

The Mafia 611

Chapter 611 Conversation with Newton

A few minutes after talking to Benson, Vicente was facing Newton.

As he had already told Rory and Eve earlier, he had revealed the truth to that professor about him actually being Cesar Mazzanti.

Newton already had some suspicions, and thinking about it for a few moments, he could see that it made total sense. After seeing Vicente's current configuration of pentagrams and how strong this young man had become, there was no doubt left in this genius's mind.

He didn't take it badly that Vicente had kept it from him. Like Benson, Newton understood that Vice had a sister to protect and would do everything in his power to ensure that.

It wasn't his or anyone else's right to demand things of Vice!

So he was fine but also happy to finally discover the truth and see Cesar's, or rather Vicente's, growth more closely.

After processing the truth and analyzing Vicente's current powers, he sighed and said, "You are off the charts. Maybe you'll become as strong as vampires in the future."

Vampires were the most powerful beings on the continent. Some 3rd stage vampires could even handle fighting some of the weaker Paragons of the human race in these lands. But even one who was hunting Vice could handle a genius of the human race, who was stronger than him by a few levels.

That alone showed how terrible that race was!

However, Newton knew that Vicente had two essences of natural origin in his magical form, which would continue to evolve as he improved his strength and absorbed new pentagrams and special resources.

If one day his yellow pentagram turned green and the green pentagram in the second pentagram position turned cyan, he would probably achieve the same combat proficiency as a highly talented vampire!

"That would be nice." Vicente smiled as he sat down in an armchair in Newton's study room. "I hear that Demonix intends to put The Purification into action."

Newton wasn't surprised to hear that but rather by the fact that Vicente knew about it.

"So you've heard this news too? It is a big problem. The continent will need a lot of people like you to avoid the worst, Vicente." He commented in a tone that showed the situation was not good for magicians like them.

Vicente looked meaningfully at Newton. "That's why I need to make my family grow as much as possible over the next few years. If my plans work out, I might at least be able to defend the kingdom."

"I'll help you do that. I may not have fighting power, but I can facilitate collaboration between your family and the royal forces." Newton offered his help. "The king will certainly appreciate the help of a local force capable of saving his skin."

Newton didn't know the details of Vicente's family. But he was sure that Vice had faked Cesar's death and that the Fuller/Mazzanti family now had more influence and power than when they were in Millfall.

Vicente was already a Sovereign, and there were some High-level Mages associated with him who were part of his family and publicly known.

Through this, Newton could imagine this group growing over the next few years and becoming so strong that it could help the royal family protect this state.

The royal family forbade the formation of armies in the kingdom. Still, the forces of Vice would be so strong by then that the king would have no choice but to accept the Fuller family.

"That would be good." Vicente accepted Newton's offer of help. "I'm not trying to build a force to take other people's lands. I'm merely using my position to offer a service that is offered in many places in the kingdom but without the quality that my family guarantees."

But I have no interest in becoming king or acting publicly. The shadows of this state are much more comfortable. Make that clear to your monarch when the time comes."

"I know that. Don't worry. I'll speak on your behalf so that he sees you as an ally." Newton had already seen Cesar's actions exactly as Vicente had just said, so he had no reason to doubt him.

And the Mazzanti family's actions never really went directly against the army's objectives. In the few situations in which these two forces were on opposing sides, it was always because corrupt soldiers acted to please their supporters or their own interests.

"When do you plan to hunt your fourth pentagram?" He asked, imagining that this would play a very relevant role for Vicente after The Seven Day Tsunami when The Purification should generate problematic consequences for the continent.

"After Nina's awakening, when her situation becomes easier for us to analyze her future prospects." He was direct in his answer.

They were doing everything they could to help Nina overcome her difficulties and eventually awaken a magical power. But they would only know for sure whether or not she would succeed after she turned 14 and went through the Awakening.

Until then, there would be great uncertainty about her future.

Vicente planned to send her to the capital to study at the Seidel Magical College if she did awaken her abilities. By then, his family would be wealthy and large enough for him to no longer fear the royal forces, so it would be a safe and good place for her.

As weak as Seidel Kingdom was compared to the northern states of Polaris Realm, Seidel Magic College was very similar to institutions in other stronger states.

So, it would be a good place for her to develop her powers and abilities and eventually find her own way as a magician.

But if she didn't awaken any powers, her fate would be very different. Vicente would have to make completely different plans to ensure a more or less acceptable life for her.

Without magical powers, she probably wouldn't live more than 100 years, so he would have to find a good place for her to live in peace and perhaps find the love of her life and have a family. But that would depend a lot on her will, so this could become the most difficult of destinies for him to try to influence and protect her.

He preferred not to think about it too much at the moment, so he could only define his plans after she went through the Awakening. By then, he would have more information to choose his path and adjust his plans to Nina's condition.

"I see. That will leave little time for you to do this and for the consequences of The Purification to appear on the continent." Newton commented, but without trying to change Vicente's mind. "But it should also be time for you to prepare. Your next hunt will bring you face to face with a high-level Paragon or an Archmage. Are you prepared for that?"

Chapter 612 Communicating Allies

"No, how would I be?" Vicente commented bitterly.

Unlike other magicians, his journey was becoming more difficult and dangerous with every step he took to become stronger.

He was getting powerful very quickly and becoming increasingly difficult for magicians to beat. But his hunting times were becoming more difficult, too. The last time he went hunting, he had almost lost his life, and also Torne's life, in the process of killing that beast.

But on his next hunt, he might have to face one of the most cultivated beings in Polaris Realm!

Newton laughed when he heard Vicente's tone. "That's true. There's no way you could be prepared. But you need to do it in the next three years.

I won't be able to help you locate the area where you'll find your next pentagram like I did last time, but I'll see what I can do to help you. In any case, you'd better prepare a team to accompany you. That will improve your chances against the next magical creature that becomes your target."

"Hmm." Vicente nodded in agreement.

"You'll have to travel to the north of the continent to find a cyan pentagram. You'll have to look for lands marked by extreme natural phenomena related to your elemental affinities. That will be your clue to finding what you're looking for.

As for The Purification, I'll try to give you all the information I have, but you should focus on your other problems until Nina awakens. Even though The Seven Day Tsunami will happen after she turns 14, the effects of The Purification may take some time to reach the far north of the continent.

I'd say that the biggest problems would reach us about two years from the start of Demonix's action. That's the time you'll have to get stronger in your hunt. After that, the family and Nina may need you."

