SoulStar Fragments and 418 Soultrait Symbols left in his possession.

He didn't spend the remaining 4,000 SoulStar Fragments because he recalled that their trip through space would end soon. It was almost time for their spaceship to arrive at the Sapphirelake Military Academy. Michael was not certain if the leftover SoulStar Fragments would come in handy, but he had a feeling that the SoulStar Fragments would go farther in the Sapphirelake Military Academy.

After the Flag War, Michael didn't manage to get many Human Awakened as his subordinates because there were mostly Descendants from prestige families who'd participated in the Flag War. However, there were various Adventurers in the Sapphirelake Military Academy, not only Descendants.

The Sapphirelake Military Academy was the best place for Michael to get his hands on well-trained Adventurers with great techniques and Soultraits. But then again, it was unlikely that dozens of Adventurers would flock to him just like that since most Awakened were already affiliated with other big families.

Descendants who lost their territory would usually try to fight their way through the Origin Expanse to reclaim their Lord Powers by re-establishing their territory somewhere more secure.

"The Heart of the Blazing Lion army has been sighted near the northern border. The reports state that they've begun with the reconstruction of a large military camp. We've already recorded several energy distortion devices, spatial seals, and several other means that prevent Zeroa and Stinger from infiltrating their camp with their spatial affinity and special abilities." One Scout reports while another one adds.

"My Unit was discovered and we were bombarded with arrows, fire spears, and other long-range projectiles. I cannot be certain about what or who attacks us, but their attack range is roughly three kilometers. Their accuracy was not that great, but two Scouts in my unit were hit. They sustained severe injuries and are currently in the infirmary fighting for their lives."

Michael had been busy dealing with the Soultrait Symbols and Soultrait Upgrades of the Untamed Awakened until the Scouts found him. Their reports were a bit worrisome, but it was good that the Heart of the Blazing Lion army decided to set up a military camp and rest instead of attacking right away.

The Untamed Awakened need some time to get used to their new Soultraits. Getting used to their new powers and experimenting a little bit until they can use them well enough in battle will require a few days of practice. Michael hoped that the Zentika Empire was afraid enough of the Untamed Jungle to spend a few more days resting and preparing thoroughly for the invasion.

It was a risk, but Michael had to take it, especially now that they were about to reach the Sapphirelake Military Academy. Maybe, he could get his hands on more reinforcement.

He told Rebecca to stay in the Origin Expanse for the time being. Rebecca could leave the Origin Expanse and call him on the crystal watch the moment the forces of the Zentika Empire were to make their move.

Michael, on the other hand, left the Origin Expanse to take a look outside after he told the Medics to use whatever they needed to tend to the injured Scouts.

Upon emerging in his cabin within the spaceship, Michael noticed that they were not in space anymore. They'd already landed in Kelta.

He was welcomed by a small robot that moved through his cabin upon sensing the energy fluctuations of his Runic Gate.

A projection appeared above the robot.

[Welcome back. Please follow me to the shuttle. I will bring you safely to the Saphirelake Military Academy!]

The robot left the cabin a few seconds later and Michael followed.

Half an hour later they arrived at the Saphirelake Military Academy. At least, that was what he thought.

The shuttle glided through the air, granting Michael a good view of the Saphirelake Military Academy from a bird's view. However, what he saw underneath shocked him to the core. The Saphirelake Military Academy didn't look anything like before. The academy grounds expanded fivefold, hundreds of new buildings had been constructed while he was away, and a single glance with Spirit Eyes showed that the number of students had increased even more.

Michael could see the energy fluctuations of countless students from his elevated position, and he couldn't quite believe it. There were so many students. Most were Lesser Lifeforms, but Michael detected hundreds if not more than a thousand Higher Lifeforms as he channeled some energy into Spirit Eyes.

There were not only Descendants and Human Awakened but also hundreds of Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. The first batch of Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs had already arrived, and they got used to their new home quickly.

A smile crept up on his face as he observed the changes at the Saphirelake Military Academy. A few minutes later, the shuttle landed and Michael stepped out.

His nose wrinkled after he took a lungful of air and he chuckled lightly. A notification attracted his attention. It was a message from Kraft Viton. Michael messaged Kraft Viton earlier to find out whether the elder was in the Origin Expanse, or if he was outside right now. Fortune was on Michael's side. Kraft Viton was in the Saphirelake Military Academy and his office was close as well.

Michael hurried to Kraft Viton's office and entered with a sly smile.

"You didn't change a lot in the last few weeks. Looks like you're doing well," Kraft Viton said, but Michael merely shrugged.

"I doubt that you're here for a lesson. You want something from me, or the Bartholomew Corporation, don't you?"

Michael smiled at the old man. Kraft Viton had a great perception.

"The last few weeks had been quite busy. I joined a war against a Council of more than 100 Lords. That didn't work out as well as I expected, but it's not that bad either. The Council is a mess. They fight against each other internally. Either way, I'm here because i need lots of things to defeat the shit out of some enemies. Of course, I have various goods to sell."

He retrieved a spatial pouch where he'd stored all duplicated blueprints, 115,345 to be precise, followed by 12,405 Artifacts. Both the blueprint duplicates and the Artifacts were incredibly valuable, but Michael threw the spatial pouch toward Kraft Viton as if they were worthless.

Kraft Viton's eyes widened slightly after he inserted a trace of energy into the spatial pouch. The surprise in his eyes disappeared in the next second, a nonchalant expression appearing on his face.

"What do you need?"

Michael retrieved a sheet with items listed. There were only a few items, but they were all quite valuable. Michael would have a hard time procuring most of these items without Kraft Viton and the Bartholomew Corporation. Fortunately, he had the best Master, a Master with great intellect and connections.

"That should work. When do you need them?" Kraft Viton inquired.

Michael stared deep into Kraft Viton's eyes.

"As soon as possible. The enemies are already knocking on my doors."

Chapter 595 Combine

Kraft Viton raised an eyebrow.

"Do you have to leave immediately? Is your territory under attack?"

The worry in the old man's voice warmed Michael's heart.

"My territory hasn't been attacked yet. However, a Native Empire deployed one of its armies after some... unforeseen events happened. They're setting up a military camp at the border to my region," Michael shrugged, "I had some issues with them in the past. The Native Empire is looking for me as well, so I might as well attack them with the High Beast Horde."

Kraft Viton had a bunch of questions but he didn't inquire more. He was sure that Michael would come to him and tell him about his problems when he was ready. Michael knew that he could always come to him and ask for help.

"But no. I don't have to leave immediately. Rebecca will return from the Origin Expanse and call me if something happens."

"That's good then. My attendants will need two or three hours to collect everything on the list. That gives us a few hours to hold a short lesson. How about it?" Kraft Viton proposed with a thin smile. Michael responded with a nod.

