

The Mafia 871

Chapter 871 Magical Evolution

The moment Vicente started to meditate, sitting in the lotus position in that steam-covered area, with about six inches of a special liquid covering the floor of the area, he felt the difference in cultivating in this place.

Just as the woman had told him earlier, the absorption of mana in this area was indeed much better than outside it.

The mana easily entered his body, passed through his pores, and soon reached his spiritual organs, flooding them with mana as this special essence nourished his gems and soul.

He now had an elemental affinity with lightning, earth, air, ice, and all the elements of the Dark Path. As he cultivated in this space, which was basically composed of the elements of the Light Path, he felt his positive elements growing stronger.

But in the middle of his cultivation, after he had let go of the initial euphoria of being able to cultivate in this impressive place for about a week, Vicente noticed something he had never seen before.

While he was absorbing the mana and elements of the area with ease, his Throne of Darkness was also absorbing something!

Noticing this strange fact, since there were no negative elements in the room, Vicente focused on the Throne of Darkness, while his Magic Gem related to it glowed a strong cyan.

His magnetism-related gem, green, was also glowing at the moment, but Vicente ignored it and stared at the throne as this essence absorbed the element of light!

Of the three pentagrams on the throne, two were completely gray now, while the first pentagram, the green one, was glowing brightly, directly absorbing the light element that Vicente had practically never had a chance to absorb before.

'What is going on here?' he asked himself.

Torne realized the same thing as his master and looked at the space of consciousness he was in, currently divided into an area of influence of 70% for the throne and 30% for the magnetic magical form.

Suddenly, the configuration of the area changed, and the part influenced by the throne reached 71%.

'Can you understand that, old Torne?' Vicente asked the ghost.

'No, I've never heard of darkness devouring light, master. I don't know what's going on, but it's a fact the throne is getting stronger...' He said as he looked at the Magic Gem associated with magnetism.

'Master, it seems to be developing your first magical form!' Torne said in a good mood as he watched the green magical gem turn cyan.

Vicente's Magic Gem had been yellow, but it had changed to green as he had grown stronger. Now it was changing again, this time to cyan grade!

Vicente saw what Torne had pointed out and smiled, feeling that even if he didn't understand it, he would benefit from it and should just focus on that!

Turning his attention to what mattered, he ignored the strangeness of the throne while the consciousness of this essence was awake and commanding the current process.

'I could explain to you what's going on, but since you're so arrogant, I'll let you find out for yourself, hehe.' The consciousness of Vicente's second magical form thought humorously.

...

Vicente's days of cultivating in the elves' special room would pass quickly.

He would hardly notice the time passing and would soon reach the sixth day in this place, when his Magic Gem associated with magnetism would complete its qualitative advancement and reach the cyan grade.

What did it mean to reach the cyan grade in a Magic Gem? Well, since gems were associated with talent and magical form, having a higher quality gem meant more potential for growth; more ease in nurturing the gem's power; more power for the same configuration of pentagrams!

Vicente could already feel his elemental affinities with lightning and earth stronger than ever, as his senses associated with these elements had grown considerably during the last days of meditation.

His mana had increased by about 8% during those days, while his Throne of Darkness, even with the qualitative advance of Vicente's magnetic power, had advanced into the young man's consciousness space, reaching 80% dominance over that area.

Vicente still didn't know what the absorption of the element of light could mean for him, but feeling better than ever, he continued his meditation, knowing he had little time left.

In less than 24 hours, it would be time for him to leave this place for his next conversation with the elves. There was no way he could make any qualitative progress in the period, but he wanted to cultivate as much as he could until his last minute.

...

In the blink of an eye, Vicente's remaining hours in that special area flew by, and the former elf returned.

Opening the door to the room while Vicente was still meditating, the blonde woman with the pointed ears was surprised to find a place with almost no steam.

Besides the steam that once covered the entire area, the level of the special liquid there had decreased by over 70%!

'What was he doing here?' she asked herself as she narrowed her eyes and looked in the direction where Vicente was still meditating, sitting in the lotus position on the floor.

When she saw Vicente's forehead, she opened her eyes wide and was surprised to see the two completely cyan gems.

'He advanced... It seems he's also absorbed a lot of the light element...'

"What?" She opened her mouth in shock as she realized this, staring at Vicente without understanding how this was possible for a Dark Path magician.

It wasn't impossible for a Dark Path magician to have a Light Path element, such as water, earth, lightning, fire, ice, etc... But to combine darkness and light in the same body was something that seemed illogical. This woman had never heard of such a thing!

Vicente opened his eyes, realizing it was time for him to finish his cultivation, and saw the woman who had brought him to this place days ago and stood up.

"Elder, thank you for this opportunity. I've been able to improve my skills a lot here. Now I feel I can deal with vampires more easily."

The qualitative advancement of his first magical form had certainly increased his fighting ability!

If before he thought he could take on 5th stage superior vampires with the help of the Throne of Darkness and Torne, now he felt he could do so even with his magnetic power, which before could only handle 4th stage superior vampires.

"What happened here? How are you feeling?" She asked as she approached Vicente, placing a hand on one of his shoulders to get a better feel for his features.

Chapter 872 Advice of the Elves

When the elf laid a hand on Vicente, she could feel the features of the young human's body more easily.

Besides having more mana than before—which was to be expected—Vicente's vitality had increased by about 40% in the last week. But that wasn't the most impressive thing. He had improved the quality of his first magic form, bringing it closer to the quality of the Throne of Darkness.

All of Vicente's pentagrams formed by natural phenomena were stronger, the cyan pentagrams with new indigo lines and symbols on them, and the green pentagram of his throne with more cyan strokes.

At the rate he was going, if he could absorb a new cyan pentagram, Vicente would most likely raise the quality of that green pentagram to the cyan grade!

But while all this was impressive in itself, the elf couldn't help but look at the most mysterious part of Vicente's essence, strangely sensing the element of light in him.

A week ago, he had no trace of the light element in his body. But after only a week of cultivation, he now looked like a Light Path magician who had light as one of his major elements!

'It is normal for powerful magicians to add new elemental affinities during their magical journey to a high level. Fate, inheritance from experts, and special areas of the continent can cause a new affinity to be absorbed. But his situation is strange.'

The blonde woman thought as she listened to Vicente talk about how he had just cultivated and received these improvements he himself was still trying to understand.

