

The Mafia 691

Chapter 691 Fighting a 5th Stage Sacred Devotee

Vicente's party swiftly acted on his instructions, channeling their mana through their armor and Magic Gems.

None of them believed the Paragon of the Congregation of Revelations, who claimed Vicente was a practitioner of the Dark Path.

How could they? Vicente was undeniably a magician of the Light Path. Bearing this in mind, as soon as the man made his move, they responded in kind, anticipating the unfolding events with the aid of Lina and Casey's combined powers.

Torne quickly started channeling his mana into Vicente's first gem, preparing his master to confront an adversary who was clearly intent on killing him.

The Mid-level Paragon didn't hesitate; right after issuing his threatening words, he lunged forward and launched a lethal attack on Vicente.

Sensing the imminent danger, Vicente knew staying put would result in severe injury at best. Observing the opponent manifest a Spirit Bamboo in his hands, Vicente stepped back, allowing his allies to unleash the electromagnetic force of their armor against the attacker.

In an instant, Vicente evaded the enemy's initial assault, appearing right where the young man stood, wielding the bamboo.

When Vicente skillfully dodged, the Sacred Devotee's brow furrowed in surprise, but he quickly composed himself. Before the electromagnetic pressure from Vicente's companions could reach him, he unleashed his first skill against his primary adversary.

"Bamboo Field!"

Lifting his bamboo staff into the air, he invoked several plants to sprout around them, forming menacing bamboo intent on harming Vicente.

Vicente clasped his hands together, activating his second pentagram, which emitted a bright glow. He altered the electromagnetic field around himself, rendering him invisible. The bamboos, although relentless in their attack, became increasingly slow as they neared him, failing to land a hit.

In the midst of the chaos, Onyx unleashed his attack, using his vocal cords to emit a deafening scream that sent a blast of sound toward the Paragon just as the man began to feel the full force of Vice's armor.

"You think that will stop me?" the man scoffed, feeling the pressure that was substantial but not debilitating. It was uncomfortable, yet insufficient to halt his advance.

Unfazed, he activated his second ability. Several bamboo shoots, akin to those he wielded, sprouted from seemingly nowhere, targeting the troublesome figures obstructing his path.

"If you wish to meet your end first, so be it!" he declared. Meanwhile, Layla and Rory quickly regrouped and moved forward.

As the man directed his bamboo shoots at Vicente's team, sudden explosions erupted around his body, adding to the tumult.

Boom!

Boom!

'What the hell?' He felt parts of his clothing being damaged as his eyes moved to see Layla moving quickly around the area to direct Rory's attacks at him.

Casey tried to manipulate the man's mind but only made him feel confused for a second.

Meanwhile, Vicente attacked his opponent with as much power as he could muster.

A massive bolt of lightning split the sky as a large metal hammer materialized in its hands, with which it struck at the Mid-level Paragon.

This attack, rivaling the power of a Low-level Paragon, relentlessly attacked the Paragon of the Congregation of Revelations. Meanwhile, Vicente merged his mental prowess with Casey's, eroding the enemy's mental defenses.

The expression of the 5th-stage Sacred Devotee dramatically changed as he realized that his adversary was much stronger than he had initially believed.

"Damn! We underestimated him," he cursed under his breath, breaking into a cold sweat as all of Vicente's allies skillfully evaded his previous assaults.

At the same time, he tried to use his fourth skill but found it very difficult because of Vicente and Casey's combined action.

Vicente's third ability was a mental one. It allowed him to enter his targets' minds through the metals in their bodies and eventually take complete control of their bodies.

Vicente had used this power many times to temporarily "possess" the bodies of his family members and see situations far away from himself through his men's eyes.

Against an opponent as strong as this Paragon, he would never be able to do that now. But Vicente was able to make the Sacred Devotee temporarily lose some control over his own body.

It wasn't enough to prevent this foe from activating his fourth ability, Bamboo Avatar, but it did slow down this high-ranking member of the Congregation of Revelations.

As the Bamboo Avatar took shape, the giant hammer was about to hit him!

"Fuck!" He shouted at the sight as his avatar took a defensive stance in front of him.

Boom!

As the two forces clashed, a thunderous boom echoed across dozens of kilometers, accompanied by strong winds that whipped through the surrounding vegetation.

Vicente's assault momentarily halted as cracks appeared in the Paragon's avatar.

During this pause, Rory activated his Flame Avatar, enveloping the fractured bamboo form, while Onyx and Sarah launched a physical assault on the Paragon to divert his attention from Vicente.

Weakened by his own mana depletion and the mental assaults from Vicente and Casey, the Paragon found himself overwhelmed and unable to do much but withstand their persistent attacks.

Crack!

Immediately after their initial strike against the Paragon, louder cracking sounds emanated from the Bamboo Avatar.

Sensing impending danger, Sarah and Onyx quickly withdrew.

Under the watchful eyes of Vicente and his companions, they witnessed the green avatar burst apart as Vice's hammer relentlessly drove toward the now pale and injured Paragon.

Boom!

Another explosion resounded as the Paragon managed to shatter Vicente's hammer, employing his magical form to strike the massive weapon.

"I'm going to kill you!" the man declared, watching the metal of the hammer fracture like glass.

Meanwhile, his whole body was shaking, and he felt a lot of pain after so many attacks against him, from the damage he had taken to destroy that dangerous attack that could hurt even Low-level Paragons and from his mental damage.

When he thought his opponents had used up all their cards, he suddenly felt something rip through his chest.

His eyes opened wide as he looked down and saw a blood-

stained silver blade protruding from his body.

"That..." He looked back and saw Layla holding the weapon just before she disappeared and reappeared away from him.

Vicente placed a hand on his opponent's chest, seizing the opportunity to deliver a final blow by accessing the interior of the Paragon's body.

"You have made an unforgivable mistake," Vicente declared as his first pentagram glowed intensely, empowering him to finish off his foe. "This is your end, you wretch!"

Chapter 692 What was the Real Reason for the Attack?

The moment Vicente spoke, the metal of his sword transformed, swiftly generating micro-weapons within the Paragon's body.

These microweapons acted like shredders, rapidly destroying the Paragon's heart as he looked on, his face pale with shock.

In that instant, the Mid-level Paragon couldn't help but rue his ambitious plans against Vicente, whom he had hoped would elevate him to the 6th stage.

Tragically, this Dark Path magician proved far stronger than he appeared from afar!

Despite his predicament, the Paragon was taken aback by Vicente's formidable power.

'Why didn't he ever reveal his Dark Path powers? Did he not deem me worthy?' he wondered, ashamed that he had underestimated his opponent and that his demise would come before a group of Sovereigns.

