

Supreme Lord 601

Chapter 601 Devil

"What the hell was that monster?!?" One of the Teleporters, Kivan Tamai, asked the other Teleporters.

His legs jiggled like jelly and the rest of his body didn't fare better. He breathed irregularly, his face was drained of blood, and he had been skinned alive

The others didn't do any better. The Teleporters' skin had been extracted. They hadn't been able to do anything against the tremendous power.

"T-that...wasn't a monster," Misha Marz, another Teleporter, said. He shuddered and added, "I think that was an Awakened."

The Teleporters bled severely but they tried to ignore the pain that spread all over their exposed flesh. They would heal soon. All they had to do was survive and escape successfully.

The last Teleporter trembled as well, "It makes sense why the Council wants to get rid of them first...this one is truly ferocious...."

"He is stronger than the others have been," Kivan noticed. He recalled the combat prowess of the reinforcement sent by the Untamed Jungle and recalled that only a few had been truly dangerous. None of them was as frightening as this one.

"Maybe, that's their Lord?" Misha asked, but Kivan could only shake his head, "Lords don't charge into the frontlines. They hide behind their forces and only enter the battlefield when they're about to win, or when their territory is about to get destroyed."

Discontent and disgust could be heard in Kivan's voice. The Lords of the Council were just like that. They didn't even consider leaving the secure grounds of their territory to lead their subjects into the battle. It was almost like they never considered doing something like that, in the first place.

If the Lords and their Guardians had entered the battlefield, the Council of Xylon would have long since destroyed the Trilance. But now they struggled against two measly Lords...even after 'that' happened.

"So that Awakened is the Untamed Jungle Lord's secret weapon?" Misha asked, which Kivan affirmed with a nod, "I think so."

The Teleporters moved through the thicket with fast strides. They moved as quickly and silently as possible. One of them proposed to use their Soultrait to escape the Untamed Jungle as quickly as possible, but Kivan shook his head.

"They must have hyper-sensitive energy sensors OR the Untamed Jungle Lord prepared special devices to pinpoint spatial fluctuations after his people fell victim to our excellent tactic."

The third Teleporter sighed heavily. He was feeling anxious, his heart palpated wildly and his eyes moved left and right in vigilance.

"The plan failed. We should hurry up and report immediately!"

Misha retrieved a communication crystal, but before he managed to insert a single strand of origin energy into the crystal something changed. Blood splattered through the vicinity and Misha's hand holding the communication crystal flung through the air.

A scream of pain and anguish escaped Misha's lips. Misha's allies turned around, their eyes widened in terror and disbelief.

The monstrous Awakened they'd been talking about a moment ago emerged from the thick. No. It was more like the thicket disappeared as the monstrous Awakened passed through the Untamed Jungle's undergrowth.

His vibrant golden eyes flicked to the two Teleporters, his expression cold and emotionless.

Michael was covered in blood and brain mass. Every step he took left a trail of blood behind.

Spiritual Domination on the Teleporter in the back as he attempted to use his Soultrait. The Teleporter screamed aloud, blood gushed out of his nose and ears and he collapsed on the ground. He was knocked out for a few seconds.

"You...killed them all?" Kivan managed to ask. He regained his voice upon hearing his allies scream and collapse around him.

"Those little pawns? Yeah, they're dead," Michael shrugged nonchalantly, "Did you think that these weaklings would be enough to kill me or my people? You should have come with Higher Lifeforms if you'd taken us seriously. That was foolish of your people."

Michael moved slowly. His hands tensed up for a second, and crackling sound resounded through the vicinity. He was having a hard time controlling himself. The Cursed Seal that had manifested around his eyes and temples made it increasingly more difficult to stay in charge of his body and mind.

Kivan grit his teeth when he heard what Michael said.

'He is the Lord. Fuck it!'

The Teleporters would have loved to bring Higher Lifeforms to deal with the Untamed Jungle Lord and his strongest subordinates, but that had been rather difficult. Hiding the energy fluctuations of a Higher Lifeform was more complex.

Most sensitive presence detection devices such as Superior Orbs of Hostility could find traces of Higher Lifeforms even if they used Rare Artifacts to cover their presence. They would have to use Epic Tier-4 Artifacts to hide their presence and energy fluctuations perfectly. Unfortunately, it was not like any Lord had 500 Epic Tier-4 Camouflage Artifacts lying around.

But then again...the Teleproters' tactic to sneak up to the Untamed Jungle Lord's territory and kill the strongest enemies one by one with their Super Elite Force didn't work out in the first place. They didn't manage to bypass the territory's security. They should have brought Higher Lifeforms.

However...it was also the first time that the Teleporters failed their mission. Something like that never happened until now...and it would happen never again...

"You can greet your friends in a moment, don't worry!"

The corner of Michael's lip curled upward. A fiendish smile blossomed on his face.

His expression turned darker as he unleashed the anger he felt. His Extraction Aura erupted at once. The surrounding flora and fauna were extracted at once. Even the soil around Michael disappeared layer by layer.

Kivan attempted to unleash his Soultrait at this very moment. However, not even a quarter of a second later, Kivan realized that he couldn't do anything. Hundreds of Extraction tendrils burst out of the ground. They coiled around his legs, waist, and upper body right before invading his insides.

The last bits of his stored energy were drained while small strands of blueish-red threads were extracted simultaneously.

Kivan screamed on top of his lungs when he felt excruciating pain spread through his chest. His eyes widened in terror.

"You...what did you do to my energy paths?!?"

Michael's fiendish smile widened, "Just a little portion of your energy veins. It's nothing much."

Michael's smile disappeared from one moment to the next causing Kivan to shiver. Michael disappeared from his sight and he appeared in front of Kivan in the next instance.

The Untamed Jungle's Lord grasped Kivan's jaw tightly until crackling noises rang out. He forced Kivan to open his mouth to shove something down his throat.

Once he was forced to swallow he was hurled through the air like worthless thrash. Michael shifted to Misha and the unconscious Teleporter and shoved something down their throat as well. Misha was still screaming from the loss of his hand, but Michael couldn't care less. He broke Misha's jaw and pushed the dark green pill down his throat.

The pills were something he had prepared for the Teleporters. It was a poison that blocked the energy paths of Teleporters for a few hours.

Of course, killing the Teleporters was unnecessary since one of them was already a lost cause, while the other was unconscious. Their energy had already been drained and Michael made sure that their lifeforce was at an all-time low.

However, they weren't dead yet. Michael wouldn't allow them to perish easily. Why would he?

He tightly clutched Misha's face and lifted the Awakened from the ground. Michael held the Awakened high into the air, his expression ice-cold as he tightened his grip around the Teleporter's face. Crunching noises resounded, but Michael didn't care.

The next five seconds were the most terrifying in Misha's life...

and his last...

Michael used three Soul Tears. He applied one on Extraction, one on Enhancement, and one on his Soul.

In the next instant, he unleashed the remaining active Cursed Seals. It was only for a short moment, but Michael erupted with all of them to remove as many limiters from Extraction as possible.

Michael could barely control himself for a few seconds without losing himself in wrath. He was already on the verge of going crazy. However, he endured it.

Ten layers of Enhancement were applied to Extraction. Michael produced Soul Energy to empower Extraction instead of ordinary origin energy. His Soul Power was drained rapidly but the effect of using Soul Energy when using Extraction was terrifying.

The next thing Michael did...was to allow the Extraction Aura to swallow the Teleporter.

Misha screamed at the top of his lungs. A terrifying pressure weighed down on every cell of his body. The pressure increased and crushed his cells one by one. But everything got worse as something was ripped out of his very being.

Misha could do nothing to fight against Michael. He was a helpless chicken in front of the butcherer. All he could do was stare deep into the wrath-filled eyes that swallowed him whole.

Misha screamed at the top of his lungs. He screamed and screamed and screamed.

Suddenly everything was silent. The Untamed Jungle was eerily silent. Misha's scream died down from one moment to the next.

Michael crushed the Teleporter's face and hurled him through the air. The Teleporter's corpse was useless.

Instead, his eyes lingered on the Soultrait Symbols and the large SoulStar Fragment he'd extracted.

He absorbed the SoulStar Fragment and sensed immediately that the large Fragment was worth 400 ordinary SoulStar Fragments.

Michael turned around, his eyes falling onto Kivan and the third Teleporter who had returned to his senses. Tears trickled down Kivan's cheeks as realization dawned upon him.

He understood what was about to happen, but he couldn't believe it.

He...didn't want to die.

However, nobody was safe in front of the Devil that had emerged in front of them.

Chapter 602 May The War Begin

The Teleporters writhed in pain as the Extraction Aura impacted heavily.

They tried using their Soultraits to escape Michael's grasp but their energy storages were drained and their energy paths had been blocked. Even their Runic Gate access had been blocked with the poison. There was not a single path of escape left.

Their eyes landed on the Lord of the Untamed Jungle. The monstrosity. The devil.

He went all out to obliterate Kivan and the last Teleporter, extracting their Soultraits while they were still alive. The shock of losing a part of their being and the tremendous pain inflicted alongside ended their lives in one of the most miserable ways possible.

Michael didn't have to go that far, but he wasn't willing to give them an easier death. They didn't deserve to die easily.

He stored their Soultraits away and consumed the large SoulStar Fragments he'd extracted.

"Is revenge satisfactory or not? Why don't I feel better?" Michael grit his teeth.

Taking revenge for Liopham and Pheli was good. It was great that the Teleporters were dead and that they wouldn't harm anyone ever again. However, killing them didn't bring Liopham and Pheli back. They were dead. Even revenge didn't change that fact.

"These weak bastards managed..."

Michael cursed under his breath.

He knew that the Teleporters hadn't been weak. They were Peak Tier-3 Awakened with useful Soultraits, great Artifacts and lots of experience. It was just their misfortune to encounter someone like Michael. Michael had 10 Soultraits. Extraction was 7-Star, and both Spirit Eyes and Superior Constitution were 6-Star. His remaining Soultraits were all 5-Star Soultraits.

Each of his Soultraits was quite powerful in its way, and he could use two Soultraits to strengthen his other Soultraits temporarily. Last but not least, Michael had the Cursed Seals that released a portion of Extraction's limit once he unleashed them.

