

Reincarnated With Three Unique Skills

Chapter 221: Chapter 221: Enemy Is Near

As the noblemen knelt, Princess Delilah's gaze was unyielding.

"What is the meaning of this barbarism, Lord Artois, and all of you?" she demanded, her tone sharp.

"Th-Third Princess?" The noblemen's surprise was evident as they recognized her.

"Your Highness, what are you doing here?"

Delilah did not soften. "As noblemen of Araknis, you bring shame to His Royal Highness. Are you not ashamed of your actions?"

A few of the noblemen bowed their heads, visibly chastened, but resentment lingered in the eyes of some.

Lord Artois, a man of fifty, carefully chose his words as he replied, "But, Your Highness, this bast....no this man crippled our sons. Where is the justice for that?"

He glanced nervously at Aengus, unable to fully mask his fear after experiencing Aengus's terrifying aura. None of them dared provoke him again.

Princess Delilah's gaze remained steely, her tone laced with anger.

"Those spoiled, reckless brats deserved what they got," she declared coldly.

"They were drunk, unruly, and dared to speak disgracefully to their Princess. Not to mention, they insulted our new captain, who holds authority equal to the commander. Are any of you prepared to take responsibility for such war crime offense during wartime?"

"War crimes?" The noblemen looked at her in shock, stunned at the severity of her words. They exchanged bewildered glances, unable to process the implications.

"But, Your Highness... how can this be a war crime? And since when was he given the rank of commander?" Lord Artois stammered in confusion.

Delilah's expression hardened further. "He is our new Captain, an S-Rank war hero. If you dare create obstacles for him, how could it be anything less than a war crime?" Her words struck like a hammer, dashing any defiance remaining in their hearts.

The noblemen shrank under her domineering gaze, realizing the power and authority of the man they had unwittingly provoked.

“How could their useless sons provoke an S-Rank war hero?” they lamented, cursing their sons’ stupidity.

“Now, don’t waste any more time here. Otherwise, I’ll have to call my royal father to strip you of your noble status,” Delilah warned seriously.

“Ah, no need for that, Your Highness. There’s no need to involve the king, is there?” they replied with sheepish smiles, trying to appease her.

“We’ll punish our children for disturbing your peace. Please forgive those foolish boys. Your magnanimity is boundless.”

“No need to ask for my forgiveness. Apologize to our captain,” Delilah reminded them sternly, glancing at Aengus and Aria.

“Oh, yes... our war hero...”

They quickly approached and knelt down before Aengus, who sat calmly, watching them with an unreadable expression.

The noblemen felt humiliated by his indifference, but they dared not show any anger with their noble status on the line. The mistakes had been made, and they knew they would have to fix them.

“Our apologies, Captain. If you or your teammates were hurt in any way, we sincerely ask for forgiveness on behalf of our children.”

Aengus looked at them with disgust, recalling certain individuals from his family with double faces—those who spoke respectfully but hid venomous intentions beneath a polished facade. Such people were, to him, the most despicable kind, and he loathed them deeply.

“Leave,” Aengus commanded coldly, his gaze piercing through their blackened hearts.

“Ah?”

The noblemen’s hear skipped a beat faces flushed with embarrassment, and they quickly turned to leave, their pride wounded. They would have never expected such humiliations from a person, who is their children’s age.

As they disappeared from sight, Aria glanced worriedly at Aengus, noticing the change in his mood all of a sudden.

“Are you okay, Ethan?” she asked, placing a gentle hand on his shoulder.

Aengus took a steadying breath, his expression relaxing slightly. “Yeah, I’m fine. They just reminded me of some two-faced bastards from my family. Ugly and despicable.”

Aria nodded, understanding his frustration. “That must have been tough. Maybe next time you go back, you can teach them a lesson or two about underestimating others,” she said, offering a comforting smile.

Yona and the others perked up, intrigued by the mention of Aengus’s family. They still didn’t know much about his background, and the mystery piqued their curiosity.

“Captain, why don’t you tell us something about your family?” Yona asked, half-teasing.

Aengus looked up at the evening sky, his gaze distant.

After a pause, he replied, “They’re... special. To some, they’re gods; to others, devils. Their pride and arrogance know no bounds. It’s better if you don’t know about them yet—you might start doubting your own existence if you do.”

He shook his head, clearly not willing to delve further.

The answer only deepened their curiosity, his words were both vague and intriguing. With no clearer answers from Aengus, they turned to Aria.

She shook her head with a knowing smile, indicating that she wouldn’t be sharing any secrets, either.

“Oh my god, why are you two so mysterious?” Yona and Drake complained in exasperation, while Princess Delilah kept a reserved, knowing smile.

