

The Mafia 701

Chapter 701 Group Enhancements?

While the Seidel Kingdom's capital was experiencing its moment of greatest terror, 26 days had passed since the death of the Paragon, who had invited Vicente to join a sect of the Trevora Kingdom.

Vicente's party was currently in The Pure Enclave, having entered the area a few days earlier.

Their journey between The Hungry Canyon and The Pure Enclave had bounced, and the party had dealt well with the monsters along the way.

Onyx did his best to suppress his cultivation and not draw unnecessary attention. As much as the group was in the dark about the major events on the continent, they assumed the vampires must be after high-level experts.

With Onyx hiding, they didn't attract any major trouble, even considering the various incidents that had happened around them in the past few days.

Still, they had killed around 5,000 magical creatures in those days, mostly creatures from the Dark Path.

The magical creatures of the Dark Path seemed to work with the vampires, or at least had similar purposes. As such, they encountered many of these creatures.

But none of these battles really threatened the group's structure. With a Paragon and several Sovereigns with their new essences, the battles had continued with the same level of danger as before.

Their opponents were getting stronger, but they were also progressing according to the danger of the places they were going.

Thus, they had entered The Pure Enclave, a special area for the elements of the Light Path in the far north of the continent's central area.

It wasn't as large an area as The Hungry Canyon, but it was still as large as the Scott Province, and it was an area basically ruled by Light Path beings.

After entering the area, the group had already conquered Sarah's pentagram, and now they were at a Magic Spring they had found the day before!

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Nestled in the hilly terrain of The Pure Enclave, Vicente's group had established their camp in an area the size of a fighting arena covered with rocks and mud.

At the top of one of the many trees in the area, Onyx leaned against one of the highest branches, the farthest place he had found from the Magic Spring, where his master was.

As a creature of the Dark Way, an area with a strong elemental affinity to the elements of the Light Path would naturally weaken Onyx the closer he got to it. So, he was at the top of a tree, where he could see the group, but also be relatively far away from the positive elements in the area.

In one corner of the rocky area, a few huts could be seen, with what looked like mud pools scattered irregularly around the area.

These weren't mud pools, but Magic Springs that were especially beneficial to practitioners with an affinity for the earth and water elements.

So not only was Vicente meditating in one of these small mud pools, but so were Lina and Sarah.

Casey, Rory and Layla were in the small makeshift camp, watching the group's surroundings, but also waiting for their companions to finish cultivating.

Hours ago, the three of them had entered the small mud pools in the area where they were cultivating to absorb the elements compatible with them.

As they already knew, The Pure Enclave was especially interesting for those with a positive elemental affinity. In particular, the strongest elements in the region were earth, air, and lightning. But other elements such as water and fire were also common.

The situation in that area was so good that if they had grown up there instead of in Seidel Kingdom, it was possible that all of them, except for Vicente, would have become peak Sky Sovereigns by now. As for Vice, he would certainly be a Mid-

level Paragon.

That's how good The Pure Enclave area was!

While Casey and Layla monitored the surroundings with Onyx's help, Rory cultivated outside the small mud pools, continuing his preparations for his hunt.

He was so close to achieving his primary goal for this trip that he couldn't contain his anxiety. With his fourth essence, it was likely that he would reach the peak level of an Earth Sovereign, with the possibility of advancing in level even before he returned to the kingdom.

In fact, at the beginning of the journey, he had already thought he would advance before returning to Grandis, but now he thought his advancement would come not long after Lauren's rescue attempt.

So, while his companions worked, he concentrated on accumulating mana.

Vicente had gone as far as he could in this area, improving his elemental affinity with the earth element.

'Very good, master. You've absorbed more from this opportunity than I could have imagined. The moment you absorb your fourth pentagram, it is likely that you will advance directly to the beginning of the 5th stage,' Torne said in Vicente's mind in a positive tone.

'When you add your fifth pentagram, your first and second essences should strengthen.'

If that happened, Vicente would be left with the following configuration of pentagrams: green, cyan, green, cyan, cyan.

That would be shocking!

This configuration of pentagrams would even be superior to the normal configuration for Archmages!

Archmages were usually magicians who had developed their first essence at least once, and the most talented ones had strengthened it more than once.

This meant that a common magical configuration for Archmages was: yellow, orange, yellow, green, green, cyan.

Only an Archmage who had absorbed magical essences formed without the involvement of living creatures, such as the pentagram on Vicente's necklace, could have a higher configuration. But even someone like that, a rarity, wouldn't be far ahead of Vicente if he reached that level!

Vicente opened his eyes as he rose from the mud puddle where he had spent hours absorbing his chance.

'Hmm, I think so,' he smiled with determination.

Torne saw Vicente looking at Sarah and said. 'She should develop her first pentagram to the orange degree in the next few minutes. As for Lina, if she becomes an Archmage in the future, it's possible that she will transform her first essence into a yellow one.'

The first pentagram of the color yellow was quite difficult, and of course, it would make any magician at the top of the continent.

'Becoming an Archmage, huh? That will be difficult,' Vicente sighed.

He knew how difficult cultivation became with every step forward. His talent was exceptional, but it wasn't the same for Lina and the others. With green-grade talents, it was possible that they wouldn't get past the 5th stage unless they cultivated for a few thousand years!

Torne was silent for a moment, then he asked for something important. 'Changing the subject, master, how do you plan to proceed with your pentagram hunt for the Throne of Darkness? Will you do it in the presence of your companions or will you leave them to hunt alone?'

'That's a good question,' Vicente looked at his group, particularly at Layla. 'The time had come for them to learn about the Throne of Darkness.'",

'So you intend to hunt with them?' Torne asked.

'Not exactly. But it is a fact that I can't hide the truth much longer. It would be too risky to attack the Nixlas' Shadows without me having at least two magical essences on the throne. But I'll have to justify a few things to them,' Vicente considered.

He knew it would be difficult to explain that he wanted to hunt pentagrams from the Dark Path.

The pentagram he had in the crystal around his neck didn't interest him. He wanted all of his Throne of Darkness pentagrams to be cyan.

As long as he did that, it was very possible that when he completed the 5 or 6 pentagrams of this magical form, the yellow essence of this magical form would develop to the indigo grade!

That would probably make him the strongest on the continent!

However, getting five Dark Path cyan pentagrams compatible with him would not be easy at all!

He didn't want to hunt down all the pentagrams he could absorb in his second magic form right away. He wanted 'only' two, which frankly would be a lot of work and probably cost them a few months of hunting.