Michael spent the next 15 minutes telling Kraft Viton about the creation of his techniques and his Soultraits' powers. He didn't reveal everything, but it was enough for Kraft Viton to put the pieces together and analyze his student's combat prowess.

But why did Michael tell Kraft Viton about all of this? Wouldn't it be better to keep his custom techniques and his Soultraits' properties a secret?

While it was certainly risky to tell others about his Soultraits and custom techniques, Michael needed a wise, and experienced person to help him comprehend his weaknesses faster. Michael had to grow stronger as quickly as possible. Allowing someone to look at his powers and techniques from a different point of view would help.

Michael could fuse with more Soultraits, or keep upgrading his existing Soultraits as he did with Extraction, however, Kraft Viton might be able to think of some ways for him to use his Soultraits better. Michael's view of his Soultraits was rather narrow because the influx of information from each Soultrait showed him the 'most efficient' ways to use his Soultraits, but Kraft Viton didn't have any special knowledge about Michael's Soultraits.

The old man was experienced and Michael trusted him. Kraft Viton was a trustworthy person and he signed a tight non-disclosure agreement, either way.

"Did you ever try using Insert outside the battlefield? Like inserting some plants into another plant, or inserting elemental energies into plants to see if the plants will mutate, or rot? Did you ever try to insert a Summoning Scroll into another? Or Artifacts? What happens when you insert an Artifact into a monster? Will the Artifact become a part of its body, or will the monster break apart? Will the Artifacts' external amplification apply to the monster if it works out?"

Kraft Viton asked a wide variety of questions about Insert. He had a lot to say about Michael's other Soultraits as well, but from Kraft Viton's point of view, Insert seemed to be the most compatible with Extraction.

"What about Soultrait Symbols? You are the only person who can procure Soultrait Symbols, but did you ever think about inserting one Soultrait Symbol into another? Will the Soultrait Symbols merge, or will one of them devour the other? Maybe, they end up shattering, but don't you think it's worth a try?"

Michael's eyes widened. He actually thought of something similar before but he always forgot about his experiments with Insert or thought that it would be a waste to destroy his Soultrait Symbols. The latter was nothing to worry about at this point. Michael had 400+ Soultrait Symbols and he was bound to procure more in the next few days, or weeks.

"You never tried that? I expected that from you though..." Kraft Viton frowned at his student. Sometimes, Michael was not as smart as he looked and acted. However, that only showed that Michael was still a youth. He was only 19 years old. Kraft Viton forgot that sometimes.

Michael recalled a large batch of the Soultrait Symbols in his possession and wondered what would happen to them if he used Insert to combine them. Would they transform into higher-ranked Soultraits?

He swallowed hard, and the corner of his lip curled up.

"You also said that you want more Adventurers in your territory," Kraft Viton interrupted Michael's train of thought, "I recommend you not to take too many Adventurers into your territory. Too many Links of Loyalty with Adventurers will burden your Soul, especially if special contracts have been established."

"Newly ascended Higher Lifeforms are usually unable to have more than 1,000 Links of Loyalty with Adventurers because that's the most their Souls can tolerate. You seem to have a strong Soul, but you have never refined your Soul yet. So...don't go over the top, please. If you feel like you can handle 250 Awakened Links of Loyalty, that's fine, but don't go above 500 before you're a Higher Lifeform."

Kraft Viton was visibly worried about Michael's well-being. He gave him a few more pieces of advice as an old Lord, hoping that Michael would listen.

"I have to find this many Adventurers, who're willing to become my subordinates and accept my conditions, first."

Michael didn't mention anything about the Silverfang Tigerfolk yet, but he wondered what would happen to Tiara.

'I don't feel the toll of the Silverfang Tigerfolks Links of Loyalty, but Tiara...will she be fine if I summon more of her kin? Can her Soul handle the burden?'

"You think that you'll have issues finding suitable Adventurers...

really?" Kraft Viton mocked his student a little, "Just release an online thread in the Awakened Forum of the Tritan Alliance and you're done. You'll get flooded with thousands of applications in no time."

The old man laughed.

"You don't even have to pay attention to their Soultraits, or their background. After all, you can create Soul Techniques, your own Refinement Techniques, you have the Bartholomew Corporation helping you out with resources and connections, AND you can remove and add Soultraits as you please."

"You should really start taking advantage of your powers and link to pick the most suitable Awakened. Adventurers with the best personalities and the right mindsets are what suit you best. That way, you will obtain subordinates who'll grow attached to you. They'll be loyal until their death, subordinates who're willing to jump into the fiery pits of hell at your command, powerhouses, who can trample armies with ease!"

The light in Kraft Viton's eyes was vibrant. The old man was full of vigor and excitement.

Michael had to suppress a chuckle. It was quite difficult to stay serious.

'But it makes sense. It shouldn't be that difficult for me to find suitable candidates all over the Tritan Alliance. Many with unsuitable Soultraits but the desire to grow stronger and become someone nobody dares to look down upon will apply to become my subordinates. I might not be able to extract their Soultraits, but I can always give them more, better, Soultrait Symbols to fuse.'

Kraft Viton's words made sense.

"That's a good idea. I can use Mind Reader to find out the applicants' true intentions and sign a Soul Pact to ensure that they cannot backstab me as well." Michael's mind drifted further away. It might not be possible to get hold of a large number of Adventurers in the next few days, but it was possible to send out a thread on the Tritan Alliance's Awakened forum.

"The Bartholomew Corporation can handle the applications and the forum thread if you want. You should be busy with your warfare," Kraft Viton pointed out.

Michael stared at the old man for a few seconds before he nodded slowly.

"That sounds good as well."

Michael could tell that the Bartholomew Corporation wanted to have their branches everywhere he went. They wanted to be associated with him, therefore, increasing their value as more members of High Society would be curious concerning the Bartholomew Corporation.

Everyone would think that they had to go through the Bartholomew Corporation to reach Michael. It was almost such as the Bartholomew Corporation was an Agency and Michael was their most popular signed celebrity.

That might restrict Michael a little when it came to spreading out his wings and building connections with High Society, but it was not like Michael desired to get closer to High Society, either way.

Michael wasn't their fan. If anything, he disliked most Supreme Families and High Nobles.

He met some reasonable people, but most encounters demonstrated the superiority complex of High Society. They thought they were better than everyone else, even their allies.

However, what Michael hated the most was how High Society treated those weaker than them. That was not the case for every Supreme Family and High Nobility, but many considered those weaker than them as mere pawns. They weren't even considered humans.

Thinking about the Zan Twins, and how even the patriarch of the Zan household had been used as a pawn to provoke him shortly after Danny's death, Michael felt even less inclined to get closer to High Society.

