

Supreme Lord 691

Chapter 691 Exorcism

Evalynn Fang did not favor Michael's idea, but she agreed that his plan might work. If Michael managed to extract Danny's Curse without damaging the Living Soul, he could insert it into the Soul Grimoire, nourish it while searching for a suitable vessel, or create one from scratch.

It was still surprising that Michael could control the Cursed Seals and that he unlocked a fourth Cursed Seal before ascending to a Higher Lifeform. Still, it was even more shocking that another existence took root inside Michael. Michael's Soul didn't confine the other being. The being restrained its power on its own. It sealed itself to ensure that Michael wouldn't sustain any injuries.

That was surprising, and it was also part of why she chose to believe in Michael's plan. If one of them was willing to take root inside Michael, who was she to hold him back? If anything, she should support her child.

"Can you give me the Miniature Coffin Keychain for a moment," Evalynn asked her son, who backed off instinctively.

Even if Michael decided to talk to his mother, it was not like he could trust her entirely. He still had to ask many things, and various doubts lingered in the back of his head. Unfortunately, he did not have the luxury to throw hundreds of questions at his mother. She wouldn't be able to answer most of them either way.

He hesitated and scrutinized his mother, who had to try hard not to crumble, "Please...I want to help you and Danny. It's just a small test, nothing serious. The Living Soul won't be harmed. I promise."

Michael pressed his lips together, but he reluctantly agreed. This was not about him anymore. Everything he did was for Danny, and Michael was certain that his mother wouldn't do anything to harm her oldest son. She was not the type to hurt her children...not like that.

He removed the Miniature Coffin Keychain from his belt and handed it to Evalynn.

Evalynn's eyes turned glassy once again as the Cursed Seals all over her body blossomed. Tendrils of darkness emerged from the ominous mist that shrouded Evalynn. The tendrils briefly engulfed the Miniature Coffin Keychains before retracting with a snap.

The dark Cursed Seals all over Evalynn's body disappeared, and the life in her eyes returned.

"If we want to succeed, we will have to start soon. The Curse recuperates faster than expected. Danny's spark of life is being drained as we speak."

'We?' Michael was about to ask, but he swallowed his words. It would be foolish to reject the help of a Peak Tier-6 Curse User.

"I can stabilize the Living Soul with Soul Tears. I've accumulated more than enough from the last Regional War," Michael told his mother, "Do you think that will be enough, or should I nourish the Cursed Living Soul while it's still in the Miniature Coffin Keychain."

His mother contemplated the answer for a second.

"The Curse will grow faster once Danny's Living Soul has been nourished. It will have more energy to consume from the Living Soul...but will be necessary. The Living Soul is weak, and we need to nourish and stabilize it slightly to increase Danny's survival."

"I can take care of that." Michael nodded. Is there a way to contain the Curse for a while when I extract it? I'm not sure what will happen, but I think the Curse will not like what I'm about to do."

"Don't worry too much about that. I'm here to take care of that. I might have never defeated a Curse without killing the host, but as long as you extract it before he consumes Danny, it will be fine! It's not my first rodeo with a Curse. I'm a Curse User and a decent exorcist, after all!"

The Geas appeared on Evalynn's forehead, but she wasn't in pain. The bits and pieces she shared seemed to be in the grey area. They were part of the information she wasn't supposed to share, yet it was necessary to share them to deal with a Curse. It was acceptable to share this much.

Michael planned to do something Evalynn had never heard before. Evalynn was certain it wouldn't work if Danny's Curse was slightly stronger. Fortunately, Danny's Curse had never been powerful, and it was also in a weakened state right now. There shouldn't be a problem...probably.

Evalynn hesitated a little bit as she retrieved a vial filled with black liquid. She released a storm of energy with a wave of her hand to remove the furniture in her room and began to draw a complex circle on the ground.

Now that they were getting closer to resurrecting Danny, Evalynn worried about the consequences. She always thought that she had to bring Danny's Soul back to the Nest to return him into the reincarnation cycle....but it became worth a try with Michael's Soultraits and his Curse. It should be feasible. Maybe.

Similarly, removing Danny's Curse could prevent the Hellbound Cataclysm. If Michael and his mother succeeded, every involved party would be victorious.

It was worth a try.

Michael didn't pay much attention to his mother's drawing. He could sense that she infused the ominous mist oozing out of her Cursed Seals into the black paint, but that became about it.

Instead, he used Spirit Eyes and Insert to pinpoint the Living Soul inside the Miniature Coffin Keychain and insert SoulStar Fragments into its deepest parts. As long as the essence of the Living Soul was strengthened, the remaining parts would also be strengthened.

Michael infused the SoulStar Fragments slowly. He didn't want to crush the Living Soul by simultaneously inserting too many SoulStar Fragments. Michael knew best that strengthening a Soul – or a Soultrait – too quickly became harmful. It took him a while to find the most efficient way to insert SoulStar Fragments into the Living Soul, but it worked. The steady stream of fragments merged with the Living Soul, strengthening it swiftly.

At one point, it felt like someone was tugging at his soul. It was a unique sensation, different from the Cursed Seals or the World Serpent's attempts to convey to him.

'Is that Danny?'

Michael was not sure if he was hallucinating or if that was real, but he sincerely hoped that it was real. He missed Danny.

Michael ignored the piles of SoulStar Fragments that vanished into thin air. He only stopped inserting more SoulStar Fragments when his mother grasped his shoulders tightly.

"I'm done," She whispered before glancing at the Miniature Coffin Keychain. Several dark cracks spread through the keychain. It was on the verge of breaking apart, black liquid spilling out of the tiny fissures.

"It's now or never," she said, triggering the magic circle that covered the entire room.

The circle lit up in darkness, shrouding the entire room instantaneously. The darkness moved around. Comprised tendrils of darkness emerged from the circle, seeking all that lived.

Michael's instincts told him to escape and to run as far as possible, but he ignored them. Instead of running, Michael closed his eyes.

He manifested the Soul Grimoire and applied a Soul Tear on Extraction, Enhancement, Soul Grimoire, his soul, and Danny's Living Soul.

Once that was done, Michael unleashed the four golden Cursed Seals. He applied a Soul Tear on each of them, creating a far more destructive effect than expected.

Ten Extraction Layers unleashed upon True Extraction, expanding the Extraction Aura that flowed out of him.

True Extraction was unleashed to the fullest, but Michael concentrated its full power on one point instead of spreading out.

A terrifying roar escaped from the depths of Michael's existence. The roar reverberated through the room, tearing it apart. The World Serpent followed suit. It released an ear-

deafening hiss that seemed to fuse with the mighty roar, amplifying each other.

The cracks all over the Miniature Coffin Keychain expanded. The keychain crumbled.

'Now!' Michael screamed in his mind, willing True Extraction to invade the Miniature Coffin Keychain and Danny's Living Soul.

Michael and his small following invaded the Cursed Living Soul. They pierced through the Curse's defense and emerged inside. Michael didn't imagine that he would be able to see the inside of Danny's Living Soul. However, his brother's mindscape unraveled in front of Michael's closed eyes.

The spark of life, a dim light that struggled desperately to retain its brightness against the massive existence that towered before it.

The Curse's outlines expanded and formed into a huge monster. Shrouded in darkness, a Tiger roared at the top of its lungs as its black tendrils consumed Danny's life.

Rage fueled Michael, his presence attracting the massive beast's attention.

It turned around and roared, ready to charge at Michael and company.

Michael's first battle with a Curse began.

Chapter 692 Devoured

Michael couldn't visualize much in the Living Soul's mindspace, but the few things he saw were enough for him.

Michael initially thought he was mistaken, but he realized it was reality. The faint glimmers that outlined the spark of life looked like his brother. They outlined Daniel Fang.

Michael felt like charging at his brother to embrace him tightly, but the tiger towering before the spark of life obstructed his path. The tiger was three times taller than the spark of life and seemed to expand slowly. However, it didn't look like a monster. If anything, the Tiger looked like a mixture of an image, an absolute monster, and an existence created from comprised darkness.

Small bits of white-glowing stripes dotted the massive tiger, but most parts were shrouded in darkness. The darkness surged outward and expanded as Danny's spark of life was consumed.