'It is as if the light element is in harmony with the darkness of the Throne of Darkness!' She continued to stare at Vicente with wide eyes.

What most caught her attention and made her doubt her own senses were not all the improvements Vicente had made. The problem with everything for this elf was the fact the light in Vice was right in the Throne of Darkness!

'What does that mean?' she asked herself, but if even an Intermediate Archmage like her couldn't answer such a question, it was hard for a young man of 30 years of age and lower cultivation than her to say anything.

"Sigh! You're truly a genius. Even I can't read you completely, Vicente." She smiled in defeat as she massaged one of his shoulders, feeling as mysterious as this was, it wasn't a bad thing. "I don't know what will happen to you in the future, but do what you say. Don't give up. Maybe we're wrong in the end."

"Elder..." Vicente looked into her eyes and clenched his fists in determination.

"Come with me to the others. We've finished checking your future in relation to the cyan pentagram that will appear in The Ivory Desert." She turned away from him and walked through the garden of the temple they were in.

Following her, Vicente soon found himself face to face with the other five high elves, colleagues of this blonde woman.

As soon as she was standing next to them and the elders stopped looking at him strangely—for the same reasons she did—one of them sighed before speaking about his results.

"Vicente Fuller, while you were meditating, we found out where and when, more or less, you will find your cyan pentagram." An old elf with silver hair and some signs of time on his face said, looking seriously at Vicente.

"Your cyan pentagram in The Ivory Desert will appear in 7 months, near the territory of the ancient Nixlas' Shadows sect. You must be careful. The place that once belonged to that sect is now occupied by vampires and monsters. There are also Dark Path sects allied with the vampires in the area. Surely, someone from one of these groups will move in as soon as the signs of a cyan pentagram appear. So it's possible that you'll have to face enemies before and after you absorb this essence."

"I understand. Thank you for your advice, elders. I hope I can repay this debt to the Elves Tribe somehow." He made a gesture of thanks, feeling quite close to completing his plans.

In addition to the improvements he had made today, based on what the elves had said, he could probably absorb the cyan pentagram and would only have to face Demien Bloodthorne in the future. After all, it would take over two years for the strongest vampire of the continent to leave his seclusion.

Not having to face the continent's strongest enemy so soon after receiving his new pentagram was great, so Vicente couldn't help but smile as he thanked the elves.

One elf sighed and said. "You don't have to give us anything in return. Your own work against the vampires is more than enough to pay for our help.

But if you defy fate and avoid death, come to the tribe in the future. We'll give you something to take with you on your journey to the Upper Continent."

"Of course. I hope I can repay you by helping you with your plans for the Upper Continent."

"Hmm."

The six individuals nodded to Vicente in appreciation as they stood and looked at him for a moment in silence.

"Now you must go. Unfortunately, there isn't much time left for your group. Soon, I'm afraid, you'll have to face some high-level battles." Vicente agreed before thanking them once more and leaving, led by the elders of the tribal council.

As soon as he appeared outside the wooden building in one tree in the central part of the village, a 5th stage elf led him out of the village and took him to where Elmo and Victor were waiting for him.

The moment they saw Vicente again, Elmo and Victor narrowed their eyes as they sensed the visual and spiritual changes in the young man.

"It looks like you've been given a great opportunity." Victor commented as he looked at Vicente's gems, which were now completely cyan.

Previously, one gem had always been slightly opaque, while the gem associated with Vicente's magnetic powers was green. Now the whole special structure, similar to a tattoo on Vicente's forehead, was cyan.

Elmo saw Vicente nod in agreement and asked. "Do you have the place and time of the appearance of the pentagram?"

"Yes, it will happen in about 7 months. The place should be about 8 weeks away from where we are, so we have time to return to our group and make our way there."

Chapter 873 Intermediate Archmage Roc

After meeting Elmo and Victor outside the elven village, Vicente went with them to the heart of the Majestic Treefrog Grove.

The elves and dragons could not directly join them in the fight against the vampires because of the non-aggression treaty the two tribes had signed with Demien Bloodthorne in the past.

However, the Majestic Treefrog Grove was a vast region!

The elves and dragons were the rulers of the area, but their tribes together occupied only 45% of the territory. Other high-ranking tribes, allied with these two tribes, occupied the rest of the magnificent forest area the trio was currently in.

With at least three months to travel through this area before returning to their group outside the Majestic Treefrog Grove, the three decided to try to find opportunities and allies in this area first.

As soon as they left the elven tribe, with Vicente informing them of the opportunities he had, when and where his cyan pentagram would appear, as well as the elves' advice regarding the enemies they would encounter along the way, the three set out on this new mission.

Vicente was stronger, with information about something that could make him even stronger, and also with the Dragons' Amulet. But would it be enough? The young man's two allies couldn't help but remember how a fragment of a dragon's soul with early 6th stage cultivation could defeat them so easily and be sure it was not enough.

They had to get stronger, or get powerful allies, or risk dying before they even met Demien Bloodthorne!

...

Four days after leaving the territory of the Elves Tribe, Vicente's trio crossed a large area and arrived at the northern lake of the magical area they were in.

The lake before them was enormous. It was so large that you couldn't see the other side of its shore from any of the points around it, making this lake look like a small sea.

The vegetation where the group now stood was varied, with some parts of the area containing gigantic trees and little undergrowth, and another area where there were no such large trees, where the undergrowth thrived.

In the middle of this divided area, on the shore of the lake, a gigantic bird, so large it could carry an elephant on its back, was standing in front of Vicente's group.

With its wings outstretched as if ready to take flight at any moment, the bird looked as big as a 5th stage dragon, casting a vast shadow over the group.

Its huge legs shone like metal, reflecting the sunlight, while its claws looked like blades.

Its curved beak, ideal for tearing into the flesh of its prey, and its sharp, penetrating eyes would frighten many experts, even if the creature had no intention of doing so.

But when faced with this Intermediate Archmage, Vicente, Elmo, and Victor stood resolutely, their gaze fixed on the dark golden feathered creature's eyes.

"Human, why do you have this item?" The Roc asked, glaring menacingly at Vicente, his voice tearing through the sky as he felt the power of the dragons, his masters in this world.