For a Paragon, what could be more disgraceful than dying at the hands of Sovereigns?

He wouldn't have much time to ponder as his body collapsed lifelessly to the ground, his bamboo weapon vanishing as the Paragon's oppressive presence faded from the area.

Torne ceased channeling his mana into Vicente's first gem and couldn't help but exhale deeply, relieved that it was finally over. "That was close. We all nearly died."

Although it appeared that Vicente and his group had controlled the battle, their success was largely due to Lina's premonitory abilities, which had saved them all.

Throughout the fight, Vicente and his team adapted their strategies based on the potential outcomes Lina's visions had warned them about, deviating from their original plans as necessary.

Without the support of Casey and Lina, nearly everyone in the group would have perished right there!

Because of Lina's premonition showing them what would lead to their deaths, everyone there acted differently than they would have in another situation. By avoiding what would cause their death, they used the enemy's weaknesses to weaken him and then help Vicente kill him.

But even with Lina's power on their side, everyone there was exhausted, while some of them even had their souls wounded after this short battle.

Some had powers that, when directly countered and destroyed, wounded their souls. That was the case with the Paragon himself, who was severely injured when his Bamboo Avatar was wounded.

Torne was aware they had barely escaped, so he couldn't help but sigh before saying to Vicente. 'Anyway, it's good that we fought like this before your hunt, master. That was a foretaste of what we could expect during your hunt.'

But make no mistake. Fighting a High-level Paragon or even a Beginner Archmage will be even more difficult and risky. That's why we need to make new advancements before we hunt your pentagram or our chances will be very slim.'

'Hmm, I know. We'll try to get it in the next few weeks,' Vicente mused, then shifted topics as he gazed at his enemy's lifeless form. 'Any idea why we were attacked today? He seemed to know about my second magic form.'

'That might be linked to your recent encounter with Miss Death,' Torne speculated. 'From what I gathered from his earlier comments, he had some means of tracking you. It's likely that when you used the Throne of Darkness recently, it triggered some sort of alert within the Congregation of Revelations... But exactly how it happened and what he used to track you, you'll need to figure out with Jasmine and Layla. I'm not sure about the details.'

'Then it's best if I avoid using my throne until I can handle bigger threats,' Vicente concluded thoughtfully. 'Do you think the vampires might have sensed it too and are now after me?'

"There's no way for me to know, master. You'll have to investigate today's events to find that answer," Torne said, regretfully unable to offer more assistance.

Vicente's companions converged around the Paragon's body, all wearing expressions of exhaustion as they gazed down at the corpse.

Layla looked particularly troubled, having delivered a critical blow to one of her superiors.

"What the hell happened here?" she demanded, her voice laden with confusion and frustration.

"I'm not sure myself," Vicente replied. "You and Jasmine will need to help me make sense of all this. He accused me of being a Dark Path magician, but my abilities are from the Light Path. Could he have mistaken me because of my association with Onyx?" As Vicente posed the question, his companions glanced at the beast and speculated about its possible connection to this mysterious black raven.

"Did he mistake you for someone else?" Rory muttered.

"I'll send Jasmine a letter to look into it," Layla said as she thought, feeling that none of this really made sense.

Vicente knelt down beside the Paragon's body and quickly picked up his belongings.

"Let's leave this area. We'll find a place to hide and recover, but we can't do that here. This guy found us, so there might be others nearby."

They agreed and left without much delay.

They would continue on from there, and two hours later, they would find a place to hide and recuperate themselves.

Entering a dark cave, Vicente soon analyzed the Paragon's spatial ring and found in it a wealth unlike any he had ever encountered.

Paragons were magicians who could live for thousands of years. Amassing great wealth was only natural for someone with such longevity. Moreover, the enemy was a high-ranking member of the Congregation of Revelations.

So when Vicente found 5th-stage resources in the ring, he wasn't surprised.

Some were even compatible with Onyx, as they were items taken from negative monsters and creatures.

But most of the items there were of great value to Light Path magicians, and Vicente was already planning to let his companions use them in the future.

Unfortunately, most of them were in the same situation as him, unable to use magical resources because of the vampire blood they had used a few years ago.

However, the effects of consuming vampire blood wouldn't last much longer, so he saved those resources for the group's future return to the kingdom.

After separating all the resources according to their usefulness for the future or now, Vicente drank a restorative potion before beginning his meditation.

He secretly consumed some of the resources for Dark Path magicians that he had collected earlier in the Chutha Dynasty, something to help Torne recover from the previous battle.

His party would stay in the cave for the next two days when they would finally be done recovering, and it would be time to go hunting for Layla's pentagram!

Chapter 693 Resource for a New Breakthrough?

After resting in the cave where they had stopped, Vicente's party resumed their journey towards the Hot Wasteland. Fortunately, their rest was undisturbed, allowing them to continue without significant issues.",

They soon entered the northwestern region of the Kingdom of Eternal Dawn. Here, Layla was eager to pursue her quest for the pentagram.

As they ventured into this area characterized by high temperatures, strong winds, and frequent storms, the group navigated through a valley with sparse vegetation, indicative of the region's aridity. Throughout the landscape, black rocks dotted the area, with active volcanoes intermittently spewing flames and black smoke into the sky.

The temperature was intensely high, emanating from the depths of the Polaris Realm. Despite the harsh conditions, various powerful creatures thrived. Fire lizards were commonly seen near the volcanoes, and birds with flaming feathers soared above, adapted well to the chaos of the Hot Wasteland.

The area was rich in mana, with a powerful presence of various elements associated with the harsh climatic conditions of the territory, such as wind and fire. However, from what Torne had already told Vicente, the high temperatures in this area had caused countless deaths over the years. If they pursued this region, eventually they would find places rich in negative mana, which was useful for Onyx and the ghost itself.

It was a much more interesting place to look for opportunities other than pentagrams, which made it more interesting to the group than the previous places they passed.

As they entered the area, the party began their hunt, not only of beasts with characteristics similar to Layla's but also to look for resources and opportunities that might exist for them.

Amid their journey, they unsurprisingly encountered magicians hunting for pentagrams or opportunities, which were normal for the area, given the myriad of destinies hidden there.

Despite the dangers, the Hot Wasteland was a place of great interest to brave adventurers!

The party ignored the people they encountered along the way; most of them were mere Mages, and there were no Paragon in magicians the area.

That wasn't the case with the magical creatures. They were 5th-stage creatures on the Hot Wasteland!

Before encountering one that was compatible with Layla's powers, the group found something else in their path.