Michael's eyes narrowed. He kicked the ground and propelled toward the massive tiger. Extraction tendrils burst out all over Michael's body. They grew thicker and thicker until each extraction tendril was thicker than Michael's waist. Michael knew that he would have never been able to control the power of True Extraction now that it was focused on a single point, but the mighty roar of the thing sealed within Michael seemed to aid him.

For the first time since Michael manifested Cursed Seals, it didn't feel like they were trying to take control of him. It was almost like the Cursed Seals tried to grant him as much power as needed to defeat their common foe.

Michael didn't care about the reason. What mattered was that he had complete control of the Cursed Seals at this moment.

The extraction tendrils whipped at the massive tiger and instantly coiled around its legs, neck, maw, and torso. Of course, the enormous tiger didn't even think about staying idle while under attack. The darkness shrouding the massive tiger expanded explosively. The extraction tendrils were just about to be torn into shreds when the light in the mindscape was swallowed. The extraction tendrils exuded the only glimmer left in the mindscape.

Michael swallowed hard when he sensed that something eerily powerful enveloped the mindscape. However, instead of backing off or waiting to see what would happen, Michael believed that the eerie power belonged to his mother.

'It's her weird-ass magic circle. Calm down!' Michael screamed at himself inwardly before pushing forward.

The Extraction tendril's glimmers alongside Spirit Eyes' ability to see in the dark and to see energies in every environment were all Michael needed to tell that his mother's eerie power restrained the darkness shrouding the massive tiger. The extraction tendrils invaded the massive tiger's body only for a massive presence to emerge out of nowhere.

The World Serpent surged out of Michael's back and invaded the Miniature Coffin Keychain. Evalynn's power already weakened and further restrained the Massive tiger, but the World Serpent's presence was needed to push the tiger to the ground.

It was pinned to the ground, allowing Michael to focus on True Extraction.

The extraction of the Curse could finally start.

The thick Extraction Tendrils invaded the massive Tiger's body. Michael didn't extract the Curse mindlessly. Once they anchored somewhere inside the curse, he spread the Extraction tendrils into hundreds of tiny roots and branches to search for the links between the Living Soul and the Curse.

Neither the Living Soul nor the Curse was bound to a mortal body, and there was no Soultrait connecting the Curse with the Living Soul. Therefore, the crucial connection between the two parties turned out to be the spark of life, just as Michael and his mother had suspected.

Michael could remove the other threads and darkness tendrils that connected the Curse to the Living Soul, but he felt some resistance when he tried to sever the Curse's connection to the spark of life.

But the resistance diminished as the other connections were severed. Michael removed them one by one until only the link to the spark of life remained. At this point, Michael could channel his power into a single point. The massive Extraction tendrils surged toward the final link and extracted it fragment by fragment. The connecting link resisted for a long time. It felt like hours must have passed, but it could have been minutes as well. Michael only knew that he couldn't have come this far without the support of his Curse, the World Serpent, and...his mother.

He dismissed the thoughts that flashed through his mind and focused on the Curse. The final link connecting the Curse to the spark of life was severed.

The Curse was extracted and expelled from the Miniature Coffin Keychain.

Michael was pulled out of the Living Soul's mindscape a quarter of a second after the Cursed vanished. He found himself in his mother's room, where wisps of darkness congregated. The pressure in his mother's room was several times more intense. The darkness wisps that were about to form into a tiger were the culprits.

Evalynn was already on the move. A dozen Cursed Seals manifested all over her body. They released ominous mist, which restricted the curse from manifesting. The Curse was not in favor of this treatment. It released a terrifying roar and fought desperately against the restrictions. The circle underneath it cracked near-instantly. It would break soon. There was not much time.

Michael grit his teeth, a wave of emotions and desires sweeping through his entire body.

"I really don't know if I can trust you...but go for it, guys...devour it!!"

The instant he gave his permission, his skin burst open. His shirt was torn apart by countless golden tendrils that burst out of the Cursed Seals. They shimmered brightly as they coiled around the Curse to restrict its movements while invading and consuming it slowly.

Simultaneously, Michael's back cracked. It felt like his shoulder blades were shattered as something massive formed. His back burst open, releasing a fountain of blood as the gigantic head of a golden-eyed serpent shot out.

The World Serpent, a portion of its presence, to be precise, burst out of Michael's back. It lunged toward the Curse over Michael's head and opened its maw wide. The Essence's head grew suddenly right before reaching the Curse...and it swallowed it.

The World Serpent's essence snapped back into Michael's body alongside the shimmering extraction tendrils. Meanwhile, the Curse was no more.

No. That was not true either.

Michael couldn't tell what happened, but he recognized the Curse was dead. The World Serpent and the being inside Michael merely changed the battlefield. They released the Curse on their homeground, tore it apart when the opportunity arose, and consumed it.

He couldn't tell whether the Curse managed to fight back or was ruthlessly torn apart, unable to resist. However, he sensed that something altered when the being inside him and the World Serpent consumed the Curse.

The first thing he noticed was that his back didn't hurt anymore. He also stopped bleeding. But the Cursed Seals were still active...and more were being unleashed...

As the two beings inside Michael consumed the Curse, the shackles restraining the fifth Cursed Seal were tore into shreds. The fifth Cursed Seal was smaller than the rest, but it was being nourished. Something nourished it until it was as big as the other Cursed Seals.

After that, Michael gained access to a second Serpent Seal. However, it was not like the World Serpent granted Michael access to it on its own. It felt like something about his connection with the World Serpent changed. It didn't feel like the being behind the Cursed Seals, but it was getting closer.

In the first place, Michael's connection with the World Serpent wasn't the only thing that altered after they consumed the Curse. Michael's relationship with his Curse had changed as well.

It was more intense than it used to be but also more amiable. Michael could tell that the Cursed Seals were still trying to overwhelm him and dominate his body to take control. However, Michael's understanding of the Cursed Seals and the being behind the seals augmented considerably.

His augmented understanding made it easier to control the Cursed Seals.

But did Michael want to control the Cursed Seals...or the being sealed inside him?

Chapter 693 Final Step

Evalynn thought she was aware of Michael's potential and power level, but she was sorely mistaken.

The extraction tendrils engulfing the Curse had been different before. They were stronger than they used to be. They were more than they used to be.

'It felt just like when I use the mist.' She thought.

The ominous mist was part of her being, yet it wasn't. Not exactly, at least. It was not only her power. The extraction tendrils at the end of the battle were just like that.

"You exorcised the – without killing...how?!"

Michael thought he was mistaken because he couldn't hear his mother's words. She was slurring and seemed to have a hard time speaking, and a bad headache crept up the back of her head.

Evalynn's mind drifted to the end of the battle when the serpent shot out of Michael's back. The memory surfaced, and the confusion permeating her mind intensified. She appeared behind Michael and stared at his back, where the Living Image of the World Serpent slithered calmly.

"You can control –...."

At last, the Geas was triggered. Evalynn Fang screamed in pain and began bleeding from her nose and eyes.

Evalynn had a lot to say, but she couldn't. Even if she wanted to say something, the Geas restrained her. Her legs caved in, and she smiled weakly. The headache caused by the Geas and the pain worsened her condition considerably.

Evalynn was weakened from using the Cursed Chain Circle, which had allowed her to restrain the Curse's power. It would take a while before she was back at her peak.

However, she was not sad about this. Evalynn expected to end up like this after promising to help Michael.

"Can you bring Danny back?" She asked, slightly hesitant.

It was not difficult to sense that Michael was more confident than ever about Danny's return, but Evalynn was still reluctant to believe it was possible. She didn't want to hope for her dear son's return only to be met with failure.

But Michael was confident. He could sense Danny's will to live, and there was no doubt that Danny would make it. The only thing Michael couldn't be sure of was Danny's condition.

"I'm certain," Michael answered right before Evalynn collapsed.

Michael caught his mother and smiled at her, "Thank you...

mom..."

He hated her for everything she had done to him and Danny, but Michael couldn't deny that their mother played a major role in the fight against the Curse. Without her help, Michael would have failed to separate the Curse from Danny.

Michael smiled vibrantly and used Cosmic Stride to teleport them to the best infirmary on the campus. Simultaneously, he used Archangel's Grace to stabilize his mother. She would be weak for a while, but there wouldn't be any permanent issues.

