

Supreme Lord 641

Chapter 641 Interlude: Opportunity

The news spread rapidly.

A new project was announced by the Bartholomew Corporation and hundreds of buildings sprouted all over the Tritan Alliance overnight.

It was a great surprise to many organizations and members of the High Society. Everyone had heard about the great success of the Agriculture Project and the project's profits, but nobody expected that the Bartholomew Corporation would add another project to their busy schedule.

The Agriculture Project consumed lots of time, resources, and effort, and it wasn't their only project either. It was just one of many new projects.

However, what surprised most members of the High Society and organizations was that the new project was non-profit based. Once they found out that the new project, the 'Awakened Agency' was non-profit based, it was only a matter of hours before the powerhouses lost interest.

However, the same couldn't be said for ordinary Awakened. Some were curious about the Awakened Agency.

A young lost Soul stumbled through Rivera, a small city in the Silver Moon Province on Elyra. It had only been a few days since he manifested his War Rune, but the initial joy and excitement of becoming an Awakened had turned into a huge disappointment.

Damien Sylva was overjoyed to become the first Awakened of his family. He was exhilarated to have been chosen by the Will of the Origin Expanse and that he could earn a fortune as an Awakened to retire his parents and earn enough money to tend to his grandparents' diseases.

As long as he managed to kill a few Tier-1 Monsters, and procure some Ordinary Summoning Scrolls and Tierless Artifacts, he would be able to solve his family's issues easily.

Maybe, they could even move out of their small apartment in Rivera's outskirts into a larger apartment that would fit the family of 10 members.

His initial plan worked out fairly well. He managed to summon a 3-Star Priestess with the Fortune Summoning Scroll and managed to use the protection barrier shrouding the territory to kill a few Tierless Summons. Damien Sylva was fortunate enough to receive a 1-Star Tierless Sword Artifact from killing a Tierless Sabertooth Wolf.

The 3-Star Priestess tended to all of his wounds and alleviated his exhaustion, granting Damien Sylva enough stamina to continue hunting monsters for the following days. He earned a small fortune in the following days, and he would have been overjoyed, if not for awakening a 1-Star Soultrait.

Maybe, the 1-Star Soultrait would have been fine, if not for a Tier-2 Monster building its habitat right next to the protection barrier.

His great fortune turned into ill-fate ten days after he entered the Origin Expanse. The grace period of 10 days ended, and the protection barrier dispersed. As if the Tier-2 Monster had been waiting for this moment, it attacked Damien Sylva, killed the 3-Star Priestess and thrashed the wooden manor. Damien Sylva escaped death by a hair's breadth. He managed to conjure the Runic Gate and run away.

Unfortunately, his ill fate didn't end there. The Tier-2 Monster moved its habitat to the Summoning Gate and turned the area around the Runic Gate into a death zone. Damien Sylva attempted to return to the Origin Expanse and make a run to turn into a Rogue after losing his Lord Power, but he nearly died as a result.

There was no way that he could return safely to the Origin Expanse with his Runic Gate anchored to a place like this. It was worth trying to grow stronger, but he couldn't afford Energy Stones to absorb their compressed origin energy, and the training places that used origin energy generators were not only too expensive, but the quality of the origin energy produced with the generators was below-average as well.

There was no way that he would be able to advance to Tier-2 to slaughter the Tier-2 Monster anytime soon. It might take decades IF he had enough money to spend all day for the next few years in a training hall with origin energy generators. Unfortunately, he didn't have that kind of money.

His life turned south after he lost his Lord Power. His grandparents' condition worsened and the medicine to tend to their medical issues was too expensive. Damien Sylva couldn't afford it.

He was poor, his family relied on him now that he Awakened, but he couldn't even use the golden opportunity granted by the Origin Expanse. He did make some money, but the small fortune was used up faster than he could count to three.

He nearly died twice.

His Soultrait was useless, enhancing his smelling sense by a minor degree, and his land was inaccessible. There was no way that he could safely return in the next few years.

'Am I fated to become someone's Subordinate?' He wondered, his expression turning sourer as he realized another crucial problem.

'Who would take in someone like me? I'm Tierless and my Soultrait is trash. I don't have any expertise or knowledge that allows me to stand out either. Nobody will accept me...maybe not even if I accept a Soul Pact that turns me into a slave-like Subordinate.'

Damien felt that some Lords would hesitate even if he accepted to become their Slave. Maybe they would hesitate to nourish trash like him? His Soultrait was of no use, after all, and he didn't graduate from a good school either. He labor hard, but his grades weren't extraordinary because he had been busy tending to his grandparents when his parents were busy working all day.

'What am I supposed to do now?!?' He cried desperately in his heart.

Before he realized it Damien Sylva found himself in front of a fresh building with large glass windows. A bright and well- designed sign attracted his interest.

[Are you an Awakened and dissatisfied with your Soultrait and resources? Do you want to attain power? Acquire more Soultraits? Check out the Awakened Agency led by Michael Fang!]

Damien Sylva scoffed and was about to ignore the sign until his eyes lingered on the name 'Michael Fang'. He recalled having heard something about him in the Awakened forum. There had been many threads revolving around a young prodigy.

Damien Sylva opened the Awakened forum on his crystal watch and searched Michael's name.

"Michael Fang, presumed to have more than 8 Soultraits, capable of procuring Soultrait Symbols...has the means to upgrade Soultraits."

Damien Sylva's eyes widened the more he read about Micheal Fang. He was shocked, just like everyone else who stumbled upon the Awakened Agency in their cities.

His eyes drifted from the holographic projection to the entrance of the Awakened Agency.

'There is no way that my life can get worse,' Damien Sylva thought. He gathered the remaining bits of courage inside him and stepped inside the building.

Merely half an moment later, Damien Sylva could be found lying on the floor in the Awakened Agency, his entire being roughed up like he had been beaten into a pulp over and over again.

He failed the test.

"I should have expected tha—...." Damien mumbled, only for the receptionist to say.

"Don't fear failure. Failure is just another steppingstone to greatness," She smiled at Damien, "Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fail."

As the receptionist's words reached Damien, he received several notifications.

[The Awakened Agency's training grounds and hidden library have been unlocked.]

[There are no failures – just experiences and your reactions to them.]

Damien's disappointment was wiped away in an instant, and curiosity pricked him.

'It's not over?'

No. It was the beginning of something great.

Chapter 642 Master Of Awakening & Light Of Enlightenment

Now that Michael bought some of the necessary resources to fortify and expand his territory and used his remaining fortune to create the Awakened Agency, all he had to do was wait until the seedlings in the Agency would sprout and transform into potential future powerhouses.

Others might be worried about Lords stealing their seedlings, but Michael didn't mind. Not many Lords would be willing to get out of their way to turn someone who didn't fit their requirements into their subordinates.

Most Descendants wouldn't even bother to glance at the weaker Awakened whose Soultraits were of no use for their territories. Instead, the Descendants would focus on nourishing the strongest Awakened, who owned useful Soultraits and powerful Artifacts, but had been unfortunate to encounter even stronger enemies in the Origin Expanse.

The group Michael targeted was different. His targets were not that easy to handle for ordinary Lords. He was the only one who could give them what they desired.

The Awakened Agency wouldn't produce good seedlings in high quantities quickly. It would take a while. Therefore, Michael decided that it was time to get back into the Origin Expanse.

He manifested the Runic Gate and was about to step through when he halted in his tracks. He channeled some energy into Spirit Eyes and looked around to find his mother's energy fluctuations, but she was nowhere to be seen.

Evalynn Fang avoided her son. She didn't seem to want to talk to him anymore.

'Weird.'

It was not that Michael would be happy to talk to his mother. Instead, he was not sure how he would react once they conversed. However, his mother did avoid him earlier. That confused him more than it should have.

He shook his head and stepped through the Runic Gate to emerge in his little territory.

A fresh breeze brushed through his hair the moment he arrived, filling his nostrils with the fragrance of the Untamed Jungle.

The rich energy in the surroundings felt pleasant on his skin, and Michael found himself breaking into a smile.

The Untamed Jungle felt more like home to him than the concrete jungles outside the Origin Expanse. It was pleasant to have nature all around him and to adapt to the surrounding environment rather than destroying everything to expand his territory.

Michael stretched his body a little bit before he returned to the wooden manor where he received the daily report from one of his attendants. He read through the daily report and broke into a bright smile.

The construction of the Hunter Academy progressed swiftly. The situation of the Intermediate Sacred Knight Temple was similar. If there were no further complications the construction of both structures would finish in a few weeks. From then onward, Michael could train thousands of Archers, Hunters, Blessed Squires, Holy Knights, and maybe even some Sacred Knights.

Unfortunately, a few weeks didn't fit perfectly into Michael's plan. He doubted that the Council of Xylon would be willing to wait a few months before his Archers, Blessed Squires, and higher-ranked Summons received their promotions, high-quality armaments, and additional training to improve their strategic thinking and teamwork.

But that was fine. Michael had 730,850 Ordinary Summoning Scrolls to experiment with.

If that was not enough to create some powerful Summons to make up for the casualties they'd suffered in the battle against the Heart of the Blazing Lion army, Michael would barge into the enemy rows alone.

He procured a lovely Pseudo-Legendary Artifact for that purpose, in the first place.

The Pseudo-Legendary Artifact was a bracelet called Eneagis. It was a bracelet capable of storing a tremendous amount of energy. The downside of the Pseudo-Legendary Tier-3 Artifact was that it required a considerable amount of concentration to access and drain its energy. That was also why it would never be considered a Legendary Tier-3 Artifact. In fact, even calling it a Pseudo-Legendary Artifact was mostly due to the incredibly large energy storage.