If that was not enough to demonstrate Michael's superiority, he had Soul Techniques as well. The Council of Xylon didn't possess any Soul Techniques. The Teleporters might have been highly experienced, but they couldn't do anything against Michael. He was on a whole different level!

"Fuck this shit..." Michael cursed, kicking the dead bodies once he extracted their War Runes' storages. He left them for the Untamed Jungle to consume and returned to the massacre he had left behind when he killed the 500 Summons and Awakened.

He released the Dome of Extraction and controlled hundreds of Extraction tendrils to loot the bodies. He absorbed as many Summoning Scrolls, Scroll Fragments, SoulStar Fragments, Soultraits, Artifacts, and so on as possible and stored them away.

Afterward, he continued to curse before leaving the corpses to the Untamed Jungle once again. He destroyed a part of the Untamed Jungle when he went wild with True Extraction. The invaders' bodies were a tribute to the Untamed Jungle to fix the mess he had created.

Michael didn't know when he started leaving tributes to the Untamed Jungle, but since the High Beast horde didn't attack him, he felt like he should be a bit nicer to the Untamed Jungle.

The Untamed Jungle had their own issues but the inhabitants of the Untamed Jungle seemed to combine their forces to deal with pesky invaders. That was something Michael supported.

"Should I attack the Council of Xylon?" Michael murmured, itching to travel across the Savannah Region and obliterate some settlements. It wouldn't matter if he lost himself in rage and anger in the Council of Xylon's territory either. As long as he went alone Michael could unleash his Cursed Seals and empower True Extraction as much as he wanted. No one close to him would get harmed.

Unfortunately, he didn't have the time to turn the Savannah Region upside down. Frederik called him from the Pillar of Territorial Awareness.

"The Heart of the Blazing Lion army crossed the borders...The High Beast Horde is on the move!"

Michael frowned deeply. His head flicked to the corpses around him.

"Did they know about the attack? They shouldn't have any connections though..."

He had no clue and there was no time to rake his brain either. Michael retracted Extraction and his other Soultraits and rushed through the Untamed Jungle straight back to the Greater Nature Spirit.

There was no time to clean his body either. Frederik's eyes widened when he saw Michael covered in blood, but he regained his senses quickly.

"I've deployed your attendants to tell everyone about the Zentika Empire's attack," He said, before staring back at the map of the Pillar of Territorial Awareness, "But to think that the Untamed Jungle's monsters have been ignoring our territory to prepare for the Heart of the Blazing Lion army's attack. Is the Untamed Jungle a hive-mind, or something like that? Is there an Overlord controlling everything precisely?"

Michael raised an eyebrow, "You're oddly composed given that we're going to battle 150,000 seasoned Soldiers soon. Don't act too cocky. I don't want to tell Jacqueline that you died because you were too assured in your new powers."

"I'm...not overconfident. But have you seen how many High Beasts attack the Heart of the Blazing Lion army?" Frederik pointed at the Pillar of Territorial Awareness.

Michael turned to the map and smiled lightly. At least two dozen huge red dots were charging out of the Untamed Jungle's middle area. 30 High Beasts and close to 20,000 ordinary monsters attacked the forces of the Zentika Empire.

"If we don't support them soon they'll be killed either way. Do you think the Zentika Empire is not prepared against the High Beasts? They've already suffered a feisty defeat after underestimating the Untamed Jungle once. They'll eradicate the High Beast Horde quicker than you may think," Michael uttered also pointing at one particular red dot.

It was a large red dot from one of the Untamed Jungle's High Beasts. The red dot charged into the huge mass of red dots from the Zentika Empire...and disappeared after a few seconds.

"Oh...fuck..." Frederik cursed, and Michael just nodded.

"Gather with the Untamed Awakened if you want to battle with them. You can also shift with the Forest Elves and focus on ranged attacks. Aeroan is the most suitable for large-scale attacks. Use the Untamed Jungle's environment to your advantage and take the most annoying Summons out. I cannot get a good measurement of their strength from the mass of red dots but most enemies seem to be at the 2nd Tier, Late, or Peak rank. Take them by surprise and overwhelm them with your Soultraits!" Michael advised his friend.

He looked deep into Frederik's azure eyes and repeated the most important aspect.

"Don't die." Michael ordered, "Otherwise, I will find and kill you myself!"

Frederik grinned brightly at Michael, who could only shake his head. There was no time to smile.

"Go."

Frederik didn't wait a single second longer. He continued to smile but turned around on his heels and controlled the winds around him. He kicked the ground and turned into a flash the moment his feet left the ground.

Michael took a deep breath, his eyes lingering on the Pillar of Territorial Awareness' map.

"So, it has finally started..." He mumbled, the cogs in his mind turning.

The corner of his lip curled upward.

The long-awaited prey finally came to him on its own.

"Took you long enough."

Chapter 603 Higher Lifeforms

The Heart of the Blazing Lion army was made up of three groups. Three Commanders, each at the Peak of Tier-4, controlled a portion of the Heart of the Blazing Lion army to act independently.

The army moved in unison until the forces reached the entrance to the Untamed Jungle. The moment they collided with the High Beast Horde of the Untamed Jungle everything changed. The army split up into three groups of 50,000 members and acted without paying heed to the other groups.

Most members of the heart of the Blazing Lion army were Lionhearts, thus giving the army its 'unique' name. Each army had more than 40,000 members in the 2nd Tier and close to 10,000 members in the 3rd Tier.

While that was already extremely dangerous, the most important units of the three groups were their Tier-4 powerhouses. Each of the three groups had roughly 100 Higher Lifeforms. Every Higher Lifeform controlled a small team of natives and Awakened that worked together. They followed the Commander's orders but it was not uncommon for the Higher Lifeforms to move out on their own as well.

Michael quickly realized that the Heart of the Blazing Lion army had more Tier-4 powerhouses than expected. It was well-known that it was extremely difficult to become a Higher Lifeform, yet so many members of the Blazing Lion Army achieved such a great feat.

Most Summons would never manage to ascend to a Higher Lifeforms. It was said that most 2-Star Summons would reach their limit at the 2nd Tier and that their bodies wouldn't be able to survive the toll of advancing to Tier-3.

It was still possible to reach Tier-3 as a 2-Star Summon, but that usually required a unique physique or a perfect foundation built with resources and determination. The requirements to achieve such a feat were tremendous.

That was also why Michael was slightly surprised when he found out that the Heart of the Blazing Lion army had such a high percentage of Tier-3 Soldiers.

'So that's what an elite army looks like?' Michael thought, squatting on a large branch high up in a towering tree's canopy.

It was not unlikely that the Zentika Empire had similar structures such as the Sacred Knight Temple. Picking out the most talented students and giving them the resources they needed to become Tier-3 powerhouses was still possible. Training them would still take a while though.

But even with enough time, resources, and determination, it was usually close to impossible for 3-Star Natives to ascend. The mortality rate was said to be extremely high among those 3-Star Summons who were ambitious enough to give it a try.

It was common knowledge that one had to be a 4-Star or higher-ranked to ascend to a Higher Lifeform. Rarely someone below 4-Star ascended to the 4th Tier. It was close to a miracle.

There were exceptions, of course, but most of them were really old folks who'd spent decades training their Soul, Mind, and Body, or the minority who had been fortunate with a fortuitous encounter.

'They don't shy away from heavy expenses at this point. But, I guess...that makes sense.'

According to the Scouts' intel and the memories of the Lionhearts Michael had consumed a while ago, the Heart of the Blazing Lion Army was the second largest army that remained intact after the battle with Taros and the Red Dragon. That was intriguing, but it also made it seem like the Zentika Empire had been weakened quite a bit.

That might be the case, but the Scouts' intel was grossly exaggerated. The Scouts didn't know that the pieces of information they forwarded were grossly exaggerated. But Michael did. Michael was aware of the Zentika Empire's stunt and what they were trying to do.

To the Zentika Empire's misery, Michael knew a lot more than that. He was fully aware that more than two million seasoned Combatants at the 2nd, 3rd, and even 4th Tier were spread all over the Zentika Empire's territory.

This included more than 15,000 Adventurers who have been serving the Zentika Empire for decades.

Most veteran Combatants were either deployed to keep the crime rate in the Zentika Empire's cities and towns as low as possible, to train newcomers to rebuild the armies that had been obliterated in the fearsome battle against Taros and his Red Dragon or to keep the Zentika Empire's neighbors in check.

Many neighboring kingdoms, counties, and independent Lords bordering the Zentika Empire had been preparing themselves for an all-out war for months. They began with their preparations the day Taros and his Red Dragon attacked the Zentika Empire. As of now...all they were waiting for was the perfect opportunity to get a slice of the Zentika Empire.

Michael was grateful that the Zentika Empire had various enemies to keep in check at their borders, otherwise, the Heart of the Blazing Lion army wouldn't be the only Elite Army invading the Untamed Jungle.

'But then again, the Lords living in the Zentika Empire haven't made their move to support the Zentika Empire either.'

Michael was aware of more than 150 Lords to whom the Native Empire had granted access to a piece of land in the Zentika Empire. There might be more Lords, but Michael was not all-knowing. His information network could have been better.

Nonetheless, he knew that the Zentika Empire had yet to tap into the power of those 150+ Lords.

Maybe that would happen soon? Or was there something Michael wasn't aware of?

'That is not important right now.' Michael shook his head.

He had to remind himself that the battle near the Untamed Jungle's border was more important.

However, one thing was certain: Defeating the Heart of the Blazin Lion army won't be easy.

It was a good thing that Michael never expected it to be an easy feat, in the first place.

The meeting with the higher-ups of the territory didn't take long. Michael had already given everyone precise orders long before the Heart of the Blazing Lion army decided to attack. The plans had been set in stone a long time ago.

All they had to do was initiate the plans he, Immortal Knight, and the other strategists of the territory had come up with.

There was no Legendary Strategist in his territory yet, but Immortal Knight and some other Summons were already old enough to be considered experts on the battlefield. Even if Siegfried Dragoon was more of a fighter, his warfare knowledge wasn't low either. In fact, Siegfried was a great strategist, even if it wasn't the reason he was a Legendary Summon. His experience on the battlefield taught the old man well.