Michael stopped using Archangel's Grace after ten minutes and was just about to leave his mother's side to give her some rest when he saw that someone familiar appeared in the infirmary.

"I sensed your Shard. Well, it's my shard, but whatever."

Maria smiled lightly at Michael. It had been several months since they talked, and she couldn't hide the awkwardness. Even though she was the strongest healer of the Trilance, Maria couldn't help but sense the gap between her and Michael. No matter how she looked at it, Michael was on a different level than her.

Her mother said nothing specific about Michael except that he would never join the Seraph family. According to her mother, they didn't have anything Michael desired. Not even their monopoly of powerful healers was attractive to Michael. Maria learned enough about Michael to understand that he was probably one of the wealthiest Lords among the Lesser Lifeforms. Some Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs shared rumors that Michael provided them with high-quality goods. The value of the goods was higher than the earnings of many Higher Lifeforms.

According to some statistics, even some minor noble households earned less than Michael. The credibility of those statistics was never 100%, but most could be trusted.

"Archangel's Grace is a powerful Soultrait. I'm glad that it found the right owner," Michael smiled back at Maria.

He didn't know what to say to Maria. Michael had often thought about his friends in the last few months, but Danny had always been a priority. That was even more so right now.

His brother's Living Soul was still in the Miniature Coffin Keychain. It was cracked and would crumble into countless pieces soon.

There was no time to chit-chat with an old friend.

"How have you bee—..." Maria asked, only to be interrupted by Michael.

"I'm terribly sorry, but I have to go. I need to resurrect my brother!"

Michael's words resounded through the infirmary before he disappeared. He used Cosmic Stride to teleport back to his room where he opened the Runic Gate to return to the Origin Expanse.

He needed a place filled with both origin energy and lifeforce, and the Untamed Jungle became perfect for that.

It was time to finish what he started. It was time to rescue his brother!!

As Michael returned to the Origin Expanse, Maria stared blankly ahead. Michael didn't even have enough time to talk to her for a few seconds. They saw each other for the first time in months, yet Michael disappeared after a few seconds.

"I believed we were friends..." She mumbled, the corner of her lips tucking downward. Sadness washed over her.

"Do I mean something to him? Probably not... Though, it looked like he was in a hurry. Maybe the timing was bad. His mother doesn't look that good either. She is exhausted, but there is something else that is missing as well," Maria cast a glance at Michael's mother.

"Mother said that Michael's mother is probably the closest human in the Trilance to ascend to a Divine Lifeform. I cannot sense her strength, but she seems too weak right now."

Maria became unsure what happened, but she gave Michael the benefit of the doubt. Michael was indeed in a hurry because of something extremely important. It must be related to his mother's exhaustion and his brother's resurrection.

"Wait... Isn't his brother dead?" Maria blurted aloud, her beautiful complexion contorting in confusion.

'What are you doing, Michael?!?'

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Michael didn't know anything about Maria's confusion. He was a bit sorry that he had left her just like that, but Danny was more important to him.

He rushed to the Greater Nature Spirit, where he retrieved the Energy Stones and Life Essence, which he had accumulated for a while now. The Life Essence had been nourished in a small cove within the Greater Nature Spirit's tree trunk, where it became condensed and liquefied.

Michael perceived life's waft permeate the air around the Greater Nature Spirit. He grinned from one ear to another while unleashing the Dome of Extraction to tap into the life force and hundred thousand Energy Stones simultaneously.

At last, as the energy and life force flooded his entire being, Michael accessed the Miniature Coffin Keychain.

The keychain could not contain the power Michael channeled into it...and burst.

At this point, Michael only has seconds to grasp the Living Soul and insert it into the Soul Grimoire without inflicting any injuries.

Michael became not allowed to make a single mistake!

Chapter 694 Voice

A bead of sweat trickled down his temples as he contained Danny's Living Soul with True Extraction. Michael couldn't afford to make a single mistake. The pressure weighing on his being was tremendous. He could barely endure it without collapsing.

A bad headache crept up the back of his head, but Michael managed to overcome it. He saw the fragments of the Miniature Coffin Keychain sprawled on the ground left and right and knew that he couldn't insert the Living Soul back into it if something went wrong.

'I can do it!' He told himself.

'I have to!!!'

His Cursed Seals trembled slightly. They didn't try to consume Michael or control him; instead, they were trying to tell him something.

Michael closed his eyes instinctively and focused on the Cursed Seals. Several pathways inside him began to shimmer, almost like the Cursed Seals were trying to guide him.

The Living Soul writhed in Michael's grasp. He frowned deeply, the worry in his face intensifying.

'True Extraction alone is insufficient to contain and stabilize the Living Soul. I was too confident. No. I can still do it!'

He let the Cursed Seals guide him. The Soul Power accumulated within the Extraction Soultrait transformed slowly into Soul Energy. It was channeled to the Extraction Symbol to strengthen Extraction's power temporarily. Thereafter, the Soul Energy circulated through his body, activating a Soul Technique Michael never heard of.

The world around him seemed to change. The essence of the Untamed Jungle was laid out in front of him.

The Greater Nature Spirit before him swayed and moved as gusts overflowing with energy and life force brushed past it. It seemed to exclaim in excitement, its branches swaying rhythmically. Simultaneously, the Forest Pixies and Dryads hummed in a whisper as they revolved around the massive tree trunk of the Greater Nature Spirit.

The surroundings were shrouded in millions of tiny, sparkling motes. They reflected the sunlight and glimmered brightly, casting a golden hue through the vicinity.

It was a magical moment that was etched on the minds of those who passed by. They had never seen such beautiful scenery and stopped to observe nature's beauty a little bit longer.

It didn't take long before the spectators noticed a young man in the center of the beauty. He smiled from one ear to another, a single tear trickling down his cheeks.

Michael was too focused on the Living Soul to take note of the surrounding's beauty. The golden wisp compressed and contained by Extraction's tendrils consumed Michael's attention.

Michael infused the surrounding origin energy and life force into the golden wisp until it no longer threatened to disperse in all directions. Once the golden wisp had been stabilized, Michael didn't waste

any more time. He summoned the Soul Grimoire and finished the last preparations to insert the Living Soul into it.

He converted a portion of his Soul Power into Soul Energy and used Perfect Insertion, the Elite Class Soul Technique he'd created for this purpose.

Michael couldn't afford to make a mistake, so Perfect Insertion was used to unlock more of Insert's potential.

The golden wisp resisted Michael for a moment. However, upon sensing his energy fluctuations, the wisp stopped all attempts to block Michael's actions. Michael managed to grasp the golden wisp in its entirety using Perfect Insertion. He inserted it into the Soul Grimoire once he was confident that he didn't miss a speck of the Living Soul and that the Soul Grimoire could contain the entire Living Soul.

Michael's heart palpated like there was no tomorrow. He nibbled on his lower lip and observed the Living Soul intently as it was inserted into the Soul Grimoire.

Michael felt that his soul grew heavier as the Living Soul entered the Soul Grimoire. It was like the weight on his soul doubled. Even the toll of the Cursed Seals didn't seem as heavy as the Living Soul that weighed heavily on his soul.

'Good thing that my soul is stronger than the norm.' Michael thought, happy that his Curse put enough pressure on his body, mind, and soul to temper them since birth.

He didn't like the Curse and the Cursed Seals' influence on him, but it would have been a lie if he said he wasn't grateful for it.

The Living Soul entered the Soul Grimoire, filling it to the brim. Even if Michael wanted to store more souls in the Soul Grimoire, Danny's Living Soul occupied everything. In fact, Michael could tell that the Living Soul was in a tight space and that it was a little bit too cramped. Fortunately, Michael had enough SoulStar Fragments to upgrade Soul Grimoire's star rating slightly.

There was no need to upgrade Soul Grimoire to 7-Star, but Michael spent 30,000 SoulStar Fragments to give Danny's Living Soul more space. That was the least he could do.

After upgrading it a little to inspect the Living Soul, Michael centered on the Soultrait Symbol of Soul Grimoire. It squirmed inside the Soul Grimoire but didn't try to break out of the narrow space. If Michael didn't know better, he would think that the Living Soul knew what had happened. But that should be impossible, right?

Michael was exhausted and retracted True Extraction once his mission was over. He also stopped utilizing Perfect Insertion.