"I'll do my best to be back by then. But there's still a lot of water to pass under this bridge, professor." Vicente stood up, intending to leave. "Do you have any chance of becoming a Sovereign by then?"

Newton was already a High-level Mage, so Vicente was curious as to how strong this man would be during the crisis.

"It's hard to say." Newton was honest. "My great talent isn't related to my cultivation speed. I need a lot more time to advance than you do. And I'm not that young. So I can't say anything about that. It's not impossible, but the likelihood of me completing all the requirements by then isn't that great either."

"I see. If you want to speed things up by using resources, you can come to my family anytime. It's no use having a solid magical foundation if you don't have the power to defend yourself." Vicente said before leaving, leaving Newton thinking about those words.

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After leaving the Royal Academy, Vicente went straight to the local Awakening Temple, where he soon got permission to go to Nun Barber.

On arriving at the workplace where Jasmine was, Vicente bumped into Layla as she opened the door for him.

"Vicente, you're finally back, huh?" She looked at him meaningfully, seeing the man who had dominated her after weeks of waiting for him.

Vicente smiled at her and greeted her without telling Jasmine what they had together. "Good to see you're well, Layla. How was the trip back here?"

"It was pretty simple. Casey doesn't have the same level of bad luck as you, and his power is very convenient for warding off trouble." She said, remembering that when walking with Vicente, a 'black cloud' always seemed to follow them.

"I can imagine." He laughed, knowing this was probably the truth.

He then looked at Jasmine, the pink-haired woman he hadn't seen since his departure from Saltstar City.

Stopping in front of her, he kissed one of her cheeks before analyzing her strength.

"You're better than before, huh?" He smiled at her, seeing she had taken advantage of her opportunities as she was almost on the same level as Layla.

"Soon, you'll start fulfilling our agreement." He continued and asked. "When will you be promoted to a higher position?"

Jasmine smiled and said. "I don't know. Probably when I reach the peak of the 3rd stage, I'll be called to the kingdom's capital."

"Will you serve there before becoming a Sovereign?" He asked as he settled into Jasmine's well-decorated room.

Layla sat down next to her friend while Jasmine shook her head negatively. "Hardly. Our organization's main post is in the kingdom, so you'd think I'd go there, right? But the truth is, since I met you, I've progressed very quickly.

That probably won't happen in the future, but our organization doesn't know that." She looked at Layla and continued. "Soon, our superiors will look at our situation and think it would be a waste for us to stay here in the Seidel Kingdom.

If it took us 40 years longer to reach our current levels, we'd probably be directed to the Seidel Kingdom capital post when we got close to the 4th stage. But they'd be unlikely to do that as we're less than 30 years old and already close to that level.

So I think we'll be sent to some post outside the kingdom."

"Where do you think you'll be sent?"

"Probably to Kenyth Empire. But I can't be sure. We might even be sent to the organization's headquarters."

"That would make things better for us," Vicente commented. "In any case, we'll continue with our old arrangement wherever you go."

"I know that. Don't worry. I'll give you the information I have access to." She assured him, knowing that Vicente hadn't forgotten what he wanted by making a deal with her.

He nodded at her before changing the subject. "Did you investigate what Layla told you about while we were traveling?"

"Yes, I discovered some possible motivations for the monster sightings in this part of the continent." She said as a worried expression formed on her face, thinking about the possibilities she had discovered.

"Anything about The Purification?" He asked dryly.

She narrowed her eyes and asked in a grave tone, sensing a bad omen. "Where did you hear that?"

"I encountered other monsters before I reached the city. Monsters even stronger than the ones Layla and I saw." He said as the two women became more serious. "That led me to hear from a soldier of the kingdom and a monster about The Purification."

"If that's the case, then maybe the other possibilities I've had access to are wrong," Jasmine said as she turned a little pale, for The Purification was the worst of the worst motivations for the current situation.

If that was the explanation for these monster sightings in the south of the continent, chaos could soon reach these lands, and even Sovereigns would be at great risk!

Chapter 613 Fulfilling Responsibilities

"What are we going to do?" Layla asked in a worried tone.

She also knew about The Purification. Their organization kept a close watch on vampires, and even their less relevant members had information about some legends and concerns regarding them.

Vicente said. "We don't have many options apart from strengthening ourselves and improving our control over the city, the province, and the kingdom. But if that really is the problem, and I feel it is, we have to be prepared for a difficult situation."

"We need to call for reinforcements from our organization's headquarters," Layla suggested as she looked at Jasmine.

Vicente commented. "It's not going to happen, Layla. Do you think that, amid such a crisis, the Congregation of Revelations will send experts to us in the weakest area of the continent?"

"He's right. We're alone in this problem." Jasmine commented as she remembered that she was due to be promoted very soon. But then she asked, "What if I'm sent to the focus of the calamity?"

Vicente and Layla looked at her in silence, not having thought of it before. "That would be dangerous for you. The Seidel Kingdom will be safer for everyone because of its distance from vampire territory.

By the time the worst comes to us, many deaths and battles will have already taken place and weakened both sides in the conflict." Vicente commented in a pessimistic tone.

"Your only way out, or rather our way out, is not to be transferred," Layla commented.

"That may be beyond our control." Jasmine sighed as she felt a terrible feeling related to her powerlessness to do anything about it.

"You'd better prepare for the worst," Vicente remarked soberly. "Anyway, let's get ready to fight together in the kingdom when things get worse.

Try to get as much information about the continent's situation as possible and try to make things easier for my family's movements.

I'll make some alliances and preparations for The Purification so we won't fall so easily or quickly."

"All right."

"But we still have more than four years to finish our planning. Now we have to worry about something else." He said as he looked at Layla.

This gray-haired woman remembered the vampire, who was also a big problem for them.

Jasmine already knew about this creature and asked. "What do you intend to do to deal with it?"

"The creature can't suspect that we're preparing for it. After all, we've been on the run for months, so it's natural for it to think that maybe we've already relaxed our guard and aren't preparing.

We have to look exactly like that.

I'll make plans and prepare my family, but we can't make any big moves. In the meantime, I need you two ready to help me when the vampire shows himself."

"Are you afraid he'll try to get away from you?" Jasmine asked.

She was a born tracker, while Layla had her super speed, which, combined, could form a magnificent duo against a fleeing opponent.

"Yes. Killing him will be difficult, but if he realizes that the possibility exists at some point in the fight, he may try to escape. I don't know what kind of cards he has up his sleeve, so I'd rather keep you two close."