The Forest Elves moved out on their own. They were led by the Forest Elven Adventurers leading them and stalked through the trees. They ignored the monsters barging through the Untamed Jungle's undergrowth and went into position by spreading throughout the Untamed Jungle's outer ring.

As Forest Elves, their ability to detect lifeforms in any forest was extraordinary. They couldn't see their enemies through the trees and thicket, but it was possible to sense their enemies and their power level rather easily.

The Forest Elves nocked their arrows on the bowstring, channeled energy into their bows to reinforce their armament's power, and pulled the bowstring back smoothly in one go.

The Forest Elves' wrists glowed faintly as traces of Elemental Might were applied to the arrowheads. Some arrows were coated in gales while others were shrouded in ice. Thousands of Lesser Elementals

decided to join the battlefield. Some were hesitant at first, but the Elemental Empress convinced them to support their lands and allies.

The Elementals didn't need to expose themselves. Their presence and Elemental Might were already more than enough to provide the woods Elves with enough destructive power to go up against the Zentika Empire.

Hundreds of arrows poured down onto the weakest forces of the Heart of the Blazing Lion army, however, they came prepared. The Heart of the Blazing Lion army was equipped with strong Pyro Steel Armor Sets. They wielded heavy shields and were well protected against the hail of arrows.

Only a few couldn't block the incoming arrows. The arrows shrouded in raging winds were too fast for some Soldiers to block. They lifted their heavy barriers but were a quarter of a second too late. The gale arrows penetrated the chainmail covering their necks and pierced deep into their throats.

But the gale bolts were not the only arrows that worked out. Each arrow amplified with Elemental Might worked to a certain extent. They didn't reap many lives but the attacks were still dangerous. Their enemies were forced to pay attention to the treetops which made it increasingly more difficult to block the monster charging at them.

The barrage of arrows forced the Lionhearts to split their attention.

Waiting for the hail of bolts that came at irregular times was impossible. The moment they stared blankly into the treetops the Soldiers would get attacked by a group of monsters ahead.

However, if they focused too much on the monsters around them, a hail of bolts would take them by surprise.

The Forest Elves, whether they were Peak Tier-1 or at the lower ranks of Tier-2, managed to create chaos wherever their bolts flew. The distraction caused was great, but it was not yet enough. Fortunately, they had stronger arrows and archers by their side.

Mika, Opars, and Lilica used more expensive bolts and Bow Artifacts with great pulling force and additional enchantments. Their arrows were creations made with the Relic of Draka. Everyone

considered it a waste of precious time, but Michael was adamant about creating Spirit Arrows with the Relic of Draka. The Relic of Draka didn't require more than ten minutes to finish one Spirit Arrow, yet everyone told Michael that it would be a waste. After all, it was not uncommon for rapid shooters to release dozens of arrows in a minute.

But Michael did not care. Spirit Arrows were great weapons and they were even more useful in the hands of someone who knew how to handle them.

The EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team were such people.

They learned about the Spirit Arrows' special properties from Michael and fell in love at once. The three remaining participants of the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team trained relentlessly. They didn't want to lose someone dear to them ever again.

Therefore, they had to grow stronger. Strong enough to obliterate those who endangered their peace!

It was about time to show the Zentika Empire what it meant to be at war with Forest Elves!

Chapter 604 An Elf's Rage

Mika nocked a Spirit Arrow on the Wyvernwood Bow Artifact and pulled the bowstring back smoothly. Simultaneously, he channeled a trace of energy into the Wyvernwood Bow, resulting in a cacophony of sounds. The Wyvernwood Bow roared aloud as if it was trying to escape the confinement of the Bow Artifact.

The Spirit Arrow vibrated violently as Draconic Power channeled into it from the Wyvernwood Bow.

Simultaneously, Mika activated Arrow Duplication and Pierce. His two older 4-Star Soultraits were at full display. Mika repeatedly used Arrow Duplication and used Pierce often enough to shroud the Spirit Arrow in a white hue.

Mika released the Spirit Arrow once he finished aiming. A quarter of a second later he activated his 3rd Soultrait. He purchased a third Soultrait from the Jungle Shop and upgraded it straight to 4-Star. Rapid Fire. The Soultrait accelerated his upper body's movements while simultaneously aiding more energy into the energy paths in his arms. This allowed him to retrieve another Spirit Arrow, nock it, and pull the bowstring back in less than a second.

The second Spirit Arrow was fueled with Draconic Power, and empowered with Arrow Duplication, and Pierce before at once. Mika released the Spirit Arrow.

Rapid Fire did not only accelerate his movement speed for a short moment. It also decreased the toll on his body and created the most efficient pathway to keep as much energy as possible while producing the strongest possible attack.

The pair of Spirit Arrows that whizzed through the air split up. Arrow Duplication turned the pair of Spirit Arrows into 4...8...then 16...and finally 32 before they poured down onto the Soldiers of the Zentika Empire.

Under normal circumstances, the Soldiers would have raised their shields to block the attacks. However, the Draconic Power within the Spirit Arrows increased their top speed. The Draconic Power acted as an accelerant, increasing the danger of the duplicated Spirit Arrows even more.

The Spirit Arrows amplified by Pierce, penetrated the Pyro Steel Armor Sets of the Tier-2 Soldiers as if the armor was made from butter instead. However, the attack was not over. The Spirit Arrows pierced deep into the Tier-2 Soldier's flesh and reaped their lives. Only then did the Spirit Arrows' power come into effect.

Mika received various powerful energy influxes. The energy influxes were more potent than usual, and they were not transferred straight to his War Rune either. Instead, Mika was given the opportunity to tap into the energy influxes and annex some of the energy to replenish his dried energy storage. The leftover energy was pulled into the War Rune where it was consumed to refine and strengthen Mika.

Mika didn't rely on the Spirit Arrows' special ability, but it was extremely helpful to refill his energy storage. He changed his tactic after a moment and focused on Rapid Fire combined with Pierce. There was no need to use Spirit Arrows all the time. Instead, Mika was ready to change his attack pattern as often as possible. He wanted to remain unpredictable.

Therefore, Mika turned over to make use of Elemental Might. Two Lesser Elementals chose to accompany him for today's battle. They charged his ordinary arrows and amplified them with Elemental Might. Simultaneously, they inserted traces of their energy into the Wyvernwood Bow to ensure that the Bow Artifact would continue to expose its Draconic Power

Even ordinary arrows would turn into deadly projectiles as long as Draconic Power, Elemental Might, and Pierce were applied to them. The arrows would burst apart after one or two uses, but Mika didn't plan to retrieve the arrows, either way.

He focused on his new Soultrait, Rapid Fire and Pierce as it drained only a little energy while the Lesser Elementals granted him the power he required to kill his enemies.

Mika managed to release more than 30 arrows in a minute with Rapid Fire. His accuracy suffered a little bit, but it wasn't a major downside. Mika aimed at the enemies' chests and larger vital points to cripple and weaken them instead of killing most of them straight away.

Once his energy storage dropped below 50%, Mika retrieved another Spirit Arrow. He used his remaining energy pool to use Arrow Duplication several times before he unleashed a barrage of duplicated Spirit Arrows once again.

The second barrage of duplicated Spirit Arrow didn't kill as many enemies as intended, but three energy influxes were already enough to restore his energy storage.

It was more than enough to continue fighting without having to use potions. He could keep his attention on the battlefield and aid the monsters on the ground and the Forest Elves behind him to decrease the Zentika Empire's numbers slowly.

Not many died from their bombardment of deadly projectiles, but hundreds, if not thousands of Tier-2 Soldiers sustained mid-to-severe injuries. Their attack prowess weakened, allowing the High Beast Horde and the Sacred Knight Temple's forces to eliminate the threats with more ease.

Opars didn't fare as well as Mika. He didn't have as many powerful Soultraits as Mika. Nonetheless, he had several Artifacts that suited his Soultraits perfectly. He used Energy Imprint on the Dryadwoven Bow Artifact, increasing the pulling force required to pull the bowstring drastically.

No one at the 2nd Tier should be strong enough to pull the bowstring back. Opars, however, could do so. He managed to solve one of his biggest issues by purchasing a particular Soultrait from the Jungle Shop. Herculean Arms. Opars upgraded Herculean Arms to 4-Star and uncovered that it was even better suited to his tactic than he'd expected.

First of all, Herculean Arms strengthened Opars' arms. The Soultrait adjusted the muscles in his arms and developed them until Opars' muscles felt as strong as tempered steel. However, the most important aspect was that Herculean Arms allowed Opars to alter his physique according to his will. It was quite difficult but studying the anatomy of the Forest Elves allowed him to make some additional changes, transforming his arm and back muscles into the perfect tools to pull the Dryadwoven Bow Artifact.

Ordinary arrows were not suitable for the Dryadwoven Bow Artifact. They would splinter upon impacting on the target. Opars had to switch to Reinforced Treantbranch Arrows. These arrows were made from the branches of Treants and they could be further reinforced by infusing them with energy. As someone with an exotic Soultrait like Energy Imprint, Opars could easily imprint energy into other objects.

He could easily penetrate the Pyro Steel Armor Sets of the Zentika Empire's Tier-2 Soldiers, and that was exactly what he did. He used his new toys and newly acquired Soultrait to obliterate as many enemies as possible.

Opars would have felt much better knowing that his attacks annihilated those who were partially responsible for Liopham and Pheli's death, but he had nothing against assaulting the Zentika Empire's forces either.

The Zentika Empire had been their cause of pain and suffering for years. Opars didn't forget the things they did to the EmeraldLeaf Adventurer team when they were still official citizens of the Zentika Empire. They had been treated badly.

It was payback time!

Lilica wasn't different from the Mika and Opars. She tried hard to control her raging emotions, but she was having a hard time. The only reason Lilica stayed back was because she was worried about the other Forest Elves and both Mika and Opars. Mika had been hit the worst with the death of Liopham and Pheli. It took him the longest to regain his senses and return to training.

Opars may have been casting Soothing Wave on both Lilica and Mika, but his mental health wasn't all that high either. The EmeraldLeaf Adventurers were down and felt regret. They should have been stronger to protect their friends and beloved, but they had grown lax and laid-back.