His back was drenched in sweat, but Michael didn't care. He smiled from one ear to another while prying into the Soul Grimoire. He succeeded. He extracted Danny's Curse, pulled his Living Soul out of the Miniature Coffin Keychain without harming him, and prepared a decent environment to preserve and nourish Danny's Living Soul.

The only tasks left to resurrect his brother were to find or create a suitable vessel and nourish his Living Soul so that it could transfer him into the vessel once the time was ripe.

His eyes were wet, and it was only a matter of seconds before tears streamed down his cheeks.

He didn't care who might see him or what others thought of him. Michael was just too Happy.

Something tugged at the back of Michael's head, taking him by surprise. At first, he thought it was the World Serpent, but he wasn't prepared to hear a familiar call resound in his mind.

[Michael...]

Michael halted in his tracks at once. His hair stood up to its end, and his eyes widened in shock.

"DANNY?!?"

Danny's call resounded in his head. A shudder ran down his spine, but a vibrant grin formed on his lips.

He recalled the message the Will gave him a long time ago.

—May the Star with the greatest accomplishments shine the brightest. May his light ignite the embers of the perishing star from anew. May his Cursed Soul bend fate as he pleases. —

The golden mots filling the vicinity intensified as golden tears trickled down his cheeks.

"Danny!! Speak to me!!"

The Soultrait Symbol of Reinforced Sword Qi resonated with Michael's wish. It tremored wildly inside the Sphere of Light as the golden light surrounding Michael turned brighter by the second.

[Is that really you, Michael? I...D-didn't I die in the Lord Rift protecting you?]

Danny's call rang out in Michael's head once again.

[Don't tell me that you died as well? That cannot be. Please don't let it be true...]

Michael would have smiled even brighter if that was possible. The river of tears couldn't be stopped anymore.

"I'm still alive, brother..." Michael chocked.

"Welcome back!"

Chapter 695 Brothers

Michael shuddered uncontrollably as Danny's voice continued to reverberate in his head. There was no doubt. Danny was back!

His heart began to beat wildly, and he started loosening it. Michael began to weep like a little kid. That was unlike him, but Michael couldn't help it. His brother returned!

[Why are you crying? And where am I? It's not possible to get summoned twice. What happened?]

Daniel was more composed than Michael. He had always been. However, Daniel Fang was also confused. It shouldn't be possible for him to talk to Michael right now. He was dead, and Michael was alive.

The period after he died the second time was confusing. He could remember something happening, but Danny was unsure what that was. It was almost as if some memories had been ripped out of his head.

"I'm just happy that you're back," Michael said, trying to control his stream of tears.

He stopped crying after a few minutes but continued smiling from ear to ear.

"After you died in the Lord Rift, I was rewarded with your Soultraits and a Miniature Coffin Keychain that contained your Living Soul. I didn't know about that until mom returned to take your soul to throw you back into the reincarnation cycle. I couldn't accept that and decided to bring you back on my own," Michael stopped momentarily, trying to find the right words.

"I sensed that you were unwilling to depart into the afterlife, so...I nourished your Soul in the keychain and removed the Curse that threatened to devour you with Mother's help before storing you in one of my Soul Traits. Once your soul regains its full power, I will put you into a suitable vessel, resurrecting you properly."

Michael figured that most of the things he said would be too much for Danny to handle, but the words flowed out of his mouth like a river. Michael could barely seal his lips when he noticed that his brother hadn't said anything for a while.

[Mother...returned?]

"Oh. Yeah... She came back, but it's not because she missed us," Michael sighed deeply. He recalled the day his mother returned and shook his head.

"I'm not sure if you'll like what I have to say, but you want to hear it, right?"

[Tell me, Michael. Tell me everything about mother.]

Michael smiled sadly. He had already been in so much pain because of their mother. His brother didn't have to suffer like him. That wasn't necessary.

Michael didn't want to hear his brother's sad voice or how hurt he was merely a few minutes after they reunited. Unfortunately, he knew Danny better than most. His brother would torment him until he revealed everything.

"Alright. I will tell you..."

In the next 30 minutes, Michael told his brother everything he knew about his mother, the Geas, the Nest, his encounters with his mother, and everything she said to him. He didn't change a single word she said.

[She didn't even apologize for leaving you behind?]

"...for leaving us behind..." Michael uttered in a whisper.

He cleared his throat and forced a smile, "But she helped me remove your Curse. I hate acknowledging it, but I wouldn't have made it without her."

[I'm glad that you've grown stronger. I was certain that my life was over, but it looks like your power grew enough to affect the Origin Expanse. I'm proud of you, brother!]

Michael had sensed Danny's will to live in the past, but he was relieved to hear that his brother wasn't mad. Their family was a mess, but at least the brothers could depend on each other.

[But it feels like mother's situation is not that simple. The Geas prevents her from revealing certain information, yet she still revealed some information that may come in handy. She tried to ignore the Geas to tell you important information.]

It was like it used to be. Daniel Fang was the more reasonable of the brothers. He was Michael's voice of reasoning and the reason Michael could stay composed now that he thought about his mother.

[Forget about mother for a moment. How have you been? Are you doing fine? Are you still in the Untamed Jungle, or did you move elsewhere? Do you have many enemies, or did you avoid conflicts?]

Michael broke into a genuine smile upon hearing his brother's questions. It was nice to hear Danny's voice and concern again. He missed it.

The rest of the day passed in the blink of an eye. Michael informed his brother about the Untamed Jungle, the Zentika Empire, his fights with the Zentika Empire's army, the Kitsun Lord, and his trouble with the Savannah Region.

Michael didn't let out any details. He answered Danny's questions and told his brother all about his Soultraits, the Cursed Seals, the Winged Serpent, and his friends. Danny asked a lot about Michael's female friends. It felt like Danny interrogated his younger brother about his potential love interests, but Michael only shrugged.

He could say that he wasn't interested in any of the women he had gotten to know since he manifested his War Rune, but Michael was unsure if that was the case. Michael didn't pay much attention to dating because he had been too busy with his work as Lord. At first, he struggled to grow stronger, only to lose his brother suddenly. He managed to get back onto his feet, but things changed with Danny's death.

Michael was so focused on getting stronger and struggling to survive against the never-ending waves of enemies that he started to neglect his friends.

Thinking about his friends, Michael felt guilty. Recalling Maria's particular behavior, he felt even worse. Only now did he realize that Maria might be interested in him. Or she had been interested.

"Do I like her though?" Michael mumbled.

Maria was bound to become the strongest healer in the Trilance—maybe she was already the best healer. Yet, instead of being arrogant and full of herself, Maria was genuinely nice. She cared about the people surrounding her and would do her utmost to help them.

But that didn't mean Michael liked her romantically.

He liked Maria's kindness and genuine care. It was great that she wasn't arrogant. However, that didn't mean there was a spark between them. The Soultrait Shard of Archangel's Grace didn't mean anything either. It meant that their Soultraits were compatible, which was not further difficult because Michael was compatible with all Soultraits. At least, that's what he guessed.

Being her Primal Amplifier was not equivalent to being her destined lover.

[Do you think about someone more often than others? Who are you the most thankful for? Is there someone you wish to repay, no matter the cost? Even if it inconveniences you...you would do all for them?]

'Are you my wedding counselor or what?!' Michael was about to ask, but his lips were sealed. He thought about Danny's question seriously for a moment and shrugged.

"Do you wish to find out if there is someone as important to me as you are?" Michael frowned, "There is nobody like that—..."

An image formed in his mind, and his frown deepened.

[There is someone. I knew it!!]

"Danny!"

[Yeah?]

"Shut up!"

[...]

Michael fell deep in thought. The person he'd imagined was not yet as important as Danny. However, Michael had to acknowledge that he would do a lot to repay her for all she had done to help him.

Did that mean that he liked her?

'Alice? Really?' Michael wondered, 'Do I like her?'

Chapter 696 Danny, The Blabbermouth

Michael was glad that his brother was back, but it was confusing to hear Danny's voice in his head all the time. It felt like Danny had transformed into his voice of reasoning and the king of gossipers.

The reassuring voice asking for gossip made it feel like Michael had a second personality, telling him to stay calm and focus on...gossiping.