Fortunately, Michael didn't have a problem with that kind of problem. For him, Eneagis was a Legendary Artifact. Why? He had Extraction to ignore Eneagis' downside. His Soultrait outplayed the Pseudo-Legendary Artifact's only flaw.

Binding Eneagis to his War Rune wasn't further difficult. The Pseudo-Legendary Artifact was the only Tier-3 Artifact in his possession. The Dragon Might ring might be a Legendary Artifact, but it was only a Tier-2 Artifact, whereas the Spirit Armor Set was a creation of the Relic of Draka. It wasn't even an Artifact.

Aethyr was...Aethyr. It was not an Artifact, but it wasn't nothing either. Aethyr was incredibly powerful, which was also why Michael had considered investing the remaining SoulStar Fragments in his War Rune to strengthen it. There was no way he could make a mistake by nourishing Aethyr. As long as he invested enough SoulStar Fragments, Michael could increase the amount of Aether within the Aethyr, therefore, granting it various new functions.

'Before I increase the amount of Aether within it, I should upgrade it to Tier-3 properly. Cutting through the hide of a Higher Lifeform with Aethyr at its current level isn't exactly easy,' Michael reminded himself before returning into isolation inside his office. He prepared enough Energy Stones to supply Aethyr with purified origin energy to upgrade it. It was about time that the upgrade happened.

The last thing Michael did before disappearing into his office for a week was to throw a spatial satchel toward Tiara, whom he encountered on the way. She was a little baffled but understood what Michael wanted her to do once she sent a trace of energy into the spatial satchel to find out what was hidden inside.

Tiara, who wanted to return to training, changed her mission. She rushed past the training grounds, ignored Legion and Master Tigris who greeted their princess with the honor she deserved, and distributed the resources Michael had given to her.

After spending the first few days in the Untamed Jungle by getting used to everything, Legion, Master Tigris, and the remaining four members of the Silverfang Tigerfolk decided that it was time to help their princess and Michael Fang.

They heard enough about their new Lord from the princess to understand the situation. It was still a little bit difficult to comprehend the true extent of their new Lord's power, but it was quite obvious that Michael was the reason they had been summoned so soon. He managed to establish Legendary Summoning Scrolls rather swiftly, therefore, creating an opening for six Silverfangs to escape the eternal nothingness of the Will.

The Silverfangs desired to resurrect their Clan, but they knew that they couldn't achieve such a grand goal alone. They learned enough about Michael and the changes of the Will to understand that Michael was their grand ticket toward the resurrection of the Silverfang Tigerfolk.

It was time for them to use their Soultraits, wisdom, and manpower to support Michael and his territory.

Legion and Master Tigris were the most useful. Legion used his Soultrait [Master of Awakening], a 1-Star Soultrait, together with Master Tigris' [Light of Enlightenment], a 3-

Star Soultrait to create a great synergy on the mentoring grounds.

Since Michael didn't plan to increase the amount of Aether in Aethyr yet, he'd decided to invest his SoulStar Fragments into upgrading Master of Awakening and Light of Enlightenment to 5-Star Soultraits. Michael didn't even demand anything.

The reason was simple.

Master of Awakening increased the chances of Summons to receive an occupational promotion and awaken unique powers. At the same time, Master of Awakening stimulated advantageous mutations within monsters and the surrounding nature. It was a multi-purpose Soultrait that could come in handy if used properly.

Of course, it was rather useless as a 1-Star Soultrait. Master of Awakening's probability to awaken was incredibly low at 1-

Star.

Using it properly was Legion's goal. It was also why he stood in the center of the mentoring ground with Master Tigris, whose entire body radiated dazzling light. Light of Enlightenment was not a multi-purpose Soultrait, but it was still quite powerful. It provided everyone with enlightenment as long as the Soultrait's dazzling light reached them while training.

Combined, the two Soultraits were perfect for instructions, especially with the Sacred Knight Temple, the Hunter Academy, and Siegfried Dragoon aiding the whole process as well.

Michael would have to lie if he were to say that he understood everything about the Will of the Origin Expanse, or why the Legendary Summoning Scrolls turned out to summon the Silverfang Tigerfolk, but he was quite satisfied with Master Tigris and Legion's powers and Soultraits.

It was difficult to find Soultraits like theirs, especially so if the Soultraits had a high star rating, which was the case thanks to Michael's SoulStar Fragments.

The Silverfangs were perfect to expand the Untamed Army and stimulate the combatants to receive more occupational promotions as they continued to train.

Master Tigris began to share his vast knowledge about the Origin Expanse and the history of the Silverfang Tigerfolk. He even shared the reason the Silverfang Tigerfolk scared the other Demi races.

The Primal Silverfang Body Constellation Arts and the Legacy of the White Tiger martial arts were two reasons for the short-lived supremacy of the Silverfang Tigerfolk. They were techniques that

strengthened the mind, and energy control, and allowed the body to develop a lot stronger, transcending the limits of the mortal body.

However, even more importantly, Summons could use those techniques to develop more resilient and enhance their comprehension, therefore, increasing the probability of attaining enlightenment.

Awakened, who were not part of the Silverfang Tigerfolk had a difficult time practicing the Primal Silverfang Body Constellation Arts and the Legacy of the White Tiger, but it worked for Summons of all races – to a certain degree.

The peak compatibility of those techniques was with the Silverfang Tigerfolk and other Demis, but it worked for ordinary Summons as well.

Michael's Summons would develop much stronger than ever!

Chapter 643 Santa Tiara

"Are your muscles made out of rubber?!?" A worker shouted at the group of Berserkers, who carried huge wooden trunks through the Untamed Jungle.

The densely grown trees and bushes were removed to provide the largest trees with enough space to keep growing. They didn't have to share the nutritious soil with other trees and wouldn't have a problem growing twice or thrice as big as before. The construction workers and the Architects worked together to use the growing trees as the foundation of the tower treehouse complexes and expanded their attempts to create a perfect synergy between the Untamed Jungle and the settlement.

Michael and his people were camouflaged from enemies and gained resources from the Untamed Jungle. In return, they nourished the Untamed Jungle by removing the aggressive trees and bushes that were stealing the nutrition of the older trees. At the same time, the Untamed Jungle received various nutrients from the Greater Nature Spirit and the fertilizer brought by Michael. Whether the fertilizer was Awakened, or Native corpses or proper fertilizer didn't matter.

"If you think we're slacking off, how about you move your fat ass over here and carry the logs on your own?" A Starless Berserker responded to the fat construction worker, who had been assigned as their guide and superior.

The construction worker was about to respond in anger, but the heavy logs smashed heavily into the ground next to the construction site. The ground stirred and so did the construction worker's heart as he imagined what would happen if one of the Berserkers was tired of his orders. They would pick him up and tear him apart.

He shuddered and shut his mouth. It was not like the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs were slow workers. If anything, the construction of new tower treehouse complexes was much faster than ever. The only problem was that the residences had to be adjusted.

To be precise, everything had to be adjusted now that their Lord summoned Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs regularly. Both Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs were usually taller than three meters. The larger kind of their race reached almost five meters. The ordinary treehouse complexes were not large enough for them to live peacefully.

The Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs didn't like treehouse complexes either. That was part of the reason why Michael had to adjust the expansion of his territory and create large, several-story-tall buildings in between several towering trees.

Michel was still unwilling to raze entire areas of the Untamed Jungle for the construction of large buildings such as large-scale apartment complexes to fit thousands of Summons at once, but he made some adjustments to give the Berserker and Warlock Centaur Summons what they needed.

"Just continue work..." The fat construction worker mumbled, breaking into a sweat as he felt the gaze of several Berserkers on him.

"We're only doing this until the residencies have been completed. Afterward, we will join the others on the training ground," A Berserker grumbled, only for a Warlock Centaur to nod vigorously.

"I never expected that I would be resurrected as a Starless Summon. I was certain that my achievements and strength would have been enough to be resurrected as a 2-Star Summon, maybe even as a 3-Star Summon." Another Berserker grumbled as he hurled a large log onto the others.

Everyone ignored the trembling ground and the commotion that resounded through the vicinity as the logs fell onto other logs.

"Maybe, this is a trial as well," One of the quieter Warlock Centaurs' mumbled, "Maybe, our ancestors want to see whether we're capable enough to rise back to strength, or if we end up slacking off and accepting our fate. The Lord creates countless opportunities for everyone to grow stronger and receive promotions. He focuses on opportunities, which is uncommon for Lords."

"That's true. He wants his Summons to grow stronger and give us enough opportunities to grasp them. We are free to grasp the opportunities or leave them behind and accept our current lives."

"We were quite lucky with our Lord!"

The Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs nodded and smiled at each other.

"Let's finish our residencies in the next few days. We'll start training right after and become 1-Star Summons within a week!!"

The Warlock Centaurs and Berserkers roared and went back to work. However, instead of moving slowly, they ended up exhausting themselves until they couldn't move anymore. There was no time to waste. It was necessary to move fast and grow stronger. After all, a golden opportunity waited impatiently for them.

After all, the Regional War in the Savannah region was not yet over!

Some subjects were scared when the first Berserker and Warlock Centaur Summons appeared in the territory. They were twice as tall as the other Summons, their bodies were riddled with scars from the fearsome wars they'd fought before dying and their burly physiques and angry resting faces didn't help the subjects to think of the Berserker and Warlock Centaur Summons as less scary.

Fortunately, the Berserker and Warlock Centaurs were overly friendly and forthcoming with their allies. Even the physiques of Starless Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs were extraordinary, allowing them to use their raw strength to carry things.

