

The Mafia 881

Chapter 881 The End of Mighty Warriors

'Am I destined for this fate?' Ayden pondered inwardly, his senses overwhelmed by the agonizing ache coursing through his body and the torment gnawing at his very soul. Amidst the relentless onslaught of two adversaries, he steadfastly maintained vigilance over his comrades, his eyes darting back and forth.

With nowhere to run, close to his limit and too wounded to react, he had already given up. What mattered to him now was the situation of his companions on this mission, especially Qiang and Bonfi, who could surely be of great help to Vicente if they escaped.

However, Ayden and the others were in such poor condition that even if he wanted to help them, they were unable to do anything.

Paul closed his eyes as he saw the attack that would probably kill him and sighed in defeat. After such a long journey, his life was ending.

'Hmm?'

Suddenly, he felt something strange when he noticed that even after a full second, the enemy's attack hadn't hit him.

As he reopened his eyes, he was taken aback to find the enemy, who had been relentlessly attacking him, completely frozen in place. They were now just millimeters away from reaching him.

Confused and perplexed, he furrowed his brow and scanned his surroundings, desperately seeking comprehension amidst the bizarre ambiance. Gradually, a revelation dawned upon him-the realization that his sanity had remained intact even after his demise!

"This... My powers are increasing?"

He opened his mouth in shock as he felt his wounds closing while his mana increased from the point of near exhaustion to a level where he could better sense of his surroundings and understand the situation.

"Vicente!"

One of the six companions on the verge of death shouted as he saw the arrival of the group of five beings, the three who had left earlier and two more, a Roc and a Qilin.

The big Roc stopped flying forward and Vicente jumped off its back, flying like a rocket until he reached the place where his companions were on the brink of death.

As soon as he reached a point where his powers could affect his enemies, Vicente summoned his two magical forms into action.

As soon as the Throne of Darkness appeared, the Beginner Archmages of the surroundings froze in fear of Vicente's aura.

The three vampires felt their bodies stiffen, the metallic particles in their bodies blocking their movements for

a moment.

Meanwhile, Vicente used two of his primary abilities simultaneously to help his companions recover from where they had been.

"Vicente Fuller!" The strongest superior vampire in the area shouted as he understood what was happening and used his own strength to escape Vice's suppression.

"Tsk! "Not so fast, you filthy creature," Elmo lands near the mid-level Paragon vampire, already using his powers to attack the creature with his wooden roots and the surrounding vegetation.

Victor appeared behind the vampire, his eyes glowing as the Ghost of Death, his spirit-type magical form condensed with his six pentagrams.

Tanglin flew towards one of the two Intermediate Archmages, while Acidbelly went towards the other, leaving the other 8 enemies for Vicente to deal with.

"Vicente Fuller!" one of the two weakest vampires in the arca shouted as he left the state of suppression, being more talented than the Beginner Archmages who couldn't achieve the same result.

While Bonfi and the others saw their chances of retreating when they recovered, Vicente knew he had to deal with these creatures quickly, as stronger vampires and monsters could come to this place at this time.

He poured his mana into the Dragon's Amulet, causing his aura to increase and his muscles to grow and strengthen at a rate visible to the human eye.

The ground around Vicente froze as blue flames exploded from his position, spraying at the monsters, trying to get close to him.

Weapons covered in ice, fire, and darkness appeared around him, mainly attacking the two superior early 5th stage vampires.

As soon as they noticed these weapons forming near them and attacking them without delay, the two vampires turned even paler than they already were.

"Shit!" one of them screamed as he felt a cut appear on one of his cheeks, the cut freezing parts of him as his ability to resist Vicente's restrictive movement diminished.

Further affected by Vicente's magnetic ability, this vampire found himself once again unable to move as he wished, while his enemy moved to attack him decisively.

There was nothing he could do. With Vicente's magnetic powers stronger than ever, it took the young Fuller only a few seconds to reach him and hold the vampire's head in his hands.

With a touch to his enemy's forehead, Vicente used his magnetic powers to destroy the vampire's brain, while his dark powers extinguished his opponent's soul with a touch of death.

The vampire's eyes froze, losing their life in a second before he fell from his position, plummeting to the ground already dead!

The other vampire felt the horror of seeing his companion, who was a little stronger than him, killed so easily. When he saw Vicente looking at him with a strange smile, this creature desperately wanted to run away.

"Not today, vampire." He suddenly heard Vicente appear behind him, using the same touch of death he had used on his other opponent.

The creature's eyes fluttered in horror for a second before he, like his companion, fell hard to the ground, dead without bloodshed!

With two of the three vampires dead, Vicente looked at the six remaining creatures. With a handshake and a serious look on his face, he used a mixture of his first magnetic ability and his first dark ability.

Then, as if those six were nothing, their hearts and brains exploded inside their bodies, destroying their heads and chests, their bodies and souls ruined by Vicente's simple movement.

"The Dragon's Amulet is a great amplifier of my powers. Vicente thought with a smile on his face, feeling his abilities beyond what he would normally have, killing six Beginner Archmages in one go!

In the past, he could only kill opponents like this after a fierce battle!

Chapter 882 Escape!

As the six 6th stage monsters fell to the ground dead from Vicente's skills, the two Intermediate Archmages and the remaining superior vampire widened their eyes in concern.

The three of them could sense they would not get out of this situation alive, but as beings devoted to their superiors, what worried them most now was the potential of this troublesome enemy.

Vicente was much stronger than they thought!

'This is bad! If he's not killed quickly, our plans will be affected!' The Mid-level Paragon vampire thought to himself.

Regrettably, even for an individual as formidable as him, handling two Intermediate Archmages of Victor and Elmo's strength was no easy feat.

But not only were Victor and Elmo acting against him, as much as Vicente wasn't trying to help them, their powers were so strong right now that the mere fact that he was using them in this area was affecting his enemies.

The Throne of Darkness could restrict creatures from the Dark Path, while the magnetic powers could also restrict bodies using the metals in their cells.

As much as the three remaining enemies were strong enough not to fall completely under Vicente's control, the slightest fraction that these restricting powers affected them was enough to make their movements not as precise as they needed to be.

Tenglin and Acidbelly used this to their advantage, putting the two Intermediate Archmages into passive positions, attacking them, and hurting them more and more.