Aengus only smiled, savoring the rare moments of peace with his companions.

Night fell quickly, shrouding the camp in darkness. The moon hung in the sky, half-lit—a fitting symbol for the uncertain future they faced. Around them, the camps buzzed with tension, as news had arrived that the Imperial forces were nearing, prepared to put an end to Araknis Kingdom’s rule.

Aengus received the report and turned his gaze toward the horizon. Even from a distance of tens of kilometers, he could see the vast Imperial army swarming like ants, their numbers reaching tens of millions.

With his Supreme Hunter’s vision, he took in the scene in stark detail, far beyond what his teammates could discern in the darkness. He saw warships hovering above, the rumbling sounds of heavy cavalry, and an endless swarm of magical energy signatures flickering ominously in the night air.

The enemy was close—closer than ever.

“Ethan, did you see anything?” Aria asked, slightly nervous.

The others’ expressions turned grave as they waited for his response.

Chapter 222: Chapter 222: Secret Meeting

Aengus looked over his companions and subordinate soldiers, noting the anxiety on their faces.

Calmly, he announced, “I can see the enemy approaching. But there’s no need to panic.” His voice was steady, aiming to ease their nerves.

“How many are there, Captain?” a few soldiers asked anxiously, believing he had a special vision skill.

“Yes, tell us honestly, Captain. We’re not afraid,” others urged.

Assistant Captains Dior and Ren also waited curiously.

Aengus sighed and replied, “At least twice our number. But, as I said, there’s no need to panic. We can do this.” He tried to encourage them, aware that this was his first time handling a situation like this.

In all his previous battles, Aengus had proven himself through actions, and it seemed even the demons he had faced weren’t as fearful as the human soldiers were now.

“Over twenty million?” Drake gulped, trying to fathom the number.

Some soldiers panicked, while others stayed calm, having anticipated the scale of the Imperial forces.

“Idiots! Why are you so surprised?” Commander Dior scolded sharply, unimpressed by their lack of composure. “Did you think the Imperial army was a joke? Frankly, I’m astonished they didn’t bring more. We should count ourselves lucky!”

“And remember, we have our Captain’s promise! Don’t ever doubt his word!” Dior added, bolstering their spirits.

The soldiers calmed down, looking to Aengus with renewed hope and expectations.

“Captain Dior is right, comrades. We’re all in this together!” one of the soldiers shouted, earning nods of encouragement from others.

“Long live the Araknis Kingdom!”

“Long live the King!”

“Long live the Guardians!”

“Long live the Captain!”

Their unified shouts echoed through the camp, fortifying their resolve.

Aengus turned away, looking at the enemies where they were now seen setting their camping at the distance.

Aria and the others stood beside him, following his gaze, their expressions unreadable.

A few minutes later, Aengus received a private message from Commander Zain about a secret meeting of distinguished individuals.

“Captain Zero, follow me!” Zain called out.

Aengus silently left the camp, joining Commander Zain along the way.

“Where are we going, Commander?” Aengus asked quietly, following him without a clear idea of their destination.

“Haha... Don’t be so tense, Zero. Relax. We’re headed to an emergency meeting with other Commanders and Generals to discuss the attack plan. We’ve become a bit cautious about spies since we’ve caught some infiltrators recently. There might still be some lingering around, so it’s better to stay vigilant, right?”

Aengus nodded. “Yes, you’re right, Commander.”

They quickly crossed an isolated area where a transparent sound-isolation barrier surrounded a large tent.

Aengus noticed many S-Rank military personnel gathering in substantial numbers. Some of them cast curious glances his way, surprised to see an unfamiliar young man among them.

But, seeing him accompanied by Commander Zain, they held back their questions for the moment.

Inside, the tent was spacious, suitable for housing hundreds. Several long tables with over a hundred seats were already filled, with soldiers in stern military attire sitting attentively.

Aengus and Commander Zain took their seats near the center, drawing the attention of those present and sensing the urgency in the atmosphere.

Curious, suspicious glances fell on Aengus, but the silence remained unbroken as everyone noticed the stern demeanor of the three Guardians.

Generals Leon, Felix, and Martin each gave Aengus a slight nod of approval, quickly dispelling any doubts.

However, their curiosity lingered—it was rare to see someone so young included in such a serious, secretive meeting among high-ranking officials.

As the room filled with everyone present, General Felix was the first to break the silence.

“Before we begin discussing the attack strategy, does anyone have any questions?” he asked, directing his gaze to all the commanders, including Marshal Tyron, who stood silently in the corner, his presence radiating authority and power.

Aengus looked around curiously, his gaze eventually landing on Marshal Tyron, feeling the weight of his intimidating stare.

Suddenly, an interruption broke his thoughts.