However, Starless Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs were not only extraordinary laborers. Berserkers possessed extraordinary talent in all works related to forges. Their thick skin was slightly heat resistant, allowing them to work in forges much longer than ordinary beings. Their physical strength and exceptional control of their power made it much easier to forge as well.

Warlock Centaurs were similar, but they were more attuned to nature than the underground and forging. Most Warlock Centaurs learned enough about medicine and herbs to appraise various herbs in the Untamed Jungle. They weren't botanists or herb collectors, but their herb-picking talents were extraordinary.

They were talented at finding all kinds of herbs, rare bushes with ripened fruits, and hiding spots of seedlings that lacked nutrition due to the aggressive plants surrounding them.

After the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs joined Michael's territory, many things changed. The production of weapons and other armaments in the Underground Forging Hall progressed rapidly, and the Alchemists' herb gardens expanded rapidly.

Michael considered using Insert on some of the herbs and special potions, elemental crystals, and other things to see whether he could stimulate mutations or create entirely new plants by merging other plants. Cross-pollination of energy-

rich plants was something his Botanists worked with, and they were certain that Michael's Soultrait could skip countless steps to create offspring with desirable traits.

Unfortunately, Michael was a little bit too busy with other things to pay more attention to the expanding herb gardens. He felt that the herb gardens should continue expanding until the issues with the Council of Xylon were solved. That shouldn't take too long. Probably.

The ever-expanding herb garden was useful in one way or another. The Warlock Centaurs cleared the remaining parts of the Untamed Jungle's outer rings and large parts of the middle area from the infestation of contaminated weeds and pests while simultaneously harvesting the vast majority of valuable herbs to expand in the herb gardens.

The Alchemists were very grateful for the Warlock Centaur's meticulous work. They harvested the herbs without damaging their roots and managed to plant them without causing any harm. However, what made the Alchemists the happiest was when Tiara arrived with two dozen potion recipes and a small mountain of perfectly harvested plants.

The plants couldn't be found in the Untamed Jungle and its surroundings, and the same could be said about the rare potion recipes. But that was not all.

Tiara retrieved a bunch of books and placed them into the Alchemists' small library. The books ought to help the Master Alchemists to improve and eventually attain enlightenment. The probability that they improved their star rating to 4-Star was low, but it was not zero. In fact, with Master Tigris' Light of Enlightenment and Legion's Master of Awakening, their probability improved quite a bit. It was still closer to zero than 1%, but the chance was tens of times higher than it used to be.

Similar situations where Santa Tiara emerged with presents for everyone occurred all over the territory. Tiara had presents for the Greater Eagles as well, specific Typhoon Crystals that could be absorbed to grant the Greater Eagles a minor Wind Affinity if their innate potential was high enough, and various delicacies for the Bilrox had been prepared.

Zeroa and Stinger, however, acquired the most delicacies. Michael bought various treasures for the Elemental Empress and Stinger to consume since their tireless efforts throughout the last few months had been one of the major reasons Michael managed to expand stronger and protect his territory.

However, one of the most expensive items that Michael had ordered not too long ago was for Tatjana.

It was a Bloodline Upgrade Token.

It was time for the Grandmaster Beastmaster's offspring to awaken the Eye of Evolution!

Chapter 644 Elven Lore

Tatjana's scream resounded through the territory center, attracting the attention of the hard-working subjects nearby.

They stared in the same direction in surprise and confusion, unsure what was going on. The training grounds were on the other side, and even the wounded warriors didn't scream that loudly, no matter how serious their injuries were.

However, Tatjana Moiaralin was different. She wasn't fighting anyone.

Her body temperature was rising as the cells within her body were repetitively destroyed and healed. The temperature increased until Tatjana felt like she was about to collapse and die at any moment. It was only a matter of time before she would succumb to her ill fate.

Upgrading her bloodline using the Bloodline Upgrade Token had been a long and arduous task. To stimulate the Bloodline Upgrade Token, Tatjana had to spread out several layers of Inferior Energy Stones and take a bath in a bathtub filled with Nutrient Solutions.

Her bloodline upgrade didn't consume as many resources as Extraction's upgrade to 7-Star, but her need for resources was still higher than anticipated.

Siegfried Dragoon mentioned the bloodline upgrade wouldn't be that painful. However, pain didn't have a proper measurement. It was not possible to scale it like this. Some people, like Siegfried Dragoon, were good at enduring pain. Something that hurt others might not be that bad for someone like the Immortal Knight.

Then again, it was pretty obvious that the latent potential of everyone's bloodline was slightly different. For some beings, it was easier to upgrade their bloodline, while it was harder for others. For Tatjana, the young Forest Elf of the Grandmaster Beasttamer family, it was very painful.

She was crying and screaming for several hours until she was too tired to continue. Her voice ceased and she slumped into a state between being half-awake and unconscious. The pain that coursed through her body intensified, yet Tatjana could only feel a fraction of it.

Time passed rapidly and before she knew it, Tatjana found herself in a bed. The drained Energy Stones and the bathtub were no more.

"Did I pass out?" She mumbled, rubbing her itching eyes. It hurt, "Ow..."

Tatjana's eyes were very sensitive to touches right now. Even channeling cooling origin energy into them wasn't as comfortable as it ought to be. However, Tatjana ignored the discomfort of inserting energy into her eyes as she realized something. Her vision changed. Something was different than it used to be!

She jumped up from the bed, ignoring the young Forest Elf, who had been taking care of her, and dashed out of the room. She jumped down the flight of stairs and rushed past Lilica, Opars, and Mika. The three Forest Elven Adventurers found Tatjana and carried her to the wooden manor when she collapsed in the bathtub.

They didn't know what was happening at first, but Tiara explained the situation soon after. It was a surprise that Michael managed to purchase another Bloodline Upgrade Token. Most people would never sell such a treasure for cheap.

Lilica and the others doubted that Michael was that wealthy, and they began to wonder if their Lord continued to sell Soultrait Symbols to his people.

Michael had been certain that he wouldn't sell any Soultrait Symbols for the time being. However, Lilica and everyone who had been around Michael for a while knew that he showed no hesitation to do everything necessary to strengthen his subjects and help them unleash their full potential.

"I guess she managed to awaken the Eyes of Evolution," Opars mumbled, his gaze following the excited bunny, aka Tatjana Moiaralin.

Mika got up with a smile, "It would have been weird if her Eyes of Evolution didn't awaken after using the Bloodline Upgrade Token, 854 Inferior Energy Stones, and 531 Nutrient Solutions!"

"You counted? Are you serious?" Lilica scowled at the young Forest Elf, who flinched as if he had been caught stealing candy.

"M-maybe?" Mika shook his head, "...don't know what you're talking about." He turned away and followed Tatjana outside the wooden manor, "Either way! Let's follow Opars' 'little bunny' and see what her Eyes of Evolution are capable of."

Since Forest Elves were known for holding their ancestry in high regard, it was no surprise that Lilica, Opars, Mika, and the vast majority of Forest Elven Summons had heard about the Moiaralin family.

The Moiaralin family was decently well-known among the Forest Elven tribe. They were one of the oldest families of the Old Regime and were both feared and loved for their innate ability to raise powerful monsters and the ability to see the potential and evolution paths of monsters.

As long as a monster possessed enough potential, the Moiaralin family would be able to turn it into a mighty beast.

Over countless centuries, the Moiaralin family developed into a large-scale family by adopting all Forest Elves with Taming Soultraits. They nourished the Taming Soultraits and helped the Forest Elven Awakened to find the most suitable companions – for a hefty price, of course.

The Moiaralin demanded a lot from the Awakened after helping them, and they threatened them by saying that they poisoned their companions and that they could trigger the poison at any time.

That was also part of the reason why Lilica and the others stayed away from Tatjana initially. Forest Elves might hold their ancestry in high regard, but they were also petty and avoided those who harmed their tribe in the past. The Moiaralin family of the Old Regime was like that. They aided the Forest Elves' progress for several centuries, only to go down the wrong path...the path of greed and arrogance.

They desired to become the sole rulers of the Forest Elven tribe and to annex the tribes that had been daring enough to invade their lands for millennia. Their attempts to change the ruling system failed. The Moiaralin family crumbled and perished...but not without leaving mountains of corpses behind.

Entire forests were burned down by the Moiaralin family's tamed monsters, forcing millions of Forest Elves to delve deeper into the woods. They lost their homes, and a big portion of their territory before the Moiaralin family and their companions were finally stopped...at the expense of countless powerhouses.

The fall of the Moiaralin family happened more than 700 years ago, but the aftermath of their betrayal and uncontrollable greed affected the Forest Elven tribe even now.

These aftermaths were not only reflected in the small population of the Forest Elves but also in the lack of resources. Forest Elves weren't aggressive by nature and they didn't initiate wars on their own, under normal circumstances. Their lifespans were longer than the lifespan of ordinary Elves, but the downside of their prolonged lifespan was increased difficulties in bearing offspring.

The Moiaralin's actions resulted in the loss of massive pieces of land, the death of countless innocent Forest Elves, and weakened defenses. The Forest Elves' enemies, even though there weren't many, used the opportunity and struck hard. The Forest Elven tribe was pushed closer to the brink of destruction. It was a miracle that they survived.

Therefore, the Forest Elves had sworn to eliminate the Moiaralin family members if they were to summon them in the Origin Expanse. The Forest Elves didn't want to repeat the mistakes they'd committed in the outside world.

Lilica and the others considered killing Tatjana, but it was quite obvious that the young Legendary Summon hadn't been tarnished. She was probably one of the oldest members of the Moiaralin family, one of the few members who had never sinned. At least, that was what Lilica and the other Forest Elves sensed after they talked with Tatjana a little bit.