"But how would we do that?" Layla asked. "He could arrive in the city at any moment. How can we be with you in time?"

"The day he shows himself, I'll make the whole of Saltsalt City tremble and realize the size of the problem we'll be facing. So I don't want you cultivating in seclusion until the vampire arrives. Watch for signs to move when he arrives. I'll alert the local forces so that they understand the problem when it hits us." Vicente said firmly.

"All right, we'll get on with it." Jasmine agreed while Layla nodded positively.

After that, they chatted about other matters, such as when he planned to hunt his next pentagram, minor things about their associates and subordinates, and his experiences after Casey and Layla left.

After a while, he would leave that temple, promising to return to see Layla soon, before heading towards the royal army's headquarters in this city.

After seeing his most important allies, he had fulfilled his responsibilities so that he could go and see Nova.

Nova was his first girlfriend and, in a way, one of his contacts in the army. But she wasn't as involved as the others in his problems and secrets.

However, it wouldn't stay that way for much longer. Amid the moment's needs, there was no longer any way for Vicente to protect her from certain things without involving her more directly in his business!

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After getting permission from the army to enter the headquarters, Vicente was reunited with Nova months after leaving the place and not even communicating with her through letters.

Nova had been looking forward to seeing him again for a long time, and the moment she was alone with him in his office, she couldn't help herself and did more than she should have done inside a military installation.

After half an hour together but hardly any meaningful words, the two finished what they had done in those minutes and quickly got dressed.

When she had finished tidying up the mess in her office because of what they had done a few moments ago, Nova took a deep breath and sat on Vicente's lap in one armchair.

"I love you!" She said as she smelled her man's black hair.

"I love you too." He smiled at her.

"But then? Are you going to tell me about your trip?" She asked, quite curious, of course.

She knew a few things about Vicente's trip because of Layla and Casey's return. Even though she wasn't officially part of his family and didn't perform missions for them, she had heard some worrying things from Eve and Rory.

"I don't know if we should." He said as he looked sincerely into her eyes. "I'm hesitant to wipe that smile off your face." He ran one of his fingers over her pink lips.

She smiled even more exuberantly at him but was anxious to know the truth.

Vicente sighed and said. "I took revenge. I brought justice to my parents. However, as much as I've grown stronger, I've also encountered bigger problems.

Sigh! Nova, I didn't want to put you in the position of compromising with my family and becoming a soldier who abandons the law and becomes totally committed to herself. But unfortunately, we need that now. If we're not perfect in our short- and medium-term plans, even I will fall to the problems that await us."

He wiped the beautiful smile off her face, making her express great concern.

"From now on, we'll use all our cards to develop my family and prepare for the monsters in our path.

You will have to take care of our expansion from within the army. Use your position to open doors for my people and bring more influence to us, Nova.

That's our only and maybe last alternative."

Chapter 614 Plans with Nova

The kingdom's royal army was a very powerful and influential enough force for someone of Nova's standing to be relevant to Vicente's plans.

With his current powers, one might think that he could ignore this force and act on his own as he wished. But that would be a naive thought.

The royal army had thousands and thousands of members, with several Sovereigns in its ranks and hundreds of High-level Mages.

Vicente had transformed himself and grown his family very quickly, but he didn't have the numbers or the reach of the royal army. As such, he didn't underestimate the strength and potential of this organization!

Nova was making great strides towards becoming someone relevant within this Seidel Kingdom organization, so he couldn't help but finally use her in his plans in a more meaningful way.

"What do you need me to do?" She asked.

"Nova, a soldier of your age and level, no matter where they come from or where they are, has a lot of influence inside and outside the army. Anyone who looks at you now and has enough intelligence to try to predict your future will consider that one day you will serve alongside the king." He said, showing her something that, however obvious, needed to be said.

"Anyone will try to please you and open the doors of their homes to you, Nova. Anyone will want the favor of a future pillar of the kingdom.

I need that. I need you to ask for favors, give orders, and generate positive effects for my group.

Get information about families, people, and places, but also make specific groups willing to do business with me. Anything that accelerates my family's growth will help us prepare for the worst.

Soon, I'll meet the Duke of the Province, and I intend to arrange with him to facilitate our mutual growth.

If you can influence the army within the province, I'll have everything I need to grow faster and eventually take my men to other provinces or even states.

The resources from these deals will help us have more men and methods of defending ourselves when the monsters reach us."

"All right, I'll do my best." She agreed without blinking, already too committed to him to take a step back.

He looked at her in silence before saying, "I have an ambitious plan in mind."

"What is it?" She noticed the change in his eyes.

"I want to build a metal city. If we have a metal city during the disaster after The Seven Day Tsunami, I'll be able to protect those who matter to us with all my powers."

She stared at him open-mouthed, feeling that this made sense. However, building a city was something that wouldn't be quick, easy, or even cheap.

What's more, they would have to get people to agree to live in such a place, or it wouldn't be sustainable. That is, it would be too expensive to maintain.

Vicente was great and respected among his men. But this was because he had a lot of financial power and influence. But if he spent it all on something that wouldn't succeed, he could lose everything he had built.

So, it wouldn't be enough for him to build such a place and live in isolation.

"That could be difficult... I mean, where will we find the materials? How will we build it? You won't be able to use your powers to do that. Ultimately, do you need so many metals? I think that even if you became a Paragon, you wouldn't be able to control that much metal, Vice." She was honest in her words, without trying to diminish Vicente's plans or discourage him.

"It will certainly be difficult." He agreed with this part of her speech. "But it's not as simple as you think. I can't just manipulate metals. I can influence many different reactions through my magnetic powers.

If I have a place like this, even a vampire won't be able to threaten us, Nova. That could be our final defense."

Vicente wasn't sure what his powers would be like when the calamity hit his territory. Perhaps the Throne of Darkness would be entirely under his control, and he wouldn't need any other powers.

But the truth was that he couldn't count on that until he had mastered this second power. Until then, it would be wiser to consider what he could always count on, his magnetic power.

If things changed further in the future, fine, he could change his plans accordingly. But for now, he preferred to prepare for the worst.

"That... Sigh, that makes sense. Well, we can try. How about we start with something smaller, like a house?" She suggested. "I know it would take more than that for something like this to make sense. But let's start with a main house and then essential locations in a city.

I can get land from the king that is exclusive to the army for you to build on. If we can get the Duke involved, we can eventually have rights to act publicly and attract citizens of the kingdom to our village."