“General, I have a question,” a commander spoke up, standing with a fierce expression. He was an older, shrewd-looking man with a displeased look on his face.

“General, I would like to know what a kid is doing here with us. Don’t you think an explanation is needed before we begin?” The commander asked sharply, clearly displeased by Aengus’s seemingly arrogant posture, as if he were an equal.

Aengus raised an eyebrow, not expecting to be targeted so abruptly. However, he remained calm and composed, as though he wasn’t the one the commander was speaking about.

This only seemed to irritate Commander Kyle even more.

“See that, General... how arrogant this young man is, paying no heed to his superior’s words, as if he thinks he’s above everyone here,” the commander continued, trying to spread venom in the minds of others.

Some high-ranking officials also began to feel irritated by what they perceived as Aengus’s presumptuous attitude.

Aengus, however, was simply in control of himself; he didn't feel the need to show respect to those he considered "sneaky rats" around him.

He wasn't disrespectful—just detached.

General Felix was clearly on Aengus's side, but Marshal Tyron also appeared suspicious, as he hadn't yet learned Aengus's identity.

"You there, young comrade, who brought you here?" Marshal Tyron asked, his bulky frame radiating a hidden sense of authority that could instill fear.

Before Aengus could respond, General Felix spoke up.

"He is Zero, our new S-Rank Special Captain, Marshal. There's no need for vigilance against him. General Leon has vouched for him personally. I trust this clears up any questions you may have regarding our young comrade, Commander Kyle," General Felix said, his fiery gaze turning toward Commander Kyle, who had initially raised the doubts.

"Huh? An S-Rank?" Commander Kyle mumbled, quieting down and feeling slightly ashamed.

The other high-ranking officials, however, seemed to grow more interested in this young Captain "Zero."

Commander Zain gestured for Aengus to say a few words for formality.

Aengus stood up confidently, unfazed by the scrutinizing and curious gazes directed at him.

Chapter 223: Chapter 223: Traitors

Aengus took a steady breath and addressed the room.

"Hello, you can call me as Zero. I may be new here," he began calmly, meeting the eyes of those around him, "But I am fully committed to the success of this war and the safety of our forces. I hope to contribute to our victory with the same dedication and respect you've shown to this cause."

The room fell silent as he spoke, his calm yet commanding presence leaving an impression on the officials.

Marshal Tyron nodded approvingly, finding the young man pleasing to the eye.

But his gaze narrowed as he noticed Aengus's eyes suddenly sharpening like those of a hunter, his aura turning commanding and intense. This shift in demeanor piqued everyone's curiosity.

Their questions were soon answered, and it was mind boggling.

"Bang!"

"What's happening?"

The room erupted in confusion as they witnessed four esteemed commanders, including Commander Kyle, suddenly being dragged down by an invisible force commanded by their new Special Captain, Zero.

The four commanders stared in shock as they found themselves lifted into the air, bound as helplessly as if tied by invisible threads.

"Thud!"

Before they could react, they landed on the ground with a heavy thud, becoming the center of attention in the room, including that of the three generals.

"Atrocious!" Commander Kyle roared in indignation, humiliated and bewildered. They couldn't believe that a newcomer S-Rank had incapacitated them so easily.

"What is going on? Why are we suddenly put in the spotlight by this newcomer?"

Helpless to break free from Captain Zero's binding, they directed their complaints to the generals.

"Generals, this boy must be punished!" they shouted in unison, though fear flickered in their eyes as they considered the unsettling implications of Zero's power.

"Please, expel this boy from the group, Generals. How dare he disrespect his superiors? Is there no order here?" they demanded, attempting to mask their fear with outrage.

"Just because I questioned his identity, he dares to do this to me! He has no respect for authority!" Commander Kyle growled, concealing his unease behind a show of bravado.

The three Generals and the Marshal exchanged confused glances.

"What's the matter, Ethan?" General Leon asked gently, breaking the silence he maintained till now.

All eyes turned to Aengus, who remained seated, exuding a calm yet intense presence. "They're spies, Generals. I believe they should be thoroughly interrogated," he replied, his tone steady.

"What?"

"Spies among us?"

His words caused an instant uproar in the room.

The accused commanders felt their hearts race, though they struggled to maintain calm exteriors. Commander Kyle was the first to protest.

"Nonsense! This is a baseless accusation. I've served the kingdom faithfully for years, and you think you can slander me without any proof? This is outrageous!" he spat, glaring at Aengus, attempting to intimidate him into silence.

"Yes, yes, Commander Kyle is right, Generals! We cannot stand by and allow such accusations. This is an insult, and he should be punished for this crime," the other three quickly agreed, desperate to cover for each other.

Aengus sneered, mocking their desperate attempts to save themselves.