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After two hours of navigating, the party had yet to find anything of interest for Layla. However, they stumbled upon something that caught Torne's attention.

The group obviously didn't know it would be interesting to a ghost they didn't even know was in Vicente's body.

Vicente informed his companions they could gain something valuable for Onyx if they go after such a place.

Ahead of the group lay a hollow shrouded in thick, black fog, radiating a palpable aura of death.

The ominous atmosphere particularly affected the Light Path magicians in the party, their senses alert to the daunting possibilities that awaited them in the area ahead.

Opportunities for Dark Path magicians were practically poison and extreme danger to Light Path magicians!

"Are you sure about that, Vicente?" Rory asked, eyeing the menacing landscape. "This place looks ominous. There might be a high-level negative creature lurking at the end of the canyon."

Despite the thick fog obscuring the view, making it impossible to discern the canyon's presence, Vicente's connection to the Earth element allowed him to feel the terrain. He had detected a steep drop ahead and cautioned his group about the potential danger.

Noticing the concern on his friends' faces, Vicente replied with conviction, "Much greater dangers lie ahead. If Onyx doesn't become at least a Low-level Paragon, our challenges will only increase. Remember, we might even have to confront a Beginner Archmage to secure my fourth pentagram."

Lina, looking for reassurance, asked, "Are you confident that Onyx will advance upon entering this place?"

"Maybe not today. But I believe it will happen before Rory and Sarah hunt down their pentagrams." He replied, considering the resource he had received at the secret altar they had passed days ago.

Rory and Sarah would be the last of the group to hunt their pentagrams before it was time for Vicente to search for the magical cyan essence that matched his characteristics.

If his prediction came true, then Onyx could play a very important role in the hunt for pentagrams later on!

"Then be careful. As much as the area is positive for him, it could harm you," Layla commented to Vicente.

"Don't worry, I have a negative expulsion pill with me," Vicente reassured the group, showing them the pill he had prepared as a precaution. "I've been ready for the possibility that Onyx might consume something harmful, so accompanying him shouldn't pose a risk to me." Despite not needing the protection, Vicente used the pill to conceal this.

As Onyx's master, it was imperative for Vicente to accompany his crow into the area; such situations demanded the master's presence. Vicente's primary goal wasn't to bring Onyx to this place, but given the circumstances, he convinced his companions of the necessity of his entry.

Once they consented, Vicente proceeded with Onyx, while the rest of the group remained on guard, vigilant over both the negative area and the surrounding environment.

As much as this region had 5th stage beings, it would be difficult for a Light Path creature, even a 5th stage one, to get that close to a negative zone.

As long as no negative entity appeared there, it was likely the group would be safe while Vicente and Onyx were away.

The two of them made their way into the mist-covered area, Vicente riding on Onyx's back as the bird flew toward the base of the canyon.

For a few seconds, they traveled through the black fog, but soon they felt their eyes adjusting to the situation.

The negative elements in them worked, and gradually a black place appeared, with black soil, coal-black rocks, and many skeletons of various kinds of creatures lying at the bottom of the gorge.

A small puddle of condensed black liquid was in the deepest spot in the area. It looked like it had just formed, but in reality, it had been there for a long time.

"This is what I need, master. With this liquid, I'm sure I can become a Paragon!" Torne said, unable to hide his excitement.

He appeared outside Vicente's body, having already sensed that there was no one there but them.

"Do you need a lot of time? If it's going to take a while, maybe Onyx should begin his attempt to advance as well," Vicente suggested.

Chapter 694 Opportunities for Growth?

"No, we should let Onyx rest when we reach The Pure Enclave. We will find far superior cultivation opportunities there. It will be more beneficial for him to sleep. And I won't be long. I just need to consume this black liquid and return to your body. After that, I'll need about three days to meditate and assimilate all these resources," Torne said, eyeing the vessel containing roughly 8 liters of the dark fluid.",

Vicente realized this timeframe would allow Onyx just a brief nap, not enough for the crow to process the magical essence they had gained from the order's secret altar.

"You'll be completely out for three days..." Vicente murmured, his fists clenched as he acknowledged the risks but recognized the necessity. "All right. Go ahead."

With his master's approval, Torne acted swiftly, using his powers to enhance the concentration of the negative liquid—a condensation of the elements in this area—before consuming it as if it were juice.

As Torne drank, Onyx couldn't help feeling a tinge of envy, sensing the liquid might have been beneficial for him as well.

But this bird already had his own resource that could let him reach the 5th stage soon, while he stood next to Vicente and observed the surroundings.

Even though there was no one in the area but them, the negative aura was so intense that even negative beings could feel suspicious in this place.

The only one who felt nothing was Vicente. He felt the area was much more peaceful than the previous one they were in.

The stronger he became, the more he felt his connection with the Throne of Darkness becoming relevant in his life, even when he wasn't trying to use its negative powers.

It made him feel like the king of that dark domain!

While Torne drank the black liquid, Vicente looked at the many skeletons there, some of which were from magicians.

Noticing shiny metal objects on the fingers of some of them, as well as armor and weapons, he quickly made his first pentagram appear, then drawing all the metals to himself.

Eight spatial rings, 15 weapons, and 22 pieces of armor moved near Vicente and Onyx.

Undoing the bonds of these rings to their former owners, Vicente quickly counted what was there.

'Not bad.' He smiled as he sensed riches that must have come from Sky Sovereigns.

Usually, Sky Sovereigns were old people with years of experience and accumulated wealth. Even if not everyone had Vicente's opportunities, people at his level would usually have riches that could surprise him.

These rings brought a smile to his face, adding a few more tens of thousands of gold coins to the Fuller family's 'treasuries', as well as various 4th stage cultivation items and resources.

When Torne finished what he was doing, Vicente already knew how he was going to use each of them with his companions.

"Master, I will now return to your body. From now on, I will be in meditation. I won't be available to you for the next few days. But when I awaken, I'll probably already be a Low-level Paragon!" Torne said, unable to contain his excitement.

Vicente nodded at him. "Very well. Take advantage of this opportunity. We'll do great things after you advance."

"Yes!"

Vicente and Onyx were soon alone on the cliff, while Torne had already begun his ascension meditation in Vice's consciousness space.

This was a very safe space for Torne to ascend to the next stage. Even if advancing to the 5th stage could produce magical effects that could show such an event to beings in the vicinity, this would be of no concern to Vicente and the ghost.

Only Vicente himself would feel the success of Torne when he were to enter the 5th stage.

This was not something unique to Vicente and Torne. It was a reality for anyone in their situation.

Vicente and Onyx didn't hesitate to return to the surface, knowing there was no way any of their companions would realize that Torne had been the one to take advantage of this place.