Victor and Elmo did not fare as well as these two beasts, but they put the Mid-level Paragon vampire in a position where he could not escape or threaten the lives of anyone nearby.

With Vicente's eight opponents dead, the six allies who had been on the verge of death recovered enough to look at these enemies and start moving again.

With hatred in his eyes, Lonan moved against the vampire; he had been slashed by this enemy earlier and lost almost all of his limbs!

Fortunately, Vicente had returned just before he died, with even stronger regenerative abilities.

"I'm going to kill you!" The werewolf screamed as he joined Victor and Elmo.

Meanwhile, Bonfi and Qiang joined forces with the Roc and the Qilin, while Ayden, Paul, and Jacob approached Vicente.

"Collect the bodies in the area. Let's finish these three and get out of here. When we're safe, we'll divide up today's spoils." Vicente ordered the three, who hastened to do as he said without question.

Each of them wanted to thank Vicente for helping them once again, but this wasn't the time.

As they collected the bodies of the 10 dead enemies in the area, Vicente focused his powers on these three enemies and applied such strong suppressive pressure against the three that even with all of his power, each of them lost the strength in their bodies and fell to their knees.

As the enemies fell, the group of creatures acting against the vampire and the Dark Path beings in the area made their last moves, dealing deadly blows to their opponents.

Lonan saw the life drain from the wound in the vampire's head as he felt his fingers and claws stained with enemy blood.

Tenglin combined his powers with Bonfi's, burning the body of the enemy in front of him, almost

simultaneously with Acidbelly and Qiang, who combined their bird skills to slice through the body of the last

enemy.

With the fall of the last two opponents, the battle at this waterfall ended, with Vicente's group winning after his hasty entry into the fray!

"Let's leave the area. Collect the three corpses and follow me." Vicente ordered, already surveying the area, knowing that enemies were coming, as he and his group had seen powerful vampires and monsters moving far beyond the borders of Majestic Treefrog Grove.

When they arrived in this area weeks ago, things weren't like this, so the group that passed through the Dragon Tribe already imagined the enemies had discovered their allies and were looking for them.

Without delay, after 20 seconds of Vicente's words, the group left this battlefield and headed west.

While they were flying fast under Vicente's electromagnetic effects, their bodies invisible and their aura limited, Ayden looked at Vice and asked. "What happened in the Majestic Treefrog Grove? Your powers seem much greater than before."

"That is true. Your regenerative ability seems to have developed, as well as your suppressive powers." Jakob said, analyzing what he had seen a few moments ago.

The battle had lasted less than a minute after Vicente and the rest of the group had arrived. He had changed the rhythm of the fight so much that the numerical advantage of the opponents had quickly diminished and the space to kill the enemies had opened up for this team.

Vicente said quickly. "We have found opportunities for growth within the Majestic Treefrog Grove, as well as allies... Anyway, what just happened was a taste of the power of the amulet around my neck"

The six survivors looked at the Dragon's Amulet, which didn't look as impressive now that it was no longer in use.

Qiang and Bonfi didn't say anything, but when they remembered Vicente's movements in the recent battle, they both couldn't help but be sure of their decision to join this group.

Vicente could really become a monstrous creature of proportions rarely seen before... Bonfi thought to himself, almost feeling his phoenix flames get out of control as he felt excited.

To see someone so strong in action was no small feat! For creatures like him, just taking part or fighting alongside such a powerful being in high-level confrontations was enough to make him feel his long life had not been in vain.

Every magical creature had a will to fight, an appreciation for the high level, and an admiration for the peak of power. Dragons were the most obvious, but Phoenixes, Qilins, Rocs, magicians, and many others also had that flame of power within them.

Some of these creatures wouldn't even mind dying as long as they could stand on the highest stage and watch the world's strongest fight up close!

After being assured that Vicente would grow up to be an unparalleled monster, Qiang and Bonfi couldn't help but feel more confident than ever in their decision to risk themselves alongside Vice and the others.

The other people on the run thought the same, not caring that it was necessary, only focusing on the potential Vicente represented.

'If he can become an Archmage and reach 12 pentagrams, this disaster will be easily over!' Paul thought to himself with clenched fists, looking forward to the future.

Chapter 883 Time to Hide

A little over 20 minutes after the group left the area of the waterfall, which was now destroyed, a single individual appeared in the area, coming from the east, where the monster camp was.

Upon arriving at this ruined place, with battle scars, broken rocks, a ruined waterfall, burning trees, and blood everywhere, this newcomer, a High-level Paragon, frowned.

'Eoghan and the others died here! This superior vampire, leader of the group operating near Majestic Treefrog Grove, understood what had happened.

A few minutes ago, he had received an alert from his research group that they were close to catching up with the enemies who had been very close to the border of Majestic Treefrog Grove a few days ago.

He had come to this place as soon as possible, but he hadn't expected to find such a negative situation for his people when he arrived.

Who would have thought that such a powerful group, capable of taking on even an Advanced Archmage, would perish in this place without leaving any bodies behind?

This High-level Paragon vampire didn't expect it, while he couldn't help but look around with a horrified expression on his pale face.

He seemed to have aged a thousand years as he looked around, sensing how the battle for this place had more or less taken place.

'Vicente Fuller... A Phoenix, a Hippogryph, a Qilin, a Leshy, four other humans, a Werewolf and a Roc...

He felt the auras behind the massacre of his group while his eyes were closed, even more worried now that he had realized Vicente's aura.

These creatures allied with Vicente were a problem, but they weren't the obstacle that worried this vampire. On their own, those creatures were not enough to move someone of such high standing in The Ivory Desert vampire alliance.

The big problem was Vicente and the fact that these creatures were gathered in an alliance that had this human as its leader!

As soon as he understood what had happened, this elder opened his eyes and looked in the direction Vicente's group had fled. But he could only sense the path of his enemies for a few hundred meters from his position and soon lost track of them.

"This is Jeremy. I have a problem." He said as he took out a long range communication device from his space storage item.

"Elder, this is Lennix. What's the problem? Are the rulers of Majestic Treefrog Grove causing trouble?" A voice asked from the glowing communicator in one of Jeremy's hands.