If the Bartholomew Corporation offered their aid to manage his stuff, Michael might too approve their help. They treated him nicely long before they learned concerning Extraction and his powers.

Furthermore, Michael had too many things to do. He couldn't split his body and pay attention to everything inside and outside the Origin Expanse.

He was not some sort of God, after all!

Chapter 596 Interesting Encounter

It didn't take long before Kraft Viton was informed that all items had been collected.

The old man picked up the goods in the Origin Expanse and returned to hand them over to Michael.

Their talk about Michael's powers and what tactics he should be committed to had been entertaining and essential for Michael. He was certain that things were going to change...soon. Of course, he didn't forget about the threats from all sides in the Origin Expanse, but he calmed down a little bit.

The tension all over his body dispersed a bit. Michael could take a deep breather after so long. He recalled something, someone, to be precise, as the tension left his body.

'Frederik!'

Michael had been thinking about Frederik now and then, but he had been too busy in the Origin Expanse for the last few weeks.

'Since I'm already here, I might as well invite him.'

Michael didn't know if Frederik was willing to become his subordinate, but his friend had to grow stronger if he wanted to stay by Jacqueline's side. The wars against the Council of Xylon and the Zentika Empire were good ways to grow stronger. But, of course, Michael's Soultrait Symbols would help Frederik to grow even stronger.

Michael knew Frederik well enough to know that he was determined, and ambitious. He would give his utmost to help the people he loved. Frederik's father had been healed, but his mental state was still not good. Meanwhile, Jacqueline's situation was unknown. Michael had no idea how they were faring.

However, he knew that Frederik needed strength...and that he could give his friend what he sought.

'Upgrading Aeroan to 5-Star and adding one or two 3-Star Soultraits to further strengthen Aeroan should be perfect.'

Michael understood that Frederik would feel uncomfortable because he owed his friend a lot. However, Michael wasn't too worried about that. If Frederik wanted to pay him back, becoming the Lord of the Untamed Jungle's subordinate and obliterating all threats would be perfect.

Aerolan was a useful Soultrait against large armies. Frederik had always been good at conjuring various deadly projectiles. The Invisible Wind Blades that hide Aerolan's hue were the deadliest. They would be perfect to take the Heart of the Blazing Lion army by surprise.

Taking various things into consideration, Michael used Spirit Eyes to search for familiar energy fluctuations. It didn't take long before he found some familiar energy pools, however, they belonged to Lincoln, Zeke, and Kaleb. There were other somewhat familiar energy fluctuations from acquaintances, but Frederik was nowhere.

Michael had to search for Frederik for more than ten minutes until he found his friend's energy fluctuations. However, something bothered him about the energy fluctuations. The energy fluctuations were weaker than expected.

There was another, much bigger, energy fluctuation near Frederik. Frederik was thrown around whenever the bigger energy mass approached him.

Michael's eyes narrowed. He subconsciously used Enhancement on his lower body and cracked the ground as he dashed ahead. He passed through the Sapphirelake Park in no time and arrived in one of the smaller, well-hidden training grounds.

Michael barged through the entrance and arrived near the small and cozy arena. There he found his friend. Frederik's large azure eyes shimmered vibrantly as he stared intently at his opponent. His muscles flexed and he kicked the ground to dash to the right. Simultaneously, a gale shrouded in an azure hue pushed him further. Frederik's momentum improved the instance the gale impacted. His top speed increased and he appeared next to his opponent.

However, his opponent reacted even faster. A large, callused hand covered Frederik's face all of a sudden. The youth tried to stab his enemy with his daggers but his opponent made perfect use of the opportunity and his momentum to hurl Frederik through the air.

Frederik crashed heavily into the training hall's wall and coughed up blood.

A flare of anger surfaced from the depths of Michael's being. His eyes darted to the unknown opponents and he saw red.

It might have been cause Pheli and Liopham died without him being able to do anything, or because he felt helpless in the last few weeks, but the emotions that had accumulated within his entire being surfaced all of a sudden.

He kicked the ground, spreading spider-web-like cracks all over the floor, and dashed ahead. The heavenly Beast Physique was unleashed with a Soul Tear further amplifying Superior Constitution. Thereafter, Michael added several layers of Enhancement, shrouding his body in a white hue.

Michael appeared in between the massive opponent and Frederik in an instant. His arrival took Frederik and the other combatant by surprise. Frederik's eyes widened at the surprising arrival of his friend, whereas his opponent stared at Michael, the corner of his lip curling upward.

A powerful foe had appeared.

Michael appraised the other party in an instant. He was mistaken to believe that Frederik's adversary had been a Berserker. It was a dark-skinned human whose entire body was covered in tattoos. The Awakened was more than two meters tall, probably close to 2.2 meters, and he was jacked.

His physique was closer to the constitution of a Berserker than an ordinary human. That was also why Michael mistakenly believed that Frederik's adversary had been a Berserker.

The man had long black dreadlocks, and vibrant silver eyes that stared straight into Michael's soul. The Awakened's gaze was razor-sharp. He didn't show a sign of hesitation. He was ready to fight Michael. There was no way that Michael would back off after seeing how Frederik had been hurled around.

However, neither of them made a move. The fight began only when a groan escaped Frederik's lips. The youth wanted to say something but the burly Awakened and Michael shot forth.

A tremendous amount of energy surged through the Awakened. His body expanded rapidly and he executed a smashing kick. Michael twisted his body, easily evading the Awakened's massive leg. He used Spirit Eyes to determine his opponent's weak spot and skipped to the side. He kicked the ground again, dashed ahead, and exchanged several blows with the Awakened.

The Awakened was more than four-meter-tall after he executed his Soultrait and he was still growing. More energy surged through his body, further increasing his physical strength. He was highly resilient and didn't lose out in a head-

on battle against Michael, whose physical strength was at its highest. Superior Constitution was amplified, Heavenly Beast Physique had been unleashed to the fullest, and several layers of Enhancement had been applied, yet Michael didn't gain an advantage against the Awakened.

On the contrary, Michael could see himself losing in a physical bout against the Awakened as his size continued to increase.

However, the Awakened was surprised. He didn't expect his new sparring partner to be this powerful. His body expanded to more than six meters in height suddenly and his skin turned greyish-silver. His strength exploded, surpassing the limits of a Lesser Lifeform instantaneously.

He was just about to unleash a barrage of kicks and punches when Frederik jumped up.

"Stop, Hiraku!!!" He screamed at the top of his lungs. Frederik spun around to Michael and exclaimed "We were just sparring!!!"

The gigantic Awakened stopped in his tracks. Michael stopped as well. He had been ready to use some of his tricks and other Soultraits to deal with the Awakened head-on, but it looked like he misinterpreted the situation.

It was just a misunderstanding.