'I'll tell them the truth when I get my 5th pentagram for my first Magic Gem,' Vicente decided. 'I will show them how a Dark Path magician can be as reliable and non-chaotic as the rumors and stereotypes make them out to be.

I'll show them the potential of the throne against vampires. I believe that my second magical form will put me on the same level as a superior vampire.'

'Yes, I agree,' Torne said. 'Perhaps it will even put you in a better position, master. If you had full control of your throne when you faced that 3rd stage vampire, you could have beaten him even if you were one level weaker. Of course, you would have had to have three pentagrams in that essence

back then, but I think you would have been even stronger than a superior vampire of the same level and could have fought someone of a higher level.'

'Let's prepare for that moment,' Vicente ended the topic with a smile on his face as he returned to Casey and Layla's side.

"So? Did you make the most of your opportunity?" Layla asked.

"Hmm, I'll probably move up a level after my hunt... That means we have to go after my fifth essence," he commented to them.

"That would be great," Casey said with an anxious look on his face. Seeing a monster like Vicente evolve was great!

Since they were allies and not enemies, Casey was always excited about Vicente's progress.

Layla was also looking forward to this moment and couldn't help but let her eyes sparkle with anticipation.

"Perhaps you will reverse the current disaster if you become a Paragon with five pentagrams, Vicente," she commented, clenching her fists.

"Maybe not," he laughed bitterly. "I hate to be pessimistic, but I fear that civilization as we know it will be gone by the time we finish this journey.

Think of all the monsters and magical creatures we will meet along the way. It's not just vampires at work. There are so many creatures advancing against the human domains... I wonder how many cities will survive in the next few months?

I'm just one, Layla. Maybe I can do something about the vampires and magical creatures where I am. But the Polaris Realm is too big. I couldn't protect this continent and completely reverse the situation that started months ago unless I became an Archmage."

"Archmage, huh?" Casey muttered, knowing that even Vicente wouldn't become an Archmage soon.

Vicente had been a Sovereign for about four years. As he was about to turn 22, this young man had been cultivating mana for about 8 years.

'Considering that he will advance in a few more months, it will take him 8 years to become a Low-level Paragon... It's possible that it will take him 8 years to become a High-level Paragon, and 16 years to become an Archmage.

Sigh! That would make 24 years of waiting. Everything the vampires are planning would have happened by then,' Casey thought to himself.

"Then I hope you at least protect the Seidel Kingdom," Layla commented. "As long as we can survive the crisis until you become Archmage, there's hope."

Layla knew how mana cultivation worked, so she figured it would take Vicente to get to the 6th stage as long as Casey thought.

"We'll probably be Paragons by then... Anyway, I hope it's not as bad as you think. Otherwise, there may be no turning back. At least not in our lifetime."

If human life on the continent were reduced to 1% of its pre-

The Purification numbers, it could take millennia for the human community to regain its old numbers!

Reproduction becomes more difficult as one became stronger. Also, if many of the people had to live in situations of constant stress and struggle, the conditions for restoring the old numbers would be even more unfavorable.

In that case, even if they lived in the Polaris Realm for thousands and thousands of years, they might die long before the continent returned to normal.

That scared them!

"Let's hope it doesn't come to that," Layla said as she watched Sarah finish her cultivation. "We'll do our best to deal with the crisis when we get back. The vampires should ravage the north now, but in a few years, they'll reach the south."

The subject died down as Sarah showed her four pentagrams, revealing her first essence, newly evolved to the orange grade.

Virtually everyone in the group had achieved such evolutions so far. As one more achieved this transformation, the three magicians congratulated Sarah on her improvement.

Vicente hugged Sarah, his embrace giving her goosebumps all over her body.

Unfortunately, neither of them had relaxed and exchange deeper, warmer body 'caresses'. Since leaving the kingdom, Vicente had tended to the carnal needs of each of the three women in the group only once. They had traveled without enjoying each other's bodies, as they were at too dangerous a point in their journey to play that way.

Still, Layla, Lina, and Sarah naturally suppressed many of their desires. A single touch from Vicente was enough to make their bodies feel different...

Unfortunately for Sarah, nothing would happen today. She would have to suppress her desires for the time being while they were on an important part of their journey.

But soon, with the end of Lina's and Rory's cultivation, it would be time for them to go in search of Rory's pentagram!

Chapter 703 Hunting Rory's Pentagram

Two weeks after Sarah's pentagram development...",

The group had taken advantage of another midway opportunity to further develop their individual and collective magical quality, but their focus had been on finding creatures compatible with Rory.

They had found nothing compatible and good enough for Rory yet, but they had fought monsters and magical beasts in the area several times.

Although The Pure Enclave was an area where the presence of positive elements was high, the group had already encountered several groups of Dark Path beings because of The Purification.

They ignored the groups they had managed to avoid. As much as every monster they killed would make a positive difference for magicians, their purpose was not to deal with monsters.

If they could fend off a group of powerful monsters, the group would do what they had to do with no hesitation. However, frequently, the monsters themselves made it impossible to dodge them. As a result, the group had fought several times in the few days since Sarah's pentagram upgrade.

Today, in the middle of their journey in The Pure Enclave, the group would find traces of a beast that could theoretically be a match for Rory!

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In an area of sparse vegetation and exposed sand in The Pure Enclave, where the temperature reached an incredible 50 degrees Celsius during the day, Vicente's group stood around what appeared to be a footprint.

Rory's knees bent as he felt the burning flame left behind by the creature that had left this footprint, and he couldn't help but notice his affinity with that fire.

"That's an Ifrit footprint," Onyx commented, being the one in the group who knew the most about monsters.

"Ifrit?" Lina looked curiously at the black crow near them.

Ifrits were powerful jinns associated with fire, able to manipulate flames and extreme heat.

They were like flame demons, humanoid creatures with a brutal appearance, winged and with horns on their heads.

Given their characteristics, an Ifrit had fire as its primary element and air as its secondary element. Those were exactly the two elements Rory had an affinity for!

"That seems to be the case." Rory felt his opponent's flame, something very special that could not be the case with other creatures.

Each race of creature had its own peculiarities. Even though there were dozens of fire-based creatures that also had an elemental affinity for air, each of them had unique magical characteristics.

Someone with compatibility and knowledge of the differences between these signs could tell the race of an Ifrit with just a few moments of observation.

"Ifrits are powerful. They are a race of talented creatures who are characterized by their immense physical strength, good mental powers, and high skill in manipulating flames." Vicente looked at Rory and imagined that hunting such a creature would be very interesting for them.

"This Ifrit has recently advanced to the 5th stage, master. It must be at its weakest," Onyx said with an obvious purpose.

Rory stood up with a determined smile on his face. "Let's go after the creature."