"No, but I believe Vicente Fuller secretly entered Majestic Treefrog Grove and then left the territory this afternoon. He killed one of my groups, which included a Mid-level Paragon of our race. He's heading west, but I've lost track of him." Jeremy summarized the situation for his allies in The Ivory Desert.

"Oh? What is his current strength?" The voice on the other side became solemn.

"He must be strong enough to fight against Low-level Paragons of the race. Those have no chance against him." Jeremy closed his eyes again as he spoke. "He used the advantage of surprise against my men, but he could have defeated them in other situations. He's not alone either, and his group isn't weak.

I wouldn't recommend sending Low-level Paragons against them, Elder Lennix. Vampires like that will only help his group get stronger."

"I understand. Some elders will awaken from their seclusion in a few months. We'll deal with Vicente Fuller then. For now, hold your position. I'll let the rest of our men in the region know what happened to your group. We'll be on the lookout for his next moves.

Our Supreme Leader will surely like it if we have Vicente Fuller ready for him to consume after he awakens." "Understood."

The communication between the two ended before Jeremy disappeared from where he was.

He would not investigate or pursue Vicente and the others alone. Other men in his coalition would do that, so he would soon return to his original position.

But when he returned, he couldn't help but change his worried expression from a moment ago.

You are powerful, Vicente Fuller. But can you handle someone of my level? Sigh, even if you can, it's nothing! Soon, the tribe will have others besides the supreme leader in the 6th stage! A mischievous smile appeared on Jeremy's face.

"What are you going to do when Beginner Archmages and an Intermediate Archmage of my race are hunting you?"

After several hours, Vicente's group had distanced themselves from the previous waterfall, allowing them to stop.

Having found an interesting place to hide for at least a few days, the group stopped moving and gathered in an underground tunnel, waiting for Vicente to finish what he was doing.

Having already talked about how their group had been chased by vampires and monsters, as well as the journey through the Majestic Treefrog Grove and the new allies, everyone there was now silent, eager for the blood and organs of superior 5th stage vampires.

Ayden, Vicente, and Paul had already used 4th stage superior vampire blood, so even if they consumed the blood they got today, they wouldn't improve as much as Victor and Jacob, who had never tasted vampire blood.

As for the magical beings in the group, they could feed themselves very well, but hardly any of them would advance with vampire organs or blood.

Beginner and intermediate Archmages would need richer essences to advance, such as the blood and organs of superior vampires with High-level Paragon cultivation.

However, what they had today could definitely help them get closer to the breakthroughs they were hoping for!

By the time Vicente finished separating the blood and organs from the three superior vampire corpses at his disposal, he had 10 liters of vampire blood and 100 kilograms of organs.

That might sound like a lot, but for his group, that amount could make a difference to at most half of the creatures there.

As soon as Vicente looked at them, intending to divide the spoils, Elmo, Ayden and Paul said they wouldn't use those resources this time and left it to Vice to divide them among the other members of the team.

Acidbelly and Tenglin said they could use the organs of the 6th stage monsters the group had collected, which could help them improve their strength a bit in the short term, and leave the vampire essences for the rest of the team to divide among themselves.

Vicente shared it with the others before they each began to absorb their share.

Chapter 884 Rapid Reclusion

Of the 10 liters of blood and 100 kilograms of vampire organs, Vicente divided the blood among himself, Torne, Victor, and Jacob, while the organs would go to Lonan, Bonfi, and Qiang.

As for Acidbelly, Tenglin, and Elmo, these three would consume 100 kilos of organs from the 6th stage monsters they had killed earlier. Only Ayden and Paul wouldn't consume anything for the time

being, as they were left to observe the group while everyone else cultivated. They would wait for the next similar opportunity.

The group knew about Torne, so when the Mid-level Paragon ghost left Vicente's body to consume his share of vampire blood, no one was surprised.

Soon, everyone had finished consuming their blood supply and proceeded to either meditate or sleep.

The idea was for the group to go into seclusion for a maximum of three weeks. This was not enough time for the beasts in the group to finish absorbing the nutrients from the organs they had consumed. They would need at least three months to fully absorb the power of those organs.

Precisely because of the short time they intended to cultivate in seclusion in this cave, none of these beings thought they could improve their cultivation there.

The monster flesh they ate definitely had the potential to stimulate their breakthroughs. But only after they had absorbed all the opportunities those nutrients could give them.

Since they had no time for that now, it might take much longer than three months for them to fully absorb these essences and try their luck.

Humans could absorb the opportunities faster, but none of them were close to the breakthrough. Unless it was vampire blood of the same level as theirs, it was unrealistic to achieve a breakthrough in the state they were in after consuming just over 2 liters of blood.

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In the blink of an eye, 18 days had passed since the battle spoils of Vicente's group had been divided.

The beasts of the group were still asleep, having prepared themselves to wake up only on the 21st day of their slumber in the cave where the group was secluded.

Today, however, Victor, Jacob, and Vicente had finished their meditations and had improved their strength!

Of the three, two were previously at the beginning of their levels. After consuming the 5th stage vampire blood, they had improved and reached the middle of their levels.

They hadn't achieved a breakthrough, but their improvement in terms of magic quality and mana density was equivalent to what it would take them over two years to achieve by cultivating hard in the best areas of the continent.

That's if they had the chance to cultivate behind closed doors for two years!

As soon as he came out of his meditation state, Jacob had a unique look on his face, looking around the cave but only seeing his progress.

'Vampire blood is really powerful.' He thought to himself.

Of the 2.5 liters of blood he had consumed, only 500 milliliters came from the Mid-level Paragon vampire. The rest came from Low-level Paragon vampires. Still, he had achieved all this improvement, which made him wonder what it would be like to absorb the blood of a High-level Paragon.

As for Demien Bloodthorne's blood, although the idea of absorbing his blood was tempting, it wasn't realistic to think 'common warriors' could achieve such a thing.

Demien Bloodthorne possessed an extraordinary resilience that made it nearly impossible to kill him. Furthermore, if he were to meet his demise at the hands of humans, his essence would serve to empower Vicente, not Jacob.

It didn't worry Jacob or even Victor, who had improved by 5% after absorbing his 2.5 liters of vampire blood.