"We are friends of the dragon tribe. We went through one of their challenges and got this item." Vicente said sincerely, even though he didn't owe it to the others to explain. Wanting to turn this encounter, which had started awkwardly with the bird approaching and even attacking them, into something more positive, he didn't speak arrogantly, nor did he try to hide the truth.

"We come from the Elves Tribe, Roc. We're looking for allies. Would you like to join us in fighting the damn vampires?" Elmo asked, his roots trembling as they prepared to attack should the creature before him lose his mind.

"Oh? Fight the vampires?" The bird sensed that Vicente's words were true and focused on the Leshy's words. "The three of you want to do that? With only this mediocre power?"

"We have six more 6th stage companions waiting for us outside the Majestic Treefrog Grove. But if someone like you joins our group, I'm sure dealing with those damn vampires will be a lot easier." Victor said, appealing to the pride of the giant bird in front of them.

The large, dark golden feathered bird retracted its wings, making its talons and body posture less threatening. "You have good eyes, human. We Rocs are among the five strongest in the Majestic Treefrog Grove. If anyone can fight the bloodsuckers, it's us."

"Will you join us, Elder?" Vicente asked with a twinkle in his eye.

Despite the Roc's confident and arrogant manner, it wasn't lying. After the dragons and the elves, the other three strongest tribes in Majestic Treefrog Grove were the Roc Tribe, the Hydra Tribe, and the Qilin Tribe.

The trio was on their way to the Hydra Tribe, which was located around the lake they were at, when they saw this giant bird approaching them.

The giant Roc glanced at Vicente before turning its gaze to the horizon and seeing the beautiful landscape before it, 22 meters above the ground.

"I want to help you. Vampires are like cockroaches where I come from. There, we have a saying. 'If you can kill a vampire, kill it before it's too late.'"

But I'm afraid I can't join you. I don't have an agreement with these demons, but I have to protect my tribe."

Vicente narrowed his eyes, sensing this being was in the same situation as the vampires. "Are you also from the Upper Continent?"

"My ancestor came from the Upper Continent." The bird confirmed. "The elves and dragons have told you many things..."

"Some things, yes." Vicente smiled.

"Well, since you're friends of our coalition, I'll help you find some new allies to better prepare for the fight against Demien Bloodthorne. You seem to be going to the Hydra Tribe, right? Forget about them. Hydras are strong, but vulnerable to vampires. They won't help you.

The Qilin are different. The Qilin Tribe is 230 kilometers south of our current location. Find them and tell them I sent you. At least one 6th stage Qilin will join your group." The gigantic bird said as it tossed one of its feathers toward the group.

"In the meantime, I'll arrange for a Beginner Archmage from my tribe to meet you at the Qilin Tribe within a week. Until then, wait for me."

The group promptly thanked it before the bird took off as quickly as it had approached them.

Chapter 874 Qilin Tribe

Hours after their encounter with Intermediate Archmage Roc, Vicente's party had

arrived at the Qilin Tribe and gained entry after proving to be friends with the dragons, elves, and Roc.

With the Dragon Amulet and the 6th stage Roc's feather, the three companions were welcomed by the Qilin Tribe and invited to enter their village and meet the elders.

Vicente, Victor, and Elmo now faced the three strongest of the Qilin Tribe, Intermediate Archmages, creatures with the body of a deer, the tail of a lion, and the hooves of a horse. The Qilin's heads resembled those of dragons, with horns on their foreheads. Their skin was covered with colorful scales that made them unmistakable.

Each of the race's creatures had visual peculiarities that, after some time of observation, would be enough for anyone to be able to distinguish several of them. The three individuals in front of Vicente, Victor and Elmo, one female and two males, were quite special, their bodies as large as those of ordinary elephants.

However, knowing the three in front of them were friends from allied tribes of the Majestic Treefrog Grove, none of the three Qilins tried to frighten these visitors. Lying on the ground in front of a fire on this quiet evening, they were interested in hearing what the outsiders had to say.

After the three visitors' initial explanations about their time in the Elves Tribe, the Dragon Tribe, and their meeting with Intermediate Archmage Roc, Vicente spoke about the situation on the continent.

"... Now, we are on the verge of a new prime point in the disaster. With the end of the reclusion of the elders of the vampire coalition, it is likely they will return to hunting human specialists in a short time." Vicente said in a deep, solemn tone.

"Their original plans didn't foresee this. After the initial slaughter immediately after The Purification, as they grew stronger, they would at most manage the lands dominated by their minions.

But with the human resistance and the strengthening of many cities during the crisis, as well as my actions, it is very likely that once Demien awakens, a new wave of hunting will intensify, and more magicians like Victor and me will become victims.

At that time, the continent might fall completely under vampire control and Demien might advance to the Advanced Archmage level."

The three Qilins looked at Vicente with grim expressions, not liking what they had heard. However, knowing what they knew and sensing Vice's sincerity, they couldn't help but fear it was all true and would happen soon.

"The continent has only declined since we lost our connection to the Upper Continent." The only female there shook her head as she closed her eyes, feeling that the Majestic Treefrog Grove beast coalition's greatest fear was going to happen in this generation. They had tried almost everything to stop the threat that the existence of the Upper Continent's native beings posed to the stability of the Polaris Realm. But after failing at almost everything, they had reached a point where they could only choose to fight to avoid the worst-case scenario.

"Now, our plan is to strengthen young Vicente. If he can become a Beginner Archmage with 6 pentagrams in each of his magical forms, he'll be strong enough to finish the vampires." Elmo said to the beasts in front of him.

"By then, the continent will breathe. Even if he can't solve the entire crisis caused by The Purification, he can at least give us a chance to restore order to the Polaris Realm."

"Your plans are reasonable." The oldest of the three Qilins said. "Now you're going to The Ivory Desert to get his next pentagram?"

"As soon as we leave the Majestic Treefrog Grove, we'll go to The Ivory Desert to hide near the place where this pentagram will appear." Victor nodded in agreement.

"So you want allies to help keep this young man alive? I think we can do that, right?" The other man looked at the tribal elder and the woman to his right.

"Hmm, I think Tenglin might be a good fit for this group. He's close to being promoted to the Intermediate level. If he can fight vampires and taste enemy blood, he'll surely reach that level in less than three years." The woman over there said as she looked at her two companions.