There was no need to kill Tatjana Moiaralin. The situation was not the same as it had been when Michael summoned Cleave Fenrir. Tatjana was of no danger, whereas it had been the complete opposite with Cleave Fenrir.

Tatjana dashed through the Untamed Jungle, channeling a large amount of origin energy into her eyes. She ignored the increasing discomfort in her eyes and focused on the Bilrox, Greater Eagles, the Heavy Armored Elephant, Stinger, and the other monsters residing in the territory.

"I can see their Evolution Paths and potential!" She screamed at the top of her lungs, her cheery voice reverberating through the Untamed Jungle.

At last, Tatjana could see the evolution paths and potential of the monsters around her.

Finally, she was not useful anymore. She could grow stronger and stretch out a helping hand to strengthen Michael's territory as well!

Chapter 645 Evolution Paths

Tatjana was exhilarated and hugged everyone crossing her path while ignoring their discomfort and confusion.

She jumped around, happy that the Eyes of Evolution finally awakened.

Alongside the awakening of the Eyes of Evolution, Tatjana could finally search for her first companion as well. As a tamer, Tatjana's greatest power ought to be taming monsters. However, she had been spending most of her time focusing on her archery skills.

Tatjana knew that she could tame a few companions without the Eyes of Evolution, but she didn't want to tame any monsters with low potential or weak Evolution Paths. She would regret wasting her few taming slots for a monster that wasn't up to her standards. Therefore, Tatjana was ready to wait years and focus on her other skills until her Eyes of Evolution awakened.

Fortunately, it didn't take that long. Michael helped her, granting her early access to the Eyes of Evolution.

'Where is the Lord?' Tatjana nearly blurted aloud, her eyes moving left and right searching for Michael Fang.

However, he was nowhere near, which soured her mood a little. She had been hoping to thank her Lord properly for his investment. Bloodline Upgrade Tokens had been rare when she was still alive, and that hasn't change until now. Tatjana heard from Lilica and some other summons that the Lord must have high hopes about the Eyes of Evolution to be willing to invest a fortune into Tatjana this soon.

Tatjana was grateful for Michael's trust and she didn't want to break it. She hoped that she could be even more helpful than the Lord was anticipating.

Therefore, before searching for her first companion, Tatjana decided that it was more important to appraise all tamed monsters in the Untamed Jungle, pinpoint their unlocked Evolution Paths and the remaining requirements to initiate the evolutions as well as find some hidden evolution paths that were still sealed

It was easier to analyze the tamed monsters by getting to know them. The monsters' histories, their growth, their racial limit, and various information about their persona, strength, and other factors would be helpful to discover more evolution paths using Eyes of Evolution.

Furthermore, as Tatjana grew stronger and more proficient at using Eyes of Evolution, the difficulty of discovering more sealed Evolution Paths with higher potential wouldn't be a problem.

With that in mind, Tatjana decided to use her time efficiently, spending as much time with the tamed monsters in Michael's territory as possible.

Sun Demos was the first to arrive in front of her when the Blood Oath Demon Monkey King heard that Tatjana's Eyes of Evolution awakened. However, Sun Demos was not the only one. Icarus and the other Greater Eagles, the Bilrox Queen and her kin, the Blood Oath Demons, the Golden Stinger Wasp, the Heavy Armored Elephant, and a small group representing the will of all Elementals circled Tatjana, hoping that she could help them grow stronger.

A clipboard, blank sheets, and a pencil filled with ink were all Tatjana needed as she started her evolution counseling session.

Sun Demos was the first one she appraised intently using Eyes of Evolution. Her eyes widened slightly and she couldn't help but glance back at the wooden manor, the window to Michael's room, to be precise.

"Blood Oath Demon Monkey King, a Superior Existence with enhanced physical strength, elevated intelligence, and a...High Soul? That is quite rare, and it's probably also the reason why your potential is extraordinary," Tatjana spoke to Sun Demos, certain that the monster could understand her.

She stopped for a moment and tilted her head lightly, "Three Evolution Paths have already been unlocked. One Ordinary Path, one Elite Path, and one Superior Path. You've already been exposed to Chaos Energy and you have consumed enough demonic energy as well. That means all you're missing is—
..."

Sun Demos screeched, shaking his head and smashing his fists onto the ground. It was easy to tell that Sun Demos was dissatisfied.

"A Superior Path is not enough for you?" Tatjana raised her eyebrow, only to see Sun Demos calm down and nod.

Lilica was standing next to Tatjana, telling the youthful member of the Moiaralin family about Sun Demos' history and his rivalry with Zeroa, the Elemental Empress.

"So you want to tread the path of a Mythical Creature because you want to be stronger than the Elemental Empress?"

Sun Demos uttered some noises while nodding vigorously.

Tatjana frowned deeply. She barely awakened her Eyes of Evolution and used them for the first time intently, yet her first client wanted her to find a Mythical Evolution Path for him. Did Sun Demos consider that Mythical Evolution Paths were that easy to discover?

Under normal circumstances, it was close to impossible for a Superior Existence to advance to a Mythical Creature. However, Tatjana decided to use Eyes of Evolution on Sun Demos again because he had a High Soul. That was rare to find in an ordinary monster. Superior Existences that ascended to become High Beasts rarely had High Souls, but it was a miracle to find something like that in an ordinary monster.

"Do you know if our Lord's Soultrait strengthens the Souls of his tamed monsters?" Tatjana queried Lilica while remaining focused on the threads of information that were hidden deep inside Sun Demos' existence.

Eyes of Evolution allowed her to pinpoint the threads of monsters' existences and make sense of them. It was not easy but Tatjana felt that she was slowly getting the hang of it.

"I'm not sure if the Lord's Taming Soultrait does something like that. But it shouldn't be impossible. Why? Do you consider that Sun Demos' potential is higher than it should be because of that?" Lilica asked, pinpointing Tatjana's exact train of thought.

However, she was too focused on the task ahead to answer. Beads of sweat formed on her forehead and she began to breathe heavily as she was pulled deeper into the mess of existential threads.

At last, Tatjana escaped the chaos, a conflicted expression forming on her face.

She...found a thread belonging to a potential Mythical Evolution Path. No. It was a thread that belonged to a series of evolutions that would eventually lead to the creation of a Mythical Existence.

"I found something. An Evolution Series. That's rare, but it's also very precious."

Evolution Series was a series of Evolution Paths that led to the creation of a particular existence. It was important to know that an Evolution Series was far more complicated than ordinary Evolution Paths and that it was impossible to change the path once one started advancing in the Evolution Series.

"I'm not sure if he has any other Mythical Evolution Paths, but he has an Evolution Series that should transform Sun Demos into a Mythical Existence upon advancing to Tier-6."

"Tier-6?" Lilica queried while Sun Demos said similar noises, probably asking the same as the Forest Elf.

"I cannot see much about the Evolution Series yet, but the presence I feel hibernating within the thread is that of a Mythical Existence," Tatjana responded, she concentrated more on the thread until beads of blood pooled down her cheeks.

She was about to collapse when she terminated the use of Eyes of Evolution for a few seconds.

"Yep. That's a Mythical Evolution Series. A powerful one at that," Tatjana says, resulting in an uproar from Sun Demos and his kin.

However, Tatjana's voice was filled with seriousness.

"Don't be too happy about that. Meeting the requirements to start the Evolution Series and continue to tread the path of the Mythical Evolution Series won't be easy. It might actually kill you."

"No. It will probably kill you and those around you."

Lilica knit her brows deeply, her eyes lingering on Tatjana whose expression distorted once again.

"You will either kill everyone or die long before you advance to Tier-6. That's the Path of the Infernal King, Su Wukael"

Chapter 646 Name

Tatjana spent a long time using Eyes of Evolution to find as much as possible about the tamed monsters in Michael's territory. She noted all the details without leaving anything. Even the most, seemingly, useless pieces of information were written down.

That was helpful as it allowed various monsters to find rather rare Elite Evolution Paths and some Superior Evolution Paths. The biggest downside of some rare and powerful Evolution Paths was that their requirements were extremely complicated. Most monsters would never have the opportunity to unlock these Evolution Paths given their environment and wild instincts.

However, the situation was a little bit different with Tatjana and Michael by their sides. Tatjana could aid the monsters and pinpoint the evolution requirements and the resources needed to stimulate their evolutions, whereas Michael could burn holes into his wallet to procure everything needed.

It was a bit unfortunate, but Tatjana's proficiency with the Eyes of Evolution was not good enough to learn much about Sun Demos' Evolution Series. That was not a problem for the time being because Tatjana managed to find out enough details to initiate Sun Demos' first evolution in the Infernal King Evolution Series. All Sun Demos had to do was unlock the Evolution Series properly and consume the right resources.

Resources.

That was also a big problem. The Infernal King Evolution Series required exotic resources that couldn't be procured easily. They were rare to find in specific regions, regions with powerful High Beasts. It was no surprise that the materials for Sun Demos' first evolution would be expensive.

Unfortunately, the same applied to the evolutions of the other tamed monsters.

It was only obvious but Michael – like everyone else – was hoping to give the tamed monsters the best possible evolutions to strengthen them and, in retrospect, his territory.

That led to the biggest problem, a problem that was prevalent for all Lords; Their lack of resources.

No matter how wealthy a Lord was, there were always huge expenses in their territory. Someone would always be asking for new resources, tools, blueprints, and so forth.

It was no surprise that many people considered Lords both filthy rich and overwhelmingly poor.

Interestingly enough, Tatjana managed to procure some information about the Evolution Paths of Elementals as well. The Lesser Elementals desired to evolve and expand just like everyone else.