No city, not even a village, would come into being without the king's knowledge and permission. Because of this, for Vicente's plan to work, he would need the army and noble forces on his side. He didn't need everyone to understand his plans or even know what would happen. But he did need people capable of making certain things possible for him now or in the future.

The royal army had many possibilities, being the main administrator of some of the few lands in the kingdom that weren't ruled by nobles or royalty.

These army lands were theirs for the army to use as they wished, and it was even possible for a soldier of great influence to build a secret headquarters that not even the king knew about.

As long as one used land of little interest to the kingdom and didn't use the army's funds, it was entirely possible to do something like this.

Vicente was wealthy, so Nova didn't think she would have to use army resources.

He then agreed with her. "Look into it for me. It would also be interesting for you to start your own faction within the army in the province. Having soldiers we trust to give legitimacy to certain future matters will help us."

"I'll need resources for that." She said, because that was the only way to do what Vicente had in mind in a short space of time without them taking too many risks.

"Don't worry. I'll cover any compromises you make. Just do what's necessary and help me with soldiers and nobles. It would also be interesting for you to approach people from the Martial Court." He suggested as he stood up.

"That's a lot of things. So it'll be a while before I can help you with all this." She warned.

"Try to focus on that for now. For the rest, we must keep some distance until I sort out the problem with the vampire. I don't want you to get caught in the crossfire." He said before saying goodbye, not giving her much chance to discuss it.

Chapter 615 Lunch with the Duke

Vicente would spend the next three days updating himself on the details of the operations his family had completed in recent months and those still in progress.

In the midst of this, he began the training Benson had given him to try to control his new power and master the transmutation of metals.

During his training, he changed the mana wealth in the part of the city where his estate was, increasing the mana density there.

That wasn't enough to make the biggest local players worry or even come to his door to ask questions. But it was enough for everyone who cultivated nearby to notice an improvement during their meditations.

Meanwhile, he was producing materials for his family, but as he was focused on becoming a 4th stage blacksmith, he mainly focused on producing 3rd-grade ammunition rather than new weapons.

But he took advantage of the resources that were available to his family to produce two new robotic armors, the most he could do per hour.

To make more or better 4th-grade armor, he would have to wait for the order he had placed in Chilledale before.

But even if he had to wait, he had made enough in these three days for his family to already become stronger, both with the ammunition and armor and with the resources he had brought with him that could be useful to his men.

He didn't expect to face the vampire within the next month, but if he had to, he would already have more power three days after his return than he did that day.

Vicente had also been cultivating and training during those days. Unfortunately, he needed to complete some requirements that were difficult to fulfill quickly or with the help of external resources for him to advance again.

Today was finally the day for him to meet the Duke of the Province!

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It was the middle of the day when Vicente left his house with Rory and Eve and rode in a beautiful brown carriage to the estate of the city's most important and influential man.

After a few minutes, the Fuller family carriage entered a 12,000-square-meter estate in Saltstar City's wealthiest area.

Lawns and many special facilities were throughout the estate. The Duke was the highest-ranking noble who could afford a small military force, a personal guard of up to a few hundred members.

As such, his family's headquarters was not merely a beautiful large estate but a real headquarters for an organization!

There was a main building, the Duke's house, but also training compounds, cultivation areas, sleeping quarters for servants and subordinates, a beast area, etc.

The three people who had just arrived had never seen anything like this before, so they observed this place with curiosity as their carriage slowed down, stopping in front of the main building of this place.

"We'll soon have a place like this," Vicente commented to Rory and Eve, "Nova is already working on it, and today, I'll see if I can get the Duke's support."

"Will he accept? Wouldn't that be competition for him?" Eve asked as the men in their carriage moved to open the vehicle doors for them.

Vicente said, "He definitely wouldn't accept in any other situation. But now he may have to accept things like this if he wants to preserve his own family."

"In short, this is our opportunity amid the crisis," Rory expressed, referring to what he had learned from Vicente.

Vicente agreed as he nodded to his friend. Soon, they got out of the vehicle and found a group of people waiting for them at the door of the building that was supposed to be the Duke's house.

There were 10 people there, four of whom were guards standing around, while the other six were important subordinates of the family or even members of the Scott family.

A middle-aged-looking man with the aura of a High-level Mage stood a little ahead of the group next to two women, probably his wife and eldest daughter.

In addition to these three, a man dressed as a butler stood next to the mature-looking woman, while a sharp-looking young man stood next to the young-looking woman.

The last one there was an old man with white hair, probably one of the Duke's trusted men.

"Your Grace," Vicente greeted the man at the front of the group, smiling as he made a greeting gesture.

"Young Vicente," Duke Scott said with a smile on his face, finally having the chance to interact with this young merchant and blacksmith after months of his absence from the city.

They quickly introduced each of the most important people in their respective groups before the Duke invited Vicente's group inside. There, the family dining room was prepared for today's big lunch.

Soon, Vice and his companions were seated in different places around a 12-seater table, where various dishes were ready to be served.

Vicente sat to the right of the Duke while the Duke's wife was on the left, just in front of him.

Of the Duke's group, the only ones who didn't sit at the table were the family butler and the guards who were stationed around the dining room.

The group began to eat while talking about less important things, with the Duke asking how Vicente's trip out of the kingdom had been.

The Duke was aware of this. After all, it was public information that Vicente Fuller had left to learn more about his craft, the forging.

Vicente told the Duke what anyone could find out with a simple investigation, which wasn't much for him but was plenty for the members of that family.

"So you're already an Earth Sovereign?" The brown-haired young woman next to the Duke's wife asked, surprised that a young man the same age as her was already a powerful 4th stage magician.

"Yes, I was lucky enough to find some opportunities when returning from Chutha Dynasty," Vicente replied as he looked at the woman.

"That's impressive," Duke Scott commented, seeing that Vicente's value was even greater than he had previously estimated.

'This young man won't be in my province for long. But for as long as he's here, he'll have a lot of influence,' He thought as he cut up the meat on his plate.

"So what are your plans, young man?" The family matriarch asked while holding a glass of wine in one of her hands.

"For now, all I want is for my family to survive the challenges in our path," Vicente changed his tone as he spoke in a deep, worried voice, "I don't know if you're already aware of the threats coming from the north. But a calamity that could change the entire continent is approaching us all.

If we are not prepared and united with the same goal, in 5 or 6 years, we may see the end of our own families!"

Chapter 616 Presenting the Plan to the Duke

When the Duke heard Vicente's worried words, he stopped cutting his meat and turned his attention entirely to this young man.

The Duke's wife asked, "Are you talking about The Seven Day Tsunami?"