As they reappeared from where they had left, their companions would make faces and sounds of surprise.

"But already? You were really fast!" Casey pointed out with a smile.

"We were lucky. There was nothing but resources on the precipice. Anyway, Onyx has already consumed what he should. Once he's slept for a few days, we can wait for him to move on to the 5th stage," Vicente warned his companions.

"Fortunately, I stumbled upon some spatial rings nearby," he threw a few of the resources he had recently gained to Lina, Sarah, and Casey.

"This is for you. Sarah and Casey, keep it for when you can use magical resources again. As for you, Lina, use it when you meditate again. It will strengthen your foundation and help you when it's time to hunt your pentagram."

The three nodded in agreement as they put away the pill bottles Vicente had given them.

"Let's get on with our hunt," he said, wasting no time in leading the group in a different direction from the one he had been following until he arrived in front of the last canyon.

Lina and Layla went back to searching for signs of creatures compatible with the beautiful gray-haired woman. Meanwhile, Vicente took care of the group's safety more than ever, now that Torne wasn't with them.

Continuing the hunt without Torne would be risky, but staying in one place wasn't a good option. Each passing day would make the continent increasingly perilous. The longer it took, the riskier the search for the cyan pentagram would become!

Vicente wanted to get the pentagram from Layla before Torne's advance. In fact, he wanted to take advantage of the opportunities in this area of the Hot Wasteland in this period. It would be ideal if they could leave the area in 3 or 4 days with Layla already with her fourth pentagram, Torne at the 5th stage, and some of them with more refined powers.

So, the group would move on with their goals, heading into that vast area near the northwestern border of the Kingdom of Eternal Dawn.

Over the next few hours, they would find more opportunities, passing by a special magical resource formed by the flames in the area, but eventually finding one of the continent's famous Magic Springs!

They would, of course, collect opportunities along the way, with Rory entering the Magic Spring compatible with him.

Chapter 695 Layla's Target

At that moment, Vicente and his companions gathered around the enchanted well into which Rory had descended hours earlier. It was in the heart of a scorching desert, nearby a pool of molten lava that emitted intense heat and mana associated with the element of fire.",

In this harsh environment, weak creatures or those susceptible to fire risked incineration if they ventured too close. Yet, for those who could withstand the intense heat, entering the lava pool offered a unique opportunity to immerse themselves, channel their fiery mana, and refine their abilities.

Rory was in the circular pool, which had a radius of one meter. His body, enveloped in orange flames of mana, was surrounded by three pentagrams, and he was completely bare, having lost all his hair to the fiery liquid.

Despite the loss of his long red hair, Rory considered the sacrifice worthwhile. Although visibly in great pain, his satisfaction was unmistakable as the first pentagram transitioned from red to orange. In just the past few hours, his mana had risen by 10%, approaching the threshold between an Earth Sovereign and a Sky Sovereign.

But he wouldn't make that breakthrough. Just as he reached the limit of how long he could stay in the well, Lina's expression changed as she used her ability.

"Get ready. Layla's target is close," Lina announced, opening her eyes and assuming a fighting stance. "Something will happen, and then Rory will emerge from the well. I just saw our group battling an early 5th stage Arcane Falcon."

Moments after Lina alerted her group, they all heard the distinct "ki-ki-ki-ki" call of a bird nearby.

Shortly after that, the well ran dry, and Rory opened his eyes.

"Rory, get ready. Layla's target is close!" Vicente warned as everyone in his group scanned the sky, searching for the source of the scream they had just heard.

Unfazed by the recent development of his pentagram and the enhancements to his mana, Rory swiftly dressed in his clothes and donned his 4th grade robotic armor.

As he finished preparing, Rory looked up and saw not just Layla's target hawk but another bird as well. Both engaged in aerial combat.

"They're both Low-level Paragons," Casey observed, and asked, "How do we handle this? There are two enemies!"

"Perhaps not two enemies, but one enemy and one ally," Vicente suggested, noticing that the creatures belonged to different species. "Lina and Casey, you'll stay back and provide support like you did with the Mid-level Paragon. Layla, you'll join Onyx in the attack, and Rory, you're with me. Sarah, stay behind in case Lina or Casey need protection."

Having devised a plan, Vicente took off toward the two large birds locked in battle.

'Red-feathered friend, let my group assist you,' Vicente communicated telepathically to the red bird, which was fiercely battling with its talons and beak against the black and white-winged creature—the Arcane Falcon that had captured Layla's interest.

The red bird glanced away momentarily, noticing Vicente's group approaching.

It quickly identified their target—the green pentagram of its adversary.

Under normal circumstances, this red bird would never ally itself with magicians, particularly those hunting for pentagrams, since it possessed a magical essence and had been hunted itself in the past.

However, the current adversary had devoured one of its eggs and was slightly faster than it. If it hesitated even for a moment, the enemy would escape.

This 5th stage bird realized that only the gray-haired woman was compatible with it. However, she seemed more interested in the pentagram carried by the Arcane Falcon.

'Let's cooperate, but don't overreach, human. I will turn against you if you cross me,' the red bird cautioned.

'We are solely interested in the Arcane Falcon. Let's work together to defeat it. My friend Layla will deliver the final blow,' Vicente responded.

'Okay.' The beast agreed, indifferent to who would ultimately kill its adversary.

Meanwhile, as the red bird clashed with the black and white feathered Arcane Falcon, it noticed the humans intervening in the fight.

But before it could react or strategize, Onyx enveloped the area in black mist while Vicente conjured huge metal weapons that targeted the hawk's non-vital areas.

As weak as Vicente's group seemed, they were anything but simple. Also, the group wasn't fighting a 5th stage beast in its prime. The black and white bird was not at its best and was worried about not being seriously injured by the red bird.

As Vicente entered the battle and used his third skill to enter his opponent's mind, the Arcane Falcon felt the terror of being chased by a powerful group.

It missed its move, and without realizing it, the red bird severely injured one of its wings.

Immediately after, a giant hammer struck the top of its body, dropping it like a piece of meat with no will to defend itself.

Layla moved while being supported by Lina and Casey, seeing what could happen if she followed her original plan and then changing her actions to ensure a quick end to the creature.

One of Vicente's swords formed in front of her before she moved, disappearing from where she was, and then appearing face to face with the magical 5th stage beast.

Taking advantage of her speed and her opponent's vulnerability, Layla swiftly slashed at the neck of the black and white bird, decapitating the injured creature in an instant.

As its head fell, the bird, renowned for its agility, lamented its end but recognized Layla's swift movements. It regretted devouring one of the red bird's eggs before succumbing to death's eternal slumber.