"Do you have any proof, young comrade?" Marshal Tyron asked, stepping forward with a scrutinizing gaze.

Without a word, Aengus activated his Shadow Monarch's Dominion. The room darkened as a field of darkness enveloped the four commanders, binding them within his power. Aengus invaded their minds, compelling them to reveal the truth from their own mouths.

The generals observed in awe and surprise, sensing a unique blend of shadow and darkness unlike anything they'd seen before. It felt similar to demonic energy, yet distinct—its force far surpassing both Mana and Nether energy.

As the four culprits began to speak, the room fell into shocked silence.

"Speak. Who do you truly serve?" Aengus commanded coldly, standing up from his seat.

The four commanders' eyes remained clear, but they answered mechanically, spilling their secrets without hesitation.

“Yes, we are spies who infiltrated the Araknis Kingdom by the Emperor’s command, long before joining the army command. We’ve relayed critical state secrets and weaknesses of the kingdom’s defenses through Envoy Feodor over time.”

“Huh!”

“I can’t believe it!”

“What’s there not to believe?”

“They were suspicious to me for a long time!”

“They should be hanged to death for this treason!”

As the truth settled, disbelief and anger surged through the ranks, voices rising in outrage.

“Bang!”

General Leon’s face turned icy, chilling the air with shards of frost, while General Felix stood thoughtful, observing the scene intently.

As the commanders’ eyes regained clarity, terror washed over their faces as they realized what they’d just confessed.

“No, no, Generals, those were all lies! He used dark magic to make us say those things!” they stammered, desperately trying to retract their statements.

Yet, the look of fear in their eyes was enough to confirm their guilt for most. But General Martin wanted further verification.

“Come here!” he commanded with authority.

Instantly, four hands made of solid earth materialized, reaching out and forcefully dragging the commanders forward.

He quickly searched each of their memories more thoroughly. It took some time, but he eventually found a mental barrier that separated a hidden part of their memories with an invisible seal. It was only thanks to his special skill that he managed to uncover the truth—they were indeed spies, hidden deep within their ranks.

He looked over at Generals Leon and Felix, who were waiting for confirmation.

General Martin nodded slightly, confirming that the statements were true.

“They have indeed committed treason Leon, Felix!” he announced calmly.

“So it was all true!” The Marshal mumbled from the sidelines.

It was astonishing to see those sealed memories, deeply hidden and undetectable during routine examinations over the years.

Moreover, with over a hundred commanders, it was unreasonable to suspect each one and inspect their minds without cause. Typically, only those who raised suspicion were examined.

Commander Kyle and the others had been inspected a few times in the past, each time coming up clean. So how was it that this young Captain had so easily exposed their betrayal all of a sudden?

Just what kind of magic had Captain Zero used? And how did he detect their treachery just by looking at them?

The generals and commanders looked at Aengus intently, finding him truly unfathomable.

Chapter 224: Chapter 224: Northern Duke's arrival

“Take these traitors away and interrogate them thoroughly,” General Leon ordered coldly, narrowing his ocean-blue eyes.

From his tone, it was clear that the interrogation would be far from gentle. The traitors would likely endure nothing short of hellish torture.

“No, no! Please, forgive us, General!” Commander Kyle and the other three begged in despair.

Seeing no reaction from the generals, they turned to their longtime companions.

“Rollin, help us!”

“Aurelian, save me!”

Their so-called friends scoffed, looking at them with utter disdain, as if they were no better than dogs.

“Go suffer in the cold prison for eternity, you vile traitors,” they sneered, spitting in their faces.

The traitors were quickly drenched in spit, their humiliation evident as the Marshal looked at them with disgust.

“Go, seal their powers quickly!” the Marshal ordered some of his men.

They swiftly secured the traitors with Mana-Sealing belts and shackles to restrain them.

“Bastards, let us go! You’re all dead! Our Emperor will execute every last one of you soon enough! You’re all going to lose, you motherf*ckers!”

One of the traitors cursed violently, struggling against the restraints Aengus had cast over them. His vulgar words hung in the air as he spat insults at everyone present.

General Leon narrowed his eyes, lifting a finger. Instantly, he froze the man solid. The traitor transformed into an ice statue, which slowly crumbled to particles and drifted away in the wind.

Commander Kyle and the other two felt a chill run down their spines, witnessing such a deadly execution before their eyes. Their hearts leapt into their throats, and they fell silent as they were violently dragged away.

General Leon turned to Aengus, who stood calmly amidst the chaos.

“Ethan, I’m sorry you had to witness such an unsightly display. Are there any other traitors here?” Leon asked, his gaze scanning the remaining officials.