"No, I'm talking about The Purification," Vicente replied as he looked at the woman and then into Duke Scott's eyes.

The Duke had already guessed that this was the case but asked, "Are the problems with monsters in the south of the continent really associated with this?"

"I'm 99% sure, Your Grace," Vicente said confidently, attracting the stares of the Duke's family in the surrounding area.

He explained, "I interrogated a late 3rd-stage monster while I was returning to the province. It confirmed to me that the monster movements coming from the north of the continent are directly related to The Purification.

There's still some time before this vampire plan, so many things could happen, including continental forces trying to stop it. But I'm already considering that the worst will happen, so I plan to make my family prosper and survive this calamity."

The Duke didn't question this any further but tried to think like Vicente, "Let's say that The Purification does happen and its consequences reach the kingdom. What exactly do you plan to do to protect your family?"

"As the Duke already knows, I have many contacts around the province. Over the next few years, I want to increase my business and build up a stronger influence network.

Through this, I intend to raise funds to increase my men's average strength and build a place strong enough to withstand aggression from monsters.

This place wouldn't just be for my group. We are not strong enough alone to stop the monsters that will arrive here, Your Grace.

But suppose I can bring my business partners together to form a partnership. In that case, we can protect ourselves together and try to overcome this crisis," Vicente replied while gesturing and looking the leader of the Scott family in the eye.

The Duke agreed with Vicente's every word because those things were exactly what he would do in a situation like this. Raise the power of his family and gather allies to fight against their enemies.

"I have a particularly ambitious plan," Vicente commented as he felt the silence of his surroundings.

"Tell me about it." The Duke understood this would probably need special support or permission to work.

Vicente relaxed in his chair and asked, "Does Your Grace know that Commanders of the royal army have the power to build new posts on His Majesty's territory even without the authorization or knowledge of our monarch?"

"Hmm, yes. There are matters that can't be delayed or even that don't pose a risk to the integrity of the state. Soldiers of good rank are free to use His Majesty's lands as they wish," The Duke replied,

"This has to happen in a special way since sooner or later, this sort of thing would come to His Majesty's attention. But it is possible to use His Majesty's lands within the law.

Why are you telling me this?"

"I intend to ally myself with the army and receive some land of no use to the state in our province. I intend to build a city there where we can better protect ourselves from the monsters coming from the north."

"Oh?"

"That's... That's really ambitious," The Duke's daughter commented in surprise.

"Something like that would be costly. Getting the land shouldn't be too difficult if you have good contacts within the army. But building an entire city will take time and a lot of resources," The Duke commented.

"By the way, why build a city? Could you do something different in a new city that you couldn't do here?" The Duke's wife asked the most important question.

Vicente nodded positively, "I won't go into details, but my men and I have developed some methods that can significantly increase our chances of successfully defending a city as long as it follows the construction model we need.

No city in the kingdom follows this type of construction, and changing a city like Saltstar City would be as much work or more than building a whole new place."

"I see..." The Duke pondered the matter, somewhat curious as to how such a place would work if it could be built in time.

"What exactly do you need from me?" The Duke asked directly.

Vicente didn't hesitate to answer, "I already have a soldier in the army who can pass on these lands to me. At the moment, she's looking for the best place for us, and as soon as she finds it, she'll give me the temporary right to develop the area.

I won't be able to do it alone since I'm not a noble. But if I have the support of at least a third of the nobles in the province, I'll be able to go ahead with this plan without breaking any laws."

"Do you want my support to reach that number of nobles on your side?" The Duke asked.

"Hmm. For now, I won't ask for financial support. If you want to do business with me, I'll use my profits to pay for part of the construction of this city.

But once the city begins to take shape and I can prove to my potential partners that we can finish building the place on time, every stakeholder in the city will have to contribute to the completion of the construction," Vicente explained.

"At that time, we will also show why this city will be safer than any other in the province."

"That sounds simple," The Duke's daughter commented.

Rory then said, "Starting construction and showing how the place will work will be simple. But to maintain a city like this, we'll need ordinary citizens to do the maintenance work and generate wealth.

To do this, we'll need support from the nobles of the province to convince some of the people in their cities that we can be trusted.

We will also need the army to give legitimacy to that city, and the official bodies present there. This will largely depend on the actions of His Grace."

The Duke understood exactly how he would be involved in all this.

Vicente could build a headquarters just for his family in a place like this, as the army would be able to give him land without him needing support from almost anyone. But to form a city, even a small one, he would need legitimacy, which only the nobles could give him.

'I don't think I'll lose anything by promising to go through with it,' The Duke pondered, feeling that, however difficult it might be to carry out these plans, the chances of him losing anything were very slim.

He would only have to promise his help in the first instance, and later on, he could refuse to go along with Vicente in these plans.

On the other hand, he wanted to have a good relationship with a young 4th-stage genius, who was already influential before his recent return to the city but who was even more so now because of his advancement and 4th-stage mount.

"We can go ahead with these plans, young Vicente," The Duke opened his mouth, "I can't promise I'll go all the way with this endeavor, but I can guarantee that I'll give you the support you need to get this plan off the ground. If it proves to be viable, I will consider joining your endeavor once the place has been presented."

"I thank you, Your Grace," Vicente smiled in satisfaction.

"In the meantime, I have other business I'm interested in doing with you," The Duke said as he went back to eating his food.

Chapter 617 Business with the Duke

"Your family has grown a lot in the remaining months and has reached an awe-inspiring level. I've been watching you for some time, and I've noticed that you don't seem interested in becoming a nobleman." The Duke said as he looked at Vicente closely.

"That's the case. I prefer to avoid political disputes." Vicente smiled. "Besides, as you can imagine, I won't stay in the kingdom forever.

I'll wait for my sister to grow up and find her own way, and then it'll be time for me to head north. Unfortunately, our kingdom isn't so good for magicians who want to overcome the 4th stage."

"I can imagine." The Duke liked what he heard because it meant that this wouldn't be his competitor in the future.

The Duke wasn't sure about the Fuller family's involvement with the underworld, as there was no evidence of it. But he also didn't believe this family only did business using third-party resources.

He imagined that Vicente was involved, on some scale, with the black market and the underworld in the province. But he could not tell whether Vice was a major faction leader or an associate of such groups.

In any case, Vicente was a potential rival if this young man was interested in living longer in the kingdom. But as he had already imagined, this young man was more interested in magic power than in influence within the Seidel Kingdom.

As such, they could have a better future in which they wouldn't clash with each other.