They desired to grow stronger and to be more integrated into the territory. That was also why they had become more proactive in their means to show support and reach out their helping hands for a while now.

The Elementals split up to help keep the soil in the herb gardens and farms nutritious. They supported the construction of all kinds of structures and reinforced the Grandmaster Smithies with their Elemental Might, which made it much easier and faster to forge high-quality Armaments.

Until now five Grandmaster Smithies had been constructed and each of them received support from a Pyro Bilrox and several Lesser Fire Elementals. The Master Blacksmiths and the Grandmasters felt a little bit weird, at first, but their opinion of the support changed quickly when they realized how useful the Pyro Bilrox and Lesser Fire Elementals were.

But the Lesser Elementals were not only good at helping in the territory. Their aid in combat was even better after they learned how to integrate a portion of their Elemental Might into weapons and other objects, allowing Awakened and Summons to access and wield a portion of their power.

That way, the Lesser Elementals were not forced into a replicate of Taming's fusion. Instead, they could join the battle actively while also having a portion of their power stored within their allies to strengthen them even further.

Using the ability to store Elemental Might to their advantage, the Untamed Army was forced into a large-scale training session. It was no surprise that everyone was willing to give their utmost to grow stronger. However, that didn't mean everyone could control Elemental Might easily.

Most Summons had issues controlling Elemental Might. It was a foreign power to everyone and therefore not easy to handle.

At the end of the day, most Summons had to train their Elemental Might control for a few hours every single day before they managed to use it actively in sparring sessions.

But now that they learned to control Elemental Might to a certain extent, one could see Humans, Forest Elves, Berserkers, Warlock Centaurs, and even some Silverfangs swirling blazing flames, water bubbles, wind blades, and pebbles around their bodies. Beads of sweat formed on their foreheads as they controlled the Elemental Might as precisely as possible, but they managed to do it.

Siegfried Dragoon's talent was extraordinary. He managed to wield multiple types of Elemental Might simultaneously. This increased his combat prowess even further, earning him more respect from all sides. The Immortal Knight didn't like the extent of their respect. He didn't think that he deserved to be this respected, not after disappointing his new Lord and the members of the Sacred Knight Temple like that.

He was still too weak.

If their Lord and the Untamed Awakened hadn't been there, the Untamed Jungle would have fallen prey to the Heart of the Blazing Lion army. He and his Knights would have died miserably. Not even their strongest Holy Formations worked against them.

Why?

Because they were too weak. All of them!

Of course, Siegfried could give excuses. He knew that he hadn't been that long in Michael's territory and that a Native Empire was not a usual enemy, but would that help him? No.

Instead of getting a big head from the respect and praises he received, Siegfried Dragoon channeled the respect to transform into a role model for the other Blessed Squires, Holy Knights, and others.

The week that had been assigned to honor the deceased ended a while ago, but nobody started training only now. Nobody was able to rest. Everyone was dissatisfied with their power. They felt insignificant and useless.

Nobody wanted to feel the same desperation and helplessness as they did against the forces of the Zentika Empire. Never!

At last, Michael emerged from isolation once again. He was satisfied with the results of his hard work, but it was even better to observe how much about his territory had changed. Nobody stagnated. Everyone gave their utmost to progress and improve their lives within the territory.

Surprisingly enough, Michael met Frederik, Hiraku, and some others in the wooden manor's living room.

"Michael is back!" Frederik said, jumping up and pointing at Hiraku, "Hiraku asked me a really good question, and I got no clue how to answer it!"

Michael raised an eyebrow and glanced over to Hiraku, whose emotionless expression hadn't changed much.

"I was just curious about your territory's name. Because nobody knows what your territory is called. This place, your main settlement, has no denomination either," Hiraku pointed out calmly.

"Hmm?" Michael tilted his head, "A name? I...never thought about that, honestly."

Frederik stared at Michael in disbelief, "You cannot be serious right now."

"Are you sure?" Hiraku asked, also a little bit surprised that Michael never thought about giving his territory and settlement a name.

"Well..." Michael scratched the back of his hand, "We were always busy fighting with our lives on the line or working tirelessly. I think nobody cared about a name until now."

"Or..." Hiraku continued, "You didn't care and others didn't mention it because they were sure that you would denominate the settlement soon."

Michael looked at Hiraku, not quite sure.

"Is that so?"

Lilica was also there and broke into laughter, "I contemplated you were joking, but you didn't think of a denominate for the settlement?"

She had to wipe a tear from the corner of her eyes from all that laughing, yet she turned slightly more serious after a few minutes of enjoyment.

"You have to start naming some things, you know? At least your settlements should receive some proper names once you start expanding," She pointed out, "Since this is a jungle, you'll probably have some tribes spreading throughout it in the future as well. Calling them by numbers wouldn't be nice, would it?"

Forest Elves didn't hate large settlements, but they were more comfortable about smaller places that hadn't been touched and altered much.

They loved the raw sides of nature quite a lot.

"That...sounds about right..." Michael murmured.

"I heard some people call me Lord of the Untamed Jungle. That sounds pretty nice. I like it," He said, causing the others to groan.

It might be a little bit early to call himself the Lord of the Untamed Jungle, but Michael felt that it was suitable. The Untamed Jungle was a major part of his success. It deserved to be praised and to remain in his name. He didn't want to leave the Untamed Jungle anytime soon either. It was a good name.

However, it was a little bit more difficult to give his settlement a name. Calling it anything random wouldn't be nice. Most people might not be bothered if the denominated sounds interesting or cool, but Michael felt that it might be nice to give his main settlement a meaningful name.

That made it even harder.

"How about we call the settlement....Arx?"

Michael was unsure, at first, but as he called out the denominated it felt right. Almost as if the settlement had always been supposed to be called Arx.

"Arx?" Frederik frowned deeply, but Hiraku raised an eyebrow.

"Arx like the invincible fortress?"

Michael merely smiled in response, whereas Hiraku nodded slowly.

"Sounds good to me."

Chapter 647 Zentika's Troubles

"Are you really considering yourself as the Lord of the Untamed Jungle already?" Frederik scowled.

He looked at Michael not sure whether to scold him for getting ahead of himself or if it was time to praise Michael for his grand goal. The map of the Pillar of Territorial Awareness showed all explored areas, including the size of the Savannah Region and the Zentika Empire.

The small bulge of the Untamed Jungle, where Michael's territory was located, was smaller than the Savannah Region and the Zentika Empire, yet it was only a tiny portion of the entire Untamed Jungle.

It was a great final goal to rule the Untamed Jungle, but wasn't he a little bit too fast?

"Master is going to be the Lord of the Untamed Jungle sooner or later. He's taking the title a little bit ahead of time, but he can do whatever he wants!" Tiara appeared at the entrance to the wooden manor, her eyes locked onto Frederik.

She glared at the poor youth, who could only swallow hard and nod.

"Yeah...Michael can do whatever he wants..."

Michael chuckled lightly and the others grinned as well. Even the corners of Hiraku's lip twitched.

There was no tension in the air, despite the potential dangers from the Zentika Empire and the Council of Xylon.

Recalling the Zentika Empire, Michael's expression changed slightly. He got a bit more serious and retrieved the daily reports.

"There is no news about the Zentika Empire," He murmured.

The others heard him and stopped laughing.

"We are not sure what is going on either," Lilica sighed, "We expected that the Zentika Empire would request an armistice, but there is nothing like that.

"To think that they don't ask for a truce despite their perilous situation," Hiraku added.

Since he was one of the newest members of Michael's troupe and the only one who was likely to leave, Hiraku had to research a lot about the surrounding regions. He didn't want to make Michael his enemy since that was one of the stupidest things he could do after escaping the High Beast Island.

To avoid annoying Michael and his plans to expand his forces deeper into the jungle meant that Hiraku would have to leave the Untamed Jungle once he requested the termination of his Link of Loyalty.

After Hiraku studied the Savannah Region's history and the as much about the Zentika Empire as possible, he realized that the Zentika Empire was on the brink of collapsing. They should have requested a ceasefire with Michael, or a non-aggression pact after realizing that Michael had issues to deal with in the Savannah Region.

"But then again, the Zentika Empire is too proud of their achievements and power. Requesting a truce, or the like, is like acknowledging that they cannot defeat you. It's like a silent agreement that you are too strong for them to deal with. They cannot acknowledge that. You're merely a Low-rank Tier-3 Lord, after all. You are not even close to ascending to a Higher Lifeform," Siegfried Dragoon pointed out.

He hadn't said anything until now, but he had also been waiting in the wooden manor for Michael to emerge from isolation.

"That makes sense. It would hurt their pride and turn them into a laughingstock if they were to acknowledge that I'm too strong for them to deal with right now," Michael nodded, only for Frederik to smile from one ear to the other, "I bet that they wish they could just charge into the Untamed Jungle with their strongest people and raze this place to the ground."

The others stared at Frederik with a deep frown.

"Don't jinx it, you bastard!" Tiara hissed in anger.

Frederik's bright smile crumbled, and he nodded meekly, not daring to say anything.

If Michael was already a frightening enemy for someone like Frederik, Tiara felt like a wild beast that desired to tear him apart whenever he said something.

'How the hell did Michael tame this little beast?!?' Frederik screamed in his heart.

It was not difficult to see that Tiara was obedient to Michael. She did everything he uttered without asking a question. But the same couldn't be said about others. Tiara didn't listen to most of them. The only ones she cared about were the Forest Elven Adventurers, the Elemental Empress, and her kin.