Aengus surveyed the group slowly, his eyes glowing blue as he scrutinized their information flowing through his mind. He had already checked everyone but wanted to confirm he hadn’t missed anyone.

The officials flinched slightly under his gaze but held their composure.

Aengus finally stopped and shook his head lightly.

“No, there’s no one left, General. You may continue,” he said, taking his seat calmly beside Commander Zain.

Commander Zain smiled at him, while others gave him looks of respect and admiration.

“Excellent job, comrade. We’ll be counting on you!”

“You’re a rising war hero, young man! Good luck!”

“Make your parents proud!”

Aengus appreciated their praises, but at the mention of his parents, his expression darkened. Memories surfaced of his father’s and grandfather’s harsh punishments and his mother’s tearful love, stirring a lingering bitterness within him.

"Is there a problem, Captain Zero?" Commander Zain asked, noticing Aengus's change in mood.

Aengus forced a smile. "It's nothing."

Understanding his intent, Commander Zain shifted his attention back to General Leon as the meeting resumed in earnest.

"So, everyone is aware that the enemy forces are more than double our size and strength, correct?" General Leon began, drawing everyone's attention.

"Does anyone have any ideas on how we can overcome this?" he asked, inviting opinions.

The officials murmured among themselves, deep in thought.

One commander quickly raised his hand. "General, what about seeking assistance from our neighboring kingdoms?"

General Leon dismissed the suggestion.

"No. We've received intel that both the Skyfall Kingdom and Dauris Kingdom are also under attack by imperial forces. As for the other two kingdoms bordering us, they're already struggling with famine and depleted resources. So assistance from them is out of the question as well. The enemy has vast manpower and is aware of our numerical disadvantage. They planned to isolate us long before we even caught wind of it."

"Ah, that's unfortunate," the commander murmured, falling silent.

Another raised her hand, this time a woman with strong, masculine features yet strikingly beautiful skin. Her eyes were fixed on General Leon with an unmistakable admiration.

"General, I think we should go for a preemptive strike, before they have a chance to launch their own attack. Such an assault could take out a significant number of their forces in one move," she suggested earnestly.

The generals found the idea feasible but saw a few challenges.

"What's your name again?" General Leon asked the female commander.

She replied with an enthusiastic smile. "General, my name is Raya. I'm in charge of the 34th Battalion," she announced proudly.

“Alright, Raya,” General Leon continued, “do you have a plan for breaching their defenses? They have strict surveillance barriers with guards on constant alert. Any idea on how to overcome them? The Transcenturals among us could enter, of course, but their Transcenturals will be on high alert as well.”

Raya scratched her head, clearly troubled by the challenge.

As the others furrowed their brows in thought, Aengus raised his hand slightly. “General, I’d like to take on the task of infiltrating the enemy’s ranks.”

Everyone looked at him, surprised.

“You?” General Leon asked with interest. “What exactly do you plan to accomplish alone, Ethan? Or do you have something more to share?”

Aengus was about to respond, but an unexpected voice interrupted the conversation.

“Haha... what nonsense is this? Why are you all entertaining the words of a mere child? Have the men here all traded their courage for bangles?” The mocking tone echoed through the hall.

Aengus turned, along with the others, to see the newcomers who had intruded so boldly. Leading them was a man wearing a large white hat adorned with six stars on his military uniform—a rank just one step below the King’s, which made Aengus curious about the identity of this arrogant man.

Beside him were Prince Mikail, the Crown Prince, and two other royal princes, who all seemed somewhat amused by the unfolding scene.

“Oh my God, it’s the Northern Duke Milroy!”

“The Northern Duke is here? That’s great! We finally have another Transcentural among us!” Some officials cheered, their excitement rising as if their savior had arrived.

The Northern Duke, dressed in thick animal skins that concealed his powerful muscles, exuded an aura as strong as the generals—perhaps even surpassing them. His presence commanded attention and respect from everyone in the room.

“Welcome, Duke Milroy!”

“Long Live The Crown Prince!”

“So, tell me, boy, how would you infiltrate the Imperial forces? With your measly S-Rank power?” he sneered, leaning in close to gaze intently into Aengus’s eyes, as if searching for any hidden secrets within him.

Chapter 225: Chapter 225: Taking Over The Challenge

“Please, take your seats, you highnesses!!”

Crown Prince, and other two princes silently sat down in order, except for Prince Mikail.

General Leon furrowed his brows, clearly displeased by the Northern Duke’s presence. It wasn’t that he held any personal enmity toward Duke Milroy—it was simply the Duke’s overbearing attitude that grated on him, as if he saw himself above everyone else, even the King.

As the King’s youngest brother, Northern Duke Milroy commanded the northern, wintry borders, fending off barbarian invasions.