Michael was not a fan of gossiping, but it was a nice change to fool around for once. It was entirely out of character, but that was how the accumulated tension dispersed quickly.

The brothers talked the whole night about their lives, family, and gossiped about everyone Michael had gotten to know since he manifested the War Rune. Daniel Fang learned a lot about his younger brother. Even after the night had elapsed and the first sunrays shone through the window in Michael's room, Danny had more questions and doubts to be answered.

Daniel Fang was incredibly curious about Michael's life, and Michael was so happy about his brother's return that he didn't even think about hiding something. However, Michael was also confused at times.

Did he like Alice? He rarely thought about his feelings, especially romantic feelings, but he had to acknowledge that he felt more about Alice Zenovia than Zeke and Lincoln. He was always happy to see her whenever he returned from the Origin Expanse.

It was weird.

At some point, he would have to face his feelings head-on to determine whether he liked her or was just thankful for her help.

But what would he do if he liked her? Would he approach her once he was sure of his feelings? Did she like him as well?

Michael scratched his head, unsure of the answer. The discomfort in his heart grew, and he felt helpless. Unfortunately, the discomfort didn't originate from a monster. He couldn't slay his feelings like a monster to get rid of them.

[I'm glad that you didn't change.] Danny said at one point.

"What are you talking about? I changed a lot... I think," Michael responded with a frown.

[Yes...but no. You changed a lot, but your core is still the same. You are still the same Michael who gets flustered easily. It was always easy to read your emotions. You're the worst at hiding how you feel. As for your temper...well...let's not talk about it.] Danny snickered lightly, only for Michael to groan.

His brother was a menace. To Michael's misery, he loved his brother more than anything.

"So what? Showing my emotions means that I cannot lie. I'm an honest man!" Michael grumbled.

[Yeahhhh, of course. You are definitely not a hot-tempered troublemaker. That's not one of your trademarks~] Danny teased.

Michael responded to Danny's teasing.

"Maybe I should seal you in the Soul Grimoire until I find a suitable container for you..."

[You want to imprison me after I've been stuck in this shithole for eons?!? How cruel!!!] Danny cried out in Michael's mind.

"Urgh. Aren't you the older brother? Why are you throwing a tantrum?!"

Michael smiled vibrantly and could feel the happiness permeating his brother's Living Soul as well. The brothers were happy to be back together. It was a miracle.

[But on another note. Are you certain that you want to build a new body for me? I don't think finding a suitable container for me will be easy. I also felt weak after you extracted the Curse. I cannot say for sure, but I think I'm too weak to survive outside your Soul Grimoire for now.]

Danny's tone changed. He suddenly became more serious, forcing Michael to put his happiness aside for a moment.

"I've already thought of multiple solutions. The easiest solution would be to contact one of the mechanical races. You told me about them a few times. They have souls even though they're machines—well, partial machines, but that doesn't matter. I think it should be possible to create a suitable vessel with the knowledge of the mechanical races," Michael pointed out.

"Or I'll search for a suitable container among criminals. I can tell that you're disgusted at the thought of having me tear someone's soul out of their body for your sake. You don't want me to ruin an innocent soul to make space for yours. I understand that, but I will kill my enemies and countless criminals in the future, either way. If one of them has high compatibility with your soul...I won't hesitate to tear that soul apart to insert yours."

Danny remained silent for a while. Various thoughts flashed through his mind. Michael transformed more than he'd expected.

[That seems...fair. But make certain that I will be as handsome as I used to be. It would be even better if I were more handsome, though I'm not sure if that's even possible!]

"Shut up," Michael responded with a smile.

His brother accepted his plan – if one could call it such. It wasn't much, but it was one step in the right direction.

Now that he had ensured Danny's survival, it was time to nourish his Living Soul and search for a suitable vessel. That wouldn't be easy, but Michael never expected it to be easy in the first place. That was totally fine. It was not Michael's first rodeo.

A few minutes of silence passed. Everyone was in their world of thoughts, wondering about various things, until Danny resurfaced in Michael's mind.

[What do you think will happen now?]

Michael tilted his head, unsure what his brother wanted.

[You uttered that my Curse looked like a Tiger and that Mother also considered the World Serpent a curse. Doesn't that mean all curses are mythical creatures or something like that? You also mentioned that unsealing more Cursed Seals affects your emotions. The Curse tries to influence you. What will you do about that?]

"The cursed Seals and the World Serpent didn't bother me since I devoured your Curse. It feels like devouring the Curse brought us closer. They are more part of my being than they used to be. That feels...weird but not bad. The Curse is more amiable than before. However, I'm not certain if devouring your Curse temporarily satisfied the Curse's hunger or if something else changed."

Michael could use five Cursed Seals without being greatly affected. That didn't mean the Cursed Seals lost their influence on Michael; it was just that their influence was less potent now. The Curse didn't bother him much at this point.

The only thing that bothered him was that the World Serpent was radio silent. He'd hoped that it would resurface and talk to him, but there was nothing like that.

Meanwhile, Danny was the complete opposite. It seemed like the time he spent in...nothingness...transformed him.

Daniel Fang was a blabbermouth.

Putting that 'issue' aside, Michael was quite satisfied. But he was a little surprised when the Soul Grimoire consumed a bunch of SoulStar Fragments to keep Danny's Living Soul stable and nourish him just enough to ensure that Danny wouldn't sustain any harm in the Soul Grimoire.

Dozens of SoulStar Fragments were consumed every day.

That seemed like a lot at first glance, but it was not that much considering that the criminals sent by the Valyr were more than enough to cover that expense tens of times.

Michael's goal to resurrect his brother properly was grand, but the good thing was that he didn't have a deadline anymore. Michael could gauge how many SoulStar Fragments he had to accumulate to nourish Danny's Living Soul to its prime state and how many Fragments the Living Soul needed to be transferred into a different vessel.

The Soul Grimoire's space was also a bit too tight to nourish the Living Soul, but that could be solved by eventually upgrading It to 7-Star.

To sum it up, Michael had to collect a shitload of SoulStar Fragments to complete Danny's Living Soul and upgrade Soul Grimoire once again.

Fighting more Awakened would solve that issue quickly, but Michael did not plan to search for more enemies in the Origin Expanse. He was more interested in growing stronger and expanding his territory.

Michael was unwilling to endanger his territory. Fortunately, he didn't have to attack anyone in the Origin Expanse. A few months earlier, the perfect opportunity to harvest SoulStar Fragments had already unveiled itself in front of him.

The next Interdimensional Flag War was waiting for Michael!

Chapter 697 Soloing?

The Tekur race was Michael's perfect Target. Their population was high, and they didn't consider the Interdimensional Flag War with the Tritan Alliance important.

The Tekur deployed to the pocket dimension were ordinary Soldiers and many Elite Soldiers. They were Lords with millions of Summons, but that was not enough to transform their weak Soultraits into supreme abilities. Of course, the Tekur were physically stronger than ordinary humans, and it was unusually hard to kill them because they had Soul Techniques, but Michael was not worried about that.

He had his Soul Techniques and was stronger than any Elite Tekur. After all, only Lesser Lifeforms could enter the pocket dimension when the Flag War started.

Michael hoped that more Elite Tekur would be deployed to this year's Interdimensional Flag War because more Tekur than usual died last year. He guessed the Tekur would deploy a hundred Elite Tekur to the pocket dimension. That would be perfect.

Michael was tens of times stronger than he used to be last year. He could deal with the 1000 Tekur deployed to the Interdimensional Flag War alone and harvest their SoulStar Fragments and Soultraits while they were alive to increase his gains. Adding Soul Tears of 6-Star Soul Grimoire and five Cursed Seals to amplify 7-Star Extraction, Michael was certain to make big gains.

Michael would also acquire more Memory Orbs from the Tekur, improving his understanding and knowledge of Elite Class Soul Techniques considerably.

"Will they allow me to fight the Tekur alone if I offer to get rid of the Dimensional Portal?" Michael wondered aloud.

He was fairly sure that the War Priestess and the Chieftain were already preparing for the Flag War. It was also likely that they understood how much the result of the last Flag War would influence the

Tekur's actions. Last year, they deployed more Elite Soldiers to the Flag War than the year before, yet they sustained more casualties than the previous years. It was only logical to think that the Tekur would change their tactic and deploy even more Elite Tekur this year.