The gigantic Awakened shrunk. The greyish-silver tone of his skin reverted to normal, however, his sharp silver eyes continued to linger on Michael.

"Michael. That's Hiraku Teranos. He's my friend!" Frederik introduced quickly to solve the misunderstanding.

"Training partner," Hiraku Tearnos added. Frederik smiled wryly, but he ignored Hiraku's comment and looked at Hiraku intensely, "That's Michael Fang. I told you about him."

'They're friends? Would a friend hurt another like t—....' Michael wondered only to recollect the things he had done to Frederik.

'Well...whatever...'

His attention drifted toward Hiraku Teranos. He heard about the Teranos family, a Supreme Family that was also known as the Stars of Creation. They were known for their Inventions and numerous creations. As far as Michael knew the Teranos family were more like Mad Scientists than combatants.

Hiraku seemed different.

Michael could tell at a glance that Hiraku was a fighter. He was like the Berserkers.

'Distant, cold, and distrustful of strangers. He doesn't seem to acknowledge Frederik as his friend, openly that is...but Frederik sustained fewer injuries than I expected. It looked really bad earlier'

Michael eyed Hiraku for a while, the corner of his lip twitching.

'Is he a tsundere, or what?'

Chapter 597 I Need You!

Michael was not sure what to think about Hiraku. Of course, Hiraku was extremely strong. He was a Peak Tier-3 Awakened and had a unique Soultrait.

However, Hiraku looked distant and cold. It was hard to approach him.

Fortunately, Michael didn't intend to approach Hiraku, in the first place. He came here to talk with Frederik about the last few weeks and to invite his friend to join his territory.

Even though Frederik had been in a coma for a few weeks and recuperating from the Minor Curse and various wounds, he had advanced to the Mid rank of Tier-2. That wasn't too bad given that he couldn't enter the Origin Expanse to exploit the time dilation to the fullest. However, Frederik was dirt poor now. His family's savings were used up and it would be difficult to improve any further.

"I never managed to thank you properly. I would love to give you something in return...but I don't have any money anymore. I'm already in debt because I have to take care of my father. His physical wounds have been tended to thanks to your help...but his mind has been damaged. He is not the same person he used to be..." Frederik grit his teeth.

"I considered everything as given...as if it was normal to have everything... My father's wealth, his health, my relationship with Jacqueline. I never thought of any of that as something special. I...am such a piece of shit..."

He clenched his fists until his fingernails dug deep into his palms. Warm blood trickled to the ground.

"Now...I have nothing left. Our family lost everything, and I lost Jacqueline. Even though my father is still there...it feels like he left me. Jacqueline...I don't dare to look into her eyes anymore. I have nothing to offer. All I have is debts and huge favors that I have to repay. Who would want to be together with a loser like me?" Frederik's eyes watered, but not a single tear escaped.

Michael and Hiraku heard the pain in Frederik's voice. Hiraku eyes Frederik for a while. It looked like Hiraku heard all of this for the first time. Michael saw a minor change in Hiraku's gaze, but the change reverted to normal when he noticed that Michael looked at him.

"I can solve your problems," Michael intervened in Frederik's miserable monologue before it could get even more pathetic, "And you should know that."

Frederik lifted his head, and Hiraku's gaze followed. The burly youth looked at Michael, his head tilted to the side.

"Join me, and protect my territory, and you will be able to solve all your problems on your own. All you need is to be determined, hard-working, and a little bit lucky."

Hiraku frowned hearing what Michael told Frederik. Enslaving one's friend didn't seem like a nice proposal. It felt like Michael was kicking Frederik in the gut even though Frederik was already miserable and in pain. That was not something a good friend should do.

No matter how much Michael did to help Frederik, he shouldn't ask his friend to become his slave.

That was Hiraku's point of view. His opinion of Michael plummeted at once and a deep frown masked his cold and distant expression.

Michael noticed that and could hardly suppress smiling. It was not difficult to tell that Hiraku didn't know anything about him or his powers. The burly Awakened wasn't up-to-date.

Michael retrieved two Soultrait Symbols and integrated some SoulStar Fragments into them. Both Soultrait Symbols were upgraded to 3-Star Soultraits at once. He reached out to hand Frederik both Soultrait Symbols while paying little attention to Hiraku. All he noticed was that Hiraku's War Rune twisted and distorted as if trying to escape the confinement of the back of his right hand.

'He is quite good at controlling his War Rune,' Michael noticed when he saw how easily Hiraku calmed down his raging War Rune.

Frederik, on the other hand, wasn't faring nearly as well. The youthful Awakened with azure hair couldn't control his War Rune. Frederik's desire and lack of control got the better of him. Several energy tendrils burst forth from his War Rune. They coiled around the two Soultrait Symbols and pulled back into the War Rune.

He absorbed the two 3-Star Soultraits and fused with them.

"Oh fuck. Sorry, Michael!!! I-I didn't want to do that. I couldn't control my War Rune!!!" Frederik screamed all of a sudden once he realized what he had just done. His eyes went wide as the influx of information reached him. Two floods of information overwhelmed him, granting him basic knowledge and mastery of his two new Soultraits.

"It's fine. I put these two Soultraits aside for you, either way," Michael waved his hand, disregarding Frederik's apology, "The Soultraits are called Enhanced Wind, and Wind Mastery. Their names are pretty simple, and so are their effects. Wind Mastery elevates your comprehension and understanding of the wind element drastically. It will allow you to comprehend more about Aeroan in no time. You will have no issue creating your own Legacy Arts and a wide variety of Martial Arts with Wind Mastery."

"Enhanced Wind, on the other hand, is a Soultrait that requires the wielder to have a Wind-attributed Soultrait, otherwise, the Soultrait is useless. Enhanced Wind naturally amplified Aeroan's power output, control, and also mastery."

Michael didn't know anyone else with a Wind-attributed Soultrait. There might be some Supreme Families with Wind-type Soultraits, but Michael couldn't care less about them. He had Frederik whose 3-Star Soultrait, Aeroan, had always been quite troublesome to deal with.

Adding Enhanced Wind and Wind Mastery to Frederik's repertoire was a good move. It would amplify Frederik's prowess by a few times.

However, Michael was not yet done.

"I want to upgrade Aeroan to 5-Star. Combined with Enhanced Wind and Wind Mastery, Aeroan's power output, control, and your mastery over it will be enough to turn Aeroan into a Pseudo 6-Star Soultrait," He explained while staring deep into his friend's eyes, "I need you!"

Michael was in dire need of someone like Frederik to fight and cause considerable damage to the Heart of the Blazing Lion army. The Kolbenheim family's Inheritance techniques, the Wind Sage's Sacred Body Refinement Technique, transformed Frederik's body. His body was attuned to the wind element and wind-attributed energy.