"Lina, Layla and Onyx, help us find the trail behind that footprint." Vicente looked at his three principal investigators in the group.

However, the group would stand around the footprint at the top of a sandbank for another three minutes until Onyx noticed the direction in which the 5th stage of Ifrit had left.

Layla led the way with Lina on her back, the others following on the back of Onyx, the only one who could move at a speed close to hers.

Soon she could use her ability and see their group meet Rory's destination not too far in the future.

"He's close. Let's be careful. He has a special power that can summon fire creatures of lesser elemental purity," she said after seeing her group attacked by dozens of 4th stage creatures.

"Rory, if you get this pentagram, you'll have a fantastic power!" She smiled. The battle shouldn't be the most challenging, but Rory's powers would be incredible if he mastered such a pentagram!

Rory clenched his fists, feeling his heart beat faster, while the rest of the group became more attentive as they approached the Ifrit.

Five minutes later, they came to a spot where there was a small lake of magma, the surrounding sand burning, but there was hardly any smoke in the area.

The mana there was very dense, but the temperature was even higher than in the surroundings of this small desert. With temperatures that could exceed 100 degrees Celsius, magical beings not associated with fire would have to be careful when entering and staying in the area.

As soon as they arrived, they attracted the attention of the Ifrit, a very intelligent creature that was sensitive to disturbances in its surroundings.

Rory saw the 2.5 meter tall creature in the middle of the small lake of magma and couldn't help but focus on the monstrous face of the creature with red scales and large horns on its head.

The creature's elongated ears had sharp points like knives, while it exposed teeth capable of grinding raw flesh.

It spread its dark red wings wide, making it look even more intimidating than it already was as a Low-level Paragon.

"Magicians!" The Ifrit opened its eyes to this group, looking directly at Rory, even considering the presence of Onyx, a 5th-stage beast.

Onyx should be the biggest problem for it on this team. But the reason the group was there had to be the little red-haired human who had a magical affinity of over 85% compatibility with it.

The Ifrit understood that this was a hunt and became defensive about its surroundings. "If you're here for my pentagram, I'm afraid some of you will die before you get it."

It raised its hands in the air, causing over 80 flame portals to appear around the magma lake.

From these flame portals, magical flame creatures emerged, revealing magical beings subservient to this Ifrit.

In the blink of an eye, Lave Trolls, Coal Golems, Bonfire Spirits, and Flaming Salamanders, all at the peak of the 4th stage, appeared around the magma lake.

An important fact about these creatures was that they were not special mana forms, but actual creatures with their own pentagrams!

This was a power based on the flames of the Ifrit, something that gave it an influential position among the flame creatures, something that could make it compete with the Red Dragons!

Rory was impressed, but even more inspired by his opponent's ability, which would obviously influence the power of the green pentagram that would emerge after the Ifrit's death.

"Perfect!" Rory smiled eagerly, watching scenes from the future as Casey and Lina combined their special powers. "Ifrit, come to me and strengthen me!"

Rory's pentagrams appeared simultaneously with those of Vicente and the others.

Chapter 704 Summoning of the Burning Inferno

"Let's act together!" Vicente called to Rory, drawing his friend nearer.",

Layla dashed through the area, her feet and hands shimmering with mana, vigilant for fire-powered magical creatures already attacking their group.

Sarah joined her, while Onyx cast his aura of darkness over the Ifrit.

Vicente and Rory were the dominant warriors in this battle. As they were about to soar over the magma lake, the two merged their powers, just as they had against the 3rd-stage vampire in Saltstar City.

The mana in the area transformed under the influence of Vicente's third pentagram and Rory's second pentagram, causing black clouds to form rapidly in the sky, accompanied by bursts of lightning.

Strong winds whipped up as the flames from Rory's Fire Avatar intensified the storm's condensation resulting from their combined powers.

Sand from the surrounding hills was whipped into the air as lightning struck down one of the peak 4th-stage creatures, obliterating it instantly.

One moment, the creature was charging toward its enemies, and the next, it was simply gone, erased by the lightning!

Some of the fire monsters had no time to react to the sudden onslaught. Before they knew it, they were in dire straits, some even having to repair their body parts in the magma lake to avoid being swept away by the fierce winds.

The Ifrit felt the impact of the storm as it withstood the assault of tiny blades the size of water droplets attempting to pierce its form.

"Shit! These two are more powerful together than I realized!"

Realizing the gravity of the situation, the Ifrit quickly adjusted its strategy, summoning its creatures closer for protection.

Unfortunately for it, apart from Onyx's aura pressuring it, Vicente alone could already give it a good, competitive fight.

But by combining his powers with Rory's and Onyx's help, Vicente put the Ifrit in a terrible situation, where the flame monster could hardly move and only had to worry about defending itself.

But today's outcome wouldn't be as difficult as other previous hunts. At the beginning of the journey, the entire group was weaker. Therefore, it was more difficult to deal with Low-level Paragons.

But now the party had two Paragons of its own and several extra pentagrams!

The moment Casey entered the creature's mind, the flame demon faced death as it watched its summons being destroyed one by one by the combined powers of Vicente and Rory, as well as the actions of Onyx, Sarah, and Layla.

Suddenly, rain poured down on the area, further weakening these already frail creatures that were typically more resilient in hot environments.

With the rain Vicente brought, the heat in the area dropped a bit, weakening the enemy's side considerably.

Seeing his chance to act against the tired, less powerful and mentally vulnerable Ifrit, Rory stepped forward and focused his magical powers on his target's vital organs.

The Ifrit despaired, but when it tried to move its mana to defend itself, it was surprised by a blow even stronger than Rory's.

"Shit!" As it tried to defend itself against Vicente, it allowed itself to be attacked by Rory.

Rory was determined. He mercilessly touched the back of his opponent's head before Layla carried him off.

Boom!

The Ifrit's head then exploded, revealing Rory's special power, explosion!

As the creature's head disappeared, its body fell into the magma lake, while the creatures it had summoned were all dead.

Vicente and his companions slowed down as they saw their enemy fall.

'He's dead.' Torne confirmed to his master as Vicente walked away from the burning area where Rory was.

"Rory, we'll wait for you outside this hot area. We can't continue here!" He said, feeling his whole body sweating heavily, but still feeling burns here and there.

The same was true for the others, who were already out of the hottest area without a second thought.

Rory readily accepted his companions' retreat before sitting down over the body of the Ifrit floating in the magma. Thus began the absorption of his fourth pentagram!

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A few hours later, Vicente and his companions had already recovered from the previous battle.