"It's not that easy to cross the chaos-infested land either. I've examined the land between the Untamed Jungle and the chaos-infested land and it seems like the chaos is seeping deeper into the land," Rebecca Zauber pointed out an issue, "We will have to solve the issue with the chaos-infested land soon, otherwise, it will affect the regrowth of the Untamed Jungle's outer rings"

"Ah right. I almost forgot about the chaos. That should have done some considerable damage to the Zentika Empire," Michael nodded.

Thinking about the chaos-infested land, Michael was glad that he managed to protect the Untamed Jungle. Frederik did a good job at changing the trajectory of the chaos fog.

'I wonder...would the winged serpent attack me if the chaos would have reached the Untamed Jungle? Or would it tell me to remove it as soon as possible like last time?'

Michael was not too sure about this. He could tell that the Untamed Jungle had accepted his existence, otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to combine his forces with the High Beast Horde to deal with the Heart of the Blazing Lion army. However, the bigger question was whether this was a temporary solution, or if the Untamed Jungle had something up to its sleeves.

In the first place, was the Untamed Jungle sentient, or was it up to its sleeves.

In the first place, was the Untamed Jungle sentient, or was it just a natural protective mechanism to block the invasion of powerful enemies that led to the rebellion of the Untamed Jungle?

Michael couldn't be certain about this either.

One way or another, the Zentika Empire didn't seem like a big problem for the time being. In fact, Michael had the weird feeling that the Zentika Empire might never create any trouble to the Untamed Jungle again.

'That's good right?' Michael was not sure how to feel about his gut feeling. At the end of the day, he merely shrugged 'I want to beat the shit out of Senator Keltos though.'

They had to solve the issues with the chaos-infested land and probably more issues given that the Scouts mentioned some enemies of the Zentika Empire sending Rogues and Mercenaries into their lands to weaken the Zentika Empire's prowess even more.

The latter was something Michael reaffirmed after he overcame the desire to destroy the Memory Orbs that he had extracted from the Lionheart Commander and the Awakened in the Heart of the Blazing Lion army.

He consumed their Memory Orbs and learned a lot about the 18:10

Zentika Empire's situation. That was also why he was so certain that the Zentika Empire might not be a problem for him and his people anymore.

It would be helpful if the Zentika Empire ceased to exist, but it didn't matter that much. The Zentika Empire would be replaced with other enemies who would fight each other to claim the Native Empire's land and resources.

But the fighting in the Zentika Empire wouldn't affect him much for a long time. The Untamed Jungle and the Zentika Empire were separated by the chaos-infested land, after all.

It was no issue to heal the chaos-infested land using Extraction, but Michael did not plan to do so right now. The chaos-infested land ensured that the Zentika Empire would stay away from him.

That was exactly what Michael needed. After all, he had to take revenge on the Council of Xylon, whose forces were much higher in terms of numbers. Michael and his people desired to obliterate the Council of Xylon. The only issue was that they wouldn't endure a battle of attrition.

Every Lord from the Council of Xylon should have pleaded support from their Clans, and people, at this point.

But while that sounded bad, Michael wasn't too shocked. The good thing about the Council of Xylon was that the strongest Lords in the Savannah Region were barely at the Lowest-rank of Tier-4. Michael was confident that he could deal with them.

Therefore, the enemies in the Savannah Region couldn't be considered as deadly as the Heart of the Blazing Lion Army.

That was especially true since Michael was intending to attack them rather than waiting until they would attack.

Taking advantage of the surprise effect, Michael would be able to turn the Savannah Region into a treasure trove of resources.

At least, that was what he was hoping for.

Chapter 648 Bad News

Even though the Council of Xylon was dangerous, Michael felt that its existence could turn into a great opportunity. Defeating them would increase his prosperity significantly.

He and his people would grow much stronger, and wealthier. Simultaneously, they would have one enemy less to worry about.

'But before I beat the shit out of the Council of Xylon, I should pay more attention to the Soul Grimoire,' Michael figured.

The Council of Xylon hadn't attacked them since their last assassination attempt. They were probably afraid, or uncertain about their next move. That gave Michael enough time to figure out whether he had to upgrade Soul Grimoire to 7-Star or if it would be enough to upgrade Soul Grimoire to a 6-Star Soultrait after inserting dozens of useful sub-Soultraits into it.

The week of isolation was not only used on the 730,850 Ordinary Summoning Scrolls. Most of the time was spent on dissecting 200 Soultrait Symbols to procure various minor perks and unique traits that were later inserted into the Soul Grimoire with 7500 SoulStar Fragments.

The dissection and integration of various Soultrait Symbols and unique perks destroyed 200 Soultrait Symbols and wasted a massive amount of SoulStar Fragments, but Michael felt that the result was worth it. The Soul Grimoire's preservation and nourishing abilities improved alongside the capacity of its storage.

Michael could instinctively tell that 5-Star Soul Grimoire was strong enough to house a weak Living Soul.

It was not yet good enough to contain Danny's Living Soul and preserve it, but he was getting closer.

"Upgrading Soul Grimoire to 6-Star should be enough...I can rescue Danny then!"

Michael had left the week of isolation happy and satisfied with the results. Once the Council of Xylon was dead, he could get Danny back! No. Maybe even before...as long as he obliterated a few territories of the 106 members of the Council.

'Rushing into anything won't help me.' He slapped his cheeks and forcefully calmed down. Even if he attacked the Council of Xylon instead of waiting for their attack, Michael couldn't know for sure how long it was going to take before they initiated countermeasures. They could attack his territory while he was out.

Therefore, Michael had to strengthen his territory's defenses. Arx's military force had to increase. That was where the 730,850 Ordinary Summoning Scrolls came into use.

Initially, 730,000ish Summoning Scrolls felt like a lot, but that was not it. Combining 10 Ordinary Scrolls would form a random 1-Star Named Scroll. That was not a bad quote and it was enough to form 73,085 Named Scrolls. However, only half of them were combat Summons.

Michael considered forming a bunch of 2-Star Named Scrolls, but he didn't have enough Summoning Scroll Fragments to make good use of the 1-Star Named Scrolls. The next thing he considered was to combine the 1-Star Scrolls into 2-Star Named Scrolls. However, each 2-Star Named Scroll required 100 1-Star Named Scrolls.

The use of 2-Star Named Scrolls was extraordinary, but their quality was not equivalent to 100 1-Star Summons. Not at first, at least.

2-Star Summons were faster at adapting, had a higher comprehension rate, and their growth spurt was several times faster. However, Michael needed the numbers right now. He had the perfect environment and necessary resources to transform an army of 1-Star Summons into deadly little fighters. Their combat prowess and growth wouldn't be extraordinary and the solution was certainly not perfect, but it would be as close to perfection as possible.

As long as they were given a week or two to train and grow stronger, they should turn into a frightening defense against those who dared to invade the Untamed Jungle.

Therefore, Michael ended up using 36,542 1-Star Named Scrolls to expand his army rapidly.

He was lucky to summon many Berserker Summons and Warlock Centaur Summons through the 1-Star Named Scrolls. Their extraordinary physique transformed them into powerful combat units. Even though they were still 1-Star Summons with the same advantages as other 1-Star Summons, Berserkers, and Warlock Centaurs had great battle awareness and extraordinary physiques. The only downside was that they were hard to control and that they didn't have any self-preservation.

But that was something Michael and his people could take care of.

Suddenly summoning 36,000ish new Summons pressured the architects, construction workers, and laborers a little bit, but it was a good thing that they had already finished a bunch of treehouse complexes. There was just enough space to give them a small place to sleep and live somewhat comfortably until the remaining residences were completed.

Michael put the remaining non-combat Named Scrolls away. There was no living space for them right now.

The Untamed Army expanded rapidly to more than 40,000 members. The stored weapons and other armaments were retrieved to equip the newcomers and Siegfried, Master Tigris, and Legion stepped forward to train them right away. Everyone could tell what Michael was trying to do. It was not a complex plan, after all.

He created an army of 1-Star Summons, hoping that a few hundred would attain enlightenment from the Sacred Knight Temple's presence, or the Silverfangs' Soultraits. The best result would be that a

bunch of 1-Star Summons would be promoted to 2-Star within the following week, however, Michael was not sure if he expected too much or not.

The Sacred Knight Temple and the Hunter Academy were still under construction, but all Instructors in Arx, and everyone Awakened who wasn't too busy training decided to help train the newcomers.

The training program worked out decently fine. It didn't generate any extraordinary results, but the improvements of the 1-Star Summons were more or less above average. But then again, Michael had to deal with some displeased combatants as well. They didn't like that they were thrown into a full-scale training program right after getting summoned.

It was not helpful that a large-scale war approached them with breathtaking speed either. Various Forest Elves and Human Summons voiced their concerns and displeasure. However, there was not much they could do. They were combat Summons and it was their purpose to fight.

Nonetheless, Michael was glad that most new Summons were Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. They were much easier to handle since they were happy about the upcoming battles against the Council of Xylon.

Another week passed in the blink of an eye and the first 1-Star Summons from the most recent batch advanced to Tier-1. Hiraku showed signs of breaking down the last barriers that separated him from ascending to a Higher Lifeform, while the other Untamed Awakened finished consolidating the energy they'd procured from the large-scale battle against the Heart of the Blazing Lion army.

Everyone improved slightly faster than anticipated, but Michael couldn't be happy. He didn't have the luxury to be happy. The Origin Expanse never gave him that grace.

News reached him from the Savannah Region. The movements in the Savannah Region intensified and a shocking – or not-so- shocking – piece of news reached Michael.

The Council of Xylon destroyed the settlements of the Zynur Lord, forcing the Zynur Lord and his people to retreat into the main settlement of the Valyr Lordess. The Valyr Lordess, still certain that the Zynur Lord was on her side, didn't suspect anything. Unfortunately, her trust in the Zynur Lord was the reason she ended up losing everything.