Outwardly, he seemed loyal, but Leon knew that ambition might run deep in the Duke’s veins. That was only a suspicion.

With his SS-Rank (Transcendental) power, Milroy could match Leon’s strength, making him both a valuable ally and a potential threat.

Leon cast a cautious glance toward Crown Prince Malcolm. With the King growing old, the kingdom’s future lay in uncertain hands. Leon hoped that when the time came, the King would securely pass the throne to the Crown Prince—a leader whom Leon believed was perfect for the role and capable of guiding the kingdom into a prosperous future.

General Leon was about to intervene to save Aengus from Duke Milroy’s intimidating gaze, but something unexpected happened.

Duke Milroy, intending only to frighten the young Captain, suddenly felt a deep sense of danger. Confused, he tried to locate the source, only to meet Aengus’s eerie, whitish glowing eyes—eyes possessing an ancient, petrifying curse that could strike fear into even the mightiest.

In horror, Milroy looked down and felt a numbness spreading through his legs. To his disbelief, his lower body was slowly turning to stone.

Leon instantly recognized the eyes and the ability, and his calm composure shattered.

“Ancient Petrifying Curse Eyes?” he shouted in astonishment.

Leon, Felix, and Martin immediately stood up, closing their eyes and shouting a warning.

“Don’t look into his eyes!” some cried out desperately, heeding the Generals’ warning and feeling a wave of fear.

Everyone quickly shut their eyes—everyone except Prince Mikail, who continued to glare maliciously at Aengus, unaware of the danger.

“What?”

“Save me!”

His screams also echoed quickly after.

“Zero, stop it!” General Felix shouted, slamming his fist on the table.

“Enough, Ethan!” General Leon commanded, seeing the matter turning worse.

With that, Aengus paused and looked at the Northern Duke, who was now half-turned to stone, with a sneer on his face.

“What were you saying again? I didn’t hear clearly, Duke,” Aengus asked with a half-sinister smile as he released the curse, allowing the Duke to return to normal again.

His original intent had only been to scare them a little so they wouldn’t underestimate him again. Aengus had previously taken measures to hide his strength, only to gather enough information about everyone.

After his observation, he realized that with his power, he needn’t to bow or tolerate insults from anyone.

As Northern Duke gradually returned to normal, he glared at Aengus angrily but couldn’t ignore the lingering fear of death he’d felt mere moments before.

“Whoosh!”

Duke Milroy launched himself forward, his body swelling with power as he transformed into a towering 10-meter giant in Barbarian form. He assumed the boy’s abilities were limited to his eerie eyes and couldn’t possibly match the strength of his Giant Barbarian Class, which had granted him triple stat points so far.

With his Rage Barbarian Transformation (SS) skill, the Duke was far stronger than any ordinary transcendental, renowned for dominating the harsh Northern Winter lands with his sheer physical might alone. To date, only dragons had matched his raw strength.

“Thud!”

To his shock, the “arrogant kid” effortlessly blocked his massive punch, standing firm. Milroy’s fist felt as though it had struck solid metal, completely unyielding.

“Are you trying to test my patience, Duke Milroy?” Aengus asked calmly, twisting Milroy’s arm effortlessly, as if it were nothing but cotton candy. With his near 18,000 strength stats it was a piece of cake.

An average Transcendental had barely around 3,000 average raw stats, that includes all the extra stats from Classes, bloodlines and any other special traits.

The veins on Milroy’s face bulged as he felt the pain, and he let out muffled groans.

He was still trying to process how he had been defeated so easily. And why on earth did this boy have the strength of an SS-Rank?

Just what was happening in this world?

“Bam!”

“Enough! Can we please focus on our task? Are you all going to stop only after we’re attacked and decimated by the Imperial army?!” General Martin shouted, feeling exasperated.

Aengus, feeling slightly embarrassed, released the Duke, whose face was now flushed red. Aengus judged that the Duke wasn’t inherently bad, but his personality was arrogant and despotic.

A strange silence fell over the tent among all the officials.

General Leon and the others seemed surprised by the revelation of Aengus’s true strength, capable of defeating a Transcendental so easily.

“Ethan—no, Zero—did you somehow defeat the Basilisk in Darkwood Forest?” General Leon asked, recognizing the ability. He remembered encountering the God-beast Basilisk in that forest on a past visit. At that time, he had been too weak to take it on.

Not only him, but others had been unable to defeat the creature due to its deadly venom, attack reflection, and godly strength. It was like an unstoppable force.

“Huh? That Ancient God-Beast? He defeated it?” With General Leon’s casual announcement, everyone was stunned.

Prince Mikail, Crown Prince Malcolm, and others, including the Northern Duke, looked shocked as well.