For him, an Intermediate Archmage, only superior vampire blood with High-level Paragon or Beginner Archmage cultivation would make the difference for him to reach the middle or end of his current level. As for becoming an Advanced Archmage, it was almost impossible unless he consumed the blood of Demien Bloodthorne.

As he got up from where he was and made his way to Ayden and Paul, the silver-haired man was satisfied with the result of just over two weeks of seclusion. A 5% improvement for someone with a cultivation base as high as his was no small feat!

"How are you doing? Have you had any problems in the past few days?" Victor asked as he sat down next to the two humans guarding their cave.

Ayden shook his head in denial. "No, everything is quiet, just like the days before. We're far enough away from the previous area to give the vampire investigators a lot of trouble."

"Vicente's current abilities are really fantastic. Thanks to them, we could erase all traces of our escape. Even if the vampires have a lot of skills and specialists on their side, it would take them at least months to find us." Paul added as he looked in the direction where Vicente had just opened his eyes.

Victor looked in Vicente's direction and realized his abilities, enhanced by the Dragon's Amulet, could indeed be a great hindrance to his enemies.

Vicente awoke from his state and looked seriously at Torne, seeing that the ghost was about to finish his cultivation.

'Old Torne will reach the end of his level. At the next opportunity, he'll become a High-level Paragon.' He thought with a smile on his face.

He had reached the middle of the High-level Paragon level, not as far as Victor and Jacob. Unlike those two men, he had already ingested vampire blood twice.

His body had some resistance to vampire blood, and only something of a similar level to his could bring about more significant improvements.

That wasn't all bad. After all, there were many vampires with High-level Paragon cultivation in the area where he was, and many of them would soon hunt him down.

On the one hand, encountering these creatures was bad and dangerous, but on the other hand, if he won, he would have had a golden opportunity to reach the 6th stage!

With this in mind, Vicente would join the other people awake in the area to talk about what had happened in the last few days, but also about their next steps.

In another 3 or 4 days at the most, the others would awaken from their states and it would be time for them to move on to The Ivory Desert, about 2 months away from where they were.

With less than six months remaining until the cyan pentagram materialized near Nixlas' Shadows, the urgency to complete their journey intensified.

Chapter 885 Fending Off Trouble

Vicente's group continued their journey after several days, cautiously traveling through the northernmost part of the continent.

Three days after the awakening of Vicente and the other humans, the magical creatures in the group had left their states, more or less in the same situation as their human companions—stronger, but still far from their level of progress.

With the group ready to continue their journey, they left the cave where they had stayed for 21 days and continued on their way to The Ivory Desert.

They expected the journey to take around two months, assuming no problems arise. However, they needed to investigate the area where the pentagram would appear. Also, they had to position observers and start monitoring a large area.

They didn't have the exact point where the pentagram would form, only the approximate location. But within an area of 10,000 square kilometers, such a pentagram could appear anywhere.

Vicente even had a picture in his mind of where it would be, but he would have to investigate the place himself to find out the exact spot.

So even if they got close to the area the elves had indicated, they would still work for weeks before they could park near where they were supposed to wait.

If all went well, they would reach this point 2-3 months before the pentagram appeared, which was not long. Not knowing what could happen in the meantime, they couldn't help but hurry to get to the area so as not to be late.

As per Vicente's recollection, when the pentagram took shape, formidable vampires and monstrous creatures would converge upon the vicinity to gather the essence and thwart any attempts of absorption!

He had to be very well positioned when the pentagram was finished forming!

...

It had been five weeks since the group had left their previous seclusion, and they had traveled a long distance, leaving the vicinity of Majestic Treefrog Grove and arriving in the Vinia Empire.

The former home of the Congregation of Revelation, one of the strongest states on the continent until seven years ago, was now a magnificent ruined state. It was home to monsters and magical creatures of the Light Path who had advanced their territory against the previously human-dominated areas.

The Vinia Empire bordered the region where Nixlas' Shadows were based, near The Ivory Desert, so it was the natural route for the group to take on their journey west.

Since they had avoided flying for most of their journey, they didn't know exactly what the situation was like in many areas of this great state ruined by The Purification, but they had a rough idea of the reality.

On their recent journey, they had passed near several places currently ruled by monsters, and the group members with good eyesight had seen many things that would make humans shudder at the thought of the safety of their homes.

There were hardly any humans in the Vinia Empire today, but it had once been one of the most populous states on the continent. Seeing it devastated and occupied by monsters was something different for humans, who couldn't help but think, "What if that happened to their own country?"

That was the feeling Ayden, Paul, and Jacob had when they feared for Trevora Kingdom, their current home, but which, even with Vicente's help, was much weaker than the Vinia Empire before the disaster.

If the Vinia Empire had fallen, Trevora Kingdom might fall too!

As for Vicente, he was also worried, although he wasn't as pessimistic as his companions.

As the group passed through the Vinia Empire, they ran into more problems along the way.

The solution? The same one they had used twice before and were using now—detour!

'Keep your auras under control. As long as we pass through this 50-kilometer danger zone, we can resume our previous speed.' Vicente reassured his companions silently. He continued walking slowly through the forest, leaving the dirt road they had been following just moments before.

These group members followed behind him, their bodies smaller than their authentic versions, their auras contained, and their breathing controlled.

They carefully took their every step to cause as minor disturbance as possible, while those with the best senses, like Vicente, Qiang, Elmo, and Acidbelly, monitored their surroundings.

'It looks like we'll be delayed somewhere between 10 and 20 days on this journey. There are many paths blocked by groups of monsters... Is this on purpose?' Bonfi asked, estimating how often situations like today's had happened in the past few weeks.

'This is the third group we've encountered in 20 days of traveling. I don't think it's a coincidence.' Elmo suggested.

'The vampires know we're on the move. They do not know our destination, but they probably think we're preparing to do something similar to what the Magicians Alliance tried to do before The Purification.' Acidbelly guessed, considering what he knew of the vampires' actions.

Until The Purification, the tribes of the Majestic Treefrog Grove were well aware of everything that was happening on the continent, especially in the northern region.

The Magicians Alliance, a group formed in the past to develop the first human domains against the continent's beasts, had gone into action before The Purification to prevent the disaster.