Within less than a minute of the confrontation, the black and white bird lay dead on the ground, and Layla secured the pentagram much more easily than she had expected over the past few months.

As soon as the black and white bird was dead, the red bird departed the place. Meanwhile, Vicente gestured for Layla to seize the moment and absorb the pentagram emerging from the corpse of the black and white bird.

Chapter 696 Happy Day?

Hours had passed since Vicente instructed Layla to absorb the green pentagram from the deceased Arcane Falcon.",

She diligently worked to assimilate the magical essence. Recognized by the beast she had slain just before its demise, Layla faced little difficulty in mastering its magical essence.

She would soon finish absorbing her first green pentagram, stabilizing her magical foundation, gaining a new power, but also increasing the quality of her first pentagram.

Like Casey, her first pentagram was much closer to maturing into the color orange, and that should happen when she was close to becoming a Paragon. Of course, if she didn't come across an opportunity like the one Rory had in this area of the Hot Wasteland.

When she finished her absorption, she told her group about her new ability, Molecular Acceleration, an ability to increase the molecular vibration of her body so that she could become invisible or pass through solid objects.

This was a fantastic ability with a lot of potential both on and off the battlefield!

Layla could have a perfect defense, at least temporarily, to withstand powerful attacks, but also to reach enemies in their moments of post-attack weakness.

The entire group was happy for her before they left this area and headed north to The Hungry Canyon, a high-level domain in the center-north of the continent.

Now that they had completed their main objective in this area, they were interested in continuing their search for Lina's pentagram.

The Hungry Canyon was not a small region within a state like the areas they had passed through so far. Their next area of interest was a domain of magical beings, where there was no dominant state

or organization that ruled the area. It was a place the size of a state, but without the totalitarian control of a large organization.

The beginning of this area was only two days away from the group's current position. But finding Lina's pentagram could take days to weeks, considering how large the area was.

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Three days later, Vicente's group was already in The Hungry Gorge when the group spotted a 4th stage creature with a green magical essence that was extremely compatible with Lina!

The group hadn't expected to have so much luck on this part of their journey, but when they encountered the creature that afternoon, they didn't waste any time. Soon the group surrounded it, with Vicente assisting the beautiful brown-haired woman in killing the Sky Sovereign beast.

He used little of his powers to pressure the creature. Even though he could make the creature immobile and helpless for Lina with his current power, it was always good to leave the beast with the impression that it had put up a good fight.

If the beast died after an interesting battle, it was usually easier to absorb its pentagram.

Neither he nor his companions used as much of their powers as they had against their 5th stage opponents up to that point in the journey.

Lina took the lead in fighting the creature of her interest, facilitating the work of her companions, who basically supported her while watching her.

Amid this, Torne was talking to Vicente, who had already completed his meditation time and advanced to the beginning of the 5th stage!

With Torne's advancement to the 5th stage, his mana had more than doubled with the birth of his soul avatar. His senses had increased more than fivefold with this advancement, and many of his characteristics had improved much more than his mana.

Because of this, he had pointed out the beast to Vicente a few minutes ago, and now he was advising his master about something else.

'Master, if we go west from here, we'll find the ruins of an ancient city that existed in this area in the distant past. I have a feeling that some members of the group will have unique opportunities there.'

'Oh? All right. We'll pass this ruin after Lina absorbs her pentagram.' Vicente said as he watched the beautiful brown-haired woman to weaken the opponent she was fighting a beautiful battle to watch.

It was not as exciting as a Paragon's battle, but it had been a good fight for the last three minutes.

With each passing second, Lina became more dominant, while the magical creature felt death creeping closer.

In the 5th minute of the fight, Lina would deliver the killing blow, finishing her opponent and achieving her goal on this journey!

As her opponent died from her attacks, the woman in the 4th grade robotic armor moved to absorb the green pentagram of this being, a Chronomancer Faunus, a half-human, half-beast capable of mastering the skills of the team.

As she meditated beside the monster's corpse, her companions approached, completing another successful hunt.

"That was quicker than I thought," Rory commented.

"Hmm. I didn't expect us to find Lina's target so quickly. I guess we got lucky today," Layla murmured in agreement and looked at the woman.

Sarah asked Vicente. "And now? We reached this pentagram in much less time than we thought. Shall we move on to The Pure Enclave now that we've hunted down its essence?"

"No. This area has many ruins and possibilities for us. We'll travel slowly through this area for three weeks. I think some of us will develop our pentagrams like Rory did and maybe even get some lost 5th grade artifacts. There's a ruin nearby. As soon as Lina is done, we'll go explore the place."

The group understood Vicente's answer, although Rory and Sarah were eager to add their pentagrams.

But even they didn't disagree with his decision. The longer they took to hunt their pentagrams, the better they could prepare to fight the magical creature with Vicente's pentagram of interest.

Another point was that if they hunted Vicente's pentagram too quickly, 5th and 6th stage creatures could hunt them much sooner.

They had already imagined the vampires were hunting 5th and 6th stage beings, so it was interesting that Vicente wasn't advancing so quickly in the short term. At least until the vampires completed their first stage of exterminating experts, it would be quite attractive for Vice to be at the 4th stage.

Of course, they couldn't delay their plans too much. But two weeks and a month to explore The Hungry Canyon seemed appropriate.

...

Hours later, Lina would finish her pentagram absorption and the group would head west, in the direction Torne had showed.

Chapter 697 Ancient Ruin?

After Lina added her fourth pentagram to her magical powers, her strength increased significantly with her new ability.",

Unlike her fellow hunters, who hadn't been able to fully develop their first essences through their new pentagrams, Lina's absorption caused her first pentagram to change color.

Besides the new ability of the fourth pentagram, she gained a variation of her first ability, as well as a strengthening of the old ability of the first pentagram.

Her mana became more powerful, more solid, to where even without leveling up, all of her abilities increased!

A Sovereign magician was someone with four pentagrams. A being at that stage who only had three magical essences would be weaker than if they had all four.

In fact, Sovereigns without their fourth essence were like Mages with mana equivalent to that of a Sovereign. They wouldn't really be Sovereigns until they added their fourth essence!

The result? Lina, as well as the others who had already achieved their primary goals on this journey, experienced a significant improvement in their powers.

With Lina's improvements, the group moved on, with Vicente leading his people to the ruin Torne had suggested.

His companions didn't know about Torne, let alone the ghost's advance to the 5th stage. But because of this advance, Vicente could now count on many more powers to fight opponents!

Thus, he would be more confident in moving to the area where he and his group would arrive an hour after Lina finished her pentagram absorption.

...