"Tenglin is a good choice. He's brave and not afraid of the dangers of war. This could be a chance for us to help the Majestic Treefrog Grove alliance in this new hope and still strengthen a prominent junior." The elder agreed, seeing this as a chance for them not only to fight the vampires but also to strengthen his tribe in the face of disaster.

The Majestic Treefrog Grove offered many opportunities. But for beings who had lived there since their origins, most of those opportunities had already been exhausted, and just staying in the area could take a long time to make progress.

Tenglin was the closest to advancement among the tribe's Beginner Archmages, while the Intermediate Archmages would have little chance to improve by traveling with Vicente.

"If you accept Tenglin into your team, he will help you a lot on this journey. We personally can't move. Although we have no agreements with the vampires, we are their guardians and have to protect the tribe. Said the youngest of the three Intermediate Archmages of the Qilin Tribe.

All the strongest in Majestic Treefrog Grove were being watched by the coalition of vampires and monsters. It would be almost impossible for any intermediate or Advanced Archmage in the area to escape unnoticed.

However, this wasn't the case for Beginner Archmages. With around 300 such creatures in the entire region, the vampires and their monsters could hardly keep an eye on them all and prevent some of them from joining Vicente's group.

"We certainly accept the help of any member of the tribe, elders." Vicente said as he thanked the Qilins for their offer. "I promise that as long as he's by our side, we'll do our best to work together and share opportunities according to our affinities.

I can't guarantee that everyone will return alive at the end of this journey, but we will fight for it until we can no longer fight."

The Qilins nodded to Vicente, aware of the risks. But beasts were even more decisive

than humans when it came to situations and opportunities, so this wouldn't prevent an agreement between them.

Chapter 875 Alternative Course of Action

After talking to the elders of the Qilin Tribe, Vicente, Victor, and Elmo were directed to an area where they could wait for the Roc who had advised them to come to this tribe.

The Qilins also had to prepare the Archmage who would leave with them, so for now they would stay with the tribe to wait.

Unlike the Elves Tribe, the Qilin Tribe didn't consider foreigners or beings of other races as evil as the elves did. These creatures accepted Vicente's trio into the heart of their village, welcoming them as true friends of the tribe.

Vicente and the others would spend the next few days there, most of the time cultivating in the tribe's special places, but occasionally interacting with these fantastic beings, learning more about the local history and even the specifics of cultivation.

As the days passed, Vicente focused on learning a series of new spells based on the new elements he had gained on this journey through the Majestic Treefrog Grove.

These new elements he had acquired through the Dragon Tribe's challenges could not be used with his magical abilities related to his pentagrams and Magic Gems. After all, the powers of these essences had their natural affinities that could not be changed. The new affinities that Vicente had gained by going through the dragons' territory could be used in spell formation or during cultivation.

The key point was to use them during cultivation, something that could speed up his cultivation speed since he could absorb more mana at the same time by having more elemental affinities.

Another way for him to gain new elemental affinities was to create magical artifacts that were different from the ones he could create before. With more elements at his disposal, Vicente could create interesting variations of special weapons and armor!

He had already played around with some of the Qilin Tribe's metallic minerals in the past few days, helping to create artifacts for the tribe's 5th stage members.

His results were magnificent enough to impress even the tribe's elders, who, although they couldn't use those 5th grade items, could see Vicente's potential as a blacksmith when he reached the 6th stage.

Vicente could become the first 6th stage blacksmith on the continent and truly change the fate of these lands, even if he chose not to join the fight against the vampires!

On the seventh day of Vicente and his people in the Qilin Tribe, he was standing next to an Intermediate Archmage, walking through the village while his companions were meditating elsewhere.

The Qilin next to Vicente sighed as he looked at his people. "Vicente, you have to risk your life to reach the 6th stage. But after you become a Beginner Archmage, you won't have to risk your life fighting Demien Bloodthorne. With your forging skills, you'll be able to build an armed army capable of changing the fate of the continent."

This creature, as well as the other elders of the tribe, didn't know what Vicente had seen in the Divine Dragon Matrix. As far as he and the others were concerned, Vice would one day become a Magus and leave for the Upper Continent. But until then, he would have a long and dangerous journey until he became at least an Intermediate Archmage.

When he became an Intermediate Archmage, holding a total of 12 pentagrams, the elders of the Qilin Tribe believed Vicente would be strong enough to wipe out any threat that existed on the continent.

But until then, his journey would be fraught with dangers that could wipe him out at any moment.

"I know you'll probably want to go after your new pentagrams when you become an Archmage. But think about it. If you go back to your people and focus on creating 6th grade artifacts, you could do as much or more good than just fighting for humanity. Perhaps the best answer for you is to return home, live with your family, and produce weapons for others to fight this war." The old Qilin advised soberly.

Someone with Vicente's skills on the battlefield could be replaced. Perhaps there were no others like him, but if a group united several Archmages, it would certainly come close to what this human could do. However, the Qilin beside Vicente had no hope of achieving a forging result similar to that of the human beside him, even if all the continent's blacksmiths were to unite.

He believed Vicente could achieve unimaginable greatness by being an ace up the sleeve of the vampire enemy forces instead of being the dominant warrior on the battlefield!

Vicente had already thought of this. In fact, considering his life as a gangster when he was on Earth and the beginning of his magical journey in the Polaris Realm, he saw a lot of sense in this move.

When he reaches the 6th stage, retreat south and try to improve his forging skills to create 6th grade or 6th stage artifacts. Then get allies and subordinates to fight for him.

This was the thing a mafia boss would do to protect themselves and ensure the success of their endeavor!

The problem was that Vicente wasn't sure if he had the room to do what Qilin was suggesting!

"That would be wonderful, but will I be able to reach the 6th stage in time for Demien Bloodthorne to hunt me? If he leaves his seclusion, he'll surely come after me..." Vicente sighed as he thought about how difficult it would be for him to return to his family's side and live making weapons for his people.

When Demien awoke, he would most likely have to go through a period of getting used to moving around, fleeing from the enemy and even confronting this vampire. It wasn't the kind of situation where he could go back to his family.

Besides, when he reached the 6th stage, if he could do that at all, considering what the elves and dragons had told him, wouldn't that be the best time for him to deal with Demien once and for all?

Assuming he could survive Demien while he was still a Paragon, he would most likely be able to deal with his opponent better, and it might not be worth it to retreat and

produce artifacts.