Human specialists from all over the continent, at the 6th stage, had already mobilized prior to the onset of the current catastrophe. Their mission was to thwart the vampires' plan and ensure its failure.

Unfortunately for humanity and these experts, the vampires had prepared well for their plans. Even before the sacrifice that led to Demien's advancement to the 6th stage, the vampires had killed many human specialists.

Several of the vampires who were ending their current reclusion now had absorbed the blood of the humans from the Magicians Alliance group.

Acidbelly, as well as others in the group, knew exactly what had happened to the human alliance, as the matter had spread throughout the northern region before the actions of the group led by Demien began.

'That must be the case.' Vicente sighed in agreement with his associates. 'But it doesn't matter. We don't need to confront them. They probably think we want to fight them directly. But this isn't the time. Let's avoid the enemies on the way, at least until we reach my fifth pentagram!'

Chapter 886 Different enemies in the war

After successfully diverting another monster camp in their path, Vicente's group stuck to their strategy of not fighting unless there was no other alternative.

By making three more detours over the next three weeks of travel, they increased the length of their journey to the point where they would be looking for the place where the cyan pentagram compatible with Vicente would appear.

With the group's cautious approach and focus on staying out of trouble, they avoided trouble until they finally left the Vinia Empire!

Now, they were on their way to the vicinity of the former headquarters of Nixlas' Shadows, near the easternmost border of The Ivory Desert.

With less than 20 days of travel ahead, the group was close to reaching the point in their journey where they could settle into an area and begin their investigations!

...

While Vicente's group was following a path similar to the one he had taken years ago in search of Lauren, the situation on the northernmost coast between the headquarters of Nixlas' Shadows and The Ivory Desert was tense.

In a coastal and mountainous area that had about 100 kilometers of coastline, three sects of the Dark Path, similar to Nixlas' Shadows, had their headquarters in the area.

While these sects were allies to the vampires, they did not consider each other as friends!

Having received copies of the vampire technique that had made history at the hands of the leaders of the Congregation of Revelations, these sects competed fiercely for the targets of the Light Path.

With the decline in the number of powerful Light Path magicians on the continent, and the migration to the south, the few that remained in the north and could be hunted by them were almost insignificant.

If any of the powers wanted to use their new technique to grow, they would have to vie with each other to hunt down these remaining Light Path magicians in the region!

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At the headquarters of one of these three powers, a superior vampire, pale-skinned and white-haired like almost all members of the race, arrived at the command headquarters of one of the sects with important news.

With a curious look on his preserved, cadaverous face, the vampire looked at the black-haired, six-foot-tall human sitting on a throne of spears in the hall he had just entered.

"I bring you an opportunity, Coldpikes." The vampire's voice crackled with the smell of blood and rotting flesh.

The black-haired man looked at the pale-skinned creature, narrowing his eyes in interest. He wasn't in the best of moods with vampires, considering the way he had been outmaneuvered by these

creatures, leaving him with almost no targets to hunt. But since he was in the unfortunate position of not being able to leave his old arrangements, he could only continue this strange relationship.

"What is it?" the man asked, scratching his fingers.

"Vicente Fuller is moving through the region. With him are four humans, three of them from the Light Path, Beginner Archmages..." The 1.8 meter tall creature said with a suggestive smile. "This could be your chance to complete your progress towards becoming an Advanced Archmage."

The man's eyes narrowed as he considered the possibility.

He and all the Dark Path magicians in the area knew about Vicente. How could they not? The young man's fame in the southern region had spread throughout the continent. Everyone, with even a little bit of knowledge about the continent, was aware of the Throne of Darkness and the first magician in the history of the Polaris Realm who possessed two magical forms.

Vicente was both a legend and a formidable threat to anyone who opposed humanity. He was a case to be studied; a man coveted by the most powerful people on both sides of the conflict.

As dangerous as he was to the magicians of the Dark Path, he was also a possibility.

Vicente was not only the Master of Darkness but also a magical form of the Light Path!

What would happen if he were sacrificed in a ritual using the vampire technique?

Not only that, from the words of the 4th stage vampire in front of the black-haired man, this local leader couldn't help but wish for Vicente's three companions, who could surely add a lot to his powers.

He had heard no news of human Archmages traveling in the area for months. When he heard about Paul, Jacob, and Ayden, his eyes lit up thirstily.

"Where are they going?" The leader of the Coldpikes asked. 'I must act quickly. If those two old devils find out and move before I do, I'll lose a lot.'

At present, the Coldpikes' leader's primary concern was not his own strength, but rather impeding the progress of his rivals.

Despite their alliances and service to the vampires, there were no clauses in those agreements dictating that their factions had to maintain a friendly relationship.

They had clashed several times in recent years, and it would only take one of them to become stronger than the others for them to become involved in a more problematic conflict.

The vampires would do nothing, of course. Since they had promised not to hunt these sects, there was nothing better than watching them destroy each other!

The vampire shook his shoulders. "That's the hard part. I don't know where they're going. We believe their purpose aligns with that of the Magicians Alliance, though there could be additional factors involved.

If you're interested, find out quickly what their purpose is and where they are. Your two rivals will soon learn of Vicente Fuller's group. Who knows which of you will find them first?"

The black-haired man stood up, clenching his fists tightly. He soon left the room.

Seeing the haste in the departing man's eyes, the 4th stage vampire smiled as he saw his plan working.

As much as the vampires didn't mind that the Dark Path magicians allied with them kept to themselves, that didn't mean they didn't acknowledge their value.

'What are you going to do, Vicente Fuller? Your kind are very good at finding their targets... Now you're closer than ever to getting caught!' The vampire thought as he left the place, planning to go to the other two sects in the area in order to secure more men to search for Vicente's location.

Chapter 887 Growing Frustration

Three Weeks Later...

Vicente's group traveled for some time until they arrived near the headquarters of Nixlas' Shadows and The Ivory Desert.

Arriving in an area shrouded in mist, where the morning chill forced small creatures to stay in their burrows in the morning laziness, the group moved on and began their investigation.

From Vicente's recent memories of the previous trip to Nixlas' shadow headquarters, his group was at most a few hours away from the place he had destroyed years ago.

Now, the former headquarters of Nixlas' Shadows should be occupied by high-level creatures allied with vampires, or even powerful vampires.