The Zynur Lord and his subordinates turned against the Valyr Lordess. They struck at night and slaughtered the Valyr mercilessly.

Michael didn't know everything that had happened, but the Scouts reported the death of the Zynur Lord and the destruction of the Valyr Lordess' main settlement.

The Valyr Lordess was not dead, but nobody had seen her leave the main settlement either. She just disappeared, even though the space around the main settlement had been sealed. The Council of Xylon charged into the main settlement, killing the remaining survivors. They didn't care whether the survivors were their enemies or their new allies. They slaughtered the Valyr and Zynur alongside.

However, Michael felt that it became too easy. The main settlement fell too easily, too suddenly.

Something felt wrong.

Unsurprisingly, his gut feeling became correct.

The Greater Nature Spirit informed Michael that he might want to take a look at the Pillar of Territorial Awareness. Michael rushed over to take a look at the map where he saw more than a hundred yellow dots stalking toward the Untamed Jungle...from underground.

"Oh. Please not," Michael grunted, "Just leave me alone."

The Valyr Lordess and the strongest Valyr following her were fleeing...toward the Untamed Jungle...toward Arx.

Michael had no idea if their direction was a coincidence or if they knew Arx's coordinates, but both options were suboptimal. He sighed heavily and utilized Cosmic Stride a few times to move to the border of the Untamed Jungle. He was right above the Valyr Lordess and the others and looked down with Spirit Eyes actively utilized to see their energy fluctuations through the ground.

'At least, you guys are traveling underground,' He mumbled in his head before using Cosmic Stride once more to appear in the underground tunnel.

It was dark and murky, and Michael had to ignite some flames to see the severity of the Valyr Lordess and her followers' condition.

"Looks like you were betrayed," Michael mumbled as a matter of fact, his eyes lingering on the half-dead Valyr Lordess for a mere moment.

Zira and the other followers were surprised at the sudden appearance of Michael and readied their weapons to fight, only to see the Valyr Lordess smile lightly.

Her lips parted but Michael lifted his hand before she might say anything.

"I can already inform what you guys want." He hated himself for what he became moving to do and sighed heavily.

"...follow me."

Chapter 649 Refugees

The Valyr lost everything. Their settlements were destroyed, razed to the ground, and they had to leave everyone behind to survive.

Most who escaped barely managed to survive. Some lost a limb or two, whereas others sustained internal injuries. All of them were wounded in some way and it wouldn't surprise Michael if half of them were to succumb to their wounds in the next 10 minutes.

Michael figured that it was a stupid idea to bring the Valyr to his territory to let them stay in Arx, but he couldn't leave them behind like that either.

'If they cause trouble, I'll throw them out right away.' He told himself, even though he knew that the Valyr wouldn't have to do much to stir trouble.

It was already troublesome enough if the Council of Xylon would deploy people to search for the Valyr Lordess and the remaining survivors. And that was likely to happen. Michael doubted that the Council of Xylon would leave the Valyr Lordess alive if they could do something about it.

Michael's eyes fell onto the Valyr Lordess, her pale complexion, and weak energy fluctuations and another heavy sigh escaped his lips.

'I can bother about that later.'

He configured Cosmic Stride to consume a humongous amount of space-attributed origin energy to teleport a dozen Valyr at a time back to Arx. He moved back and forth quickly, draining his energy rapidly.

Fortunately, Michael had Extraction to drain the surrounding energy and annex it instantaneously with both techniques Leviathan Diffusion and Pantheon's Dawn activated.

It was no problem to overexert himself a little bit to move the remaining Valyr into his territory. It was a bit cramped in Arx, but everyone worked hard to expand the settlement. It was only a matter of time before everyone had enough space to move freely and unrestrained.

The Valyr Lordess collapsed the moment she arrived at the infirmary and many of her followers followed suit. Their willpower and a tinge of luck granted them enough strength to reach Arx, but that was as far as they could go. There was no ounce of strength left in their bodies.

Only a few managed to stay awake and watch their Lordess and comrades receive the support they required to survive.

Michael could kill them easily if he wanted to. It was a good thing that he didn't feel like doing so.

Zira was one of those who could barely stay awake. She watched her mother get carried into the infirmary's emergency treatment room where the Priests, Doctors, and other medical professionals tended to her with everything they had.

"Do you want to talk about it, or do you want me to wait until your mother wakes up?" Michael asked, slightly impatient and frustrated.

A nagging feeling flicked against the back of his mind repetitively. It was almost as if someone was telling him that the Valyr didn't belong to the Untamed Jungle.

Michael was aware of that, but he could hardly force them to accept his Link of Loyalty to integrate into the Untamed Jungle right now. The timing couldn't be worse. Furthermore, he was not even sure if he wanted the Valyr to stay in Arx.

'I will sacrifice you and your kin if the mythical serpent is coming to burn down Arx!' Michael swore in his heart even though he felt that it wouldn't be necessary.

He felt sorry for the Valyr Lordess, but that didn't mean he would sacrifice his territory and Arx for their sake.

Michael would rather live with the guilt of sacrificing the Valyr Lordess and her people than end up being the reason that his subjects – more than 200,000 – died. To Michael, the Valyr were not that valuable. It might be great to help them for the time being, but the Savannah Region caused more than enough trouble already.

"You don't seem to like that we've fled to the Untamed Jungle to seek you out," Zira stared at the floor, unable to look into Michael's eyes.

"If most of you weren't on the verge of death, I wouldn't have bothered to bring you here. You guys are an unknown variable. If someone had put a mark on you, I wouldn't have allowed you to take one step deeper into the Untamed Jungle, let alone enter Arx."

Zira grit her teeth. She knew that Michael was right. If someone marked them, they wouldn't be able to hide anywhere. Michael's territory would be exposed and they would put everyone in danger no matter where they went.

Michael flicked Zira's forehead lightly, "It's a good thing that nobody was marked, don't you think so?"

Zira groaned softly and rubbed her forehead. She looked up for the first time since they entered Michael's territory, only to see him smile lightly at her.

"Aren't you angry?" Zira couldn't help but ask.

"Hm?" Michael tilted his head, "Of course, I'm angry. But it's not like you were waiting to get betrayed, or that you were hoping for your territory to get bulldozed. The Zynur Lord and the Council of Xylon are at fault. Though, the Zynur Lord received his punishment already."

Zira glanced at Michael, not sure what to say.

Michael was a weird Lord. He was extremely powerful and could probably crush most of his enemies easily, but he wasn't arrogant. If anything, he felt more humane than anyone Zira encountered until now.

He was kind but very confusing. His rapid mood swings especially so.

"The Zynur Lord is dead?" Zira queried after she gathered her thoughts.

Michael merely nodded in response.

"Good. If the Council wouldn't have killed him, I would have done it!!" She growled, faintly flickering flames coating her body. Her Morningstar tail swished departed and right, nearly knocking out a Doctor, who was passing by.

Michael had to flick her forehead again to calm down the Valyr Lordess' daughter. She glared at him, only to recall where she was and what had happened.

"Sorry. My emotions got the better of me," Zira whispered, getting hold of her emotions before she looked back at Michael, "How do you know that none of us are marked?"

Michael ignored how pitiful her attempt at changing the topic was and answered lightly, "I can see a lot more than others."

He turned a little bit more serious.

"Of course, it's possible that someone with a Tracking Soultrait can find y'all, but that doesn't really matter. A powerful Tracking Soultrait can also be used to find the reinforcements, which fought in the Savannah Region before," Michael shrugged, "Worrying too much about getting found out won't help anyone."

"But isn't the chance that the Council finds your territory much higher now that we're here?" Zira asked, realizing too late that she was part of the problem.

Michael frowned deeply, "Don't you think it's a little bit too late to worry about that? You do realize that you and your people fled to the Untamed Jungle to search for me, right? If you cared that much about my safety, you should have stayed in the Savannah or fled in another direction. Don't even try to act smart with me, hypocrite."

Zira noticed her mistake too late. Her lips parted, ready to throw out an apology, but Michael shook his head.

"It's too late now, either way. I brought you to Arx out of my own volition. My reasons don't matter. What's important is just that I did it and that the Savannah Regions belongs to the Council of Xylon from today onward," He pointed out, "Your mother and the others will survive, but I'm not certain how long it will be safe and sound in the Untamed Jungle. I doubt that the Council of Xylon will leave your people alone...or me, as a matter of fact."

One of the reasons Michael saved the Valyr Lordess and her people was that he might need their assist at some point. The Valyr Lordess and three of her subordinates – ex- subordinates – were Higher Lifeforms. They would recuperate faster than others and be ready to fight in a few days.

The Council of Xylon was previously aware of Michael's existence. That was another reason he decided to help the Valyr Lordess. Since the Council realized about him, they wouldn't leave him alone now that they gained control of the Savannah Region.

That meant Michael would have to make his shift soon.

He had to deal with the Savannah Region before the Council of Xylon could place their roots down throughout the entire Savannah region. The 106 Lords shouldn't be given any time to celebrate. They should feel pressured and tensed up, worrying about their safety and whether they could trust the other Lords of the council, or if the other Lords were their enemies as well.

Michael didn't know everything about the Council of Xylon, but he realized enough to know that the 106 Lords were at odds as well.

"The Zentika Empire won't bother us for the time being." He whispered, tilting his head as the cogs in his mind began to rattle.

The Zentika Empire might be annoying but they've lost too much to bother him again. The chaos-infested land was also on Michael's side, helping him keep the Zentika Empire at bay. They would have to use different means to solve their food shortage.

The Untamed Jungle's response to their invasion was crystal clear. The mythical serpent wouldn't allow them to make any gains.