"That would be incredible. I just don't know if I would have the space to follow such a plan." Vicente commented with a sigh.

Chapter 876 New Allies and Departure from the Majestic Treefrog Grove

Later that day, two enormous shadows hovered over the Qilin Tribe, drawing the attention of the entire tribe to two large birds approaching their village.

As the two shadows approached the tribe, they slowed down and lowered their altitude, preparing to land.

When Vicente looked up and saw the figure of the Roc he had met days ago, he realized who the second bird next to the beast was.

"It seems the time has come for us to leave," he said to Victor and Elmo, who were at his side in this world, along with the member of the Qilin Tribe who would soon travel with them.

Tenglin looked at the two creatures and was the first to move to the outside of the village where the two birds had landed.

Vicente and his two companions followed behind Tenglin and soon saw the tribal elders joining them to greet the great Roc, an old friend of the tribe.

They arrived at the spot where the two winged beasts had landed; the humans waving their hands in front of their faces as the dust in the air made it difficult to see.

The elders of the Qilin Tribe greeted the Intermediate Archmage Roc with greetings and good-natured cheers.

Not all the tribes in Majestic Treefrog Grove were friends. Some tribes simply coexisted with others. But the Qilins and the Rocs were close.

"Vicente Fuller, as promised, I've brought my junior to join your group." The big Roc said as he looked at the human boy. "The one next to me is Acidbelly. He is at the peak level of a Beginner Archmage, so I believe he will contribute well to your group."

"Oh? Then I thank the elder and Acidbelly for deciding to join us on this journey." Vicente gladly obliged, not doubting the power of this huge winged creature.

Even though Acidbelly's cultivation, like Tenglin's, was not as high as Victor and Elmo's, these two beasts could certainly fight as well or even better than them. After all, they were extremely powerful breeds.

As they were about to advance to the next level, these two creatures could become even more important to the group as they faced challenges and opportunities.

One elder of the Qilin Tribe smiled and said. "Acidbelly is going to join the group? I feel like Vicente and his people's chances just got a lot better, hehe."

Acidbelly wasn't just any member of the Rocs Tribe. He's a "junior" Archmage, known in the tribe for his cultivation speed and battlefield prowess.

"He needs a challenge to consolidate. Fighting those damn vampires will help him." The Intermediate Archmage of the Roc Tribe said.

Acidbelly looked at Vicente and noticed how out of sorts this human was. Realizing his leader had not lied to him, he felt more comfortable knowing he would not be traveling with just any Paragon,

"When do we leave?" He asked as his body became smaller than it actually was. Magical creatures could use their mana to make their bodies smaller. But the opposite was not true. If you were too small, it was almost impossible to get bigger.

"We are ready. If you agree, we can leave today." Vicente said to the winged creature, who immediately looked at his leader.

The stronger Roc looked at Vicente with some doubt. "Before you leave, tell me what your plans are. The area is surrounded by vampires and monsters, right? How will you get past them?"

"The same way we enter the area. We'll use the Dragon Tribe's territory to make our crossing. It will be more difficult to succeed this time because of the presence of Acidbelly and Tanglin, but I believe it is the only alternative.

Our group is waiting for us near the crossing point. Once we join them, we'll head to our destination in The Ivory Desert."

"Won't that be dangerous?" One Qilin asked.

"It will be, but we have little time to lose. We must leave before the pentagram appears, scout the area, and better understand where the trouble will come from.

The journey should take about two months, so we must leave soon to avoid being late. We don't know what problems will arise on the way, so it's better to leave early than late." Vicente answered the question of most of the surrounding creatures.

"In that case, I wish you good luck. I hope to see you again if you succeed on this journey." The Intermediate Archmage Roc said in a hopeful tone.

Vicente and his companions said their goodbyes, and the three of them quickly made their way alongside their two new companions.

Tanglin and Acidbelly flew with them, heading west from the magical region they were in.

"Will the dragons let us use their territory? They're difficult to deal with." Acidbelly asked.

"I think so. I made a deal with them, so I doubt they'll stop us," Vicente replied as he looked at the big Roc, big enough to carry the group on his large back.

"By the way, do you mind if we ride on your back?" He asked with a smile.

The gigantic bird looked at him silently, but the question wasn't strange. Rocs were known to carry even mammoths on their backs, and it wasn't uncommon for elders of the race to carry their juniors and allies on their backs for special missions. Acidbelly was faster than anyone else there, so he saw no problem. They all nodded in agreement and settled on his big back, where they could even cultivate while flying if they wanted to.

Tanglin sat down in a position where he could see the terrain ahead and asked Vicente with a palpable fear in his voice. "By the way, what are your expectations for the battle? The elders just told me we'll probably have to face superior 5th stage vampires soon."

"I think we have two to six months of peace before we're hunted by vampires-if we don't encounter any superior vampires that strong first. But after that, it's likely they will hunt us down, and all we can do is fight back or hide. So be prepared. Our peace will soon be over."

Chapter 877 Group Meeting?

The days passed, and soon Vicente's group was back in the territory of the Dragon Tribe.

Traveling through the Majestic Treefrog Grove would have been dangerous and a grand adventure for others as strong or stronger than the members of Vicente's group under other circumstances.

However, with the current crisis on the continent and Vicente's friendship with the two Sovereign tribes of this area, anyone who stood in their way, just like the great Roc, would change their minds after a few words.

With a Qilin and a Roc on their side, things were even easier than on the way to the Elves Tribe, and the group did not face a single problematic situation after leaving the Qilin Tribe.

When they arrived at the Dragon Tribe this afternoon, they talked to the tribe's elders and explained a bit about what had happened before getting permission to continue their exit from Majestic Treefrog Grove through the place they had entered weeks ago. This time, the group would not have to deal with the many traps in their path. With the help of the dragons, they would have a clear path to get out of this area and back to their plans.

"Impressive. I've never seen the dragon's challenge area before, but I can feel how powerful these traps are," Tanglin said to the group as they walked through the area Vicente, Elmo and Victor had passed through recently.

The five walked on the ground, their auras contained within their own bodies, while Vicente used his electromagnetic powers to make them invisible.

Because of the qualitative advancement he had undergone, all of his magnetic abilities were stronger. Even with four Archmages at his side, one of them with an enormous body, he kept them hidden with ease.