The EmeraldLeaf Adventurers had been certain that their Soultraits would solve all issues. Even if they couldn't solve all the issues, Michael would solve them instead.

That was what they'd been thinking about for a while. However, the Savannah's Regional War changed their train of thought. They knew that Michael couldn't always be with them and that they weren't omnipotent. Their force was great given their Tier and Rank, but that was already it.

'We need more achievement points!' Lilica cursed in her mind, using Weakness Detection, and Precise Aim to adjust her near-

perfect aim naturally and detect numerous openings spread all over the battlefield.

Under normal circumstances, these openings would be too small for anyone to hit. However, Lilica upgraded Presice Aim to 4-Star for a reason. Her aim was impeccable at this point, and hardly anyone could block her attacks even if they saw them.

Unfortunately, seeing Lilica's attacks wasn't that easy anymore.

Lilica bought Invisible Projectile from the Jungle Shop. Invisible Projectile was a bothersome Soultrait that nearly cost Michael's life at some point. It was a nuisance for every enemy and a blessing for the user...especially if utilized together with Weakness Detection and Precise Aim.

Lilica's arrows were camouflaged with 4-Star Invisible Projectile, allowing her to easily exploit the tiny openings in her enemies' defenses.

That was even easier with the use of the Silent Reaper, a Pseudo-Legendary Bow Artifact that blocks all vibrations, sounds and energy fluctuations. Lilica's arrows were not only invisible, but their energy fluctuations were sealed perfectly from the outside, and it was near impossible to hear or sense them.

They were among the lethal projectiles one could find all over the bloody battlefield.

The Forest Elven Elders and the families of Liopham and Pheli had decided to gift Mika, Opars, and Lilica three Pseudo-

Legendary Bow Artifacts as long as they dealt with the Council of Xylon.

Of course, the Zentika Empire was not the Council of Xylon, but the Heart of the Blazing Lion's attack was the whole reason Michael and everyone else couldn't barge into the Savannah Region to obliterate the Council of Xylon.

The Zentika Empire's forces had to be obliterated first!

Chapter 605 A Monkey's Weapon

Of course, the Forest Elves and their arrows were not omnipotent.

After several barrages their position was exposed and the fire was returned, quite literally.

The Heart of the Blazing Lion army unleashed fiery fires. They conjured fireballs, firespears, and various other projectiles and threw them back at the Forest Elves. Most fiery projectiles were not that fast, but their overwhelming number and destructive power were more than enough to force the Forest Elves to retreat.

The Untamed Jungle caught fire. Everything was about to burn down.

Lilica and the others retreated. However, they didn't run away from the battle. They trusted that the Lesser Water Elementals and Lesser Earth Elementals would do a great job extinguishing the flames. In the worst case, the Lesser Elementals would restrain the flames for a while.

"A bunch of Tier-3 Awakened are onto us," Opars pointed out while pulling the bowstring back. His muscles flexed as the Dryadwoven Bow's pulling force increased. Opars remained calm, aimed, and shot. The arrow disappeared in the thicket.

A terrifying scream escaped from the thicket and blood spurted all over the bushes. Opars stored the Dryadwoven Bow away and switched position. He leaped onto another tree's branch and climbed higher.

Lilica grit her teeth but activated Weakness Detection. She channeled more energy than needed into the Soultrait, creating a better display of her enemies' weaknesses.

A few Lionheart Awakened entered her view. They headed to Mika and the other Forest Elves.

Lilica retrieved an arrow, nocked it on the bowstring, and readied herself. Precise Aim and Invisible Projectile were executed at once. Lilica pulled the bowstring back and used her breathing technique. Her body stopped moving all of a sudden and it looked like she was frozen in place. That was just Lilica taking aim and releasing the deadly projectile into the group of Lionheart Awakened.

The Invisible Arrow whizzed through the Untamed Jungle unnoticed and found its way into the wrist of the Awakened who looked the strongest.

The Lionheart Awakened groaned loudly. He tried to hold his longsword tightly but the muscles and veins in his wrist had been ripped apart. Lilica's arrow had neatly pierced the Awakened's wrist. It was covered in blood and was visible to the bare eye once again.

The Lionheart was just about to pull the arrow out of his wrist and switch the longsword to his left hand to continue participating in the battle, but a shadow covered him all of a sudden.

The Awakened and Soldiers behind him screamed aloud. Earth Spikes shot out of the ground, impaling the Awakened's calves and thighs. Simultaneously, arrows hailed down. Some were slow and could be evaded easily, but a minority of arrows were incredibly fast and deadly.

The fast arrows were hard to distinguish from the slower arrows. It was already too late for most Soldiers when they realized which arrows were the deadliest.

Even if they survived the barrage of arrows, they weren't prepared for what happened next. Sun Demos and the Demon Monkeys joined the battle. They merged into the mass of the High Beast Horde and

dived into their fights, reaped the lives of those who had already been weakened, and pulled out once again.

That was exactly what happened here. Sun Demos emerged above the Lionheart, whom Lilica had attacked, and swung down a one-handed axe. The axe head was inproportionately large. The blade covered most parts of the one-handed axe. It looked unhandy and hardly useful, usually, that is.

The blade-axe cut deep into the Lionheart's shoulder as Sun Demos cleaved down. The Blood Oath Demon Monkey King's other hand shot forward simultaneously. His claws plunged into the Lionheart's eyes, gouging them out with a single attack.

All of a Sudden, Sun Demos felt much heavier than before. The Lionheart's body heated up, and fiery flames covered his body.

Sun Demos screeched loudly and retreated. The Demon Monkey King ordered his Unit to retreat and change targets. Once Sun Demos distanced himself a bit from the Lionheart Awakened, the heavy weight that had impacted heavily was no more. He could still feel the weight on his shoulders but it was not impossible to bear anymore.

["That's enough. Focus on the weaker units first. I want you to take care of them!"]

Michael's voice rang through Sun Demos' mind and the Demon Monkey King moved at once. The Demon Monkey King kicked the ground, jumped on top of a tree, and moved rapidly through the Untamed Jungle. The Demon Monkey Unit followed quickly, gaining momentum as they swung from one branch to another.

Simultaneously, as Michael's voice reached Sun Demos, a dozen Soul Glacicle Bullets inserted with a trace of Extraction launched through the air. The Soul Glacicle Bullets pierced through the seams that held their Armor Set Artifacts together and burst apart. The traces of 7-Star Extraction inserted into the Soul Glacicle Bullet entered the Lionhearts' bodies while the compressed freezing mist within the Soul Glacicle Bullets shrouded the surroundings in an instance.

The Lionhearts' flames extinguished at once and their Armor Set Artifacts cooled down in an instant. Cracks formed on their Armor Sets, creating more openings for the Forest Elves to attack.

Michael knew that he could have killed the Lionhearts at once, but he wanted to utilize the opportunity to drain their energy storage while simultaneously giving the Forest Elves more opportunities to procure more energy influxes.

His War Rune was far from advancing. It would take months for him to advance to the Low rank of the 3rd Tier. Of course, that was without any energy shares and without resources worth more than most ordinary territories could procure in half a year.

Michael observed the battlefield intently. He knew that he could just leap into the most crowded area of the battlefield and kill a thousand Tier-2 Soldiers with the Dome of Extraction. However, he was not foolish enough to expose himself and his powers straightaway. The Heart of the Blazing Lion Army might be split into three minor armies but each of them had a Commander at the Peak of the 4th Tier and roughly 100 Higher Lifeforms.

Even if Michael killed a few thousand Soldiers at the 2nd or 3rd Tier with a surprise attack, he would end up encircled by 300 Higher Lifeforms. That was not what he wanted.

Therefore, he looked out for the Higher Lifeforms to hunt them down one by one. Michael thought that he might as well give his people a helping hand at the same time. Soul Glacicle Bullets didn't ingest much Soul Energy, and he could replenish his used-up Soul Power by consuming SoulStar Fragments, either way.

It wasn't like Michael was going to waste his SoulStar Fragments, but he was unwilling to leave everything to his subordinates!

Sun Demos and the Demon Monkey Unit had returned to the High Beast Horde. They were having a hard time pinpointing the weakened enemies, but everything happened fast once they did find suitable targets. Sun Demos and the Demon Monkeys would dive onto the battlefield, retrieve their one-

handed battle axes, behead their enemies, or cleave them apart, before storing their weapons back into the spatial satchels they'd been given.

The Demon Monkeys might have claws and tremendous physical strength, which they could utilize to an extraordinary degree, but the one-handed war axes were better than their claws. They were enchanted

with Sharpness and Sturdiness Runes and allowed the Demon Monkeys to make full use of their superior physical strength.

The one-handed war axe made up for the Demon Monkey's racial limits.

Of course, the one-handed war axe was not a perfect solution. The Demon Monkeys might be Superior Existences but they were still merely at the Lowest rank of the 2nd Tier. They'd reached their racial limit a long time ago and couldn't slay everyone. The Zentika Empire's forces had a gross numerical advantage, and they knew how to make utilize of that.

They burned down the forest and moved in small groups. Most groups had either one or two tanks. They blocked the incoming attacks, allowing the Assassins, Swordsmen, and other damage dealers to do their job. Other than the tanks and damage dealers, most groups had either a Mage or Priest by their sides. However, since all Lionhearts had a Minor Fire Affinity, each of them could conjure fireballs and other fiery projectiles.

The Lionhearts learned to utilize their racial affinity for years if not decades, and they made use of it.

Fortunately, the Untamed Awakened weren't disturbed by the fiery flames of the Lionheart. They didn't care that the Untamed Jungle was set ablaze or that the underground in the outer ring had already been burned down.

On the contrary, the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs loved that. They had been fighting in the Savannah Region for a few weeks, only to return to the densely grown Untamed Jungle once again. The Untamed Awakened didn't hate the Untamed Jungle, but they didn't know the jungle as well as the Forest Elves. They couldn't make utilize of the Untamed Jungle that well. Therefore, they charged ahead and unleashed their multitude of Soultraits to obliterate their enemies with a head-

on clash.

The Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs looked like they were on ecstasy. They unleashed their Soultraits in excitement and charged into the masses of enemies without hesitation. It was almost as if they didn't even know that they were at a numerical disadvantage.