Killian and others who'd been held back from ascending to Higher Lifeforms the year before wouldn't participate in this year's Flag War. Others would replace them as the strongest Descendants and Champions to deal with the Tekur, but it was still questionable if they were strong enough to fight hundreds of Elite Tekur. Their chances of survival were bound to be low.

Michael decided to make use of that.

Michael had many things to do in the Origin Expanse, but he employed people to take care of various things. He didn't have to stay in the Origin Expanse to observe every step to ensure that his territory would develop, and he was not worried about that. He trusted his subjects and the Awakened to work for him.

He could leave the Origin Expanse for a while, and that was exactly what he did once he finished talking to his brother. Either way, they had to look for Evalynn Fang. Danny wanted to talk to his mother.

Michael stepped through the Runic Gate and returned to the Saphirelake Military Academy. He was still in his room but activated Spirit Eyes with a few Enhancement layers to find his mother's energy fluctuations.

"You can't sense the surroundings anymore, right? Can you access the Spirit Eyes Symbol?" Michael asked his brother.

Danny could tap into the power of Soul Grimoire to sense the souls in the surrounding area. The surrounding souls were usually connected to the energy permeating the air. It was possible to visualize his surroundings with some tricks. However, there wasn't enough energy in the Saphirelake Military Academy. Danny had issues 'seeing' anything.

[Your territory makes everything a little bit easier. This place is a bit worse. I can try to access Spirit Eyes, but I'm not sure if that's a good idea. It might hurt you.]

"Give it a try. I will block you out once it hurts."

Michael was fine with discomfort. He could help his brother see something via Spirit Eyes as long as his invasion didn't permanently harm his eyes. It would be bad if he lost his eyesight or if his eyeballs exploded, which was certainly the last thing Michael wanted to happen.

Michael shuddered for a moment. He imagined his eyeballs exploding and instinctively upped his guard against invaders. Danny had to tug at the back of his head to make him lower his guard once again.

Michael took a deep breath before he allowed his brother's Living Soul to access the Spirit Eyes Symbol through the Sphere of Light.

The Sphere of Light, also known as the Soul Sphere, connected all Soultraits. Usually, it wouldn't be possible for a soul stored inside the Soul Grimoire to access the Soul Sphere, but Michael reduced his guard to the extreme. The Living Soul in the Soul Grimoire could muster enough strength to release a tendril of energy and access Spirit Eyes.

Michael felt like something crawled through his body. It was incredibly uncomfortable, but he endured the discomfort without blocking Danny.

[I can see!]

His brother exclaimed after a few minutes, only for Michael to grumble in a whisper.

"G-great..."

Daniel Fang could observe through Michael's eyes. To be precise, he could see through Spirit Eyes.

Danny could not see as well as Michael. Everything was a bit fuzzy and distorted, but it was far better than being blind all day. Danny's access to Spirit Eyes forced Michael to keep using Spirit Eyes. The energy consumption was a bit bothersome, but Michael was generous enough to retrieve an Inferior Energy Stone to drain some of the stored energy whenever his energy storage was about to be drained.

"I can't find Evalynn. She is not in the infirmary. Let's talk to Stone to drain some of the stored energy whenever his energy storage was about to be drained.

Kraft Viton first. I need to finish my business with the Flag War first before we start hunting our mother," Michael said lightly, only to hear his brother snicker in his mind.

[Hunting our Mother. Hah. I never thought that this day would happen.]

"So, you expected that you would torment me with your constant blabbering in my head...as a Living Soul?"

[Well...not really. I never expected that either. But it's not as bad as you think. I'm glad that you managed to bring me back. You didn't even cause trouble while rescuing me...other than fighting Mother, I mean.]

Michael smiled and locked onto Kraft Viton's energy. He found him earlier as he searched for Evalynn, so he utilized Cosmic Stride to jump through space several times. He appeared in a foreign office with a plop. He smiled lightly as he found the representatives of the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs, who had been dispatched to the Saphirelake Military Academy.

He also discovered Alice Zenovia, Oliver Zeus, and a few other professors.

The corner of Alice's lips tucked upward upon seeing Michael, but he couldn't look into her eyes. After the all-night talk with his brother, Michael couldn't help but feel awkward around Alice. She noticed that he avoided her eyes in surprise but declared nothing. The corners of her lips twitched and curled into a thin smile.

'I hate you, Danny!' He cursed his brother, who burst into a bright laughter in Michael's head.

[I love you too.]

Chapter 698 Proposal?

'What is wrong with you?' Alice nearly blurted aloud when she saw that Michael had avoided her.

'Did I do something wrong? No. He would confront me in that case. He isn't shy, either. Why is he ignoring me?'

Michael didn't blush or anything like that, but it wasn't hard to tell that Michael was awkward and nervous. That was abnormal for Michael. Alice had never seen Michael like that. She had to know why Michael acted like that!

Alice was just about to say something when Michael cleared his throat. He avoided Alice's intense stare and smiled lightly at the other professors.

"I'm sorry for barging into your meeting. I noticed my master's energy fluctuations and didn't realize that he was not alone in the room. I hope that I didn't startle anyone," Michael apologized profusely. His eyes lingered longer on the representatives of the Berserkers and the Warlock Centaurs, who responded with a curt nod.

"If something like that was enough to startle us, we wouldn't have lived this long. The battlefield would have consumed our corpses already!" The Berserkers said sternly.

"That's good to know," Michael said, his attention pulling to Kraft Viton. He had no idea what kind of meeting this was, but it was helpful to have everyone gathered.

"I have a proposal to make," He told Kraft Viton. It's about the Flag War."

Kraft Viton raised an eyebrow upon hearing what his student said, but he gestured him to proceed, "Today's meeting is held to solve a few issues between the members of the Tritan Alliance. Either way, someone would have mentioned the Flag War sooner or later."

"I want to close the Dimensional Portal. I will destroy the Dimensional Pillars and remove the threat of the Tekur's invasion," Michael announced, "My only condition is that I want to enter the isolated dimension alone."

Kraft Viton was the first to raise his hand, ready to say something, but he recalled how much stronger Michael had grown. He glanced at Oliver Zeus and Alice Zenovia. Rumors said that Oliver Zeus was

injured in a spar with Michael. The rumors mentioned that Oliver Zeus went all out and that Michael managed to scratch him despite that.

A Low Tier-3 Lord managed to injure a Tier-5 powerhouse. That is definitely not something that should be possible. Maybe, if the Tier-5 powerhouse was rusty from not fighting for several decades, or if they had been crippled, thus losing the majority of their combat prowess, but Oliver Zeus was a Descendant—a powerful one at that.

Michael was overflowing with confidence as he endured the intense stares of the room's powerhouses. He smiled calmly and made eye contact with all of them. The only one he skipped was Alice, which was even more reason for the daughter of the Zenovia household to think that something was wrong.

"I think that's a good idea. The last Flag War was troublesome. We managed to eliminate some traitorous households but didn't find all the Descendants who betrayed the Tritan Alliance. I'm not comfortable about sending my students into the isolated dimension where more traitors might surface," Oliver Zeus acknowledged reluctantly.

He didn't want to accept the bitter truth, but Michael was powerful. To put it simply, Michael Fang was a monstrosity. He could easily solve their problems with the Tekur race.

Alice agreed, too. "We can search for the remaining traitors while Michael clears the isolated dimension."

Michael glanced at her for a moment. He smiled lightly, attracting Alice's attention. She stared intently at him once again, her eyes speaking to Michael. 'What the hell is wrong with you? Are you sick?'

That was impossible for Michael to answer. He didn't know what was going on either.

"Our Awakened will become weaklings if they cannot even care for the Tekur. They need the isolated dimension to refine their bodies, minds, and understanding of their martial arts. Those who survived the Flag War came back stronger and more mature. I will recommend that the Chieftain reject your proposal," the representative of the Berserkers proclaimed.

Michael groaned inwardly, but his smile prevailed. He gained the others' attention with a simple gesture and pointed out the obvious.

"This year's Flag War will be more dangerous than all Interdimensional Flag Wars. Last year was already more dangerous, but the Tekur were beaten. Their Elite was killed, and the Dimensional Pillars were destroyed—some of them, at least. If they're truly interested in conquering the Tritan Alliance, they will deploy more Elite Tekurs this year," he said, all while turning more serious toward the Berserker's representative.