“Now that I think about it, this ability is quite similar to the Beast Lord Basilisk’s!”

“Yeah, I also remember hearing news about a terrifying fight that decimated a third of Darkwood Forest. Was Comrade Zero the one who did it?”

“How terrifying!”

As they whispered among themselves, their respect for Aengus grew.

Everyone knew how fearsome the beast was, especially as a God-blessed creature. It was said that the Beast God personally bestowed it with a God-Weapon.

“Oh, right! There should have been a God-Weapon with the beast, right? If the beast is dead, doesn’t that mean the God-Weapon is with our Comrade Zero?”

With that thought in mind, some of their eyes flashed with greed, but recalling Aengus’s prowess, they quickly concealed it.

Aengus noticed this but said nothing. If anyone came for his weapon, they would have to go through him first.

“Yes, General. I did it, but it’s nothing compared to your service and loyalty to the kingdom. Shall we get back to the task at hand? Who wants to join me in causing a little chaos for our enemies?” he asked with a dangerous smirk.

Chapter 226: Chapter 226: Shadow Monarch’s Infiltration

As soon as Aengus admitted that he was the one who had slain the Beast Lord, some of the officials began to fear him.

What kind of strength must it have taken to kill such a creature and claim the God-Weapon? Some began to cast aside any malicious intent they had toward him.

“Captain Zero, I would like to join you,” the female commander, Raya, said hurriedly, showing eagerness at his confident aura.

Aengus looked over at Commander Raya and gave a nod of approval. She was a tough woman with some stealth skills, making her a good choice to take along.

“I would like to join as well, Captain Zero,” Commander Zain said, standing up with enthusiasm for the mission.

“Me too, Captain!”

“Don’t forget me.”

Quickly, a team of seven was formed with the permission of the generals and Crown Prince Malcolm. Duke Milroy had no choice but to agree to the plan.

“Hey, I’d like to join as well...” Duke Milroy added with a hint of embarrassment.

Aengus and the others looked at him strangely.

“What? I’m just going to check on things. You’re taking all the S-Ranks, so I thought I should join while Leon and the others handle the attack afterward... Don’t think I’m joining out of care for you all. I just want the mission to succeed,” Duke Milroy muttered, avoiding their gaze and trying not to appear too eager.

Aengus studied him and, judging by his expression, sensed no malicious intent, nor any trace of greed in his eyes.

Crown Prince Malcolm asked, “Captain Zero, what do you think?”

Aengus replied indifferently, “I have no problem as long as he doesn’t become the problem child.”

Crown Prince didn’t mind the lack of honorific after considering Aengus’s strength, just like the Generals.

“Haha...”

Rather, Crown Prince Malcolm and General Leon laughed amusedly.

“Who else could talk to the mighty Northern Duke like this, except him?”

General Leon agreed with the idea, believing it would help ensure Ethan’s safety. Whatever Milroy’s goal might be, it couldn’t exceed the imminent threat of the kingdom’s doom. If there’s no Araknis Kingdom, there will be no throne.

Moreover, his suspicion that the Northern Duke had eyes on the throne was perhaps due to his own overprotective tendencies.

The Crown Prince seemed friendly with the Duke, always calling him “uncle.”

“Uncle, be safe! And bring us victory!” Crown Prince Malcolm cheered his uncle with an elegant bow.

“Sure, my boy! We will be victorious. Tell my royal brother that we’re at war, and we won’t stop until we achieve victory!” Duke Milroy laughed with a domineering tone. Of course, he didn’t look Aengus in the eye, feeling a hint of embarrassment.

“Long live the Kingdom of Araknis!”

“Long live the King!”

The officials and commanders roared in unison, raising their spirits high.

“So, Captain Zero, the plan is set, right? You’ll all give a surprise attack using your special skills like you told us, and then we’ll attack after getting the signal. Can we count on you?” General Felix asked, wanting to confirm.

“No problem, General. I’m ready to deliver the good news,” Aengus answered calmly, standing straight.

“Good!” General Felix smiled, pleased by his response.

“Ethan, meet your teammates before you go. And take care of yourself ; we’ll be there when you need us. And one last thing, don’t kill all of them. We need them in the Holy War against the demons,” General Leon said gently, thinking far in future.

“I will try, General.”

Aengus had that in mind as well. He knew if he killed them all, there wouldn’t be enough soldiers left to lead the Liberation Army’s war for peace.

Aengus, Commander Zain, and the others quickly left to inform their trusted subordinates to lead the soldiers to war according to the General’s autonomous command until they returned.

General Leon watched Aengus’s back, thinking about the promise he made to Ethan.

The plan was to establish peace and order between both worlds. Perhaps, there was still hope of realizing the dream he once had. With this, he could create a safe haven for his future children and Claire.