"Yes, it's even more impressive when the traps are active... Luckily, we've been there before and won't have to do it again." Victor smile.

Now that everything had happened, it was easy to look back and remember their challenges. But he really didn't want to go through it again!

As they passed the halfway point and talked about the challenges of the area and their recent experiences, Vicente warned. "Stay alert. After the next three hundred meters, we'll be outside the Dragon Tribe, in the area watched by the vampires and monsters." "What is the threat level around the Majestic Treefrog Grove?" Acidbelly asked.

"There is an Advanced Archmage among the monsters, and there are superior 5th stage vampires in the area." Elmo replied, causing the two beasts to narrow their eyes. "That's not encouraging..." Tanglin sighed.

"The good news is that the strongest of them are far away from this area, or at least they shouldn't be here. Because of the danger of entering the Majestic Treefrog Grove through dragon territory, the area is less protected than others." Vicente said as he paid attention to his surroundings, mainly using his magnetic abilities to stay alert.

With the qualitative advancement of his first Magic Gem, his senses and fighting abilities of both magical forms had now come closer together. The Throne of Darkness was still much stronger than the magnetic power, but one could be better than the other in different applications.

In this case, for probing, tracking, and hiding, Vicente's magnetic power was much better than the power of the Throne of Darkness!

"But be careful. We can't make any mistakes on this part of the route. Facing those creatures now would be the end of our journey." He warned after a second.

The four remained silent as they continued in the formation they had agreed upon before.

In the next five minutes, they would complete the end of their journey until they crossed the border between the Dragon Tribe's territory and the outside of the Majestic Treefrog Grove.

They paused for a moment to check for enemies nearby. When they noticed there was an Intermediate Archmage monster not far away, they moved even more slowly, with Vicente concentrating on protecting their signals.

While they were staring toward the creature only a few hundred meters away, Vicente intercepted a communication to another creature nearby.

Seeing an opportunity, he transmitted the message to the creature near them, causing it to move and turn its back on the group.

'Now!' He warned his people to move faster, still moving hidden, without using much of their powers, but now much faster than a few moments ago.

A few minutes later, the group of five overcome the monsters' observation range, successfully leaving the Light Path's large beast territory without attracting the attention of their enemies.

But the group didn't celebrate their accomplishment. As soon as they were far enough away from the monsters and vampires that guarded that territory, they headed toward the spot where Vicente, Elmo, and Victor had left the rest of the group weeks before. The three humans and the three magical creatures left behind should wait for them, if nothing too troublesome had happened in the meantime.

Worried about their companions' situation, the group remained cautious on their journey, which would take them several tens of minutes even at Acidbelly's speed.

As they approached where the rest of the group was supposed to be, Elmo and Vicente, the first to look around, narrowed their eyes when they didn't see their allies. "They're not where we left them." The Leshy of the group said, his wooden face subtly changing expression.

"What could have happened?" Victor asked with concern in his voice.

"Maybe they moved to avoid trouble. Let's not assume the worst for now!" Vicente said as he instructed Acidbelly to land near the spot where they had stayed for days, watching the monsters and vampires in their path.

Arriving at the spot, Vicente found a note left by Ayden, easily spotted because of his advanced tracking skills.

"They were forced to leave. I don't know if they're okay, but we have to follow them. They can't be far. It is two weeks old at the most since they left." Vicente said to his group, guessing how long it had been since the metallic paint on the message had been applied.

The group agreed and soon began to investigate where their allies had gone.

Chapter 878 Enemies Nearby

Meanwhile, in the main camp of the monsters and vampires near the weakest area of Majestic Treefrog Grove...

In this place, famous for being the entrance to this region for beings of the Light Path, a camp of over 100 creatures has been built right on the main path of this area.

Ordinary creatures wouldn't dare do such a thing, but there was a High-level Paragon cultivation vampire and an Advanced Archmage monster!

Who in this entire region would dare to face them? The strongest and most superior beasts in the area couldn't do that because of their non-aggression agreements.

With no one to challenge this group, it has been stationed here for over four years now, preventing creatures from entering and leaving the Majestic Treefrog Grove.

Today, the two strongest creatures in the arca, along with a third creature, stood face to face and dealt with problems.

"Elders, we still don't know the location of the enemy group, but we're moving fast to find them. The Dark Griffin is after them, so it's only a matter of hours before we find them." Said the third in the command tent of this camp as he stood face to face with these two powerful beings.

"In years of operations, never have magical creatures had the courage to come this close to us..." The vampire commented as he looked at the creature before him. "I'm afraid something is wrong. Soon, our elders will awaken from their seclusion. The time is not good."

Picking up on the solemn and suspicious tone of his superior, the Dark Path beast, an Advanced Archmage, the only one of the entire group in this area with such cultivation power, said to relieve his superior.

"Elder, I don't think this has anything to do with the awakening of the elders. These are probably beings who want to enter the Majestic Treefrog Grove. This place is precious to beings of the Light Path."

"They're all Light Path beings, elder." Confirmed the 4th stage vampire, informing them of the group of six they had discovered a few days ago.

Luckily for the six, they had moved in time to escape the first ones who had come for their blood!

"Still, I have a bad feeling about this. Pass on my concerns to the group investigating them. They shouldn't hesitate to attack these creatures and ask for reinforcements. I don't want this to go on much longer than it already has."

"Certainly, I will make sure the pursuers have your thoughts in mind." The 4th stage vampire took his leave soon after, leaving the camp command tent to sort out the orders of the strongest vampire in this besieged area.

The peak 5th stage vampire continued in his place, drinking a dark red viscous beverage, his white hair and skin contrasting with his black and dark red clothing.

'As soon as they hear about this group, I'll move myself. I'll make sure they all die before anything worse happens.'

Near the Valley of Lightning, Ayden, Bonfi, Qiang, Paul, Jacob, and Lonan-the werewolf of the group-were hiding behind a waterfall.

In this place, Vicente's six allied creatures were worried, tense expressions on their faces, each of them prepared for the worst.

"We're practically surrounded!" Qiang said as he looked over the falling water in front of him.

There was no way to tell they were actually surrounded. The enemy still didn't know they were here, even though they had men at practically every escape point in this area. If Vicente's group moved into this place, they would surely be spotted and pursued. Given the proximity of their enemies, it would be almost impossible for them to escape, which meant that if they left the area, they would be captured and would have to fight for their lives!