However, in reality, the Untamed Awakened couldn't be bothered. They didn't care that the Heart of the Blazing Lion army had several times more Soldiers and that the quantity of their high-ranked Soldiers and Awakened was much higher.

It didn't matter to the Untamed Awakened.

The Untamed Awakened were going crazy.

Chapter 606 Titan

Possessing multiple useful Soultraits would make it much easier to fight opponents of a higher weight-class. It was even better if the foes didn't possess useful Soultraits, or if they were natives who didn't own Soultraits, in the first place.

That was currently the case. The Untamed Awakened had multiple useful Soultraits that could be combined, further enhancing their might, whereas the Awakened of the Zentika Empire had only one somewhat useful Soultraits. Some weren't even blessed with half-decent Soultraits.

The Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs didn't seem fazed by the Lionhearts' fire, and their great physical prowess granted them certain benefits that couldn't be neglected either.

Everything combined, the Untamed Awakened were able to fight Awakened above their weight-class. However, even that had its limits. Low Tier-2 Awakened couldn't easily beat Tier-3 Awakened. Maybe with enough Epic or Legendary Artifacts, more Soultraits, and the surprise effect on their side it was possible, but it was not like those things would appear out of nowhere.

It was not like the Untamed Awakened cared about that, in the first place.

They charged ahead and bulldozed through the masses of the Zentika Empire until a Higher Lifeform appeared in front of them. A Lionheart who had ascended to the 4th Tier appeared in front of the Untamed Awakened.

It had been a while since he advanced to Tier-4, but the Lionheart would never forget about the joy of being stronger than his enemies...the addictive feeling of tearing through his enemies as if they were made of paper.

However, before the High Lionheart – which is what the Lionhearts call themselves upon ascending to a Higher Lifeform – could charge at the Untamed Awakened, something around him changed.

Dozens of thick, intertwined roots shot out of the ground. Half of them tried to pierce the High Lionheart's vital spots while the rest coiled around his legs, and waist to hold him in place.

The High Lionheart shrouded his body in flames and burned the roots before they could reach him.

He roared in rage but was still unable to charge ahead as a humongous figure appeared in front of him.

A colossal being emerged out of nowhere. It was more than ten meters tall and strode through the Untamed Jungle as if it was the embodiment of nature's might and protection. Towering trees and verdant foliage weave seamlessly into the colossal being's bark-like skin, creating an organic armor that camouflaged the colossal being perfectly in the Untamed Jungle.

The bark-like armor was dark but had a silver sheen to it. Its' massive frame exuded fearsome strength and resilience. Moss and vines cascade down its form, further intertwining with the Untamed Jungle's flora, creating a living tapestry of greenery in the middle of the fearsome battlefield. The colossal being created a shocking contrast to the blood-filled battlefield and the burning outer rings of the Untamed Jungle.

The giant's large silver eyes stared sharply at the High Lionheart, whose heart skipped a beat. A seed of fear took root deep in his heart.

"What the..." He cursed loudly and immediately used his Soultrait, combined with his racial Minor Fire Affinity to create a fiery inferno.

The inferno engulfed the bark-covered giant, but that didn't stop him. The giant barged through the inferno, pressed his hands together, and smashed downward with tremendous velocity and might.

The High Lionheart created several compressed fire swords and fire spears around him before coating his entire body in blazing flames, but the giant ignored it all. A metallic sheen covered the giant's arms, protecting him from further damage as the firespears and swords impacted with great momentum and destructive power.

However, the giant's attack didn't stop. His attack commenced and he smashed down, crushing the High Lionheart at once.

The ground tremored from the giant's impact, followed by a shockwave that uprooted the nearby plants and bushes. A single smash was enough to create a human-sized crater in the ground. It was just enough to bury the High Lionheart.

However, there was little to nothing left to identify the former powerhouse. He had been crushed to smithereens, leaving nothing but a disgusting mass of flesh, fur, and blood behind.

The colossal being released a thunderous roar and the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs followed suit. The Untamed Awakened were shocked but also exhilarated. They were overflowing with excitement at the sight that unfolded in front of them.

Michael was similarly shocked. He observed the colossal being for a while, the corner of his lips curling upward. His eyes shimmered brightly.

The colossal being was not a High Beast. It wasn't a powerful monster of the Untamed Jungle. No. The colossal being was Hiraku!

'I thought his Soultrait was Gigantification, but it seems like I was mistaken. Does he have multiple transformations mixed into one Soultrait? But then...why does it feel like Hiraku is using the Greater Nature Spirit?'

It wasn't difficult for Michael to sense that Hiraku tapped into the energy from the surroundings to empower his transformation. To be precise, Hiraku requested the Spirits in the surroundings to aid him. At least, that was what Michael could tell from his connection with the Greater Nature Spirit.

Of course, Michael allowed the Greater Nature Spirit to lend Hiraku as much power as he needed. But he didn't expect that Hiraku could turn into a 10-meter-tall giant. Hiraku's physical strength easily reached the might of a Higher Lifeform, and he gained temporary access to the Minor Nature Affinity as well. Hiraku would have no problem dealing with some High Lionhearts.

Hiraku manifested two maces out of thin air. They weren't his Artifacts, but new creations. They appeared out of nowhere and transformed into a humongous Morningstar with a chained metal spike at the top and a heavy shield in the next second.

Michael first thought that Hiraku had some Aethyr, or that he might own some Aether, but that was not the case.

'Right, he is part of the Star of Creation. Their family has a creation Soultrait.'

Hiraku had two Soultraits, and both seemed quite powerful.

There was no need to observe Hiraku and the Untamed Awakened any longer. Hiraku gained the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs' trust. They respected his great prowess and the violence he displayed on the battlefield and charged behind him without any words of complaint.

They charged together and wreaked havoc.

The Untamed Awakened had two to three 4-Star Soultraits and they learned how to use them in unison. Their hard work and relentless training over the last few days finally paid off.

Thaor's Crimson Aura erupted and coated his expanding body as he unleashed Red Giant to keep up with Hiraku's transformation. Thaor couldn't grow into a 10-meter-tall coloss, but his height reached four meters in an instant. The Crimson Aura fused into his body, dying his skin bright red. Smoke exuded all over his body as his strength skyrocketed.

Thaor learned a lot about his Soultrait and Unique Constitution over the last few weeks. He had been fighting against numerous powerful enemies in the Savannah Region and his strength increased considerably. However, he had been lacking compared to Mekhaz and the others. He felt that his Unique Constitution didn't elevate his prowess enough. Thaor knew that he could be stronger than everyone else, but he had been stuck.

This issue turned into a real problem when Thaor broke through the final threshold as a Tier-2 Awakened. He advanced to the 3rd Tier. The advancement to Tier-3 cleansed his body. His power increased and his Unique Constitution improved. The Crimson Aura grew more sensitive. It had grown

stronger, but the increased sensitivity made it harder to fuse the Crimson Aura into his body once the Red Giant Soultrait was activated.

Thaor was at a loss...until he found a particular Soultrait in the Jungle Shop.

It didn't seem like the Soultrait would be able to change anything to his particular situation, but Thaor could instinctively tell that it was the perfect Soultrait to improve his situation. The Soultrait could solve all of his problems!

Thaor purchased his second Soultrait and improved it straight to 4-Star.

Master of Combat.

As a Master of Combat, Thaor gained a better understanding of all battle methods as well as weapons. His proficiency with all techniques bettered drastically. However, the most important aspect was that Thaor's understanding of his body and his physical limitations reached an entirely new level.

He learned more about his body, and how different he was compared to other Berserkers. His Unique Constitution changed far more in his body than merely creating Crimson Aura. It felt like everything looked the same but behaved differently. It was almost like he was an entirely different race.

He could use the Berserkers' techniques, but his efficiency at using them was incredibly low.

All he had to do to grow stronger was to alter that.

Thaor changed all of his techniques. He learned a new body refinement technique, switched to a proper mind refinement technique, and he managed to get hold of a Soul Refinement technique that suited his Constitution as well. Once all of that was covered, Thaor studied a breathing technique compatible with his Constitution and practiced it until he reached a decent mastery.

After he solved that, everything changed. His battle prowess skyrocketed. Not even Lokai and Mekhaz managed to defeat him. Even their combined efforts were not enough to defeat him in an overwhelming manner like it used to be the case.

He was nothing like he used to be! He was powerful!

Thaor barged ahead and leaped into the battlefield, Master of Combat and Red Giant unleashed at their fullest.

A Crimson Aura shrouded his hide and fused with the ferocious Berserker.

He was going wild.

Chapter 607 The Disadvantage

Thaor wielded two one-handed war axes with crimson blades. The crimson blades were etched with intricate patterns – lines of interwoven runes that looked like black vines. They were the Magma Warhaven Axe Artifact Set, Pseudo-Epic Tier-3 Artifacts with the customized ability to compress and enhance Thaor's Crimson Aura.

Thaor twisted his upper body after plunging one of the Warhaven Axes into the skull of the closest Tier-3 Ashen Knight. The Ashen Knight tried to block the attack but Thaor was too fast and too strong. The Warhaven Axe chipped the Ashen Knight's blade in two pieces before cleaving the Ashen Knight's skull in one go.

The Berserker's movements didn't slow down after he killed the Ashen Knight. He stared at the lifeless body with a gleam and charged ahead. Thaor delivered a high kick to the head of another enemy and split another with a horizontal slash. Most enemies coming Thaor's way were natives from the Zentika Empire. They weren't any Awakened in his path, but that was what made it even easier for Thaor to pave his way deep into the enemy's army.

However, he was not alone.

Lokai was right next to her brother, her Burning Fury Soultrait's full potential unleashed. The greater the disadvantage in terms of power and numbers the stronger was Burning Fury's amplification. By now, Burning Fury strengthened the allies in the Soultrait's range by more than 20%. That was another reason for Thaor's greatly amplified combat prowess.

However, Burning Fury was not Lokai's only Soultrait. She was one of the few Awakened who managed to purchase two Soultraits and upgrade both straight to 3-Star. As a Berserker at the Late rank of the 3rd Tier, Lokai was already among the strongest members in Michael's territory. Her new Soultraits granted Lokai even more power befitting of a Berserker's Champion.