"But do you still intend to keep your business in the province when you leave the kingdom?"

"Yes, of course. I won't undo my business here to go to an unknown place."

The Duke smiled. "If that's the case, I want to advance some of my family's future business with yours."

"Oh?"

"You'll expand your operations outside the kingdom, right? So how about you become a supplier of valuable resources to my family? If you go to states stronger than the Chutha Dynasty or the Kenyth Empire, you'll be able to get resources that are very valuable to us but 'common' in such states for affordable prices. I'm willing to pay a lot for that kind of resource."

The people at that dinner table understood what the Duke wanted from Vicente.

The resources that could change the life of a High-level Mage like him were hard to come by in nature and expensive to buy, given their short supply in the Seidel Kingdom.

That was so extreme that it would be worthwhile for a person like the Duke to pay someone from outside the state to send resources from far away to this place.

Obviously, he would have to rely on someone who had a network of influence capable of transporting these resources, as well as having contacts who lived in or constantly traveled to stronger states.

None of this was easy to achieve, but the Duke thought Vicente would soon fulfill these requirements.

Rory looked at his friend before hearing Vicente's confirmation that this was indeed part of their growth plan.

"You're right. I will expand my business outside the state and eventually supply resources to local forces willing to pay a fair price. We can enter into an agreement related to that.

It will take more than five years for this to take shape and alter reality somehow, but if I don't die by then, what you're imagining will definitely happen." Vicente said with a smile on his face. "Just don't count on it to prepare you for the consequences of The Purification.

I'll probably have a network more or less ready to do this kind of business, but the risks will be great because of the vampires' plans.

But anyway, a lot can happen between now and then, so let's not talk too much about it."

"Hmm, knowing that you intend to do this is enough for me to close a deal like that with you." The Duke knew that The Purification and its consequences would make this scheme difficult.

But if the continent's magicians solved the problem with the vampires, their plans could converge and take the shape they wanted.

That would be enough for him for now!

After talking about this and a few other important matters, the group reached the end of lunch, with the men of the Scott family serving dessert.

While they enjoyed the special treats prepared for this lunch, the group chatted about lighter topics, with Vicente hearing about the Duke's family and also having to talk about himself.

Vicente was honest when asked about romantic relationships, making it clear to the Duke that he currently had two women, a soldier in the army, and a member of the Congregation of Revelations.

The Duke didn't propose anything directly, but Vicente had already expected that the conversation might lead to the Duke's daughter being promised to him.

The man's daughter was beautiful, but Vicente didn't like the idea of getting involved with a woman just because of a political or business interest.

He thought that this kind of matter had to be decided between a man and a woman without interference from third parties.

When he felt the slightest suspicion that the Duke might suggest something of the sort, he was frank in saying that he was already with Nova and Layla and that he intended to honor them both and eventually marry them.

The Duke understood Vicente's message and changed how he talked about family with this young man. But he wasn't angry or disappointed. It was better to be turned down before even investing in something than after putting time and more into these relationships.

At the end of dessert, Eve and Rory accompanied the Duke's family while Vicente and the nobleman walked alone to the man's office to make their business official.

When they had finished, the Duke couldn't help but ask Vicente.

"Young Vicente, what do you intend to do with this city you will start building after the crisis? You will be out of the kingdom and will no longer need a place to protect your people at that time."

Vicente looked at the nobleman and said in a questioning tone. "Will I not need it? I don't know how long we'll have to live under the consequences of The Purification.

When everything is settled and my interests are outside the Seidel Kingdom, I intend to continue using what I've built here. Still, I'll leave my associates and subordinates to take care of that sort of thing.

But the nobles who decide to join me in creating this city will be able to rule it together with my men when I leave."

The Duke liked what he heard and said nothing more about these serious matters before he began escorting Vicente out of the large estate.

Chapter 618 Order Delivered

Over the next few days, Vicente would be meeting with various partners of his Fuller family to update old agreements and deal with serious matters with these forces. He would also meet with nobles with whom he had never done business before, seeking to expand his family's influence and collaborate for the common good of Saltstar City's powers in the face of future threats.

His meeting with the Duke had not been kept secret, and many local powers had already expected him to have made some kind of deal with the most prestigious local nobleman. Consequently, he had no difficulty approaching new families with whom he had never worked together.

The main topic of their conversations was what was to be expected, the problems that would arise if The Purification were to become a reality.

No one could say that the great vampire sacrifice wouldn't happen, so preparing for the worst seemed sensible to practically everyone.

He didn't sign any agreements for the future, but he did present some of his plans and the fact that he would be back to talk to these nobles about their actions to prevent and defend against The Purification.

He also clarified to these families that now was not the time to scrimp and save. On the contrary, it was time to use reserves created over generations and raise these families' power levels.

He didn't know how touched the nobles he had spoken to during these days were after their conversations. But since he hadn't warned anyone about the vampire coming to him, he was sure that everyone would take his warnings seriously and move once that creature acted against him in this place.

While he had talked a lot with his allies and new and potential future partners, he had also worked hard to advance his knowledge of forging.

Unfortunately, it wasn't that easy to master the 4th stage of forging.

The higher one got, the more difficult and time-consuming their progress became, both in mana absorbed or controlled and in improving their understanding.

But he was still improving at an impressive rate and was gradually beginning to be able to transmute metals, as instructed by Benson.

He would still need more time working on this in conjunction with his advancement to the 4th stage of forging, but both he and his master could already see where he would be very soon.

As the resources he had ordered in Chilledale would still take some time to arrive in Saltstar City, he had time to improve further and better prepare for the production of items for his group to face the vampire and continue his expansions.

Amid this, Vicente had received a visit from a friend and old acquaintance. Shelby had recently passed through Saltstar City and met up with him again after more than a year without seeing each other.

She was doing very well in terms of her magical cultivation and position leading the Staples family.

From what Vicente had heard these days, she was going for the title of Count for Levi Staples while she had caught the attention of the main branch of the Staples family.

The main branch of the Staples family had the title of Marquis. At the same time, any closeness of those people to Shelby would be beneficial to her and her brother.

Vicente won when his allies became stronger and more influential, so he was very pleased to hear the results from this woman.

In addition to these meetings and the things he spent his time on these days, Vicente also reconciled his relationship with Nova and Layla, having talked to his first girlfriend about what had happened between him and Layla.

Nova had already made it clear to him that she would accept it if it didn't happen in her presence, so she accepted the situation after repeating what she had already told him.