Arriving at what looked like a small village built on the side of a hill, Vicente's group saw the old, abandoned buildings of the village entrance area.

Some buildings were falling apart, badly damaged by time or old battles that had taken place in the area.

But these and other structures, in better condition, were covered in dust, with large cobwebs here and there, but also undergrowth covering the streets of the area. The garden in the center of this abandoned city had spread to the sides and reached some buildings, covering them with branches, leaves, and roots.

But despite everything, there didn't seem to be any magical creatures living there.

"What is our purpose here?" Rory asked.

"It may not look like it, but this area was once the home of powerful magicians," Vicente commented as he scanned the area with his second magical power, seeing some more intense field lines in certain parts of the area.

"There are certainly spatial rings and resources around the village," he said, before turning his attention to Onyx after receiving advice from Torne.

"Onyx, find a spot and begin your meditation. I'll give you two weeks to advance."

Onyx broke away from the group and headed for an area of the village he felt was more compatible with him, closer to the top of the hill.

Casey looked at Vicente and asked, "Are we going to stay in this area all the time? Have you noticed any opportunities here that we haven't yet?"

"That's right. I feel like there's something here similar to the Magic Spring Rory entered in the Hot Wasteland. It's not as strong as that, but some of us could benefit from it."

The eyes of everyone in the group sparkled with interest, for this was the most interesting kind of opportunity for them, aside from the pentagram hunt.

"Maybe there's even more..." Vicente murmured with a smile on his face.

"Then let's split up. Casey and Lina, this place is compatible with both of you. Go through the challenges on your way to the basement of that building over there." He pointed toward a three-story building that had many cracks, roots around it, and lots of cobwebs.

"I have a feeling there might be traps along the way. Be careful."

The two nodded, understanding that this was probably an opportunity for magicians with strong mental skills.

"The rest of you, come with me. We'll analyze this area and collect spatial rings and other things."

The rest of the group didn't need to hear any more to understand. Besides the dust and cobwebs around the village, there were also many skeletons, not only of magical beings of various kinds, but also of magicians.

They had already discovered metallic objects on some of these skeletons, showing that they carried artifacts.

But before collecting or analyzing these resources, Vicente led his group to a building from which Torne had noticed something impressive.

As they approached the place, which had such thick, specially constructed walls to contain the mana within the area in question, everyone in Vicente's group sensed what was there.

Rory and Sarah were the most interested, as they were the ones who had not yet absorbed their pentagrams.

But what they felt was not compatible with them!

'That's a pentagram for a Dark Path magician!' Rory realized before his group entered the basement of this building and encountered a magical essence formed by natural phenomena!

"Shit! That's a fucking naturally formed pentagram!" Casey commented aloud as he saw such an essence for the first time in his life.

And it was indeed a rarity to find pentagrams formed outside the bodies of living beings.

Of the entire group, only Vicente and Rory had seen something similar before — Vice's second pentagram.

"Did you notice that? Is that why we came here?" Rory asked in shock.

Vicente shook his head in the negative. "I sensed the area that I sent Casey and Lina. But when I arrived here, I noticed this place," he lied, putting himself in Torne's place.

"This is impressive. Unfortunately, this essence isn't compatible with any of us," Sarah muttered in a disappointed tone as she looked at the green wonder floating above a puddle of black liquid.

But Vicente disagreed with her.

"We have someone in the family who could benefit from it," he said as he took out the necklace with the crystal that Prische had given him earlier.

Then, under the eyes of his group mates, Vicente directed his mana to this artifact, which could hold special essences for a long time without damaging them.

Even the soul of a Lamia, which wouldn't last long outside of a suitable body, could live for many centuries in this object. The same was true for a pentagram!

When Vicente manipulated it into his crystal, the group understood who he wanted to take this magical essence to.

'Nina,' Rory thought to himself as he smiled, understanding his friend's goal.

Chapter 698 Unplanned Stop?

As soon as Vicente had placed the green pentagram in the special crystal, Rory approached him and asked to borrow the item.",

When he put his mana into the crystal, Rory's eyes opened wide.

"I didn't know you had something so incredible! When did you get this crystal?"

Vicente smiled. "After I separated from Sarah and Casey after my revenge. I found it in the body of a monster. I had never used it before for lack of opportunity. But luckily I brought it with me on this journey."

"I see. How fortunate for us. It would be a shame to waste this pentagram." Rory handed back the necklace with the crystal in question and asked. "This is for Nina, right?"

"Hmm, Nina won't have to hunt for her pentagram when she becomes a Sovereign. That will make things easier for us. It would be too dangerous for her to hunt for pentagrams of this quality in this chaotic world."

The current moment was no longer ideal for hunting pentagrams. With the onset of the disaster and the major powers of the world suffering from the situation against the vampires, hunting pentagrams was already much more dangerous than it would have been years ago.

But now the situation was still 'calm.' Vicente and everyone understood that in two or three years, and in the years after that, the situation would get worse. It would definitely be more difficult to hunt pentagrams in the future than it was now!

Finding this pentagram today was the best thing for Nina and her future growth.

"What now? This place seems to contain a lot of negative magical essence," Sarah commented as she looked at the dark surroundings of this chamber, which now seemed more like a cave because of the roots in the walls, the amount of dust and spider webs in the area.

Vicente looked around and explained to his group. "I will collect this liquid and the magical essence in this area. This place is precious to Dark Path magicians."

"That..." Sarah muttered while Layla looked at Vicente strangely.

Vicente said. "Do you remember the encounter with the 5th stage Dark Reaper?"

Everyone nodded yes.

"Well, do you know what that creature told me? He said that the continent needs Dark Path beings to contain monsters. As chaotic and destructive as Dark Path magicians can be, they are essential to the balance of the continent."

"Nonsense! Dark Path magicians are only interested in strengthening themselves and fulfilling their desires," Layla said with a smile on her face, seeing Vicente had been fooled by a Dark Reaper.

'Of course, that monster would try to say something like that! It's a damn Dark Path creature!' She thought to herself.

But Vicente disagreed. "No, you're wrong, Layla. Think about it. What elements normally make up monsters on the continent?"

Rory replied. "The elements of the Dark Path. Most monsters have powers based on shadow, darkness, poisonous elemental sweeps, necromancy, curses, summons, etc."

Vicente showed positively to Rory. "What about elemental suppression?"

"It restricts creatures of the same affinity..." Rory muttered, realizing what his friend was getting at. "Are you saying that Dark Path magicians are the natural suppressors of monsters? Then why are monsters getting out of hand in alliance with vampires?"

"Because the Congregation of Revelation specialists killed most Dark Path magicians centuries ago by," Vicente pointed at Layla.