Frederik was not a Descendant, but by upgrading his Soultraits, and by customizing a Soul Technique for him...it should be possible to create a powerhouse to deal with the Zentika Empire.

Frederik was still overwhelmed with the influx of information. However, he heard what Michael said.

His friend's last words reverberated through his mind, over and over again.

'I need you! I need you!'

Tears welled up in his eyes suddenly. He didn't expect to hear these words ever again. Frederik thought that he lost everything and that his life was over...that it was not worth living anymore. However, Michael never abandoned him. Michael never considered him as baggage.

Their first encounter and the following meet-ups had been rather difficult, but Frederik knew that Michael never mistreated him. If anything, Michael helped him get his act together and grow stronger.

Michael never hesitated to help those important to him. He gave Frederik everything he could have wished for.

And now, the person who helped him unconditionally needed his help.

"What can I do for you? Join your territory? No problem!" Frederik clenched his fists tightly.

The light in his azure eyes returned, and signs of a grin blossomed on his face.

"You will have to accept the Link of Loyalty, and there will be a Soul Pact as well. There is no need to rush anything. You can read through the terms a-..."

Frederik interrupted Michael, "No need. I will accept the terms and conditions. I trust you. If, after everything you've done for me, I cannot even trust you enough with a Soul Pact, I should be ashamed of myself!"

If it was anyone else, Frederik would have hated to become someone's subordinate. However, his bond with Michael was different.

Frederik's expression soured when he thought about the time Jacqueline had offered him a Link of Loyalty to change his anchor in the Origin Expanse. He had rejected her offer because the Orlando family would never acknowledge him as worthy enough to hold Jacqueline's hand and be with her. How could they accept Frederik, if he had to depend on Jacqueline to survive in the Origin Expanse?

If Frederik was not even capable enough to protect himself, would he be worthy enough to be with Jacqueline? Of course...

not!

That was the Orlando family Elders' standpoint. They didn't acknowledge Frederik and they would never accept him if he accepted Jacqueline's support. Their family's image would crumble to dust.

The Orlando Elders would rather kill Frederik than see their family's image deteriorate because of their foolish youngest generation.

Fortunately, Frederik didn't accept Jacqueline's offer. He wouldn't be able to look into her eyes if he allowed her to save him.

His territory had been bulldozed by another Lord and turned into a magma field, ensuring that Frederik would never be able to return. However, that didn't mean he could give up on Jacqueline. Joining her territory as Jacqueline's subordinate would be like giving up. Frederik couldn't do that.

He didn't want to give up Jacqueline. She was the love of his life. She...was his everything.

Frederik wanted to get her back, take care of his father, and retrieve their wealth.

All he had to do to achieve his dreams was to join Michael's territory and grow stronger.

How hard could that be?

Chapter 598 Society's Ranking

As an Awakened your standing was high throughout all societies, however, that didn't mean every Awakened was the same. There was a special hierarchy among all Awakened. The High Society acknowledges this hierarchy and holds great importance to it.

The hierarchy was split into three major groups. The group with the highest standing in the High Society was the Lords. Lord gained the most glory and honor everywhere they went.

Lords were known for generating resources en masse. They created a safe place for the other Awakened and expanded their range throughout the Origin Expanse and generated more opportunities for new Awakened to enter and spread in the magical lands of the Origin Expanse.

Mankind's technological advancement and rapidly improving living standards were a result of the Lords' achievements, sacrifices, and efforts.

Lords were strong enough to protect their territory from the surrounding threats. That was something only the minority of Awakened managed to do. It was a sign of strength, great leadership, and a wide variety of other traits.

Lords were stronger than other Awakened. They amassed Soul Power and their access to more resources allowed them to progress faster as well. They were the Overlords and Rulers of the human race.

Of course, not all Lords were the same. Rookie Lords didn't hold as much prestige as Senior Lords with a barony.

Rogues, also known as Adventurers, had the second-highest standing in society. They might have lost their territories, but most Rogues were capable of surviving in the Origin Expanse on their own. Their survivability was essential, and they were strong enough to collect resources to grow stronger without a Lord's help and protection.

Some well-known Rogues managed to claim a new territory, regaining their standing as Lords. Their tales were known throughout the entire Tritan Alliance.

The last group with the lowest standing among all Awakened was 'Subordinates'. As the name suggested the Awakened group with the lowest standing were Awakened who submitted to other forces. They became subordinates of other Lords and acknowledged them as their Master.

Subordinates were known as being the weakest among all Awakened. Their Soultraits weren't any good, they lost their territory, and they couldn't even survive in the Origin Expanse without someone's protection. That was the case for most of them, at least.

Despite being considered as the group with the lowest standing in High Society, they were still Awakened.

It was also a fact that not all subordinates were weak. Nonetheless, being a Subordinate was like a mark...a sign that one wasn't capable enough to survive in the Origin Expanse without someone else's support.

Ordinary citizens didn't know about this, but some Supreme Families and High Nobles would never consider becoming someone else's subordinate. The younger generation had been taught that becoming someone's subordinate was comparable to willingly entering enslavement!

Of course, not everyone thought like that, otherwise, Rebecca Zauber and others wouldn't have joined Michael's territory under any circumstances.

Frederik was certain that the Orlando Family would think badly of him. They would ridicule him.

But did that matter?

For how long would they be able to make fun of him? A year? Two?

Frederik realized how much stronger Michael had grown within a few months from the short bout his friend had with Hiraku. Michael's physique changed drastically just like his eye color, but the biggest impact had been that Michael managed to fight head-on against Hiraku.

Michael didn't even rely on the Soultraits he was known for. He blocked Hiraku solely by relying on his physical strength!

Michael was already at the 3rd Tier, which was ridiculously fast given that Michael was a self-made Lord who'd barely turned 19 years old, but he was only at the Lowest Rank. Hiraku, on the other hand, was a Peak Tier-3 Awakened with a Soultrait that allowed his physical strength to transcend the limits of Lesser Lifeforms.

Hiraku's last attack should have been strong enough to knock out Tier-4 Lord at the Lowest rank, yet Michael managed to withstand it.

Frederik could also tell that Michael didn't go all out yet. He had yet to unleash his strongest powers.

Becoming the subordinate of a powerhouse like Michael wouldn't be frowned upon for a long time. It was not the best idea to ridicule anyone willing to become Michael's subordinate right now, either. After all, it was well known that Michael could procure Soultrait Symbols and upgrade them.

Even if Frederik was part of the Subordinate group, would the Orlando family be willing to go up against Michael, or laugh at Michael's subordinates for initiating a Link of Loyalty with him? Was the Orland family truly willing to offend Michael like that?

Frederik could only imagine other families making fun of the Orlando family for digging their graves if they dared to say something against anyone who'd been willing to become Michael's subordinate.