Everything was going well until the eighth week since Vicente's return to Saltstar City.

After several weeks of waiting, Vicente's big order finally arrived at the local Blacksmiths' Association!

...

That afternoon, in front of the association's building, dozens of people, whether or not they were members of this continental organization, stood around looking at the large number of wagons parked here and there.

In all, 43 wagons were currently parked in front of the association building, lined up all the way to the back entrance of this place, surrounding almost the entire block in the city's center.

Many guards and mercenaries were in these wagons, many looking tired but also quite relieved to finally be in this place.

In front of the first wagon in convoy, a group of the city's highest-level blacksmiths stood waiting for Vicente to arrive while looking at the many wagons with a gleam in their eyes.

"That... That really is a lot!" Said one of the men standing next to the elders of the association council.

One of the envoys from the Chillardale guild heard this and agreed. "Has your entire guild ordered resources from our post?"

"Most of those resources are from just one person."

"What?" That person at the front of the first wagon exclaimed before looking once again at the group he had led to this place. "Who could do that?"

"The richest man in the city, I suppose." A young disciple of one of the council elders commented as he looked in the direction where Vicente and Rory had just arrived. "I just didn't know that was the richest man in the city. But now things are clear."

Benson was already there waiting for Vicente. As soon as the young man reached the front of the first cart, he said, "Here's the person who ordered those resources."

"Are you Vicente Fuller?" The man sent by the woman who had talked to Minos in Childdale asked as he looked seriously at Vice.

"That's me." He smiled as he greeted the person and asked. "How much do I owe for these resources?"

The man handed Minos a piece of parchment and said. "6,000 gold coins."

Minos looked at the elders of the association and said. "You can make the payment to them. My men will take my materials in these wagons and leave the items that belong to the association here."

"That..."

"Maybe..."

The council elders hesitated, but the strongest and most renowned of them soon sighed and said. "All right. Let's get on with it."

He paid the coins owed by Vicente shortly afterward before seeing more than 50 men from the Fuller family appearing nearby to pick up Vice's materials.

Benson joined Vicente and Rory's subordinates, eager to start producing new robotic armor and weapons for the family to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Vicente didn't stay behind to give explanations to those new arrivals in the city or to the blacksmiths from the local association. After just 10 minutes there, he and his men left with 85% of the volumes brought here from Childdale.

Chapter 619 Training with Rory

Three days after Vicente's resources arrived in Saltstar City, a young-looking man with long black hair and tanned skin rode into the city on a horse.

The streets seemed as busy and quiet as they ever would in the middle of the morning, while the weather was pleasant over this city.

The murmurs here and there were not worrying; they spoke of normal everyday things in places like this. At the same time, the concentration of mana and elements seemed close to common.

Looking around the place for a few minutes after weeks away, Casey sighed as he didn't feel or hear anything worrying.

'It looks like that damn vampire hasn't arrived in the city yet.' He thought, and a smile formed on his face as his horse took him to the Fuller estate.

After just a few minutes of riding through this city, he arrived in front of the Fuller estate, where he turned his eyes to the huge black bird on the roof of that building.

'A Sovereign beast...' Casey looked at Onyx and imagined that Vicente had gotten another mount.

He didn't worry too much and headed inside the building.

"Where's our boss?" He asked one of the men on guard there today.

"He's training with Deputy Point in the training room." Answered a Low-level Mage standing guard at the entrance to that house.

Casey headed towards the basement of the property, where there was a large training room specially built to hold several magicians training or meditating at the same time.

The room covered the entire area of the property's basement, about 300 square meters, and it was 6 meters high between the upper and lower levels, where the property's resources were located.

It had defensive magic items to defend the building itself from damage caused by those training in the area and was resistant to even Sovereign training.

When Casey entered the place, he wasn't surprised to see Vicente and Rory combining their powers while there seemed to be a storm brewing in the enclosed space.

Strong winds came up when he opened the door to the place, to the point that he almost lost his balance and was thrown forward.

Casey quickly used his mana to pin his feet to the ground.

'That's...!' He looked at Vicente and Rory, who were using their skills in tandem to transform the tranquil atmosphere of that space into something chaotic and difficult to deal with.

Some of the Mages in the family were watching this from the training room, feeling that if they weren't restrained and in an isolated place, this storm would be a few degrees more worrying and could bring calamity to a city like Saltstar City.

After Casey joined the group of Mages watching Vicente and Rory, the two reached the limit of their training today. They gradually reduced the amount of mana they were using.

Rory then began to absorb the heat from the environment, while Vicente used his skills to remove some of the elements responsible for storms.

The situation inside the training room gradually returned to normal, with the great noise that had been there a few moments ago disappearing and silence beginning to reign.

Rory and Vicente smiled as they looked at each other, satisfied with their performance in yet another training session.

They had been training together for days to improve their combat proficiency and generate large-scale effects against opponents they planned to target in the future.

Torne had predicted that they were quite compatible, so they had performed well in each training session.

In another week or so, they both felt they could use it against the vampire coming to Saltstar City!

"That was good training." Vicente squeezed one of Rory's hands as he broke the silence in the place.

The men there began to talk amongst themselves about how powerful that move would be when all conditions were favorable while Casey approached the two with a smile on his face.

"It looks like you'll be able to handle the damn vampire by yourselves." He commented as he greeted the two.

"I don't know," Vicente said, not knowing how strong that being was now since he had only tried to contain it at the time and hadn't necessarily tested its strength. At the same time, the vampire should be stronger now.

"This will be very important during my hunt for my fourth pentagram. Imagine how strong we won't be together when Rory is an Earth Sovereign and I'm a Sky Sovereign?" He smiled at these two.

"Hmm, that will be a memorable day. I hope to see that fight." Casey commented.

While they were talking, a family guard walked in and quickly approached them.

He looked at Vicente and said. "Boss, Miss Bain just sent you this letter."

"Oh?" Vicente took it and quickly began to read Nova's message.

"What does it say?" Rory asked. "Is it something personal or related to our plans?"

After reading it and forming a smile, Vicente put the letter away and said. "She got her promotion. She's now General Commander of the Saltstar City post."

Rory opened his mouth and was happy to hear that. "That's good. Our plans will go better that way."

"Hmm, she hasn't got our land yet, but she's already chosen the place she'll give us, and now it's only a matter of a few days before we get permission from the army to explore it."

Casey didn't know what this was about, but he didn't say anything, aware that he would soon learn about the family's latest plans.

Rory asked Vicente. "Won't she have trouble getting approval from the Martial Court?"