As they waited for Rory 2 kilometers away from the magma lake, surrounded by flames, they sensed Rory's success.

Burning Inferno!

The red-haired young man's four pentagrams appeared, and then, under the watchful eyes of his companions, Rory unveiled his new ability.

Around him, 15 flame portals materialized, summoning 14 High-

level Mages and one Earth Sovereign to the area.

"For now, I can't summon as many creatures as the Ifrit. But once I advance, I'll increase those numbers by 50% to 100%, and they'll all be Earth Sovereigns!" Rory said, his face lit up with joy, feeling the immense power he had just harnessed from the potent pentagram.

The pentagram left by the Ifrit was green, but not all essences of a color were identical. This pentagram was 85% of the way to cyan-grade!

Rory could never develop this pentagram as it had been formed by the Ifrit, and only the Ifrit could alter it. Yet, this power would immediately enhance his capabilities!

'I'm almost there!' he thought, dissipating his ability as he finally moved away from the burning area, optimistic about his future prospects.

"That's an impressive power, Rory!" Vicente exclaimed, smiling delightfully at his friend's success and recognizing the great potential for Rory's new ability.

If Rory could ascend to become a Mid-level Paragon in the future, he could summon Low-level Paragons, a capability that might prove helpful, perhaps even more than the power Vice's cyan pentagram would offer.

The entire group was happy for Rory, congratulating the young redhead and wondering how things would turn out for him in the future.

However, after about two minutes of celebration and positive thoughts, they couldn't help but turn their attention to one fact. Almost all of them had already received their pentagrams! It was finally time for them to go to the north of the continent to hunt for Vicente's pentagram!

Rory looked at his friend, who was as eager to absorb a pentagram as he was to advance to the level of a Sky Sovereign.

"Time to go in search of your cyan essence, Vicente. Are you ready?"

"Hmm, let's go to the Valley of Lightning. Maybe we'll be lucky enough to get my pentagram there."

With that, the group left for the Valley of Lightning, an area in the continent's north!

Chapter 705 The Ruins of the City of Angels?

The Valley of Lightning was an area about six weeks' journey north of The Pure Enclave, at the southern end of the Vinia Empire. Known for its strong elemental affinity with lightning, this region experienced extreme weather effects that contributed to its reputation.",

Despite its size, covering only a third of the area of Scott Province, the Valley of Lightning was smaller than many other regions the group had encountered on their journey.

However, the rocky terrain of the valley was renowned and respected among magicians specializing in the lightning element, making it a perilous destination even for Sovereigns.

The danger arose not only because the area was ideal for training and advancing to the 5th and 6th stages, but also due to the presence of creatures at those levels and the extreme climate, which had claimed the lives of countless beings throughout its known history.

For someone like Vicente, the place was ideal!

The primary issue was its location within the Vinia Empire, home to the Congregation of Revelations—the largest continental organization—which was likely to draw considerable attention from vampires antagonistic towards the magical community.

Thus far, Vicente and his group had not encountered vampires, neither inferior nor superior. However, given their travel to the Vinia Empire, it was highly probable that this would change!

Knowing this, the group set out from the scorching desert where they were with double seriousness, not letting themselves be carried away by everyone's growth.

Everyone in the group was much stronger than when they left Seidel Kingdom. But even with all their improvements, they could all die in a fight against a High-level Paragon or a Beginner Archmage!

Not only that, but if they were to face Sovereigns and Paragons vampires, it would be enough to add a little more terror and risk to all of their lives!

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Meanwhile, in Vinia Empire, City of Angels...

The headquarters of the Congregation of Revelations no longer had the luster it had before the Purification.

Just a few months after the disaster began, this place looked completely different from what the glorious headquarters of this organization had been for a long time.

Buildings were now destroyed, others in pieces, many craters in the streets, and other battle scars had ravaged what had been one of the most desirable cities on the continent.

But while 90% of the continent's population did not know the state of this place and the Congregation of Revelation, the largest magical organization on the continent could no longer be considered such.

Weeks ago, Demien Bloodthorne, the leader of the vampires, the first Archmage of his race of superior vampires in the entire history of the Polaris Realm, had attacked the City of Angels.

His attack was brutal!

In one day of battle, the demon bats, inferior vampires, ghosts, and superior vampires summoned by Demien brought disaster to this city.

In one day of battle, 90% of the members of the Congregation of Revelations who lived or were in the City of Angels were brutally slain in one of the most decisive battles against the vampires.

The victors had obviously been the creatures led by Demien Bloodthorne, who had lost only 35% of those he had summoned to this place to cause the destruction of the City of Angels.

Now, this famous place across the continent lay in ruins, covered in blood and abandoned body parts that were now in an advanced state of decomposition.

The stench in the area was naturally terrible, with worms and insects here and there, as well as birds like vultures and other kinds of rotting flesh-eating creatures.

In the middle of the city, where the sewage system and drinking water supply had been partially destroyed, there was now a small lake of dirty, foul-smelling water.

The city was devoid of vegetation, and the outskirts of the city were full of 4th-stage monsters.

In the middle of this desolate place, in a ruin in the area, a vault door suddenly opened.

The iron door, which itself contained various formations and defensive mechanisms, slowly rolled aside as far as it could. Unfortunately, debris from the building in question prevented it from opening completely.

The extent to which it opened was enough for a human in the uniform of the Congregation of Revelations to leave what was on the other side of the metal door.

"This can't be..." A middle-aged man with black hair, standing six feet tall and clean-shaven, opened his mouth in surprise, his face turning pale as he witnessed the aftermath of the disaster.

"Master, is there a problem?" A voice called out from inside the security bunker.

The Congregation of Revelations, having made many enemies throughout its history, had constructed a complex underground bunker network capable of sheltering up to 3,000 magicians.

On the day Demien Bloodthorne attacked them, those who chose not to fight and were quick enough to seek refuge could escape the city's massacre by entering this bunker.

Others, unable to reach the magnificent bunker, fled the City of Angels.

Those who had taken shelter in the bunker bided their time, waiting several months before emerging to ensure the enemies had ceased their pursuit.

Though he had braced himself to find devastation above ground, the sole remaining Paragon at the site could not conceal his shock in the silence that followed his apprentice's question.

Startled, the young Sky Sovereign summoned his courage and stepped forward, reaching the spot where his master stood, staring at the ruins.

"This..." The young man opened his mouth and couldn't say anything, understanding the feeling of desolation of his master and the remaining leader of the religion.

"We were wiped out," the Low-level Paragon said.

"And now? Monstrous creatures surround the city," said the young Sovereign as they scanned the terrain on behalf of the other 2,998 individuals inside the bunker.