Michael had more influence than various families, including the Orlando family. His connections spread across the entire Tritan Alliance. Hardly anyone would be foolish enough to go up against Michael, or those important to him.

The Orlando family might eventually try coaxing Frederik, but neither Michael nor Frederik desired to give them a pleasant time, let alone benefits. Frederik desired to attain enough strength to force the Orlando family to acknowledge him and his strength. Not because of Michael's backing, but because of his talent and prowess.

He desired strength to be with those he loved, protect them, and take care of them. That included Jacqueline, his father, and now also Michael.

Meanwhile, Michael felt like beating the shit out of the Orlando family's Elders. However, he was patient enough to allow Frederik to go wild first. That was also one of the reasons he decided to support Frederik like this.

But the most important reason for him to hand Frederik two 3-Star Soultraits and offer to upgrade Aeroan to 5-Star was that he didn't want Frederik to die on the battlefield.

That was the crucial point why Michael decided to retrieve more SoulStar Fragments to upgrade Aeroan to 5-Star. It was expensive at a price of nearly 3,000 SoulStar Fragments, but Michael was certain that it was worth it.

Frederik's combat prowess would skyrocket, and it was only a matter of time before the investment would be returned to him with interest. Michael was not worried about that.

If anything, Michael was worried that he didn't invest enough into Frederik and the others. He was a little bit anxious and hoped to upgrade the Forest Elves and Tiara's Soultraits soon. Whether they had enough Jungle Points or not didn't matter.

The Untamed Awakened were not that close to him, but Thaor, Mekhaz, Lokai, the Forest Elven Adventurers, and Tiara were. They should be given some benefits...even if it was because of Michael's selfishness rather than goodwill.

He...didn't want to see the people he held dear die.

Frederik was shocked when Michael used Insert to insert 3,000 SoulStar Fragments straight into Aeroan, upgrading it straight to 5-Star. He was unsure what else to say.

Their Link of Loyalty had already been established and the Soul Pact had been signed. Michael didn't think that it was necessary to say anything else.

Hiraku tapped Frederik a bit brutally. He stared at Frederik and frowned as the youth didn't say anything even after Hiraku gestured to Michael.

"You don't want to thank him?"

Michael nearly burst into laughter but his poker face sustained. Hiraku seemed cold and distant but he had good manners. That was for sure.

Michael smiled as Frederik turned to him.

"Thank you...I mean it!"

Michael patted Frederik's back with a smile. He was glad that he managed to help Frederik.

Now that his friend regained his spirit, it was only a matter of time before Frederik grew stronger. He would turn into one of the powerful assets in the Untamed Jungle in the next few weeks and help Michael defeat the invading forces.

Rebecca hadn't messaged Michael yet, so he was not in a rush to leave with Frederik. Nonetheless, it was not necessary to stay in the training hall any longer. He handed Frederik a Silver Teleportation Token and was about to manifest the Runic Gate when Frederik approached Hiraku.

"Do you want to join the battle? It will be interesting?" Frederik smiled at the muscular Awakened, who stared down at him in return.

Michael revealed enough about the troubles of his territory to tell everyone that the next few weeks were going to be filled with blood, sweat, and tears.

Frederik understood that it was going to be dangerous, but he also knew that Hiraku Teranos was bored to death. Hiraku Teranos surrendered his territory the day after the grace period ended. A High Beast obliterated his wooden manor and nearly killed Hiraku, who had been a Tier-1 Lord at that time.

A few years passed since then, yet Hiraku never managed to reclaim the territory. The High Beast turned the area near his Runic Gate's anchor into its nest, making it visibly impossible for him to repay to the Origin Expanse.

Despite that, Hiraku escaped the High Beast's nest and established a new anchor nearby, only to realize that his former territory was surrounded by an ocean. His territory had been on a small island.

He had a hard time surviving in the Origin Expanse, and the lack of resources was not exactly helpful either.

Thus, Hiraku stayed outside the Origin Expanse most of the time.

"How about you join Michael's war? In exchange for your help in the battles, Michael can create a temporary Link of Loyalty with you. That way, you can set a new anchor far away from your island and move to a different region," Frederik offered, not even asking Michael whether that was fine or not, "You can fight powerful enemies!"

Hirakue seemed cold and all but the fact that he didn't beat Frederik to death a long time ago was enough for Michael to reward the muscular Awakened with some brownie points.

"I don't mind additional help. However, you would have to indication an additional non-disclosure agreement if you want to help out. That, or I will make sure you'll forget everything you learned about me, my people, and my territory once you leave."

Frederik's eyes lit up at Michael's approval. He stared at Hiraku with puppy eyes.

"Go for it!"

Hiraku raises one eyebrow, but a glimmer in his eyes told Michael that he was interested.

"I'm itching for a battle." He said calmly.

Chapter 599 The Weirdest

Completing the NDA and establishing the temporary Link of Loyalty with Hiraku didn't even take five minutes.

The terms of the NDA were quite simple. Meanwhile, the Link of Loyalty would dissolve once the wars were over. Hiraku could also terminate the Link of Loyalty earlier as long as he met the conditions. However, it was unlikely that Hiraku would bother going on and beyond to terminate the Link of Loyalty. It was not worth it.

Michael retrieved two Silver Tokens of Teleportation and handed them over. Hiraku stared at the Silver Tokens of Teleportation for a few seconds and nodded to Michael. He manifested the Runic Gate and pressed the Silver Token of Teleportation against it. The Runic Gate whirled and shapeshifted. A silver gleam conjured within the Runic Gate as it stabilized. Hiraku didn't say anything, however, the excitement in his eyes was apparent.

He stepped into the Runic Gate and disappeared into the Origin Expanse. Frederik hurriedly repeated what Hiraku had done and disappeared in the Runic Gate a few seconds later, leaving Michael alone.

"Restless bunnies," Michael chuckled, leaving the training ground before he manifested the Runic Gate that led back to the Untamed Jungle. He stepped through and emerged in his territory, only to hear Frederik screaming around in ecstasy.

"This is amazing!!"

Frederik squealed like a little child as he ascended into the air. The young Awakened was flying through the air, observing everything about Michael's territory from a slightly elevated position. He hadn't burst through the treetop yet, but that was only a matter of time.

"I wouldn't fly too high, Fred," Michael suggested. He talked to Frederik through Whispering energy but noticed quickly that his friend was stubborn. Frederik didn't want to descend just yet.

"Why??" He asked instead of following Michael's advice.

"There are multiple reasons. For one, there are various avian High Beasts in the middle area of the Untamed Jungle. But if I had to pick the most important reason...I would avoid attracting the attention of the Mythic Serpent. The Mythic Serpent is definitely a Divine Beast. So...Tier-7, probably stronger."