"Do you want to be responsible for the annihilation of your youngest generation? Do you want to be at fault for the death of all prodigies? If that's really what you think, you are more foolish than I expected."

Michael intentionally provoked the Berserker. The colossal Berserker jumped up from his large chair, hurling the massive chair through the room. He glared at Michael, his presence growing heavier by the second.

"How dare you underestimate my students and the teachings of the Berserkers just because you are a little bit stronger than your peers?! Since your parents did a miserable job teaching you manners, maybe I should take care of that now. Better late than never!"

Michael endured the presence. He didn't back off. Instead, Michael's eyes began to glow. The Cursed Seals manifested all over his body, unleashing the Extraction Aura. Michael focused the Extraction Aura to coat his body in a thick layer of True Extraction. Simultaneously, the Serpent Seals were unleashed. The World Serpent's presence burst out of him explosively, taking the powerhouses around him by surprise.

Michael's body cracked and crunched as if the bones in his body were smashed into oblivion, but his expression didn't falter. A vicious expression plastered his face as True Extraction merged with the heavy presence that flooded out of him like a broken dam.

"The Berserkers will never become truly powerful if they sacrifice their kin like their replaceable tools," Michael snorted, the pressure around him intensifying, "Dare to say another word about my family, and I will break your neck, Berserker!"

[Yup. A troublemaker. You're exactly like I remember you.] Danny declared.

Alice appeared next to Michael and grasped his left arm tightly.

"Calm down," She whispered, her gaze widening in shock when she sensed something ominous within Michael. The thing she sensed inside him was terrifying.

Alice Zenovia couldn't grip what she saw, but the thing...no. The being was terrifying. She swallowed hard and mentally prepared herself to jump into action if necessary. Something was not right.

However, Michael calmed down. He retracted the Extraction Aura and stopped using the Cursed Seals and Serpent Seals.

He glanced at Alice for a moment.

"Thanks."

"No problem," She sighed in relief, "It's good that you didn't go further. I don't want to fight you."

It was barely audible to the others, but Michael heard her clearly. Unfortunately, Danny also heard her.

[Michael~ What is going on there? Is that my future sister-in-

law? Good choice!]

'The moment you get your form back, I will punch you!'

Michael turned to the Berserker while blending out his brother's voice in his head.

"As much as we have to adjust to the ways of the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs, you will have to adjust to our traditions. Humans won't forfeit their prodigies to train them. Some might do that, but

we're not in a time that requires us to weed out the 'weakest' prodigies to create monsters. I won't allow you to sacrifice and endanger our people just because you want to use the Flag War as a training ground and graveyard for your kind," Michael declared, ignoring that the Berserker's representative held a higher position.

Michael couldn't care less about positions and social status at this point.

"If you, or anyone else, has a problem with that, send your strongest fighters to the arena and fight me," Michael's gaze glowed dangerously. I know your rites, and I'm aware of the War Goddess' Blessing. I'm also knowledgeable enough about your costumes to know that you won't run away from a battle."

Michael seemed to grow as he stood before the towering Berserker representative. He didn't budge a single inch.

"I can fight the other participants of the Flag War simultaneously. As long as I defeat them without help, you will have to accept my condition. The proposal was my attempt at being polite," A fiendish smile tugged on Michael's lips, "But I can be impolite if you dare me!"

Chapter 699 At Peace

Michael's words impacted heavily. Everyone in the room understood that Michael was serious. If necessary, he was willing to fight the 999 strongest Lesser Lifeforms of the Tritan Alliance to demonstrate how he would thrash the Elite Tekur in the

Interdimensional Flag War.

Alice was also impressed. She glanced at Michael, her eyes glimmering faintly.

"That was hot!"

It sounded like a statement, but Michael was not shocked about that. He was more surprised that he had heard Alice's thoughts. Michael's mind went blank in confusion. He stared at Alice, trying to understand what had happened, only to hear his brother bursting into crazy laughter.

'You activated Mind Reader?!?' Michael cursed in his mind as he realized what Danny had done.

Daniel didn't deny the accusation and continued laughing.

Michael pressed his lips together, swearing that he would beat the shit out of his brother once he had a physical body to punch and kick.

The Berserker representative was about to tell Michael that he shouldn't be too full of himself and that he better be careful with his words, but he said nothing. Michael's power burst, and his presence had been horrifying. It was shocking to think that a mere Lesser Lifeform managed to exude such terrifying pressure.

Even the Tier-5 powerhouses at the meeting would have to be careful if they collide with Michael. He was merely a Mid Tier-3 Lord, but nobody could be sure they could escape a life-and-death battle unscathed.

There was no doubt. Michael was stronger than his peers, and the older Lesser Lifeforms were considered heavenly prodigies all over the Tritan Alliance's territory.

"The Flag War is still a few months away. We can solve all issues related to the Flag War by then. There is no need to decide anything right now," Kraft Viton intercepted while throwing a meaningful glance at Michael.

"That's fine with me. I'm not in a rush, either. I only came to you to tell you about my proposal," Michael shrugged. And to tell you that I want to auction a dozen 3-Star Soultrait Symbols soon. There won't be any purchasable Soultrait Upgrades. Whoever manages to win the bids will have to contact me to learn about the price for further Soultrait Upgrades."

Kraft Viton frowned deeply when he heard what Michael said. It was no surprise that Michael was ready to sell more Soultrait Symbols again, but it was inconvenient that Michael announced this in the meeting. Everyone could tell that Michael was scheming.

Michael glanced at the Berserker representative, his eyes glimmering ice-cold.

"Your Clan will be blacklisted until the auction ends."

The room fell into utter silence at Michael's words.

"Oh shit." Someone murmured into the silence of the room.

Nobody could tell who it was, but that didn't matter. Michael announced what he had to announce. He ignored the Berserker, whose expression contorted and focused on Kraft Viton.

The old man sighed deeply.

"Is it my fate to attract troublemakers, or am I so bad at teaching my students that they transform into troublemakers?" He mumbled. [Michael has always been a troublemaker!]

Kraft Viton couldn't hear Danny's voice, but Michael could. He continued smiling.

"Check your sky messenger. I sent you a few reports about the Sacred Desert a few days ago. You might be interested in them," Kraft Viton tried to change the topic smoothly. However, Michael was not that interested in the Sacred Desert.

"The Sacred Desert? I will check the reports in a few days or weeks, whenever I have time, I guess."

He shrugged lightly and turned to the others. Kraft Viton took his nonchalant attitude by surprise. Michael didn't seem too interested in the Sacred Desert region anymore. Or was he just acting? Was it even possible to act that well?

In reality, Michael's desire for vengeance wasn't as strong as it used to be. His brother had returned to him. That was more important than vengeance.

Of course, Michael would kill those who ordered Danny's betrayal in the future, but there was no rush. Once he was strong enough, he could force everyone to travel to him and read their minds. Once he was

strong enough, the traitors of the Tritan Alliance would die miserably alongside those who schemed against him and his brother.

It would take a while before he reached that point, but that was perfectly fine. Michael had more than enough time to spare.

"I think I caused enough trouble for today."

Michael winked at the Berserker representative before thinking it was time to go. He had already crossed the line by barging into their meeting and proclaiming that he would end the Flag Wars forever. Even if he was confident that the Chieftain and the War Priestess thought like him, Michael knew he could have acted differently. A simple message to the Chieftain and the War Priestess would have been enough, but that wasn't fun.

Michael wouldn't have gone that far if the Berserker representative hadn't been such a jerk. However, it angered him that the representatives considered the sacrifice of hundreds of prodigies during the Flag War justified. The Trilance needed more Lords to expand. Sacrificing their best candidates before they'd grown up was certainly not the right way to nurture growth.

He nodded toward Kraft Viton and Alice before leaving the meeting hall. They resumed the meeting after the disturbance - Michael - left while Michael searched for Evalynn Fang.

Unfortunately, he couldn't find her no matter where he looked. Not even Spirit Eyes amplified with a Soul Tear and reinforced with 10 Enhancement layers was good enough to find her.

She was either far away from the Sapphirelake Military Academy or in the Origin Expanse.