"Now all we have to do is get our companions out of here. We'll join our people in the south of the continent," the Paragon returned to his usual restraint as he considered what was available to this group.

The Congregation of Revelations had lost its headquarters and most of its experts!

Yet, there were tens of thousands of the organization's members across the continent. Those in the south of the continent should be expecting notifications with groups close to 100% of their numbers.

No matter how much they had lost, this organization still had hope!

"Let us get the group together and clear this place out. After that, we'll head south to rebuild the temple!"

The two returned to the bunker to inform their companions of the situation outside and what they should do from now on to keep their organization afloat in the Polaris Realm.

Chapter 706 State of the Continent Specialists

As the survivors of the City of Angels' massacre were planning their post-disaster recovery plans, Demien Bloodthorne was in vampire-controlled territory, specifically the Ivory Desert, within Nocturnia.",

Nocturnia, one of the oldest cities in the entire Polaris Realm, was the stronghold of an alliance comprising the ten most powerful superior vampire clans, a city entirely enveloped by darkness.

From afar, Nocturnia could be mistaken for an ordinary human city, with its streets, lampposts, and even recreational and commercial zones. However, a closer inspection would reveal that the pervasive darkness extended beyond its inhabitants.

The buildings were shades of black or very dark colors. The air was heavy with the scent of iron, and the local vegetation included carnivorous plants that posed a threat to the unwary.

The city's gothic architecture perfectly complemented the aura of death that permeated the area, and instead of the common pigeons found in human cities, bats fluttered about.

Even during what should have been daylight hours, Nocturnia remained shrouded in gloom, perpetually overcast and blanketed in darkness, with two periods of reduced light: one at night and a dimmer twilight during the day.

The city consisted of 19,000 inhabitants, including superior vampires (the minority), inferior vampires (the middle group), and monsters (the majority).

In the middle of the city, in the most majestic building, Demien Bloodthorne stood in front of the balcony of his office, a goblet of blood in his hand, looking out over his city with a smile on his face.

But he was not alone in this office, which was decorated with war trophies such as human heads, Magic Gems, weapons, and other items closely associated with some of the greatest enemies he had defeated on his journey so far.

In one of the two armchairs, a light-skinned, balding man, very well dressed, sat in an orderly fashion, while a man with a bulky body, but also light-skinned, sat on the sofa in the middle of the office.

The man with the white beard and mustache asked. "Have you completed the first phase of our plans?"

These two men were the leaders of two of the three strongest vampire clans in the Ivory Desert!

Both were High-level Paragons, the strongest in the entire vampire domain, second only to Demien, the current supreme leader of the race.

Even though they weren't Archmages like the leader of the vampire coven, these two still had enough freedom to talk to Demien informally.

Demien smiled and said. "Yes, it's all done. Now let's let our men continue with the bloodbaths. If I go on any longer, we'll cut off all branches of the magicians' race. Let's wait an hour for some results before I act again."

"If you continue, we'll miss our chance and wipe out the magicians. That would be terrible for our plans," the man sitting closest to Demien agreed.

Their goal was not simply to dominate the continent, but to use the magicians' essence, their blood, to strengthen the strongest of the race and help create new Archmages. Not only that, they also wanted to raise their supreme leader to the level of a Magus!

"For now, we'll let ourselves enjoy the essences we've secured in these first months of the war," Demien turned and said. "The few remaining Paragons are the weaker ones who have fled, or even those who have recently advanced. By the time they try anything, we'll already be more powerful and have an enormous advantage."

"Letting them get a little stronger and feed their magical essences for us is not a bad thing. With the few of them left, there's no danger to our plans." The vampire sitting on the sofa imagined the glorious future ahead.

"By the way, how are our forces coming along? When will we have the entire north under our control?" asked the man sitting next to Demien.

Demien muttered. "Another year. That's how long it will take for the surviving magicians to flee and for these lands to come under our control."

"What about the elves and dragons? What about their two tribes? Will they honor the non-aggression pact?" the Paragon, sitting on the sofa, asked.

Just as the Ivory Desert was an area of negative creatures in the continent's north, there was another area in that region that was dominated by creatures of the Light Path. The two dominant tribes in such a region were the Dragon Tribe and the Elf Tribe.

The Majestic Treefrog Grove was at the farthest point of the Ivory Desert in the northern region of the Polaris Realm. Light Path creatures dominated this area, especially two of the most powerful races in these lands, the dragons and the elves.

Dragons and elves weren't as terrible as vampires in terms of power, but they were even older tribes that knew the deepest secrets of the continent, with the strongest Archmages in those lands.

After The Purification, the only things that worried the vampires were elves and dragons.

For this very reason, Demien had made a non-aggression treaty with the two tribes 30,000 years ago, guaranteeing that neither their vampires nor the dragons and elves would invade each other's territories as long as their leaders lived.

None of them had died after 30,000 years, so the agreement should still be in effect.

"Leave the dragons and the damned elves alone. Their domain is only 5% of the northern region. Whether they have that hell won't make the slightest difference to us. And as long as we keep our word, they'll keep their part of the bargain." Demien said as he finished his drink.

"But let's make sure that they are surrounded by our domains. That will prevent those two races from helping our enemies as long as their leaders are alive."

The two Paragons agreed, just before they saw Demien pick up the head of the former Temple Master of the Congregation of Revelations.

Demien crushed the brain of the Temple Master he had killed weeks ago.

He collected the brain fluid from the head and gave a few drops to the two Paragons before drinking a whole cup of the special liquid.

"I'm going into seclusion. I hope you two will take good care of our plans for the next six months." He left while the two made gestures of obedience.

...

While the vampires went about their plans and the survivors of the Congregation of Revelations were on the move, the continent faced an unprecedented crisis that no one had expected.

With the death of the Temple Master of the Congregation of Revelations, 90% of the Awakening Temples around the Polaris Realm had completely lost their conditions for awakening magical powers.

Paragons could activate the temples, but a Paragon could only activate the Awakening in a few temples at most. Thus, with the death of the Temple Master and many Paragons from the organization, less than 10% of the Awakening Temples were functioning.

Amid this, young people coming of age to awaken their powers missed the best time to begin their magical journeys!

Chapter 707 Reaching the Northern Region

While the continent's magicians were experiencing an unprecedented crisis, Vicente's group crossed the last frontier on their journey to enter the northern region of the continent.",

As soon as they entered the northern region, the entire group could feel the mana was getting denser and denser, with a stronger presence of common elements and rare elements.

Certain elements only appeared in the most magical places on the continent, near powerful creatures and resources. So, depending on one's aptitude, one would either have to live in that area or accept that one's cultivation wouldn't grow much in other parts of the continent.