Frederik froze mid-air and dived down to the ground as fast as he could. He turned deadly pale and stares at Michael, his legs quivering.

"Couldn't you have said that a bit earlier?!?" Frederik complained, only to be glared at by Michael and frowned at by Hiraku.

Hiraku was quiet but his eyes darted in all directions. He analyzed the layout of Michael's territory swiftly. However, his eyes rested often on the laughing citizens, their bright smiles, and how relaxed they were.

"Are they not afraid of the approaching war?" Hiraku wondered.

"Everyone would be worried about war, but they trust me, my judgment...and maybe my anger," Michael said half-jokingly. He noticed that Hiraku didn't have a change in impression and pressed his lips together, "Jokes aside. We've had a few fierce battles until now but the enemy forces never managed to infiltrate my territory. Until that changes everyone will feel safe and sound in the territory. Or until we lose all our men on the battlefield."

Hiraku nodded slowly, "Your territory seems well hidden. The layout merges well with the surrounding environment. It doesn't look like you have many special means of defense but I can sense certain changes within the trees. Did you construct defense towers and large-scale weapons in the towers?"

Hiraku had many questions, but Michael answered them readily. There was no need to hide most of these things, either way. Hiraku's perception was good enough to pick up on these things. However, that was what attracted Michael's interest.

"Your senses pick up the surrounding flora and fauna better than other things. You didn't mention anything about the Summoning Gate and the Summoning Cores, yet you point out the territory's synergy with the environment," Michael mentioned.

Hiraku turned to Michael and nodded.

"You could say so. I might tell you at some point," He said, but didn't sound as cold as before. Seeing how comfortable the Summons in Michael's territory were, Hiraku couldn't help but have a better impression of Michael. He had to be a decent Lord if he managed to make his people smile in the adversary of a war.

Hiraku and Michael chatted a little bit more. Frederik eavesdropped and followed them as Michael guided them through the most important places in the territory.

Once Hiraku saw the huge construction site of the Sacred Knight Temple and more than five thousand training Blessed Squires and Holy Knights, he excused himself and moved over to the training grounds.

"He is nice, ain't he?" Frederik asked, only to get slapped on the back.

"You're pretty good at attracting weirdos. You know that, right?" Michael joked, but Frederik had already a response up to his sleeves.

"I know, otherwise, I would have never met you. You're the weirdest of all people I know." Frederik joined the banter with a light joke.

However, deep down he was more serious.

'Who else would hire several Healers from the Seraph family and the Sun Guild to help me and my father without asking anything in return... just to throw several Soultraits and Soultrait Upgrades at me as well? That's the work of the weirdest weirdo in the entire universe!'

Michael flashed a smile at his friend. He didn't expect to be that happy to have Frederik in his territory, but he was relieved. Now that Frederik fused with the two Soultraits he'd reserved for his friend, Aeroan was like an unstoppable force. Of course, upgrading Aeroan to 5-Star helped quite a lot.

Nonetheless, Michael was happy that he could help his friend. It felt good to know that he managed to affect his friends' lives positively. He and his territory wouldn't lose out anything by helping Frederik either. Now that he was here, Michael was certain that the forthcoming battles were going to be much easier. At least, that was what he hoped with Frederik and Hiraku joining the territory's military prowess.

An attendant rushed up to Michael to hand him the daily report. Today's daily report included the Untamed Awakened's progress. They improved a lot at using their new Soultraits. It would take some time, but the Untamed Awakened were bound to turn into strong powerhouses. All they needed was time, more resources, and encounters straight from the bloody battlefield.

Frederik peeked into the daily report as well, and his eyes widened in surprise.

However, before he could say something Tiara and the other Silverfangs appeared. Tiara waved brightly in Michael's direction and he returned the greeting. Only a few seconds later Lilica and the other Forest Elves passed by as well.

"You have five different races in your territory...that's crazy."

Michael tilted his head, "What's so crazy about that?"

"What's so crazy about that? Are you serious right now?" Frederik asked, while Michael merely nodded.

Frederik burst into a laughter.

"You really are the weirdest person I know."

He shook his head.

"You don't even realize how rare it is for other races to trust you with their Racial Summoning Cores, do you? Most races treasure Racial Summoning Cores like national treasures. After all, they don't want other races to summon their forefathers and learn about their secrets." Frederik pointed out before he

added, "You can imagine how bad it could turn out if some ancestor of the human race tells our enemies about our secret weapons, technologies, and so on. They'll use their knowledge against us."

"Many races will have difficulties fighting against their forefathers as well. They consider the resurrection of their ancestors as something sacred. They wouldn't want to harm them."

Michael heard about the latter part from the Forest Elves. They treated Summons with utmost respect, whether they were Starless or 4-Star Summons. All Summons were their forefathers in some way.

But the other reasons were new to Michael. He never thought about it that way.

'Once I summon Legendary Forest Elves, Berserkers, and Warlock Centaurs, I can get to know their races' secrets. That is...true. The Link of Loyalty will force them to heed my command.'

Handing over their Racial Summoning Cores didn't seem like a big thing before. At least, Michael never thought of it as something overly dramatic. That changed now that he thought about it a little bit more.

Frederik didn't have to say anymore. Michael understood what his friend wanted to convey.

Michael shuddered for a moment and picked up some distraction. He resumed reading the daily report where a bunch of interesting things were written down.

Some Scouts who had invaded the Savannah Region came back with news. Apparently, the Trilance was surrounded. The remaining Laprix tried to flee, but they were mercilessly slaughtered by the Council of Xylon. The numerical disadvantage against the Council of Xylon resulted in a severe deterioration of the Trilance's morale.

But the situation got even worse. The Laprix that had been killed mercilessly were beheaded and exposed to everyone in the Trilance. Their heads were placed atop spears that were placed everywhere around the remaining colonies of the Zynur and Vaylr.

The Trilance's spirit deteriorated even further. They were confined to their colonies and thoughts of the incoming battles didn't end well.

Despite the overwhelming advantage against the Trilance, the Council of Xylon didn't initiate a final attack. They could bulldoze the remaining settlements, however, none of that happened.

Michael was curious about their tactics but he had already a premonition. He thought that something would happen near the Untamed Jungle pretty soon...and he was right.

A particularly marked communication glowed up suddenly.

The premonition worsened at once and Michael rushed to the Pillar of Territorial Awareness, his expression turning sour.

It was just like he'd expected.

The Teleporters returned.

Chapter 600 Controlled Wrath

Michael eyed the Pillar of Territorial Awareness and his expression turned cold in an instant. A large mass of red dots appeared in the Untamed Jungle's outer ring. The red dots moved irregularly. It almost looked like they jumped through small.