"Sorry, Danny." Read the best novels at www.nextcorm.com

[No problem. I'm...not sure if I'm ready to meet her, either way. The last 24 hours have been a lot. Maybe it's better for everyone that I haven't had time to talk to her yet.]

Michael pressed his lips together. He was sure Danny's reunion with their mother would be better than his first encounter after ten years of abandonment. Nonetheless, Evalynn Fang wasn't an expert at caring for her children. She would mess up her reunion with Danny, Michael was sure.

On his trip through the Saphirelake Military Academy, Michael found Kaleb and Hiraku's energy fluctuations. Frederik was also nearby.

Since he had nothing better to do, he met with Kaleb. It had been a while since they got time to chat properly.

Michael teleported into the arena, finding Kaleb lying on the ground. The youngest offspring of the Zenovia family had been beaten black and blue.

"Did you challenge Hiraku?" Michael asked. He glanced at Hiraku, who towered before Kaleb.

"Maybe..." Kaleb uttered between two painful groans, "That might have been a little stupid."

"A little, yeah." Michael chuckled and accessed Archangel's Grace to tend to Kaleb's wounds.

Kaleb healed quickly and got up from the ground after a few seconds.

"Challenging Hiraku might not have been my smartest move," Kaleb announced without a shred of shame.

"You don't say? I expected you to beat the shit out of Hiraku after he ascended to a Higher Lifeform," Frederik teased Kaleb while trying hard to maintain his poker face. He smiled from one ear to the other. Watching Hiraku beat the crap out of Kaleb had been worth it.

Hiraku ignored Frederik and stared at Michael for a few seconds. He dispersed the Titan Spirit Soultrait and returned to his original appearance.

"I saw what you did yesterday."

Michael tilted his head but soon realized that Hiraku had talked about Danny's resurrection.

The corner of Hiraku's lips turned upward, transforming into an awkward smile.

"You are a good Lord and a good brother," He said sincerely.

It was the first time that Michael saw Hiraku smile properly. Even Frederik was surprised.

"Dude...you can smile?!"

Michael appeared before Frederik and flicked his forehead with some force.

"You need to learn when to keep your mouth shut."

Frederik smiled, embarrassed, while Kaleb chuckled lightly.

"I missed this," He blurted out, only for Michael to agree.

"Same here."

At last, Michael was at peace. The pressure weighing on him for the last few months was no more.

He finally had some time to spend as he pleased.

Chapter 700 Introducing

"What? A Lord has invaded your territory, and you had to go all-out to defeat him?" Michael asked with a teasing undertone, "That was about time. How did you even manage to spend a whole year without getting attacked or invaded?!"

Kaleb's lips parted as if he was ready to respond to Michael, but he shut his mouth a moment later when he heard Hiraku mumble behind him.

"Ridiculous. A 7-Star Soultrait alongside an Inheritance Technique, Legacy Arts, near-infinite resources, and he doesn't even have to face any powerful monsters or Lords for a year."

"Two years if we use the Origin Expanse's timeline," Frederik added.

Kaleb stared at the trio, his eyes narrowed to slits.

"Why are you teaming up against me?" He grumbled.

[You seem like an easy target, just like my brother~] Danny said in Michael's mind.

For once, Michael was happy that his brother couldn't use much origin energy in his current form. Danny's Living Soul was entwined with origin energy, but it was not enough to use Whispering Energy for a prolonged period. He would fall into a weakened state when using Whispering Energy for too long. Therefore, Danny didn't even think of wasting his precious bits of energy to talk to the others. Talking to Michael was enough for him.

"We're not teaming up against you," Michael retorted lightly, "It's just surprising that you weren't attacked until now. But that might be better for you. You have your family backing your territory development with resources. It's not the same in the Untamed Jungle. I had no resources and had to use the Untamed Jungle's resources to expand my territory. Only by dealing with the Lords and Awakened, who'd threatened to invade my territory, was it possible to grow this powerful."

Michael wasn't complaining. It was just that he never had much time to focus on his progress. He had yet to create custom Legacy Arts, Martial Arts, etc. The only time off he has had was during the last few months. Michael had been very busy with his territory and the creation of Soul Techniques, but he hadn't been attacked. His enemies were all dead, after all.

Michael imagined what would have happened if nobody attacked him for two years - Origin Expanse time. He was not sure how much weaker he would have been in that case.

Footsteps resounded behind Michael. The clattering of heels reached his ears.

Michael and his friends turned to the noise source and noticed Maria. She entered the arena, followed by her followers, Lincoln and Zeke.

Lincoln and Zeke approached Michael and the others right away. On the other hand, Maria gestured to her followers before she strode toward the group as well.

[So that's the other one?] Danny asked when Michael's eyes landed on Maria.

Michael had to use Spirit Eyes to show Danny the outside world, but he regretted that at this moment. The source of this content is (n o v.e.l) (n e x t) .c*m

[She is hot. Not bad, little brother. You're a charmer~!]

"Shut up!" Michael grumbled in a whisper.

Hiraku turned to Michael, one of his eyebrows lifted as if to ask; what is wrong?

"Nothing," Michael said in a hurry.

"The busiest Lord of the Tritan Alliance is blessing us with his presence," Lincoln teased Michael, pulling him in a firm hug, "Oh!

You've gained some muscles since I last saw you. Amazing! If you continue like this, my muscles will be less impressive than yours."

"You're a creep, Lincoln. Keep your muscle talk in your head. Nobody wants to hear it. Well, except the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. You can torment them with your constant talk about muscles." Zeke slapped Lincoln's broad back only to shake his head. "Don't infect Michael with your weirdness," He

declared before nodding to Michael, "Welcome back. I heard that you blacklisted Zigard Kelton from the next Soultrait Auction. Good job! The

Berserker representative has been annoying since he reached the Saphirelake Military Academy. I'm not sure why the Chieftain sent him. That Zigard is a menace and a real problem to the Tritan Alliance's relationship."

"Let's not talk about that," Maria intercepted with a faint smile. She looked at Michael with a trace of uncertainty, "You won't run away from talking to me this time...right?"

Michael felt a pang of guilt sweep through his entire being when he saw the pitiful gaze in Maria's eyes.

"I usually don't run away from anything. I told you that I was in a hurry. It was a life-and-death situation," He explained calmly, earning him a doubting expression from Maria.

"So, you're seriously trying to tell me you were serious when you said you'll resurrect your brother?" She asked loud enough for the others to hear.

"You wanted to resurrect your brother? Didn't he die a year ago? Is it possible to resurrect someone after such a long time?" Frederik asked, earning him a flick against the forehead from Hiraku.

"Oi, that hurt! What was that for?" Frederik complained, only to receive two more flicks against the forehead.

Frederik was about to grumble, but the others glared at him. They hardly ever saw someone as inconsiderate as Frederik, who was also a menace.

"Where do I start?" Michael asked himself lightly. He thought about it briefly before explaining what happened to his brother. He told his friends that Danny died in the Sacred Desert after a betrayal and that the Undead Pharaoh dealt the finishing blow. Michael continued by telling them about Masked Saber and how he died in the Lord Rift, exposing his identity as his brother moments before he was burned alive.

Michael had much to say, but the words escaped his lips like a broken dam. He didn't know how much time passed, but Michael finished explaining everything about the Miniature Coffin Keychain, Danny's Living Soul problem, and everything that had happened in the last few days.

Michael was comfortable talking about Evalynn Fang, Hesta, the Nest, and their family's Curse. He activated one Cursed Seal, resulting in the expansion of the Spirit Eyes' Stigma. The intricate pattern of the Cursed Seals covered most of his upper head. The pressure in the room intensified, and the Extraction Aura engulfing Michael grew stronger.

His friends sensed the tremendous power within the aura shrouding Michael and the change in his presence caused by the Cursed Seal.

"That...explains a lot," Zeke said, "But I have never heard about Curses like that. I know Soultraits that can Curse someone, but these curses are...different from this Curse."

Zeke pointed at the Cursed Seal and frowned deeply.

"Your family is messed up," Frederik merely said, earning another barrage of glares from the others.

[Frederik is a nice one. Keep this guy close to you. He will make sure that you're never bored.] Danny announced suddenly in Michael's head. Michael said nothing.