"That... That makes sense," Sarah said as she looked at Layla, feeling it all made sense if Vicente was right.

Even Layla couldn't help but be disturbed by such a comment.

She couldn't argue with Vicente's remark. It was a fact that the Congregation of Revelations had, centuries ago, destroyed the Cataclysm Order, the largest organization of Dark Path magicians. The Temple's forces hunted down nearly 80% of the Dark Path magicians on the continent back then.

It also made sense to say that Dark Path magicians were natural suppressors of monsters. Monsters were indeed associated with the elements of the Dark Path, so there was no better way to limit them than with beings capable of using elemental suppression.

'Are we responsible for the current disaster?' Layla asked herself, as her expression changed. She couldn't help but think how vicious the old man who had attacked their group earlier had seemed.

Vicente wasn't trying to make Layla feel bad. He just wanted her to understand that she couldn't blindly trust the Congregation of Revelations. She didn't have to believe the Dark Reaper completely, but she should at least doubt things a little.

He sighed and said. "I will open the secret places of the order to receive Dark Path magicians, so it makes sense to have negative essences to help these magicians grow stronger."

Rory and the others understood what he had in mind and no longer found it strange that he wanted to collect the essences available in the area.

Soon they would clean up the area before slowly returning to the surface, where they would split up to explore the area in search of spatial rings and other things.

There were many interesting places to explore in the area. Although the two most important places were where Vicente had just passed and where Lina and Casey were, there were other possibilities for the group beyond the items on the corpses in the village.

...

Vicente and his party were exploring an ancient ruin in search of opportunities when Miss Death flew over Martell Village!

Since her last encounter with Vicente, she had woken up confused and without many memories of that day. When she wrote Vicente's name in her Book of Death, she was plunged into a deep darkness and an inexplicable nightmare. She then spent hours having different nightmares about things that seemed to make no sense to her.

Even on a mission to hunt down Low-level Paragons in the continent's south, she felt compelled to divert her path to this village, which now pulsed like a city, with trains arriving and departing every hour and its inhabitants happily immersed in their affairs.

As she looked at this curious place, she couldn't help but think of four shadows, especially the face of a woman with black hair and a gentle gaze.

She hadn't been able to see for most of her life, or so she remembered. Yet, strangely enough, she imagined that face as perfectly as if she had seen such a person before.

"Miss?" One of her companions interrupted her after 15 minutes of observing the village.

Cleverly, Lauren replied. "Wait here. I need to check on Vicente Fuller." She lied. Moved by a mysterious feeling, she explored the place, hoping to discover the cause of this attraction. Little did she know that this impulse would lead her straight to the Fuller estate!

Chapter 699 Time for the Main Breakthrough

Minutes after entering the village unescorted, Lauren was inside the Fuller estate, while the men near the house lay unconscious on the outskirts.",

The family home was untouched. As much as Vicente's men worked there every day to take care of the family business, the people there mostly just used the area for work. But the decorations, the furniture, and everything else about the property were exactly as it had been just over 10 years ago when this woman had last left.

The pictures of Andrew, Kate, Lauren herself, Vicente and Nina were here and there. Unfortunately, the 26-year-old woman couldn't see any of them.

Miss Death could see by using her mana to map her surroundings. But she couldn't understand the details that would distinguish a woman's face from a man's, for example.

To her, humans were nothing more than piles of flesh and bone with minor variation in shape. Some were taller, others had more volume in certain parts of their bodies, but she couldn't understand differences in eye color, or whether there were specks in people's hair, etc.

As she used her mana to map her surroundings in 3D, the paintings on the walls or the portraits on the furniture in the living room of the Fuller residence were nothing more to her than decorative items that added volume to the walls.

She couldn't tell what was drawn on them.

But even though she couldn't see the pictures of her family, of whom she remembered absolutely nothing until a few weeks ago, she couldn't help but smell something familiar.

She moved with little thought and soon found herself in the double bedroom of the residence, where Andrew and Kate's clothes and things still lay.

Vicente had kept everything. He had left instructions for his staff to dust the area at most, but not to do anything else in the bedroom.

As soon as she entered it, Lauren smelled the scent of her parents and couldn't help but feel connected to the surrounding.

'Why?' she didn't understand. She could sense that this was Vicente Fuller's house. Why did she feel connected to this place?

Was she in love with the man? Was that what made her feel this way?

Her expression hardened as she clenched her fists. 'No way! He's my enemy. I'll kill him, eventually!'

She couldn't recall exactly what had happened after the appearance of the Throne of Darkness, but she had a vague impression that Vicente had issued her an ultimatum similar to the one she had given him years earlier.

This only intensified her resentment towards him, and she yearned for a reunion to end the life of the bastard who had rejected and possibly threatened her.

'Miss?'

She picked up the mental communication from one of her companions waiting outside the village.

'Miss, we must leave. Don't forget our plans for the capital. We need to act urgently or we won't be able to achieve our goals.'

She heard it as she paused beside her parents' bed, touching it with one hand and feeling the soft, sweet-smelling sheets that Kate had so often cared for.

'Okay,' she said after a second, before leaving the Fuller estate as quickly as she had entered.

...

Ten days later, in The Hungry Canyon...

In the small, ancient ruin where Vicente's group had halted days earlier, Onyx still slept in the spot he had chosen to attempt advancing to the 5th stage, while the group had seized several opportunities in the area.

Ten days were sufficient for Vicente and his companions to gather all the artifacts available in these ruins, ranging from spatial rings to weapons and armor.

Most of the items were of the 4th-grade—neither life-changingly good nor worthless. However, there were two 5th-grade items!

Besides these artifacts, which Vicente and his companions worked hard to collect, they had taken advantage of other opportunities in the vicinity.

These opportunities were not akin to those that Lina and Casey had encountered in the ruin Vicente had shown them. Nonetheless, they were sufficient for some of them to enhance their elemental affinities and improve the quality of their first pentagram.

Only Vicente wasn't able to improve much, as the quality of his first two essences was already very strong, requiring more for any noticeable improvement.

He was already at the peak of the 4th stage, so he hadn't benefited from mana. He had only slightly improved his elemental affinity in this area, as his elements weren't as common or abundant there.

Still, the group was much stronger after ten days in the place Torne had showed. Lina and Casey had completed their short seclusion, with her becoming 8% stronger and him raising the quality of his first pentagram to the orange grade.

Layla and Sarah had got 5th-grade artifacts compatible with them, items that would improve their defense or attack in subsequent confrontations.

As for the other resources, they would mainly be of value to the family when they returned to the Seidel Kingdom.