"No. She's forming her own faction within the province, and we already have a third of the court members on our side. She'll likely be able to get enough to get approval quickly." Vicente replied confidently.

"So what land will we get?" Rory asked curiously.

"Coincidentally, the land she'll pass on to us is near The Vile Altar, where I dealt with soldiers some time ago."

Rory remembered the soldiers who had tried to hunt down Vicente because of a 3rd stage herb.

"Near Millfall?" Rory asked in surprise.

"Hmm, near the border with Snow Province," Vicente said.

Why had Nova chosen such a place? Well, it was an area dominated by beasts and other types of magical beings, where the army or the noble forces of the state saw no potential to take an interest in the area. But this place had a concentration of mana similar to Saltstar City, and its position was strategically interesting.

Why was that? Well, if monsters were going to wreak havoc on the continent in a few years, it would interest Vicente's group to have a good place to protect themselves and the province.

The province was what generated resources for them, so it wouldn't do to lose it. It was very interesting to have a city completely dominated by them in an area where they could prevent monsters from entering the province.

Nova's chosen location fulfilled this very well, which is why she chose it and why Vicente had no problem with it.

"We'll just have to wait for the vampire. Once we've solved that problem, we can start our project there and go to the altar of the order near the capital."

Chapter 620 4th Stage Blacksmith

Another 35 days have passed since Casey returned to Saltstar City.

Vicente and Rory have continued to train daily to improve their collaboration, having reached an impressive level of combat for both of them.

Rory and Vicente realized they could fight above the level they normally could when they teamed up to form a massive storm.

That cheered them up even more for the future, as it gave them hope to solve the problem of the vampire coming after Vicente, as well as better conditions to face the calamity brewing in the north of the continent.

Meanwhile, Nova had gotten the approvals she needed from the Martial Court and had already obtained the right to explore and build a new city in the province in the area she had chosen for Vicente.

She warned him about this during those days before returning to focus on the development of her faction, which he had authorized her to do.

They would need army soldiers on their side to explore and build a city there, so she was now focused on getting the men she could put on Vicente's side.

For him, he had assigned Benson, Eve, and Rory the task of studying the area's rock composition and the amount and types of minerals they would need to create a metal city.

To create such a place would require many workers, professionals such as blacksmiths and engineers, and coins, shelter, and food.

Those three were already taking care of that for Vicente, while he had been focusing almost half of his day on working on his forging skills since before Casey's return.

But after a lot of hard work and study since his return to Saltstar City, he finally achieved the understanding needed to become a 4th-stage blacksmith!

...

It was evening in Saltstar City when Vicente was almost finished with his day of study and training at the forge. He felt something different in his being arise, along with a sudden urge to forge something.

He quickly grabbed some of the best materials he had at his disposal at home and used his skill to extract the metals he wanted from the ores before transmuting some of them into other metals that were stronger and better for what he had in mind.

He was eager to see the result, so he built something simpler than his robotic armor. He focused on producing a firearm, making a pistol right after he had finished manipulating the different components that would make up that weapon.

After less than five minutes since he felt that sudden sensation, he made a silver pistol appear in front of him, and three golden bullets fell into his hands.

As he stopped using his skills and let his pentagrams return to his body, Vicente felt the strong magical fluctuation of that artifact, which could only be classified as something of the 4th grade!

'I've finally become a 4th stage blacksmith!' He smiled as he looked at that beautiful weapon, finally reaching the highest level of forging he could achieve in the Seidel Kingdom.

That weapon wasn't the best he could produce as a 4th stage blacksmith. It was the best he had ever produced in his life. Still, it was only 61% efficient, enough for him to be considered a 4th stage blacksmith, but far from the 100% that would make that item dangerous even for newly promoted Paragons.

However, achieving 100% efficiency on weapons like that would be difficult, but not only that, it was enough for Vicente for the time being.

'This weapon will give the power to a High-level Mage to kill an Earth Sovereign!' He smiled as he pressed his fingers on the weapon, imagining that his family would be much stronger once he produced this weapon and its ammunition on a large scale.

There were High-level Mages capable of doing this. But most Mages weren't like Vicente or Snow Claw. For most Mages, like those in the Fuller family, an Earth Sovereign was invincible and it would take many High-level Mages to deal with a single one of them.

That's why that weapon was so valuable!

But as he looked at his newly-produced item, Vicente noticed what Benson had told him long ago.

'But there seems to be a deficiency in it... Indeed, Benson wasn't wrong. These weapons won't go beyond the 4th stage, even if I keep improving and get better materials.' He concluded.

But Vicente was not disappointed. He could certainly produce 4th-grade weapons with 100% efficiency, which would make them devices capable of threatening Paragons, even when used by mere Sovereigns.

That would be impressive enough for him, given that there were very few Paragons on the entire continent!

With this breakthrough in mind, Vicente would soon leave his forge and get something to eat before going to see Layla.

Even though he had just done something incredible, he had already trained for many hours today. He needed some rest before continuing his efforts.

However, having achieved the previous feat, he already planned to focus much of the next few days on producing 4th-

stage firearms and 4th-stage robotic armor.

He had enough material to create 10 armor and 40 firearms with enough ammunition to take over a city the size of Saltstar City.

So his next few days would be entirely focused on forging, the last thing he had to do before the arrival of the 3rd stage vampire in his city.

...

A few days later...

After some time working at the forge to produce 4th stage items, Vicente was finally presenting his new weapons to his family.

Today, the main family members were gathered on the outskirts of Saltstar City, where three of the family's soldiers were in position with the family's new weapon models.

As of today, all the High-level Mages in the family would receive one of those guns and 300 bullets.

Rory stood next to Vicente as he waited for the signal for the test to begin. Meanwhile, he asked. "What about the armor? When will we be able to see them in action?"

Benson was there too and couldn't help looking at Vicente with anticipation in his eyes.

"In another 10 days or so," Vicente replied with a smile. "That's the time I need to finish building the armor components and assemble them.

If the damned vampire doesn't get to the city before then, we'll be able to count on them in the fight against him."

"That's good," Benson commented with a smile on his face.

Rory asked. "What do you think is stronger? The robotic armor or the firearms?"

"The armor, of course."

As soon as Vicente said this, the three soldiers of the family fired their weapons, making a loud popping sound before everyone in the place saw the result of those shots.

In front of them a few seconds ago was a small mountain peak, about a kilometer away from them. But after a resounding 'bang,' that piece at the top of the hill disappeared after being hit by three bullets!