But a rich place wasn't the thousand wonders one might imagine when arriving there. Cultivation was even faster in that area, because it was the only place on the continent where one could reach the 6th stage of cultivation. But until recently, there was a lot of competition for resources there, and it was also a very dangerous area for weaker magicians.

In the recent past, it wasn't uncommon for the magical powers in the north to send their young people to seek opportunities in the central part of the continent!

There were few opportunities for growth in the north for those below the 3rd stage, and even when those opportunities existed, they were shrouded in high-level dangers.

Once one reached the 4th stage, the northern region became ideal for growth, as it was home to 65% of the creatures with green pentagrams and 95% of those capable of forming cyan essences.

Vicente's group's hunt for pentagrams had been quick, but their group had had to travel for months and hunt for weeks to find each of the essences compatible with the group's personnel. If the same hunt had taken place in the north, that time could have been cut by more than half!

With the increased presence of special creatures, the area also had a lot to worry about. Dangers lurking in every corner, competitors, large numbers of members of the same races and tribes, Dark Path beings, and so on.

Even someone like Torne couldn't help but look at this region with a wary eye.

Therefore, the group didn't rush off as they entered the northern region. They slowed down and became twice as careful with their movements.

Soon, they would face the actual situation on the continent!

...

Two weeks before the group reached the Valley of Lightning, they spotted a mountain ahead of them where a large city should have been recently.

But looking at the place from afar, Onyx couldn't help but comment to the group. "This place looks destroyed. There are several magical creatures roaming around the craters. It's probably abandoned."

The group turned their attention in that direction, encountering something like this for the first time on their journey.

They had already passed ancient ruins. But past events and a recent problem on the continent were different.

In particular, the result of The Purification in the northern region of Polaris Realm was a foretaste of what might happen south of there!

"It looks like they're really going to destroy the magicians' community," Vicente said, his fists clenched tightly, his heart beating at an abnormal rate.

Hearing Vicente's deep, pessimistic tone, Rory was worried about the situation on the continent. "What will happen if the monsters destroy a large part of our community? What will we do?"

The others were silent, gradually seeing more and more details of the ruins of this ancient city that until recently had been home to over 400,000 people. Now, however, if any of their race lived there, that would be a large number, regardless of its size.

"We are not heroes," Vicente got right to the point. "We will not save the magicians' community. Our goal is simpler. To grow stronger and ensure the future of our families. Let's stick to that."

Everyone there would prefer the magicians to rule the continent. But they really had nothing to do with the death or despair of the former inhabitants of the city ahead, or other places going through the same thing.

Vicente's comments might have seemed cold and individualistic, but they represented a stark truth, a reality that most people would likely embrace if in the same situation.

Sacrificing themselves for the sake of the magicians' community would be noble. However, what benefit would it bring to their families? What benefit would it bring to them?

In the absence of interesting answers, one could only adhere to one's own selfish instincts and follow personal rules.

But just worrying about their families would be challenging enough!

"It's regrettable, but it's probably the best way to handle this matter," Casey remarked as they flew over the ruins, where the aura of death and darkness was intensely palpable.

"Sigh! There are so many challenges ahead on our journey..." Lina mused, cognizant that there was nothing they could do to aid the continent, even though that was their ultimate aim.

Until they reached at least the status of Paragons, they simply didn't possess the power needed to make a difference on the continent. At their current level, the most they could do was assist their families, who lived in a more remote and weaker region, and who were limited in number.

Layla looked at the situation below, feeling the power of the lower vampires—those transformed by the bite of higher vampires. 'What happened to the temple? Why are there cities like this so far south of the northern region?'

Layla's face was rather pale, her lips dry, not as beautiful as they usually were. Her eyes held a deep sense of uncertainty and fear, filled with unprecedented disappointment.

The Mid-level Paragon's earlier action against them had been a cold shower for Layla. But looking at the recent ruins that lay south of the area where the City of Angels was supposed to be, the woman couldn't help but imagine that the worst had already happened.

'Our headquarters probably didn't make it. Shit!' She closed her eyes, feeling her pulse quicken as she flew alongside her companions.

They would not enter the new ruin. After passing through the area, they would continue on their way to Vicente's destination, all of them aware that there was still a long way to go before they could allow themselves to worry about or help beings unrelated to themselves.

They were getting closer and closer to superior vampires, so they couldn't worry too much about anyone but themselves!

Chapter 708 Fighting Superior Vampires?

A week's journey ahead...",

The group was now standing next to a large lake, a green area surrounded by trees as tall as buildings.

On one shore of the lake, about 8 kilometers in radius, Vicente and his people were in a makeshift camp, where some of them meditated and others monitored their surroundings.

The group was in its original formation, with no casualties, despite the various battles they'd had over the past week. In those battles, they had encountered inferior vampires, fighting like they had never fought before on their journey.

They had encountered no Mid-level or High-level Paragons yet, but they had had at least two battles that were even more dangerous to the group's integrity than the confrontation with the 5th-stage Sacred Devotee they had encountered weeks ago.

The group overcame the adversity to gather more resources for the family's future, crystals, body parts, and important items that could contribute to the Fuller family's growth upon their future return to the Seidel Kingdom.

With the challenges Vicente was facing these days, he had to suppress his mana cultivation in order to avoid advancing to the 5th stage, as he needed a pentagram to do so. Meanwhile, Rory was finishing his progress to the level of a Sky Sovereign!

The others in the group were also at the last part of the Earth Sovereign level, but since they were older than Rory and hadn't had all the opportunities he had, they would still need weeks or months to achieve the same as him.

They should all be able to advance to the next level before returning to the Seidel Kingdom in a year or two!

While half of them watched their surroundings, Rory took his last step and stabilized his cultivation at the level of a Sky Sovereign!

As he finished his advancement, he vibrated with excitement and left his meditation place to thank his best friend for the opportunities he'd had and for this incredible journey so far.

"Master," Amidst the celebration of the group, Onyx's voice sounded like a warning, silencing the voices and thoughts of those in the group.

"There are superior vampires approaching. Get ready to fight!" Onyx warned as he spotted a group of 4 pale beings hurrying towards them about 8 kilometers away from them.

'These are four superior 4th stage vampires, master. Don't take them lightly. They can kill everyone in the group if we make a mistake,' Torne warned and offered himself to Vicente to supply the young magician with his mana.

Rory lost the smile on his face and turned his attention to the direction where he and his companions could already feel the disturbing aura of the four enemies, all of them newly promoted Earth Sovereigns.