Vicente and his team preferred to keep their distance from this location.

So they floated slowly through this sparsely vegetated area, characterized by hilly terrain with many places where one had to be careful not to fall into traps or slip on the constant mud in certain areas.

The area right next to them, within reach of their eyes, was nothing like the place Vicente had seen in the Divine Dragon Matrix. This was certainly not the place where his pentagram would appear.

However, without knowing whether the area in question was behind the farthest hill in their field of vision or far away, they could only observe the area with caution and move slowly.

The presence of monsters in places they couldn't see was another concern.

So they walked until they reached the top of the hill to the northwest, where they believed the place Vicente had seen must be.

When they passed the hill and saw an area completely different from the place Vicente had seen, Victor sighed as he saw the group leader's sign.

The silver-haired man opened a large map of the area and covered another area of tens of thousands of square meters with red paint, marking this place as already explored.

By adding up this marked area, the group gradually left a large red area on the map that they would not return to investigate in the future.

"Let's continue. I have a feeling that there are creatures nearby. Let's move carefully." Vicente warned the group, again using his special abilities to erase the visual traces of his team.

With their invisibility, each of them continues to hover a few centimeters above the ground, enough to leave no trace of their passage through the area.

...

The journey of the group of 11 vampire enemies would be neither short nor exciting.

The area that Vicente thought was a few thousand square meters, and that they were looking for, could be anywhere around over 250,000 square kilometers.

Given the strong enemy presence in the area, the group had to move slowly, almost like stepping on eggs.

With each day of travel, they were eliminating a few hundred thousand square kilometers of the vast territory they were searching. But at their current pace, it could take weeks to cover the entire area.

Although they could find the place they were interested in at any time, the opposite could also happen. Maybe they would not find it until they had searched the entire area.

After the first three weeks of the group's exploration of the area, its members had thought that the second case was the most likely, and it would still take them days to reach their destination.

With less than two months to go before the cyan pentagram appeared, the group grew more tense as they eliminated more areas in their path.

The constant presence of powerful creatures in their path didn't help. Having to dodge monster camps or even wandering monsters every few hours, sometimes being forced to pass through areas they had already explored, the group's frustration grew with each day of travel.

But they could only bear their frustration and continue the tedious and stressful journey of looking for a needle in a haystack.

Unable to get excited and fight with the beings, as that would show their position and make everything more difficult than it already was, they had to avoid incidents with all their might.

That afternoon, as they continued on their way, their resolve would be tested!

...

As they continued their search, Vicente's group quickly hid in the upper branches of the trees in the forest area where they were today.

In this place of woods, with lawns here and there, they quickly hid in what they considered to be the most tough place to analyze, while Vicente used his powers to camouflage his group.

Nearby, a wagon with a cell and a luxurious carriage made of wood and iron of good quality and construction passed through the area.

From where they were, each member of the group could sense the presence of peak 4th stage vampires in it.

Meanwhile, three humans, including a child, were tied up in the cell on the cart behind the wagon.

'Shit! Those three will be sucked up by the vampires!' Victor said in the minds of his companions as he realized the fate of these three poor humans, two of whom had no magical cultivation and one of whom was only an Acolyte.

Few superior vampires would waste their time sucking the blood of such weak beings. However, there were many inferior vampires—who did not gain power from sucking the blood of their targets—that would be happy to suck the blood of any human, regardless of their power.

Inferior vampires needed to suck the blood of living beings in order to continue to exist. It didn't strengthen them, but it allowed them to last longer in the Polaris Realm. Also, the sensation of drinking the blood of their targets was pleasurable.

The victims of an inferior vampire wouldn't turn into vampires either, which meant they could be kept as food for these beings for a long period!

Thinking this was probably the fate of those three people, the humans in Vicente's group couldn't help but feel strange.

Their intention was to go there and rescue them. Sadly, these were three lives that were dispensable in the name of the common good.

Vicente clenched his fists and closed his eyes as he lamented to himself, 'Let's wait for them to pass and move on. If our plans work out, we'll be able to save these people in the future. For now, we can't afford to risk our lives for them.'

Chapter 888 Dark Future

After the previous situation, Vicente, and his people traveled around to investigate more terrain in the sizeable area the elves had told them to investigate for another three weeks.

In the days that passed, they saw other similar situations where humans were taken by vampires, and even watched as superior vampires sucked the blood of humans to their deaths.

During this time, they were certain that their enemies were not acting by chance. After several tense moments in which they almost acted out, they couldn't help but suspect that this was an enemy plan to make them show themselves.

But each of them was very determined about what they had to sacrifice to achieve their goals!

This was especially true for Vicente, who had seen his own death and how strong Demien Bloodthorne would be in a few dozen months.

In each of the situations of the last three weeks, they had remained motionless, not moving even when humans were killed by the vampires.

Unfortunately, these were lives that could not be saved!

At the end of these three weeks of investigation and growing frustration, the group had cleared a lot of territory and gotten closer to their goal, although they still hadn't found it.

Having already explored more than half of the territory indicated by the elves, they could stumble upon the site of Vicente's vision at any moment.

...

After eliminating another enormous area this afternoon, Vicente and his companions had taken a brief break.

They hadn't meditated for nine weeks. Given the dangers of the area they were in, it would be too dangerous to cultivate, so they stopped once a week to rest for a few minutes.

This was not a physical rest, but a mental rest. The journey so far had been very stressful. Even powerful beings like them could get lost in their frustrations and emotions if they didn't occupy their minds with other things for at least a few minutes every few days.

After surveying the area they were in, the group stopped at the top of a hill overlooking a large river on one side and a large forest on the other. From this green spot, covered in a thin layer of mist, the group ate and enjoyed the view.

As negative as this border area of The Ivory Desert was, it wasn't what its name implied.

The Ivory Desert was an icy wasteland, marked by negativity and the absence of plant life for most of its length. But at its edges, the area had plant life like any other area of the continent, and was not marked by the low temperatures that characterized it.

But if the group continued in a straight line for another 80 kilometers west of where they were, they would see the vegetation they had become accustomed to over the past few weeks disappear and the cold rise to sub-zero temperatures.

"We must be close to your destination. What do you plan to do when you find it?" Elmo asked as the group kept an eye on their surroundings, the humans sipping drinks and the beasts chewing leaves.