The others couldn't disagree with Qiang's words, and they realized they were trapped. The best they could do was to continue hiding, hoping the enemies wouldn't find them and leave after a while.

But they knew how unlikely that was!

"What should we do? In a day at most, the enemies will realize where we are." Bonfi said as he looked at his companions, speaking in a low voice while his aura, like that of his companions, was confined to his body.

Ayden said. "There is no easy way. If we leave, we'll be hunted by our enemies, eventually separated and killed. If we stay, we'll have a few hours, and then we can face them together. We'll probably die anyway, but at least we'll fight back and kill some of them.

I vote we stay here and fight to the death!"

"I say the same." Lonan agreed, showing one of his tightly clenched fists. "Running away will be impossible. Escaping by splitting up isn't feasible either. Let's wait and fight the bastards."

"We need to strategize. We're not as strong as our enemies, but we're not weak either. If we fight smart, we'll be able to take some of them down before we fall." Jakob thought rationally about the grim situation.

None of them had any hope of escaping, of being rescued, or of anything else changing their dire situation. Alone in this damp, dark cave, they could only prepare for the

worst.

A few days ago, a monster had spotted the footprint of one of them and investigated the situation, leading to the group's escape and the subsequent chase that had brought them to this place.

Now, they were standing on the edge of a precipice where they could fall to their deaths at any moment!

"Let's combine our skills to fight the bastards. Qiang and Bonfi, I hope I can count on you to lead the way. Jacob, Ayden, and I will support you both. Meanwhile, Lonan should sneak up on the enemies." Paul said, as he considered the abilities of each member of

the group.

"We will use Vicente's armor as a distraction against the enemies. That might give us a chance to take down some monsters and vampires."

The group agreed as they looked at a special storage item that Vicente had left with them, which contained eleven peak 5th stage robot armors.

This wasn't something that would kill enemies for them, but maybe it could act as a distraction!

Everyone agreed to go ahead with these plans, and they soon moved to position the 11 armors outside the area behind the waterfall.

Chapter 879 Provocation Before the Battle

One day later...

The group of vampires and monsters searching for Ayden's group and the others were about to hit their targets near the Valley of Lightning!

In the area, there were ten 6th stage monsters. This included 7 Beginner Archmages and 3 Intermediate Archmages. Additionally, there were 3 5th stage vampires. Among them were two Low-level Paragons and one Mid-level Paragon. With these numbers, they were almost certain to encounter their targets soon.

The strongest vampire in the area looked around with a smile on his face, opened his mouth, and taunted the enemies he was sure could hear him loud and clear.

"Show yourselves! Don't you think it's disrespectful to come so close and then run away? We should at least greet each other, shouldn't we? What type of visitors are you?" The six individuals remained in their positions, each one sensing a deceleration of time as they braced themselves for the battle that would determine their fate.

Their hearts were racing, beating so fast as they perspired more than they ever had in their entire lives.

Qiang found himself in the most challenging predicament of his life, experiencing a sense of vulnerability he hadn't felt in over 600 years. He was forced to confront opponents that instilled genuine fear within him.

Dealing with this situation was no easy task for the arrogant hippogryph.

As he stood motionless, trying to avoid drawing attention from his enemies, his eyes widened and seemed on the verge of popping out of his head.

Bonfi glanced at the hippogryph standing beside him, someone he had never truly liked or gotten along with. However, in this crucial moment, he couldn't help but lock eyes with him and raise his eyebrows, silently signaling him not to explode and jeopardize their plan.

Meanwhile, the vampires and monsters moved with increasing caution, their steps slowing down as they approached their adversaries.

With Dark Griffin leading the hunt-a formidable creature known for his exceptional investigative skills and ability to track targets through subtle clues, echo location, and keen directional sense-the group of monsters was confident that their enemies were lurking somewhere within their shrinking search area.

These creatures were on the lookout for surprise attacks as the confrontation began. They circulated their mana, prepared to attack or defend against their enemies at any

moment.

"Aren't you going to show yourselves? Tsk! You'd rather play hide and seek... But if I catch you, you'll die." The leader of the group said, laughing maliciously.

His gaze sharpened, and he moistened his lips with his tongue. "I heard from my tracker that there are humans among you... I love human blood!"

Ayden, Paul, and Jakob looked at each other when they heard the enemy. They felt shivers run through their bodies, somewhat uncertain of the future.

"Human blood is like no other. There's no way you humans can understand it with a normal explanation, so just think of it this way: the blood of other races is like healthy food to me. It's nutritious, but it doesn't completely satisfy me.

But human blood, ah, how delicious! It's like the sweetest, most delicious dessert for you!

I will savor every drop of your blood!" He raised his voice amid his words, his murderous intent radiating from his body and reaching hundreds of meters away from him.

Ignoring his leader, Dark Griffin, without speaking, pointed toward the waterfall ahead, one of the last good places to hide in the area they had left to analyze.

A smile appeared on the pale face of the superior Mid-level Paragon vampire as he signaled for his men to approach the spot.

"Aren't you going to show yourselves?" He pretended to still be unsure of the group's location, but he couldn't help but smile at the thought of finally catching up with these pests after days of investigation.

The silence continued as the 10 monsters and 3 superior vampires approached the waterfall, arriving only 50 meters away from the waterfall.

Qiang remained poised to strike at his enemies at a moment's notice, while Bonfi also readied himself, fully aware that they would have to take charge once the confrontation ensued.

The three humans glanced at their companions at the last moment before the fight, once again showing they would provide support, while the strongest would fight their opponents directly.

Lonan was ready to move at any moment. Suddenly, the signal they had been waiting for came.

Boom!

Far away from the waterfall, explosions of cannon fire erupted from the east and west, coming from the trees that the group of monsters was not targeting.

The Dark Griffin shifted his focus and spotted 11 metallic creatures attacking his group, doubting his senses for a moment.

"Did I miss something?"

As the monsters and vampires looked around, their attention was drawn to the area's surroundings. Sensing the electromagnetic attacks generated by the 11 peak 5th stage armors, each of them instinctively raised their defenses in that direction.

In that moment of distraction, Bonfi and Qiang jumped out of the cave behind the waterfall and flew toward the strongest monsters in the area, while Lonan moved

clusively.