"Lina and Casey, you stay in the rear. Do your job and help us understand what the enemies will do. Rory, you and I will combine our powers to attack the four enemies with all our might. It won't be easy to kill them, but we can't give them a chance.

Layla and Sarah, you will protect Lina and Casey and support us. Don't risk attacking them. They're strong enough to kill you with one blow!" Vicente warned his group and set up the formation he thought would be best for them to fight.

"Onyx will attack with me and Rory."

The pentagrams of each of them appeared, concentrating the mana of the area near them as they prepared to attack.

The moment the vampires appeared near them, the group didn't want to wait to try to 'talk'. Vicente led the attack by flying at the enemies, already using Torne's mana to increase the mortality of his powers.

Rory did as he was told, activating his Flame Avatar and quickly raising the temperature of the forest, not caring if he burned a lot of trees in the process.

Vicente changed the electromagnetic configuration of the area, altering the composition of the minerals in the area's subsoil, as well as the free particles in the air.

Lightning suddenly appeared in the area's bluish sky, while charged clouds formed so quickly that some of the area's common organisms couldn't help but be surprised by the sudden change in the area's luminosity.

Strong winds blew, bringing a chill to those around a place where they shouldn't be.

The wind became so strong that it seemed to be made of razor-sharp blades, capable of seriously injuring even Mid-

level Paragons.

Amid this, more than a ton of metallic objects formed in the area, mercilessly striking the four vampires.

Even though they were superior vampires who had taken part in the continent's takeover led by their race and wanted to kill this group, the four creatures changed their expressions when they sensed the abilities of this group.

Even though it was basically a group of Sovereigns, the total strength of them was that of a High-level Paragon!

Realizing this too late, the four Earth Sovereigns reacted as best they could, trying to defend themselves or escape Vicente's powers.

But even creatures as talented and powerful as superior vampires couldn't ignore certain forces!

Attacked by Onyx's high-pitched scream and the negative creature's fog of darkness, the four vampires faced opponents who would get the best of them.

"Whoever wins this battle will take a lot from this place. I like that! Let's see who wins, magicians!" The strongest of the four said, feeling the pressure of the creatures that could kill him.

Either the vampires would win and be able to suck the blood of these talented magicians, or the magicians would win and be able to take the precious blood of 4th stage vampires!

Most of them couldn't use the blood of these vampires in the short term because they had already absorbed the blood of someone of that race recently. However, Lina, Layla and the people of the Fuller family in Seidel Kingdom could absorb this blood, eventually!

"Vampires, it was your mistake to come to us!" Vicente said as he disappeared, doing the same as Layla was already doing, knowing that it was better to fight in hiding than in the open.

Meanwhile, Vicente and his companions felt the quick and decisive movements of the vampires, feeling in a second or less what would happen if they made a mistake.

Some of them would be bitten, others would be knocked unconscious by a single attack from each enemy. As such, they had to be perfect for the next few moments!

Thus began the most dangerous battle in the lives of these six magicians and one beast!

Chapter 709 Fierce Fight

As soon as they found themselves amid the storm created by Vicente and Rory, the vampires quickly used their special abilities to form a strategic arrangement. Three of them cleared a path for the fourth, the strongest among them, who was tasked with eliminating a significant portion of the enemy group.",

Sensing through Lina and Casey's abilities that she was targeted to be turned into an inferior vampire, Sarah acted swiftly. She concentrated all the magical power of her four pentagrams, targeting precisely where the enemy would appear the next second.

Layla, witnessing the same development, infused her hand with mana, ready to fight.

The creature approached Sarah so swiftly that even Layla, the quickest of the group, struggled to track his movement.

But as he opened his mouth to bite, Sarah intervened. She unleashed a combination of her powers and the electromagnetic energy from her 4th-grade armor.

Metal chains sprang up, binding the creature's ankles, while Lina and Casey augmented the assault with their armor, putting pressure on the vampire.

Though such tactics were trivial for a superior vampire at the level of an Earth Sovereign, their nearly flawless response surprised the creature.

With a sly grin and a lick of his lips, he thought, 'Looks like someone is anticipating my every move.'

Before he could move, he felt his chest being sliced open and noticed what looked like a hand reaching for his corrupted heart.

He instinctively moved one of his hands, slapping it into the apparent void, aiming it at the unseen being that had attacked him.

Layla moved enough to dodge the enemy's attack while Vicente let the metals now in the vampire's body attack his internal organs.

The creature's eyes narrowed as he momentarily missed his move while feeling the immense pain of his organs being torn apart.

It wasn't enough to endanger his life, but he couldn't help but open his mouth in agony, momentarily losing his ability to fight.

Seizing the opportunity, Onyx flew quickly at the creature, his beak and claws covered in darkness.

While the others were unlikely to kill the creature with an attack like Layla's, Onyx wasn't so lucky. As a powerful 5th stage Dark Path being, he was a real danger to any of those vampires!

"Shit!" One of the three vampires in the defensive formation against Vicente and Rory's storm shouted, seeing that these opponents were tougher than they had imagined.

"We'll have to risk a little more," one of them said as he let his green pentagram with cyan lines emerge from his body. "You two help Dragan."

The two did not discuss this option with Lucius and prepared to move as soon as he did what he had in mind.

It would be very dangerous for Lucius, but allowing Dragan to fall to the enemies would only make their situation worse.

A gray spherical barrier emerged from Lucius' body, advancing against the storm created by the combination of Rory and Vicente's powers.

The moment the barrier reached its size limit, cracks appeared throughout its structure.

"Quick!" Lucius said as he turned even paler, his lips beginning to bleed with his dark blood.

The two moved, escaping the stormy area in the blink of an eye, each looking for different targets.

One of them looked at Onyx and headed for the creature that was trying to kill Dragan. The other one went towards Rory, the weakest link in the combination of powers behind the terrible storm.

A smile appeared on Vicente's lips. 'You thought you were going to kill us by endangering my group, but that's what I need to kill you!'

Even with Torne's help, Vicente could only kill one superior vampire with Earth Sovereign cultivation at a time. With them all together, it would be almost impossible for him to defeat his opponents.

However, if those creatures split up, the situation would be completely different!

'You go down first!' Vicente moved, leaving the fourth enemy to be attacked by his storm, which could work with little of his involvement as long as Rory continued to do what he was doing.

Vicente moved at high speed, seeing what would happen if he didn't attack the enemy, who was trying to turn Rory into an inferior vampire.

Just as the vampire was about to reach the young man with the short red hair, Vicente appeared in front of his friend, still invisible.

The vampire felt his opponent coming at him, but his speed wasn't enough to dodge such a close attack.