3-Star Recuperation was one of the Soultraits she purchased and upgraded. It was a Soultrait that altered Lokai's body, granting her stronger natural regeneration. Her wounds healed faster and both her used-up energy and stamina would recuperate faster as well. As her health deteriorated Recuperation's effect would grow stronger, allowing her to remain on the battlefield even after sustaining lethal injuries.

The Soultrait suited all Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs since they were known for charging onto the battlefield recklessly. Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs were more likely to sustain wounds. Recuperation helped Lokai solve that issue, indirectly at least.

Her third Soultrait was also 3-Star and it fit perfectly to Recuperation. The 3-Star Soultrait was called Life Conversion.

The Soultrait's effect was pretty simple. Life Conversion consumed Lifeforce to strengthen the User's physical body drastically or unleash the converted lifeforce in the form of an energy blast.

At this point, both Recuperation and Life Conversion weren't overly powerful. It would be difficult for Lokai to compete against Soultraits and Soultrait Combinations like Frederik's Aeroan combi. However, as she gained more compatible Soultraits or upgraded them, Lokai would transform into an unstoppable killing machine.

Lokai used Life Conversion to amplify her physical strength in exchange for a portion of her life. It was only temporary, but the amplification of her physical strength lasted quite long. It was long enough for Recuperation to replenish the lifeforce that had been consumed.

The Berserker smashed her enemies' shields and armor sets. She didn't pay much attention to the blazing flames that engulfed her and continued to fight fiercely. It was not that the flames didn't hurt as they burned through her skin, but Lokai couldn't be bothered to extinguish the flames. The Lesser Elemental that had partnered with her could do that.

A Lesser Wind Elemental chose to partner up with Lokai. It extinguished the flames by repelling the flames. That was not a perfect solution, but it was the best the Lesser Wind Elemental could do as a being at the Peak of Tier-1. Once the flames burned through his wind repulsion barrier, the Lesser Wind Elemental sealed the flames and removed the oxygen within, slowly extinguishing the fiercely burning flames.

Lokai and Thaor were not the only ones who fought fiercely against the Heart of the Blazing Lion army. The remaining members of the Untamed Awakened gave their utmost as well. They unleashed their new Soultraits and mixed them with their familiar Soultraits and Martial Arts. They created a new variety of movements and unleashed more power than ever.

Their destructive power was not unnoticed. However, three Lowest Tier-4 High Lionhearts and close to 600 Soldiers were killed before more High Lionhearts and other powerhouses diverted their attention to them.

Traveling through the Untamed Jungle was not easy and it was impossible to watch the entire battlefield. The thicket and plant life of the Untamed Jungle covered most parts of the battlefield. That was the Untamed Awakened's greatest fortune. They weren't in the center of the battlefield and moved within the Untamed Jungle's outer ring to smash their enemies.

The Untamed Awakened didn't try to cover their traces or stay hidden, otherwise, they wouldn't have been making such a commotion. Nonetheless, only a dozen High Lionhearts changed their targets to the Untamed Awakened. They deployed their underlings to charge at the Untamed Awakened and pushed ahead as well.

Even though the Untamed Awakened weren't scared of the High Lionhearts, it was a fact that none of them had ascended yet. They were all Lesser Lifeforms and weren't strong enough to deal with a Higher Lifeform yet.

Only Hiraku was strong enough to overpower a High Lionheart, but even his strength was not unparalleled. His transformation was not permanent and he didn't have the means to heal himself either. It was only a matter of time before he would grow tired.

Lokai and some other members of the Untamed Awakened used their Support-type Soultraits to strengthen Hiraku and their strongest members, but no one was certain to be capable of fighting a High Lionheart head-on.

Fortunately, the Untamed Awakened were not alone. 30 High Beast from the Monster Horde were also wreaking havoc on the battlefield. High Lionheart Awakened and Soldiers fought them head-on and it looked like they were about to overpower the High Beasts until Lokai and the others decided to spread their Soultraits out.

Lokai and her comrades took a while to consider the ferocious monsters of the Untamed Jungle as their allies, but it was necessary. Their Soultraits amplified the High Beast Horde's strength. Lokai's Burning Fury was already more than enough to grant some ordinary monsters enough strength to overpower their enemies and charge ahead.

All of a sudden, the High Beast Horde gained tremendous strength as a whole, the Lesser Elementals and Demon Monkeys included.

The sudden power-up was enough to take some High Lionhearts by surprise. The Awakened Higher Lifeforms managed to react in time and use their Artifacts and Soultraits to block the ferocious monsters' attacks, but a handful of native High Lionhearts weren't that fast. They had been certain of their victory and stopped focusing on defending. Their sides were open, granting the more intelligent High Beasts the opportunity to strike.

But even the support from the Untamed Awakened wasn't enough to protect the High Beast Horde. There were only 30 High Beasts and 20,000 ordinary monsters. They weren't weak, but their forces were too small to hold a candle to the Heart of the Blazing Lion army.

Even the Untamed Awakened were too weak to deal with all of them. The High Lionheart Awakened were the worst enemies, right after the Commanders, of course.

Only Hiraku and a handful of High Beasts – those who lead the entire monster horde onto the battlefield – were strong enough to deal with them.

Three High Beasts possessed combat prowess comparable to a Peak Tier-4 Awakened. They were fighting fiercely against the Commanders of the Heart of the Blazing Lion army. However, the Commanders didn't even think about fighting fair and square. Their mission was to obliterate the High Beast Horde and invade the Untamed Jungle to secure food and a particular set of resources. There was no need to defeat their enemies fairly.

The Commanders ordered their underlings, several High Lionhearts, to join the battle and gang up against the mighty beasts.

Michael couldn't stay back and watch anymore. He knew that trouble awaited him and his territory if he allowed more High Beasts to die.

'I planted enough Extraction seeds. Their energy should last me a while.' Michael told himself as he utilized Taming to fuse with the Elemental Empress. The Elemental Empress' body covered Michael tightly like a fiery armor.

He licked his lips as his eyes wandered across the battlefield once more. Most enemies hadn't noticed it yet, but Michael had planted Extraction seeds inside them. The origin energy within them was drained slowly. It was a minuscule amount that Michael drained at a time, but the massive number of Extraction seeds was the crux of his tactic. Michael's energy storage would fill up within seconds even after he used up everything.

He had completed a few more preparations while his subordinates battled valiantly against the Heart of the Blazing Lion army, and he aided them whenever he could.

However, now it was time to join the battle as well.

He manifested the Soul Grimoire next to him where hundreds of Soul Tears had formed from his subordinates' slaughter, and used three Soul Tears to amplify and reinforce his Soul, Enhancement, and Taming.

His connection with Zeroa was reinforced the moment the Soul Tear's effect applied.

Michael made his move.

He utilized Zeroa's spatial affinity and crafted a portal to the center of the battlefield. He leapt through the portal with several tiers of Enhancement applied to his body. The Heavenly Beast Physique Soul Technique was unleashed to the brim and Spirit Eyes was infused with origin energy.

Michael's eyes flicked left and right, the position of his targets deeply imprinted in his head.

It was time to overpower the Heart of the Blazing Lion!

Chapter 608 Entering the Battlefield

Michael ignored the enemies around him at first. He released a few Glacicle Swords shrouded in Reinforced Sword Qi to kill a few natives blocking his path, but that was it.

Instead, Michael focused on using Insert to apply Enhancement to the strongest High Beasts. The High Beasts and Commanders reacted drastically upon seeing him, but Michael didn't remain by their sides to give them the slightest opportunity to pummel him.

He used Zeroa's spatial affinity to create portals near the three Commanders and the High Beasts they were fighting. After using Insert and three layers of Enhancement to strengthen the High Beasts, Michael disappeared once again.

One of the High Beasts was so surprised that it spit venomous flames at him, but he was fortunate enough that Zeroa's blazing armor was made from compressed mythical flames. They destroyed the venomous flames before reaching Michael's body.

Michael had been using Enhancement more often and with more energy than necessary to ensure that the effect would last longer. If Enhancement's effect could last a longer period, Michael would have considered enhancing the Untamed Awakened and all High Beasts. Unfortunately, the effect was too short. Michael didn't have that much time before the enhanced High Beasts would be ganged up again.

'The spatial affinity is useful, but way too weak. Zeroa's affinity toward the spatial element seems to be the lowest. It's even lower than her darkness affinity.'

Even though an Elemental Empress had control of all elements that didn't mean their affinity to all elements was the same. It was quite easy to tell that Zeroa's greatest affinity was fire. She had even mythical flames which was a rare sight. Her other affinities were not too bad either given that she could create nobles from all basic elements. But that was already the limit of her extent. She could do some things with every element, but the Elemental Empress reached the limits of her capabilities with Space, Nature, and Darkness quickly.

There was nothing she could do about that, and Michael wasn't too bothered. He could fuse with Soultraits to provide what the Elemental Empress couldn't.

But, for now, Michael had to deal with the enemies around him. He conjured more than a hundred Glacicle Swords, coated them in a layer of Reinforced Sword Qi, and unleashed them in all directions.

Dozens of energy influxes reached him at once. However, instead of continuing to dwindle the number of enemies with attacks like this, Michael's attention pulled to the Untamed Awakened. Hiraku was busy being coated in blazing flames. He had been set on fire while fighting two High Lionhearts.

It was good that the High Lionhearts were not Awakened with powerful Artifacts, otherwise, Hiraku would have had more issues to deal with.

Michael kicked the ground, creating a huge dent in the soil, and appeared next to Hiraku. The humongous colossal manifested a shield out of nowhere to block a barrage of dozens of fire spears from the left. Simultaneously his right arm plunged downward. A mace conjured in his hand and smashed heavily into the ground. Hiraku narrowly missed one of the two High Lionhearts, who smiled brightly as bright sparks manifested between their fingers.

The sparks transformed into swirls of fire. They expanded rapidly and pulsated as if they were alive. The mass of fiercely burning flames changed into various shapes. However, none of the shapes maintained as the High Lionhearts compressed the blazing flames into dazzling orbs.

["Dangerous!"]