The masses of red dots moved swiftly through the outer ring but they slowed down at some point. They stopped jumping through space suddenly and moved through the Untamed Jungle's thicket in one big group. At least, that was what it looked like from the Pillar of Territorial Awareness.

But staying in one group turned into a much bigger problem than expected. There were close to 500 members in the group and the Untamed Jungle grew denser. It was impossible to pass through the thicket in proper fashion.

'Teleporting is quite hard if you cannot see your target, ain't it?' Michael ridiculed the Teleporters in his mind.

It was easy to teleport to locations you remembered or places you could see. However, teleporting straight into a trunk would be an unfavorable result. The Teleporters didn't want to die, after all.

But the inability to see far ahead in the Untamed Jungle was just one of many problems the Teleporters had to face. Michael made some preparations to install spatial frequency distortion signals near the Savannah Region's border. The signals increased the difficulty of using Space-type Soultraits.

The Teleporters could use their Soultraits, but they wouldn't have an easy time teleporting hundreds of Awakened and high-ranked Summons throughout the Untamed Jungle.

Despite moving slowly through the unknown terrain, it was only a matter of time before the Teleporters and their followers would reach the Untamed Jungle's middle area.

'They don't move straightforwardly but are heading close to my territory right away. Did they find my territory already?'

Michael could already imagine what the Teleproters were going to do and just thinking about it made his blood boil.

They would mark his Awakened and the strongest Summons in his territory before pulling them out one after another with the Pull Soultrait one of them had. It wasn't a complex plan that required a mastermind to come up with. There were no profound scheming skills required to execute that plan.

All they needed was a Super Elite Unit with powerful Summons and Awakened, and Soultraits that were perfectly suited for the Pull and Space-Lock tactic.

Michael analyzed the red dots for a moment before he threw a communication crystal to Frederik.

"Check the map and tell me if they pass by me by chance. I doubt that I will miss them, but who knows," Michael ordered Frederik, his entire being overflowing with seriousness and a mix of coldness and fury.

Extraction's Aura erupted, the ground beneath his feet cracked open and the air began to crackle. He took a deep breath, retracted the Extraction Aura, and kicked the ground hard.

Michael ascended the Greater Nature Spirit's body and jumped onto the nearest canopy bridge before he charged in the direction of the invading forces.

He manifested the Soul Grimoire and used several Soul Tears. One Soul Tear amplified Enhancement, another reinforced Superior Constitution, and a third empowered Extraction.

Thereafter, Michael activated Enhancement several times to enhance his physique.

Michael activated Spirit Eyes as well and it was only a matter of minutes before he found his targets; the invaders from the Council of Xylon.

Rage fueled his entire being and Michael accelerated once more. He loathed the Council of Xylon and a single thought about Liopham and Pheli's death was enough to make him lose control of the Extraction Aura. It erupted and nearly extracted the canopy bridge around him. Michael had to jump onto the nearby branches to extract their bark and dissect the misfortunate insects that fell victim to Michael's wrath.

Michael took a deep breath when he sensed that something deep within him desired to be unleashed. The Cursed Seals influenced Michael. They lusted for blood, chaos, and death. All Michael had to do was accept them. That's all he had to do to obliterate his enemies.

However, Michael didn't give in to the Cursed Seals' influence. He unleashed one of the three Cursed Seals he'd unlocked and kept the remaining two hidden. The mark on his face expanded and Michael could clearly feel the intensity of his emotions increase rapidly.

But despite unleashing one Cursed Seal, Michael was still in control of his body. It was harder to control Extraction since activating a Cursed Seal unlocked more of Extraction's power, but it was not like Michael intended to hold back.

There was no need to ask questions. The Council of Xylon invaded the Untamed Jungle. They headed toward his territory. There was no chance that they came over for tea, not armed to the teeth, at least!

Even if they had good intentions...why should Michael be bothered? They killed his people. In his opinion, the Teleporters and everyone who followed them were already as good as dead!

The Teleporters and remaining members of the invading force didn't notice Michael yet. He was still several hundred meters away from them.

But Michael could see them clearly. He produced some Soul Energy and unleashed the Heavenly Beast Physique Soul Technique. His physical strength increased rapidly, but Michael further enhanced his strength by applying more layers of Enhancement to his body.

His body creaked loudly, complaining about the toll that weighed down on every cell of his body. However, Michael didn't care at this moment.

He crossed the remaining distance to his foes and leaped into their masses without hesitation.

The Teleporters and other forces were shocked to the core. They had been certain that their veils of invisibility and the distortion signals would hide them well enough to stay hidden from Orbs of Hostility and the like.

The Awakened and the strongest Summons reacted quickly. They unleashed their strongest techniques and Soultraits to prepare for the incoming attacks. However, they quickly realized that the young man who'd leaped into their masses was their only opponent.

Their enemies underestimated them! They weren't taken seriously. A surge of anger passed through them.

However, that anger turned into uncontrollable fear as an ominous presence reverberated through the vicinity. Their surroundings were shrouded in a majestic golden hue all of a sudden and their bodies felt incredibly weak.

Massive tendrils of extraction shot out of the bushes, tree trunks, branches, and the ground, sucking the energy and oxygen of the surroundings in an instant.

The power of Extraction passed through the Artifacts, weapons, and armor sets of the targets and invaded their flesh. Everyone tried to resist the tremendous force that impacted on their bodies, minds, and soul, but only a few managed to block the power of extraction.

A thunderous roar escaped Michael's body. He merged dragon might with the Dome of Extraction and infused the Extraction Aura to further amplify the force of the Dome of Extraction.

The plantlife, the nutritious soil, and the critter that minded their own business suffered tremendously from Michael's outburst. He didn't bother controlling the Dome of Extraction or his energy consumption. Michael went all out, sincerely hoping that the Teleporters and everyone else responsible for his subordinates' deaths would suffer.

Extraction affected those near him the most. They shed their skin like snakes, their hair dropped out, and some had their eyes extracted within seconds. However, that was not enough.

It wasn't over yet!

Extraction erupted with eight layers of Enhancement, draining his enemies' energy and lifeforce mercilessly.

Michael observed that the Teleporters were trying to leave. He tapped into the reserves of his force and further amplified Extraction's Dome with two more layers of Enhancement. The 7-Star Soultrait's fury erupted.

Everyone was in Extraction's range, yet nobody could escape unscathed. The Teleporters retrieved something from their War Rune storages and groaned in pain as they unleashed the last bits of energy within them.

They disappeared.

Michael frowned deeply, but the corner of his lips curled into a fiendish smile when his communication crystal lit up.

His attention turned to the remaining participants of the invasive force, his vibrant golden eyes staring coldly at his enemies as if they were already as good as dead.

"You shouldn't have come."

Michael's words echoed through the Untamed Jungle, and the screams of his victims followed right behind.