Vicente held both of the vampire's arms, creating a magnetic core inside his enemy's body. As he pressed hard on the vampire's arms, even the creature's strong bones couldn't withstand the pressure. Soon, cracking sounds were heard.

Using a mixture of his own and Torne's powers, Vicente raised the power of his storm to another level as he destroyed the vampire's soul in front of him.

The cracked gray barrier exploded like glass, while the vampire alone in the storm fell into a terrible situation, unable to withstand the many attacks, while the overconsumption of his mana weakened his soul.

The opponent in front of Vicente was in an even worse situation, unable to withstand the many blows to his organs while his opponent allowed him to neither defend nor counterattack.

Even before the second vampire fought Onyx, preventing the black-feathered beast from killing the first vampire, Rory would feel the fall of the first enemy at Vicente's hands.

The young redhead man would continue to stimulate the storm, not giving the wounded vampire a chance.

Fierce winds attacked the vampire, drops of water that looked more like needles and electric lightning.

The first vampire, initially wounded by Layla and Vicente, got up, still in pain, and tried to return to his plan of killing Vicente and Rory's followers.

But just as he thought he could eliminate one or the other of these enemies, he felt not only the aura of one of his weaker companions disappear completely, but also someone enter his mind.

It wasn't just someone, but two people, one of whom he honestly couldn't do anything against while trying to defend himself, and the other who was actually putting his life in danger.

"Shit!" He muttered, finally realizing that today's fight would be fatal for his group.

Even if any mistake by Vicente's group would cause the death of his companions, that didn't change the fact that the vampires themselves would be the ones to be exterminated there today!

Chapter 710 The Vampire Plan

Vicente skillfully deployed his mental powers against the strongest vampire in the area, easing Casey's access to the vampire's memories.",

As this superior vampire was about to strike at Lina, who moved to intercept, he found himself temporarily paralyzed under the combined mental onslaught from both Vicente and Casey.

Casey penetrated his opponent's mind, realizing Vicente was attacking the vampire to clear a path for him. 'Let's see what you know before I erase your primal instincts,' Casey thought to himself, his third eye glowing as the four pentagrams activated.

The group lost the advantage of Lina's prophetic abilities, but it no longer mattered. While Vicente kept the vampire's motionless, he shifted his focus to another severely wounded foe.

Weakened from the exertion of reaching this point and using both his and Torne's strength, Vicente approached the vampire caught in the storm, finding him lying on the ground in agony.

A sword materialized in Vicente's right hand, and with a swift motion, he decapitated the vampire.

With the vampire's body now motionless, Vicente turned to the severed head, using his mana and Torne's combined forces to obliterate the vampire's soul.

Seeing this, Rory had already moved towards his opponent under the combined mental attack of Casey and Vicente, knowing that Onyx could fight his own opponent alone for a few moments.

It was the Earth Sovereigns in his group who couldn't risk being near the vampire under mental attack!

He, Sarah, Layla, and Lina formed up against the enemy, which was moving slowly because of Casey and Vicente's attacks.

Rory made the creature's body burn, with explosions appearing under the creature's skin, while Lina was the one to lead the attacks, as she could predict the enemy's behavior and dodge more easily.

Layla and Sarah lined up to support Lina as she tried to attack the creature from a safe distance.

Even under Vicente's and Casey's mental attacks, the vampire would still show some resistance and danger to the four magicians trying to harm him. Fortunately, the greatest danger had passed and his moves now had a higher success rate, as long as they didn't make any mistakes.

While the group entertained the stronger vampire and Vicente finished killing the second monster, Onyx fought in grand style, wounding and being wounded by his opponent.

Their fight had been fast-paced and competitive, with both sides showing more or less the same fighting capabilities.

This only underscored the incredible power of superior vampires, who could fight even against beings who were their natural oppressors, several levels stronger than them!

In a short 55-second fight, Onyx received dozens of wounds, and felt pain all over his crow body, as well as in his claws and beak. No matter how much he hurt his enemy with these 'weapons', the vampire's body was so tough that he couldn't help but feel pain in those body parts.

The same was true for Layla, Lina, and Vicente, who had used their arms and hands to attack their enemies' body parts.

Vicente saw the situation of the two remaining vampires in the fight, as well as his people fighting in the area.

Holding the head of the second vampire that had moved against him, he turned his attention to Casey. 'He still has the strength to continue. I'll take care of Onyx's opponent first. He's more vulnerable to me.'

Vicente moved and appeared on the back of the vampire fighting Onyx with high intensity.

Onyx was Vicente's mount in the area, so he could sense his master's intentions. The moment the young Fuller moved, Onyx sensed what he had to do and acted in sync with his master.

The vampire was no match for this formidable combination. Both opponents could seriously injure and kill him. By acting in sync against him, the pale creature was doomed.

He still tried to bite Vicente, who he thought was the weakest link attacking him. Unfortunately, Vice already had such powerful senses—with Torne's help—that he had the least chance of being surprised on this whole battlefield.

The creature only made himself more vulnerable by attempting to act against Vicente, only to have his heart pierced by Onyx's sharp beak while Vice moved to destroy his soul through the wound the black bird caused.

"Wretch..." That was all the vampire could say before he fell into the darkness of death, plummeting from the sky already dead.

Vicente acted in time to help the rest of his staff and soon used what little mana he had left to put pressure on the last vampire in the area with the help of his mount.

Casey's power reached its limit and he and his companions retreated at the exact moment he freed the creature from the mind control the vampire had suffered for over a minute.

He instinctively moved to attack Lina, but just as he was about to wound the brown-haired woman, the pressure of Vicente and Onyx's cultivation pushed him to the ground and prevented him from succeeding.

Seeing the opportunity before her, Lina struck the final blow of the battle, using everything she had left to exterminate the vampire's soul.

She didn't do it alone; Vicente and Onyx helped her. Still, it was by her hands that the last enemy in the area died!

After making sure the vampires were dead and there were no other enemies around, the entire group relaxed, feeling extremely tired after such a tough fight.

Even though he was mentally and physically exhausted, Casey looked at his companions and said in a worried tone. "I saw the vampire's plans when I read his memory." He pointed to the body of the last opponent while Vicente gathered the bodies in the area.

Casey said the most important thing first. "The vampires do not intend to wipe out all the magicians at once. They killed the strongest pillars of the magicians' community first, but they won't go after those with the potential to become Paragons, or even the few Paragons left on the continent.

Their plan is to keep these people believing in the hope they will grow stronger and eventually become good "nutrients" for the vampires.

In short, their intention is to treat us like livestock, using us to nourish and empower themselves!"