A total of 18 pentagrams manifested from Ayden, Paul, and Jacob's bodies. Together, they soared towards the adversaries, casting spells to bolster their comrades and weaken the foes, ultimately enhancing the strength of their allies and exposing the vulnerabilities of their enemies.

The Mid-level Paragon vampire ignored the 5th stage armor a second later, realizing his opponents' strategy while making an ugly grimace on his face.

"Wretches! Are you trying to trick us?" He shouted as his green pentagram emerged

from his body, starting the battle already using his innate ability.

Even though he was a powerful vampire at the Mid-level Paragon level, this was a group

of six Beginner Archmages that even he could not eliminate so easily. Since the monsters' enemies had started this clash by attacking first, they certainly wouldn't be easily defeated!

One of the two Low-level Paragon cultivation vampires pressed the device connected to the monsters' camp around the Majestic Treefrog Grove, signaling they had found the enemies before engaging in this battle.

Thus, their battle began, with Qiang and Bonfi unleashing ferocious attacks on some of the strongest enemies, with their group starting the battle with some balance with their opponents.

Chapter 880 Difficult Battle

The battle started, and creatures screamed in pain. Blood splattered as Qiang attacked his first target, getting it on his claws. Meanwhile, Bonfi's flames burned a monster with Beginner Archmage cultivation.

After initially taking the lead in the fight, the two beasts ruthlessly attacked the two opponents who were closest to them. Then, as the two individuals plummeted from their respective positions, Ayden seized the moment and perceived a chance to administer a decisive strike against one of them.

Paul followed Ayden's lead and took aim at the burning monster, who was now screaming in agony as it struggled and flew toward the river below.

"Die!" Paul attacked with all his might, aiming for his opponent's vulnerable neck.

"Tsk! Not so fast, human!" Said one of the Low-level Paragon vampires as he appeared in front of Paul.

The moment this vampire moved, the surrounding armor did the same, pressing against the two wounded enemies.

Even as he appeared in front of Paul, this vampire felt his body much slower than it should have been, constrained by four robotic armors attacking the burning monsters.

A similar situation developed for Ayden as he attacked the creature with part of its body cut off by Qiang's long, sharp claws.

Dark Griffin, an Intermediate Archmage, narrowed his eyes and moved towards the robot armors in the area. 'As weak as they are, they can still hurt us when combined with the powers of these enemies!' Dark Griffin thought as he saw he had to deal with these armors or his group could suffer far greater losses than they expected.

As he moved to sacrifice the first armors in his sights, Qiang appeared in front of him after using the ground to change the trajectory of his flight, coming at Dark Griffin with his mouth agape as he screamed.

The sound of an eagle's cry rang out, causing Dark Griffin and several others to block their hearing to protect their mental integrity.

Lonan used the shadows in the area to move and catch up with the Mid-level Paragon vampire.

Suddenly, appearing behind him, the werewolf slashed at the vampire's neck, targeting his opponent's life in his first attack of the battle.

"Audacity!" The vampire looked back and raised his defenses, outraged to be attacked by a mere 6th stage werewolf.

As soon as he moved to defend himself, the werewolf tried to flee, seeing his surprise attack had failed. But when he felt something grab one of his heels, he couldn't get away in time.

With a slap on the opposite side of his hand, the Mid-level Paragon vampire struck the werewolf hard in the face, making the creature feel his world shake as he flew away.

But halfway to the waterfall, the werewolf felt the thing holding his ankle pull him back toward the Mid-level Paragon vampire.

The creature's eyes widened as he saw his target return to him, and a red blade condensed in the air, ready to cut his target in half.

Ayden, who had just launched a decisive attack against Qiang's already wounded target, tried to intervene. However, as his already wounded opponent was about to die, an Intermediate Archmage from the enemy group stepped in front of him.

Faced with such a powerful monster, Ayden couldn't help Lonan. He focused his powers on himself, knowing if he didn't use all of his focus against the attacker, he would surely die!

While Bonfi was busy fighting the two Beginner Archmages chasing him, Paul, like Ayden, had managed to unleash a deadly attack and kill the second enemy in the area.

But as soon as he had defeated the Beginning Archmage that had attacked him, one of the superior vampires and a 6th stage monster pressured him.

At that moment, the battle that had begun for these individuals with the advantage in their initial attack changed direction!

While some of the 6th stage monsters were destroying the armor that was hindering them, the six individuals could not help each other as opponents capable of killing them pressured them.

Lonan felt this as he received no help before having one of his arms severed by the Mid-level Paragon in front of him, who didn't take it easy as he moved, intending to make such werewolf suffer before his death.

"Awoo!"

The werewolf howled in pain as he felt his enemy's second cut, this time losing his right ear as blood stained his dark fur.

The first few moments after the change were brutal, as each of the six suffered dangerous attacks, spending much of their mana to protect their lives and barely fending off their enemies.

Each of them suffered differently. While Lonan felt the sadistic bloodlust of the Mid-level Paragon vampire attacking him, Jakob was being dodged by his opponent.

Deformations and purple spots appeared around Jakob's face, arms, legs, back, and abdomen, while his vision became limited.

Ayden had part of his body pierced by one of his enemy's tails as he couldn't help but look around and see how they were all going to die.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!"

As he screamed in pain, Bonfi felt his flames dying in front of the two enemies attacking him, and though he fought bravely, he could not escape from them to help his companions.

Qiang fought hard against Dark Griffin and managed to wound his opponent, showing impressive fighting skills. However, even with such a display of power against an Intermediate Archmage, it wasn't enough.

'Shit! If I don't get rid of this bastard soon, the entire party will perish!' The hippogryph thought as he watched the last of Vicente's robot armor being destroyed by the monsters that had not joined the fight against them yet.

With these opponents left free to attack them, the next moves in this battle could be the last lives of any of these six allies!

Not only did Qiang see this. Lonan, Bonfi, and the three humans realized the same thing as they suffered in their own ways and saw that they would meet their end even before the crucial moment of Vicente's journey. For these noble warriors of different races, this was the worst thing: to fail in their purpose!

Meanwhile, the monsters and vampires attacked them with all their might, arriving at the best moment of the battle, the point at which they could end this battle and return to their group's camp with the bodies of their enemies!