Vicente looked in the direction where they would leave in another 20 minutes to continue their investigation, where the nearby river was. "If the pentagram appears, I'll have to store it quickly and flee. A group with a High-level Paragon vampire will appear near it shortly after it appears. Unfortunately, I won't be able to absorb it on the spot."

"A High-level Paragon vampire? That's going to be difficult. A being of that level is as strong as an Advanced Archmage of my race." Bonfi said in a pessimistic tone.

His group couldn't handle such a strong creature right now!

"If we can't outrun it, I will risk absorbing both pentagrams at the same time in the middle of the battle." Vicente announced, getting the full attention of his ten companions.

"That will be risky."

"No more than getting caught by a group led by a High-level Paragon vampire."

"There is no easy way out. If we want to survive, we'll have to risk our lives every step of the way."

"We will do our best to help you, Vicente. If you have to resort to such a method, we'll risk our lives for you." Elmo said as he looked earnestly into the black-haired human's eyes.

Everyone knew it would be dangerous, but they agreed that there weren't many ways to avoid it.

Vicente sighed as he closed his eyes, wondering if that was why he was alone in his vision of fighting Demien Bloodthorne.

'I hope not... I hope they just decide to return to their territories after I succeed in my current mission.' Vicente thought to himself.

He was confident that he would survive this group that would go after the cyan pentagram as soon as the essence appeared. After all, in the vision the four divine dragons had given him, he would fight Demien when he had four essences in the Throne of Darkness.

Today, he only had three essences in the throne, so his chances of survival were almost 100%.

But that didn't guarantee the same for his companions!

As much as some of them would stop accompanying him as soon as he gained enough strength to continue his journey alone—like Ayden, Paul, and Jacob—he was sure that others would continue at his side.

Not seeing them at his side when he faced Demien was not a good sign, so he was worried.

"Let's do our best. It's only a little over a month until the cyan pentagram appears, so you'd better get ready. Soon we won't be able to avoid confrontations with enemies capable of killing us." After Vicente's words, the group remained silent for a few minutes until it was time to leave.

They were closer to their destination than they had expected. In another two weeks of travel, they would finally come to the place identical to the one Vicente had seen.

Then it would be time for them to finally settle down and prepare for what would happen after the cyan pentagram appeared.

But while they were preparing to deal with a group led by a High-level Paragon vampire, other elements that would add to the developing situation were secretly approaching them!

Unbeknownst to them, the group was being hunted by traitors to the human race, Dark Path magicians in search of the group's four Light Path magicians!

Chapter 889 Tension Before the Pentagram Appears

After 11 weeks of searching, Vicente's group had finally settled into the area where the cyan pentagram was to appear.

Having found the spot he had seen in the vision of the future generated by the Divine Dragon Matrix the day before, Vicente and his people were now camping near the area.

Having chosen an area with a privileged view of the spot where the pentagram would appear, the group was well divided to maintain their position, guarding the spot where the pentagram would appear and the surrounding area where enemies might approach.

At this moment, where most of the group members were, Qiang was keeping an eye on the place where the pentagram would appear. On the other hand, Acidbelly was to watch the surroundings in case any enemies approached them before the pentagram formed.

Vicente and the other humans were all in position, ready to defend the small camp hidden behind a large bare rock where there had once been a mountain, but which, perhaps due to high-level battles, had ended up as fragments of what had once been.

Apart from the five humans and the two beasts under observation, only the group's special formations, capable of creating spatial distortions to deceive beings from afar, were present in this place.

Bonfi and Tenglin were at another observation point, together with a group of armorers that Vicente had created over the past few days, a position from which they could easily attack opponents who encountered the main group. From their position, they could take action against enemies behind their backs.

Meanwhile, Lonan and Elmo stood next to other 5th stage peak armors in another position from which they could help defend Bonfi and Tenglin or the main group.

Acidbelly had a very good view of the areas of the two groups in positions other than the main group, so if those two places were found instead of the main point, they wouldn't be defenseless or helpless either.

At these three group points, no one was cultivating or doing anything that would make them unaware of the surrounding situation. Since they were only a few days away from the appearance of the cyan pentagram, each of them was in position for this important point in their journey.

Knowing that there would be enemies nearby when the pentagram was formed, they expected some enemies would be in the area even before the pentagram formed.

Perhaps those enemies were already nearby!

But even with that possibility in mind, they didn't want to investigate the area and get into a conflict before the pentagram was formed. Until that happened, all they wanted to do was to secure their position in anticipation of their most important day in the area.

But while the group was in position waiting for the cyan pentagram to form, others in the area were searching for them!

...

A few dozen kilometers away from Vicente's group, a group of Dark Path magicians were positioned in the area, searching not for the cyan pentagram, but for the enemy group.

After weeks of searching for signs of their targets, the humans in this group felt closer and closer to reaching their four goals.

Arriving at this location this afternoon, the group had just set up camp for a few more days of rest.

There was a good reason for their stop!

Inside the camp, set up in a less protected area of this region where they knew monsters and vampires wouldn't attack them, were 12 tents and over 60 people.

Some of them were on guard, but their concern wasn't the usual dangers of the area, but the possibility that Vicente's allies were close by and might attack them.

Still, they thought it unlikely, and of the 60, only 10 were on guard, all of them High-level Paragons.

Inside the camp, the remaining 50 individuals were half Paragons and half Archmages.

The Paragons obviously weren't there to fight. Of the 25 Archmages, 22 were Beginners, while 3 were Intermediate Archmages. Of these individuals, they were all looking to the future with an interest in facing the Dark Master, who they knew could change their fate.

'Those damn vampires... They're using us to find Vicente Fuller, but I will not let them get their way,' thought the leader of the group, one of the three Intermediate Archmages.

'Demien wants Vicente's blood, but what if we find him first?' He smiled as he considered the possibility. 'I will sacrifice this brat myself and use it to become an Advanced Archmage!'

While he thought about it, his two strongest allies had no interest in standing in his way. Since they had recently used the special vampire technique to become stronger, they wouldn't be able to achieve the same as the group leader if they sacrificed Vicente. As members of the same faction, they were interested in having their leader become the first Advanced Archmage in their history!