For now, Vicente had saved some interesting things to take back to his family, but he used about 40% of the metal items he had got during these days to produce new 4th-grade artifacts with 100% efficiency.

Besides making more robotic armor, he also made ammunition and firearms, as well as special artifacts he had never made before.

Among them was a repellent bracelet that could mimic one of his manipulations of his abilities, creating an electromagnetic field that could repel things that came close to its wearer.

This was a defensive item that could really help someone like one of his companions after all his other fighting methods had gone wrong!

Anyway, Vicente's companions were already armed with the group's new artifacts, while three robotic armors without wearers were at the group's side, serving as lookouts.

Vicente's armors could do some things and even fight without their wearers, so it was valuable to have them in this form.

Now the group just waited for Onyx, having enjoyed everything there was to enjoy in this ruin before his departure.

"How much longer is he going to be?" Rory asked Vicente while the two of them looked at the building where the black crow slept underground.

"It won't be long. I feel he's about to make his move," Vicente murmured, feeling his connection to Onyx tells him such a detail. "We better get ready. Let's activate all mana suppressors in the area."

A mana suppressor was the name given to an artifact capable of repelling mana from both sides, creating a kind of invisible vacuum barrier that basically made it impossible to sense what was happening in the area protected by such devices.

Such a thing could hinder Onyx's progress, but since he was already about to advance, Vicente felt it wouldn't cause any problems, but would play the important role of protecting his beast's advance.

Chapter 700 Towards the Pure Enclave?

Three hours after Vicente's warning, the mana surrounding Onyx shifted, causing the area protected by the mana suppressors to darken, while darkness completely enveloped the black crow's body.",

His aura, which had fluctuated over the past few days as if it had encountered a barrier that prevented its rise, suddenly transformed.

The great magical beast's physical and mental constraints reached a tipping point where they could absorb mana without drastic changes, emitting a thunderous sound that reverberated through the surrounding area and stimulated storms nearby.

As a fierce storm brewed, something abruptly drew all the mana in the vicinity into Onyx, as if his body had become a massive mana vortex.

Vicente's mount's aura finally ascended without limitation, breaking past the 4th stage barrier and rapidly doubling the mana within the creature's body.

As the mana within Onyx increased, its form within him developed and attained a new level, while the magical essence of the creature, previously yellow, turned completely green.

The body parts of the black crow appeared, with feathers that differed slightly from the previous ones growing along its large body, which grew accordingly.

Onyx's dominant characteristic was his physical abilities. He had powers over darkness that could help him a lot in battle, but he really depended a lot on his body.

His muscles, bones, tendons, ligaments, and organs became more efficient, more resistant, and developed their structural quality and regenerative capacity.

From the moment he began his advance to the end of the evolutionary process, five minutes passed amidst the storm already roaring nearby.

Day had given way to night, while Onyx's mana had not completely changed because of the items Vicente had got during his current journey.

Though the storm could draw unwanted attention, this was only true for those who were very close to their group. Beings that were over 20 kilometers away wouldn't be able to notice what was

happening there. They disconnected all the mana in the surrounding area from the place where Onyx was advancing.

In another situation, the advance of a magical creature like Onyx might attract the attention of living beings hundreds of kilometers away. Fortunately, with the use of the mana suppressors, the group wouldn't have to worry about beings outside the space up to 20 kilometers away from them.

In the sixth minute since the breakthrough began, Onyx would open his eyes, awakening from his sleep while already at a new level!

'Low-level Paragon!' he thought to himself as he felt his feathers ruffle, looked up for a moment, and felt incredible.

"He did it." Vicente smiled as he said to his companions outside the building Onyx had completed the entire evolution process.

As soon as the crow left it, everyone looked at him in awe, seeing the 'first' Paragon of the group!

Onyx was smaller, but his current appearance was much more brutal, showing that he was no ordinary creature.

Now a Low-level Paragon, he could probably fight even Mid-level Paragons of the Light Path. As a Dark Path beast, he had incredible power!

"The hunt for our pentagrams will be a walk in the park now," Rory muttered to Sarah, the two of them being the last of the group to go hunting for their pentagrams before Vicente.

"Master," Onyx halted before Vicente, overwhelmed with gratitude for the countless opportunities his master had given upon him throughout the years.

Even though he had been forced to become the mount of this black-haired young man, this beast was truly grateful, realizing how the outcome of the day they had met had favored him.

If he stayed at Vicente's side long enough, perhaps one day he could form a cyan essence and join the continent's most powerful magical creatures!

"You did well, Onyx. You took advantage of every opportunity and made a breakthrough." Vicente smiled at the bird before him.

"Now it's time for you to prepare for our journey to the north of the continent."

They were still in the central part of the continent. If they continued north through The Hungry Canyon, they would reach The Pure Enclave in a few weeks, where they could actually enter the northern Polaris Realm, which was the northernmost area in the center of the continent.

Everyone in the group, including Lina, knew that Vicente was hunting a cyan pentagram, something they were unlikely to find in The Hungry Canyon. Thus, his interest in traveling north did not surprise them, even if it was possibly the most dangerous place on the continent.

"When do we go to The Pure Enclave?" Sarah asked.

Vicente looked away from the bird in front of him and answered the woman. "We will go down The Hungry Canyon to The Pure Enclave. If we come across any fantastic opportunities, we'll stop. Otherwise, we'll go straight to where you two will hunt."

The Pure Enclave was an area rich in the elements common to these two, but also to Vicente. Others in the group could also take advantage of passing through the area. Whether they stopped at other ruins in The Hungry Canyon wouldn't make much difference to the group.

The group stayed in these ruins for the next ten minutes, until everything was ready for departure, and Vicente, his six companions, and the three robotic armors set off in a northerly direction.

...

One week later, in the capital of the Seidel Kingdom...

A major battle involving members of the royal guard—the most advanced order in the royal army—startled the city this morning.

Unfortunately for the local forces, their enemies were powerful Sky Sovereigns from the Dark Path.

On such an occasion, the enemies not only assaulted the royal palace. They also took the body of someone who had suddenly died minutes before such an attack.

The locals didn't know who had died, but the Fuller family and the royal family knew: the powerful Low-level Paragon who lived in Grandis to protect the king had suddenly died before Miss Death and her three companions could take his body!

That day, the forces of the Seidel Kingdom realized a serious problem that was already plaguing more northern parts of the continent.

Not all the continent's magicians were united in their fight against the vampires!

Soon, the entire continent would be shocked to discover actions similar to Miss Death's, where Dark Path magicians were killing pillars of humanity to further the monsters' plans to take over the Polaris Realm!