Zeroa warned him about the flames, but Michael's danger sense had already picked up on the dazzling orbs' danger. He didn't do much as he initiated his next move.

Michael erupted with extraction. Mots of light formed around him. They gathered in one place and merged, transforming into a golden blade. The blade moved according to Michael's will and burst forth as Michael unleashed the strongest form of Reinforced Sword Qi.

The golden blade extended as the silver sheen fused into the blade.

A shockwave resounded through the vicinity as the Extraction blade cut through the air. For a moment, it looked like the blade cut through the fabric of time and space. The blade seemed to disappear from everyone's view only to reappear as it cut through the first dazzling orb.

The dazzling orb of searing hot, compressed flames threatened to rupture and explode, however, the golden blade hindered that from happening. The dazzling orb's tremendous heat and energy were drained near-instantly. The golden blade swallowed everything, and it used the newly acquired energy to expand and accelerate.

The blade surpassed its top speed, weaved around Hiraku's colossal build, and pierced cleanly through the other dazzling orb as well.

The same phenomenon as before occurred. Michael's Extraction blade swallowed the heat and energy of the dazzling orb and accelerated.

However, this time, something changed. The Extraction Blade split into two and returned to Michael's side where it continued to transform. Michael strengthened the Reinforced Sword Qi inserted into the Extraction Blade and added several layers of Extraction into the fray. He created a physical frame for the Extraction Sword Qi Blade with the Aethyr that resided within him.

Two one-handed longswords manifested from Michael's hands. Both looked similar to Tigerfang, the first Artifact he had ever wielded, but they had characteristic differences. The Aethyr Swords were a bit broader and their blades were much sharper.

But none of that mattered right now. The Extraction Sword Qi Blades shrouded the Aethyr Swords, further enhancing each other in the process.

Michael felt tremendous power surge through his body, but he knew that it was not enough yet. He manifested the Soul Grimoire once again and used several Soul Tears to amplify Extraction, Superior Constitution, and Spirit Eyes. His Soul, Enhancement, and Taming had already been amplified, but with the additional amplifications, Michael could hardly control the power surging through his body.

But it was not enough.

Hearing the screams of his dying subordinates, feeling the Links of Loyalty that were severed, and sensing the desperation of those who were on the verge of death affected Michael. He unleashed one of his Cursed Seals. The faint marks of Spirit Eyes on his face shimmered brightly as they expanded. His upper face was covered in the Cursed Seal that had fused with the marks of Spirit Eyes.

His golden eyes glowed fiercely and his expression turned even more ferocious than before.

He dashed ahead, leaving deep imprints in the ground, and accelerated further. Michael crossed his top speed as he increased the strain on his body by proceeding with the next level of Heavenly Beast Physique. His body groaned but Michael's focus was on the enemies ahead. Hiraku had just separated the two High Lionhearts, but his assault had failed. None of the High Lionhearts was dead.

Michael changed that.

He appeared in front of the closest High Lionhearts, Spirit Eyes unleashed to the fullest. Prognosis, one of Spirit Eyes' sub-

abilities, allowed him to predict the High Lionheart's next move. Michael responded instantaneously, unleashing Spiritual Domination to assault the High Lionheart's spirit.

As a Higher Lifeform, the High Lionheart wasn't too affected by the spiritual attack of a Lesser Lifeform. Nonetheless, Spirit Eyes was a superior 6-Star Soultrait that had been amplified. It was impossible to block the spiritual attack completely if you weren't guarded against it.

The High Lionheart groaned and lost control of his racial fire affinity for a quarter of a second. That was more than enough for Michael to attack. The Extraction Sword Qi Blade sliced through the air and a head flung through the air. A fountain of blood splattered everywhere. However, Michael was not there anymore.

Instead, a Golden Stinger Wasp replaced Michael. It had switched places with him.

Michael, on the other hand, reappeared next to the other High Lionheart, whom Hiraku had been fighting. Hiraku stared at Michael in shock as he witnessed how the youth decapitated the second High Lionheart with ease.

A Low Tier-3 Lord killed two Higher Lifeforms in less than five seconds. He did not only destroy their attacks and absorb it, but he bested them without giving the High Lionhearts a single second to retaliate.

Michael's skin ruptured and blood spurted out of the tears in his body, but he could slow down.

The shrieks and despair of his dying subordinates resounded through his mind over and over again.

He couldn't stop anymore.

Michael was full in motion.

The carnage could begin.

Chapter 609 Bones And Danger

Only a few minutes passed since Michael joined the battlefield but he was already panting heavily. The Extraction Qi Blade devoured the surroundings' lifeforce and energy to expand and grow into an even more terrifying weapon.

It was more than 10 meters long and cut through everything with ease. The High Lionhearts' flames were devoured and their bodies were sliced in half.

However, Extraction Qi Blade's potency was not only harmful for the High Lionhearts. Michael's skin dissolved layer by layer. His hands and wrists were in the worst state. His skin and flesh had been extracted, leaving only his bones, loose veins, muscles, and energy paths behind.

It was terrifying to look at, and it was at least as painful as it looked like.

Michael gave his utmost to bear the pain but he felt like he was about to lose his hands if he were to hold onto the Extraction Qi Blades. He retracted the Aethyr Blades and released the Extraction Qi Blades with a burst of energy.

The Extraction Qi Blades erupted. One moment the Extraction power and Sword Qi had been compressed into the Extraction Qi Blades' form and in the next moment, they were unleashed into the surroundings. The golden mots of Extraction fused with the Reinforced Sword Qi that transformed into tens of thousands of tiny blades. The blades shot in all directions and inserted into the bodies of all nearby plant life and enemies.

Michael had to drain their energy and lifeforce as quickly as possible to recuperate and get back onto the battlefield. He'd killed close to 30 High Lionhearts before the Soul Tears' effect wore off, but that was not enough. It was merely one-tenth of the Higher Lifeforms on the battlefield. There was no way he could leave the battlefield already.

Right after the Soul Tear's effect on his Soul had worn off, Michael felt an indescribable pain in his chest. It felt like his Soul was getting pulled apart and pushed together simultaneously.

'Extraction Qi Blades are a bit too taxing on my Soul. Noted.'

Since his Soul was not yet refined to a high degree, Michael figured that 7-Star Extraction amplified with a Soul Tear, and a Cursed Seal was too much for him to handle. Adding several layers of Enhancement to Extraction on top of that didn't make it easier to control Extraction.

'Removing the Limiter is dangerous.'

It was not that Michael didn't know that, but he never expected the strain to be like that. He activated only one Cursed Seal and amplified Extraction a bit with the Soul Tear.

The biggest problem was that Michael had difficulty controlling Extraction as a 7-Star Soultrait. Further amplifying its potency and releasing a fraction of the Limiter turned this even more difficult. Using the Dome of Extraction was still quite easy, however, going all-out with True Extraction while trying to shape and compress its power was different. It was more taxing on his Body and Soul.

'Good thing that Enhancement doesn't put a heavy toll on my Soul.' Michael thought after using the energy that filled his body to insert several layers of Enhancement onto Hiraku and the others.

From an outsider's point of view, it looked like Hiraku was still trying to find the limit to his strength. It was almost as if Hiraku had never been this powerful before.

Maybe, that was the case. Maybe, he never had a Greater Spirit to aid him, or it rarely occurred to him that other Awakened used their Support Soultraits to strengthen him. One way or another, Michael's Enhancement, Lokai's Burning Fury, and the other's Support Soultrait strengthened Hiraku, granting him enough strength to emerge victorious against two High Lionhearts.

They weren't Awakened, but their combat prowess was great. It was an extraordinary achievement that an Adventurer, a Lesser Lifeform, managed to defeat two Higher Lifeforms!

Hiraku glanced back at the Untamed Awakened who'd spread out to jump into fierce brawls as well. His attention was drawn to the multitude of Soultraits they unleashed in quick succession. Following the chaos created by close to a hundred Soultraits being used near-simultaneously, the Untamed Awakened consumed several high-quality potions. They replenished their energy, reinvigorated their weary bodies, and gained additional temporary boosts from a particular set of exotic potions.

Hiraku's eyes narrowed and his eyes flicked to Michael, Michael's hands to be precise. All Hiraku could see were bones and loose threads. His arms didn't look much better. At least, Michael was merely missing a few chunks of flesh in his arms.

Michael grit his teeth in pain, but he shut his eyes and focused on Maria's Soultrait Shard. He conjured Archangel's Grace and used the customized Soul Technique, Heavenly Realm by consuming four SoulStar Fragments. The SoulStar Fragments didn't matter right now. What mattered was that Michael had to recuperate as quickly as possible.

Several humongous white-feathered wings spread from his back and dazzling holy light illuminated the area around Michael. The holy light congregated around Michael's arms and healed him rapidly.

The missing chunks of flesh in his arms regenerated at a visible speed and his skin regrew as well. His wrists and hands required more attention, but Archangel's Grace amplified with Heavenly Realm was enough to tend to his wounds.

But it was not fast enough. A group of High Lionhearts emerged in front of Michael. They circled him and manifested hundreds of compressed fire spears and other blazing projectiles. The High Lionhearts used their opportunity and released the projectiles simultaneously. The mass and power of the thousand projectiles impacted in the same second. They exploded and destroyed the surroundings by burning down everything in their path.

A huge charred crater was all the compressed projectiles left behind after the explosion. Not even Michael's corpse survived the fire.

That was...odd.

One of the High Lionhearts had a bad feeling as he stared at the bottom of the crater, "I obtained no energy influx. Someone else?!"

Nobody answered. Everyone expected someone to speak up and say that they obtained an energy influx from killing Michael, but there was nothing like that. Nobody received an energy influx because Michael was not yet dead.

The instance before the blazing projectiles impacted, Zeroa erupted with her mythical flames. Her mythical flames burst out in all directions, giving Michael a quarter of a second to conjure a spatial portal and escape.

However, instead of escaping from the battlefield, Michael emerged in the center of the battlefield. He appeared above the spot where most enemies congregated.

His hands were not healed yet, but he lacked enough lifeforce and energy to finish the healing process. Therefore, Michael unleashed the Dome of Extraction fused with one Cursed Seal and the Extraction Aura. Inertia pulled Michael to the ground where he landed on top of a burly Lionheart. He shrouded his left foot in glacial spikes and smashed his skull with a fierce kick.