An hour passed in the blink of an eye. Michael was still deep in thought, but he was pulled back to reality when Zira informed him that her mother regained consciousness.

Michael entered the infirmary where dozens of lethally injured Valyr were still being tended to. Michael used Archangel's Grace to take away a portion of their pain, but he couldn't do much more right now.

"Thank you for he—..." The Valyr Lordess tried to thank Michael but she was silenced by Michael's deeply furrowed brows.

Silence reigned through the entire room for a few minutes until Michael realized that everyone was staring at him.

He cleared his throat while suppressing another heavy sigh filled with frustration.

"There is no need to thank me. I just helped you because I hope that you guys can get back to your peak to fight later. I'm probably strong enough to deal with most of those Lords and their Awakened, but I'm only one person. My understanding of the Council of Xylon and the Savannah Region is also not that great."

Michael shrugged.

"I helped you because I need you. That's all it is. There is no need to thank me. Just get better and prepare for some fierce fights."

The corners of the Valyr Lordess' lips twitched. A thin grin formed on her lips.

"Right...the battle is not yet over."

Michael nodded, "Exactly. The real battle is just about to begin!"

Chapter 650 Charity? Hell No!

'Was that really a good decision?'

Michael fell into a deep train of thought. He was rethinking whether his decision to allow the Valyr into his territory was a good thing, or if it had been a mistake.

'I couldn't leave them to die, and I need their strength, either way.'

It was painfully obvious that most of the Valyr would be dead without his aid. They'd already lost the battle against the Council of Xylon and were forced to retreat.

By now, the Valyr could leave the Origin Expanse to return home where they could be treated with much better medical equipment, but the Valyr Lordess, or former Lordess, wasn't happy about that. She didn't want to return, knowing that her clan and the higher-ups of the government wouldn't value her as much as they used to.

The prestige she earned in the last few years would crumble and turn into nothingness the moment she returned home after failing her mission to secure the Savannah Region.

It was highly likely that the higher-ups would pull the remaining survivors of their reinforcement out of the Origin Expanse and deploy them somewhere else. That would further dwindle the former Lordess' chances to reclaim the Savannah.

Not that her current chances were high, in the first place.

'As long as it's only temporary, it should be fine.' Michael thought. The surviving Valyr were all powerhouses of the Savannah Region. They were either Awakened at the Peak of Tier-3 or were strong enough to be able to fight a Late Tier-3 Awakened.

Having more than 100 Valyr with that much strength by his side was going to make things a lot easier for Michael. However, that was not enough for him.

'I should scan their thoughts as well.'

After witnessing so many betrayals, Michael thought that he shouldn't make the same mistake...not again. He was going to demand using Mind Reader on the Valyr, each of them, to ensure that none of them thought about betraying the Valyr Lordess, by suddenly leaving her behind, or that they considered exposing his territory and some other secrets of his territory.

The Council of Xylon would find his territory sooner or later, but that didn't mean they would have an easy time pinpointing the exact location and the camouflaged defense structures.

Unfortunately, Michael wasn't able to start reading the Valyr's mind because he was interrupted by a bunch of young Forest Elves.

'Scouts? At least, they're not the scouts from the Savannah Region.'

Michael would have been a bit worried if the scouts from the Savannah Region rushed up to him like the Forest Elves, however, the scouts watched the border to the Zentika Empire.

"My Lord!" One of the Forest Elves exclaimed while another one rushed past to reach Michael first.

"We have news about the Zentika Empire, My Lord!"

"Oi. I won the bet," The first Forest Elf said, pushing his colleague aside, "I won the right to tell him!!"

The two Forest Elves ended up in a friendly fight. That reassured Michael a little.

If the scouts could banter like this, the news about the Zentika Empire shouldn't be too bad.

A third Forest Elf, a much slower sprinter, arrived next to his colleagues. He saw them banter and Michael watching them in silence and chose to report the news while his colleagues continued fighting.

"The Lords in the Zentika Empire are retaliating. They managed to break their contracts with the Zentika Empire somehow. The Native Empire is now in an internal war!" He said, attracting Michael's interest.

'Damn.' Michael nearly blurted aloud.

'Were their contracts with the Lords that bad? No, that shouldn't be the case. I doubt that the Zentika Empire is foolish enough to leave many loopholes in their contracts with Lords and Awakened.'

Michael tilted his head.

'Did someone manage to break their contract because of a Soultrait? Or some sort of expensive Artifact?'

He couldn't be sure what happened, but it was quite obvious that the Zentika Empire's struggles intensified overnight.

The Forest Elf continued to relay a few more pieces of useful information before Michael allowed them to leave again. He gave them a few days off to rest and sort his thoughts.

'The Lords in the Zentika Empire should be stronger than the Council of Xylon. Maybe, they can tear down the Zentika Empire.'

The corner of Michael's lip twitched and curled into a faint smile.

'Even if they cannot destroy the Zentika Empire, they'll wear them down. The kingdoms bordering the Zentika Empire should make their move pretty soon as well. That will be a mess.'

While it was not impossible that the next ruler of the large plains would be an amiable Lord, Michael considered the probability incredibly low.

He learned enough about the Origin Expanse to know that most Lords and rulers would rather kill their enemies before they could gain enough fortitude to retaliate against them instead of befriending them.

Michael was an unknown variable in the eyes of most people. He could turn into an incredibly useful ally, or their nemesis. Those who knew Michael knew that he would rather become allies with his neighbors, but strangers would consider him dangerous. They would give their utmost to hunt him down before he grew too strong.

That was also why Michael was certain that the Council of Xylon would attack him sooner or later, either way. It didn't matter too much whether the Valyr were hiding in Arx, or if they escaped to a different place. The Council of Xylon would gather their forces and strike him as long as they still had a chance to defeat him.

At least, that was what Michael figured. It was the most logical approach. It was also why Michael hoped that the struggles in the great plains would continue for a while.

"Continue to struggle, while I grow stronger," Michael mumbled, praying that the Zentika Empire would survive long enough for him to take revenge.

After all, he had yet to obliterate Senator Keltos and his underlings.

Since the Zentika Empire wasn't going to cause problems for the time being, Michael turned back to the Valyr Lordess. He asked her about the Council of Xylon's situation, but the Valyr Lordess didn't have as many useful pieces of information as expected.

"I'm unsure whether my knowledge is outdated, or if it is correct, in the first place. The news could have been fabricated, but that's what I heard," She warned Michael, "The Council of Xylon's internal affairs developed into small-scale skirmishes. Some mentioned to keep their forces combined against the Untamed Jungle, whereas other Lords pointed out that the Untamed Jungle is of no danger."

"The opinions are split with the Lords who don't care about the Untamed Jungle mentioning that the other Lords want to stall time to betray them. That hasn't been openly mentioned but the scouts and assassins eavesdropped on our enemies."

"The Lords want to claim their benefits right now. They desire to expand their lands and procure all resources. The distribution of resources, however, turns out a lot more difficult than they'd expected. Everyone's desire to claim the best spot with the biggest resource deposits stirs a lot more trouble than they'd fathomed. That's also how we survived this long."

The Valyr Lordess turned quiet for a moment. Her mood worsened and she sighed deeply, regret filling her heart.

"If not for the Zynur Lord's betrayal, we would have survived a little longer. But...at the end of the day, we would have been crushed."

Michael listened intently to the Valyr Lordess. He heard the gossip of the other Valyr as well and their snarky remarks about the Zynur Lord and the Council of Xylon. Everyone was angry at the Zynur Lord and themselves. They were frustrated that they trusted the Zynur Lord mindlessly.

Some were also angry at the Valyr Lordess for being gullible and an easy target. They commented about the Valyr Lordess family and that she was a disgrace for someone with such a great bloodline.

At some point, they began to gossip about Zira as well, saying that she was nothing like her mother and that it was a shame for her to have a 1-Star Soultrait. They were certain that their family would have invested far more to reinforce the Trilance if Zira had been born with a stronger Soultrait, and if the Savannah Region had been inherited to her later.

Michael ignored most comments, but the gossip was also quite useful in certain regards.

He learned that the Valyr had been unable to claim a Beginner Region – as they're called by certain people for being user-

friendly for Rookie Lords and Rogues – in the last few decades. It would have been a great achievement and a glorious feat for the Valyr to claim the Savannah Region.

'I can work with that.' Michael figured.

He didn't rush to jump into action to assault the Council of Xylon before they could initiate a large-scale attack. Instead, Michael shared his demands with the Valyr Lordess, Zira, and the other Valyr.

"If you want to move freely through my territory, you will let me use my Soultrait on you. The Soultrait allows me to find out your true intentions and thoughts. I won't force anyone, but the Awakened who reject my demand will have to depart my domain and the Untamed Jungle. It's only obvious, but I'm not doing all of this for charity. I ensured that you would survive to help me combat the Council of Xylon."

Michael turned more serious and his faint smile seemed to transform into a devilish grin.

"But don't get me wrong. I can get rid of the Council of Xylon without you guys as well. All you guys are here for is to ensure that my people will survive. If you want to take revenge on the Council of Xylon, or my trust, you'll accept the use of my Soultrait. If not, you will be under constant scrutiny and I will mark you as a potential threat. One wrong move and I will have you executed!"

Michael knew that he was a little bit overbearing right now, but he didn't care. The Valyr should understand that they were in his domain and that they had to live according to his rules. If they didn't like it, they could leave. He wasn't going to stop them.

Their existence and combat prowess should make things easier against the Council of Xylon, however, the Valyr would certainly not change the inevitable outcome of the Regional War.

Michael was going to win, one way or another.

The only important question was who would be left to celebrate the victory alongside him.