One of them was meditating now, while the other was in a tent next to a Beginner Archmage who was doing a great job of finding Vicente Fuller.

"Elder, how long will it take us to get here? I'm afraid if we delay, the vampires will find our tracks and thwart our plans," said a man outside the tent, eager for his journey to end.

"Don't worry. Zoe's ability will point us in the right direction in ten days at the most. We should reach the enemy group soon after," said the man on guard, while the woman called Zoe analyzed the future of their group with her ability.

She had a similar power to the elves, but she wasn't as efficient as the creatures from the tribe Vicente had visited. However, because of her, the group was only a few dozen kilometers away from Vicente's group!

...

Meanwhile, close to the Dark Path magicians' camp, another small group was waiting in the area.

This group was not made up of humans, but of superior vampires!

There were six of them, four Low-level Paragons and two Mid-level Paragons, standing around waiting for the results of those they were hunting.

"Zoe Frazer is watching the future again. They should move again in a few days." Said a vampire who was keeping an eye on the group.

Hearing this, the leader of the vampire group smiled, satisfied with the work of these humans. "Good. As soon as they show they know where Vicente Fuller is, I'll call the elder to join the hunt!"

Chapter 890 Targets Discovered!

A few days later...

Zoe Frazer finally awoke from her meditative state after days of working on her special ability to find her group's targets.

When she opened her eyes this afternoon, she immediately saw the Intermediate Archmage who was to be at her side throughout her meditation. Already aware that she was about to awaken, the man looked at her with a modest smile and interest in his eyes.

"Elder, I have found our targets," she said, her expression solemn. "Vicente Fuller and the others are much closer than we thought! They're in the same area as us. If we start searching now, we could find them by nightfall!"

The Intermediate Archmage curled his lips even more at these words.

"Perfect! Stay here and rest. I'll take care of this together with the other elders." The old man said as he clapped his hands on the shoulders of this woman, his tone extremely pleased. "Good work!" The elder left Zoe's tent and walked a few dozen meters to where the two colleagues at his level were standing.

"So? What are Zoe's results?" the group leader asked as he looked at the newcomer in his tent.

"Sect Master, Zoe has found Vicente Fuller. He's nearby. We won't have to move our camp," the man said, his heart beating faster as his desire to fight grew with every breath.

The two men sitting on the cushions in the tent looked at each other, the corners of their lips curling.

"Get our men ready. We're moving out in ten minutes." The group leader stood up and left his tent shortly thereafter.

The other two Intermediate Archmages left and went to prepare their group for the move.

Not all of them could take on Vicente Fuller and his group. Of the group, only the 25 Archmages had any chance of confronting the enemy, and the Paragons were of no use to them.

If the Paragons accompanied them, they would most likely be mere numbers in the post-battle body count!

The camp flicked, the guards becoming more vigilant as a group of 24 prepared to leave.

Only Zoe would not join the group in pursuit of Vicente and the others, exhausted from days of working to find traces of her target.

In the blink of an eye, the 6th stage individuals, led by the Intermediate Archmage closest to advancing to the next level, set out from the camp in search of their enemies.

...

Almost immediately after the movement of the group of Dark Path magicians, the weaker vampires in their small camp moved to alert their 5th stage leaders.

"The humans are moving. I think they've found new clues to the enemy through that woman!" said an early 5th stage vampire, looking at his companions with a smile on his face.

The two Mid-level Paragons there smiled, showing their very sharp teeth while their eyes narrowed maliciously.

"Let's follow them quietly. If this is just another trace of where the enemies went, we'll keep our distance and wait. Otherwise, we'll let the enemies fight these Dark Path magicians and exhaust themselves first," the group leader said as he stood up.

The others did the same, not hesitating to begin the silent pursuit of the group of Dark Path magicians, who were after Vicente.

"As soon as we have confirmation that they've found Vicente Fuller's group, notify the high elder at Shadow Mountain. Let's not forget the enemy's capabilities. He's dealt with Mid-level Paragons of our race before." The other mid-level Paragon in the group warned his people as he moved forward, looking cautiously into the future.

"That was a weaker group than ours, caught in a conflict and taken by surprise. Would he be able to deal with us in the same way under different circumstances?"

"Let's not give him another chance to prove himself. Better to be careful now and avoid future problems," said a Beginner Archmage, agreeing with the caution of one of the team leaders.

The others agreed, each more interested than the other in seeing the results of Vicente's blood on a member of their race.

'Once Vicente Fuller is dead, there will be no one left to worry about. The Polaris Realm will finally be under our complete control,' thought one of these pale, white-haired creatures, glimpsing the future in which his original plans would be fully realized.

...

As the two groups of enemies moved towards Vicente's group, he found himself in the same position as when he had arrived in the area.

Vicente opened his eyes from where he was sitting in meditation, an ugly expression forming on his face, and he couldn't help but feel strange after the sudden chill he felt.

'This... Is this the formation of the pentagram?' He looked in the direction where the cyan pentagram from the vision generated by the Divine Dragon Matrix was supposed to appear.

'The formation of the pentagram will take place in the late afternoon, early evening. Will it happen today?' He clenched his fists tightly, his sharp eyes searching for this crucial moment for him.

If it happened today, he would face a High-level Paragon vampire in no more than an hour and a half!

Worried that the day of the pentagram's formation had arrived, he alerted his group nearby. 'Get ready. I have a feeling that the formation of the pentagram is very close. We may have to fight enemies today!'

His voice echoed in the minds of his companions, snapping each of them out of their monotonous observations of the surroundings of this seemingly quiet area until their leader's comment.

Half an hour after Vicente alerted his people, Qiang narrowed his eyes as he observed an area where a group of several humans had just appeared.

'We have problems. 6th stage magicians are approaching our position right now!' The Hippogryph warned, drawing the gaze of his 10 companions in the direction from which the 24 Dark Path magicians were flying towards them!

Vicente narrowed his eyes, not liking this at all. 'Right now?'

'Looks like we can't wait any longer without a fight,' Elmo commented to the group, already circulating his mana through his body.

'Get ready to fight. Let's take care of them quickly and not attract the attention of the vampires and monsters nearby.' Vicente stood up, sighing as he lamented the terrible situation.