The burly Lionheart's head burst apart. Brain mass and huge fragments of his skull flung through the surroundings, shocking some of the nearby Lionhearts to the core.

Michael didn't pay much attention to the burly Lionheart who collapsed underneath him. He focused on Archangel's Grace and Heavenly Realm to mend his wounds while spreading the Extraction Dome outward.

Michael didn't sustain any further injuries since he didn't attempt to compress and shape Extraction. The only ones who were in unbearable pain as their life force was forcefully ripped out of them were his enemies. The Tier-2 Lionhearts were helpless against the power of True Extraction. They could provide their utmost to block Extraction but Michael was a Tier-3 Lord with more than 250,000 subjects who trusted him dearly.

7-Star Extraction's Soul Power was tremendous, and Michael didn't hesitate to experiment either. He produced some Soul Energy and consumed it to activate Extraction.

There was no fancy technique involved, but that was not necessary, in the first place. Soul Techniques allowed the Awakened to unleash the full potential of their Soultrait's Soul Power. They created specific pathways for the Soul Power to amplify the Soultraits in specific ways. Therefore, crudely unleashing his Soul Energy onto Extraction was not very efficient. Its effects were worse than the weakest Common Class Soul Technique.

However, Michael did not care. After all, even the crudest empowerment of Soul Energy had some effect!

One moment the Lionhearts in the effective range of Dome of Extraction groaned in pain. In the next instant, a bright glow reverberated through the surroundings.

The groans died down and dead silence ruled supreme.

Chapter 610 Untamed Jungle's Forces

Amplified Dome of Extraction conjured with Soul Energy turned into a far more deadly weapon than Michael had expected. Against Lionhearts at the 2nd Tier, who couldn't block the power of Extraction, it was an instant death.

More than 1,500 Lionhearts in the range of Dome of Extractin had been killed instantaneously. Their life force and energy flooded him, occupying every cell in his body. That didn't even include the energy influxes he obtained.

'This is like...an instant drain. Did I accelerate the top speed at which I can extract lifeforce and energy using Soul Energy to activate Extraction? It might have been an increase in the amount of energy I can drain at a time. Maybe Soul Energy increases the capacity of lifeforce and energy I can drain? Or is it both?'

Michael was not sure what it was. However, he knew that his body was overflowing with energy and lifeforce.

It was great to be full of life, but Michael figured that he shouldn't use Extraction with Soul Energy like that again. Not, if he wasn't lethally injured and about to die, at least. His wrists and hands healed rapidly with the overflow of lifeforce aiding Archangel's Grace.

Michael deactivated Archangel's Grace right after he was done tending to his wounds, but he noticed that he was still overflowing.

Thus, he began to use Insert to provide his injured allies with lifeforce while also channeling origin energy into the healers and others who were about to collapse. Many had overdrawn their energy in the battle and they suffered the consequences.

Once he distributed the excessive lifeforce and origin energy equally to the nearby allies, Michael felt much better.

'Having too much lifeforce and energy is just as harmful as having too little,' Michael chuckled inwardly, glad that his hands didn't look like that of an Undead Skeleton anymore.

He was back in his prime and ready to move out again. There was no time to think about what he had to do next. Michael consumed a dozen SoulStar Fragments to replenish the Soul Power Extraction and Heavenly Realm had drained. In the next moment, Michael saw the Holy Knights and Blessed Squires push past him.

They weaved around the corpses and dashed ahead. However, they were not alone. The Holy Knight and Blessed Squires mixed into the masses of the High Beast Horde.

They had been hesitating to fight with the monsters of the Untamed Jungle at first, but once they noticed that the monsters of the High Beast Horde didn't pay attention to them, their hesitation turned into determination. They were determined to defeat the Heart of the Blazing Lion army, determined to grow stronger in today's battle, and determined to survive by all means.

Despite being Knights and future Knights, the Holy Knights and Blessed Squires didn't wear much heavy armor right now. They were covered in tempered armor that had been dyed to suit the colors of the Untamed Jungle. The armor was not as great as hard steel heavy armor sets, but it was perfect to travel quickly through the Untamed Jungle's thicket.

The Holy Knights and Blessed Squires worked in teams and issued small attacks similar to Sun Demos and the Demon Monkey Unit. However, they didn't retreat right after winning their skirmishes. The Holy Knights and Blessed Squires pushed further ahead by following the ferocious monsters of the Untamed Jungle.

Even though the Holy Knights and Blessed Squires fought with the Untamed Jungle's monsters, they used them more as meatshields than actually fighting together. The largest monsters attracted the most attention from the Lionhearts. They were more likely to get attacked, which was what the Holy Knights and Blessed Squires exploited.

Their Holy Formations allowed them to cast a Holy Shield around the ferocious monsters, decreasing the damage that managed to reach them. Immortal Knight and the strongest unit of Holy Knights was doing the same with a Lesser Behemoth. The Lesser Behemoth was a humongous creature with a length surpassing 30 meters and a height of eight meters. It was a High Beast covered in highly resilient scale-like plates. The plates overlapped, leaving no gaps for the Lionhearts to strike.

However, the most important aspects of the Lesser Behemoth were its Elemental Resistance and great regeneration ability. It sustained some wounds from physical attacks, but it healed faster than most Lionhearts could cut the High Beast. The Elemental Resistance was not perfect, but combined with the support of Immortal Knight and his Holy Knights, it was possible to elevate the Behemoth's Elemental Resistance to the next level.

Even a High Lionheart's flames didn't burn the Lesser Behemoth anymore. Only the combined efforts of multiple High Lionhearts, Awakened with high-ranked Soultraits and powerful Artifacts, or their strongest dazzling pyro orbs could damage the High Beast.

Immortal Knight used this to their advantage, and many ferocious monsters of the Untamed Jungle did the same. Thousands of Michael's Summons, Warriors, Berserkers, Warlock Centaurs, Holy Knights, Holy Squires, Knights, Vanguards, Assassins, and many more followed Immortal Knight onto the battlefield.

The long-range troops inflicted as much damage as they could by exploiting the weakest spots in the enemy's army whereas the melee fighters followed the ferocious monsters onto the battlefield.

The Untamed Jungle united against the invaders. Everyone was afraid of death, but nobody dared to back off. They knew how much was on the line. If the Zentika Empire's forces managed to invade the Untamed Jungle successfully everything would be over. The monster's habitats would be raided and destroyed and Michael's territory would suffer greatly.

The forces of the Untamed Jungle couldn't afford to lose. Their predicament didn't allow them to give the Zentika Empire even one inch of their land. If they allowed the Zentika Empire to claim one inch in today's battle, what would happen the next time they came? Would the Untamed Jungle give up another inch of their precious land, or two...or maybe even more?

Once they started with concession it would be too late.

Therefore, they charged ahead even though their adversaries were powerful and had a numerical advantage.

The Heart of the Blazing Lion army was mighty. Even the natives possessed a fire affinity which they unleashed to burn down the Untamed Jungle's outer ring. They inflicted chaos and destruction and managed to overwhelm a handful of High Beasts with the sheer mass and power of their numbers.

However, they didn't expect to run into this much resilience. Their knowledge about the Lord of the Untamed Jungle was outdated, but they knew that Michael had been a Tier-1 Lord less than a year ago. It wasn't supposed to be possible for him and his subordinates to be strong enough to deal with High Lionhearts.

The retaliation of the Untamed Jungle's High Beasts and the monster horde was unexpected as well. The Commanders of the Heart of the Blazing Lion army had calculated with a few dozen High Beasts and tens of thousands of ordinary ferocious monsters of the Untamed Jungle. However, it didn't make sense that the High Beasts were so strong. Three High Beasts were as strong as the Commanders, and given Michael's Enhancement, they managed to push the Commanders back.

It was only due to the involvement of dozens of High Lionheart Awakened that the Commanders didn't meet an early end on the battlefield. It was shocking.

But the worst forces were still two particular enemies. The biggest threat was the Lord of the Untamed Jungle. He was only a Lord at the Low rank of the 3rd Tier, but his combat prowess was unpredictable. His Soultraits were otherworldly powerful and he had the means to jump through space.

The spatial portals weren't great, but they were enough to appear near the weakest spots in the Heart of the Blazing Lion army. A single use of his strongest Soultrait was enough to obliterate close to 2,000 Tier-2 Lionheart. He disappeared soon after, his body replaced with a Golden Stinger Wasp, which whizzed through the battlefield to cause even more chaos and destruction.

However, the Golden Stinger Wasp wasn't the second most annoying force on the battlefield. It was not Hirak, the Immortal Knight, or the High Beasts either.

No, the second most annoying force on the battlefield remained unseen.

All the Commanders and High Lionhearts managed to sense were raging gales that burst into their faces right before dozens of Ashen Knights, Pyromancers, and Healing Flames were killed. The Tier-2 natives didn't even know what happened before their throats were cut, their chests gaped open, or their heads flung through the air.

The culprits were highly compressed wind blades with a width surpassing one meter. The wind blades were invisible, just like Lilica's arrows, but there was something different about them. The wind blades were controlled precisely. They curved around the bushes, branches, and trees with ease before striking the adversaries in the back or sides.

The wind blades didn't even stop in their tracks after beheading their enemies. They consumed the winds in the surroundings and continued moving until they were stopped, or Frederik stopped controlling them.

Frederik was merely a Tier-2 Awakened. He was not supposed to turn into the second most annoying force on the battlefield. However, his Body, Mind, and Soul had been altered to suit Aeroan perfectly. Wind Mastery and Enhanced Wind amplified 5-Star Aeroan even further, granting Frederik exact control of the only Legacy Arts technique he'd learned until now; Invisible Blades.

He managed to kill more than 2,000 Soldiers in the backrows before the adversaries tried to retaliate. However, they couldn't see his unseen wind blades or Frederik anywhere.

Frederik hated hiding, but he knew that he was not strong enough to deal with Tier-3 Lionhearts, let alone the Higher Lifeforms.

That was not his mission, in the first place. He was supposed to annihilate the masses of Tier-2 Lionhearts.