—

Aengus quickly informed Aria on his behalf, secretly.

“You’re going on a secret mission? Can I come along?” Aria asked.

They were alone together inside his tent.

Aengus gave her a light kiss on the lips.

“No, you can’t. You need to lead the soldiers on my behalf, alongside Captain Dior and Ren. I’ve informed them briefly. Just be patient, Aria. This will be over soon, I promise.

And you know my strength—no one can hurt me,” Aengus said, removing his lips from hers.

Aria touched her lips and tugged at his sleeve as he was about to leave.

“Be careful, Ethan. I’ll be waiting!” she said with watery eyes.

“Yes, I will—for us!”

With that, Aengus disappeared into the darkness of the night.

Aengus, Raya, Zain, and Duke Milroy quickly gathered behind a sloping mountain.

As the leader of the mission, Aengus explained his plan. It involved using his skill, Shadow Monarch’s Dominion, to make them all nearly invisible in the darkness of night.

The others nodded, finding the plan plausible, though Duke Milroy raised a question.

“Hey, can you really do that?” he asked in doubt.

Aengus answered with action. He instantly touched the Duke’s forehead, releasing a pulse of glowing dark energy.

In the blink of an eye, Duke Milroy transformed into a shadow, leaving the physical world behind. Under the dim moonlight, Milroy’s shadow was barely visible, almost untraceable.

“Now, does anyone have any doubts?” Aengus asked coolly.

The others, witnessing the transformation, shook their heads vigorously.

“Very good! Now, let’s start!”

One by one, Aengus turned them all into shadows—Commander Raya, Zain, and the other four members.

Experiencing the shadow world was new to them, but they quickly adapted, finding it as natural as walking in the physical world.

They followed Aengus like lackeys, who, now fully embodying the power of the Shadow Monarch, blended seamlessly into the darkness.

Chapter 227: Chapter 227: Chaos Explosives

After traveling several dozen kilometers over rugged, mountainous terrain, Aengus and

his team arrived at a formidable barrier. They immediately grew cautious; this was the crucial moment that would determine the initial success of their mission.

Without delay, Aengus activated Sacred Kirin's Blessing (S), enhancing their overall combat prowess fivefold. The surge of power coursed through each of them, even in their shadow forms. They marveled at the skill's effectiveness—it was undoubtedly divine.

To be able to amplify combat strength so significantly was no ordinary feat.

In his long Shadow Monarch form, Aengus observed their reactions silently. Without a word, he invoked Space Laws, instantly transporting the entire team across the barrier, seamlessly tearing through the spatial fabric without triggering the barrier's defenses.

"Huh? We made it." They whispered with shock and awe.

Though they were reveling in their success, they didn't forget the plan.

According to the plan, they activated their individual enhancement and stealth skills, making themselves even more untraceable.

For added security, Aengus activated Barrier of Chaos (A), rendering them invisible on a small scale individually. This was the same skill that had even tricked the Beast Lord with its incredible illusions, so its effectiveness was undeniable.

"Okay, Let's move!" Aengus commanded as he advanced, his gaze fixed on the enemy.

Suppressing their curiosity, the team followed him, struggling to match Aengus's speed, which was no easy feat.

The Imperial forces had already set up temporary camps across a vast field where large warships could be seen. Millions of soldiers were gathered around thousands of campfires, their expressions vigilant.

Aengus and his team stopped behind an enemy tent, moving like the night's chilly breeze, their presence completely untraceable.

Aengus quickly produced several destructive bombs made from World Corrosive Venom and Chaos Elemental Particles. He handed each of them at least ten of these destructive Chaos Venom Orbs. Each one had cost him 500 Origin Mana, making the power within immense.

They held the orbs, feeling a shiver of fear as they sensed the raw, destructive energy contained within. The orbs were dense, vibrating with chaotic energy as though they could explode at any moment.

Even the Northern Duke felt a tinge of fear as he held onto these orbs, their multicolored destructive energy swirling ominously. He could detect Chaotic Elements and Deadly Venom inside. If this hit him somehow, he would get serious injury for sure.

He glanced at Aengus with newfound apprehension, realizing that making enemy of this young man would be a grave mistake for anyone who valued their life.

After distributing the orbs, Aengus spoke calmly, "Now, go and place them in their critical military bases, resource areas, and anywhere the enemy is heavily gathered.

He spoke as though it were a simple task. But it wasn't. This mission meant killing hundreds of thousands of humans.

Why was he so calm? Was he not afraid of the wrath of the gods?

Aengus noticed their hesitation and looked at them, feigning obliviousness. "What? Let's get moving. You all have 10 minutes before the Shadown Form, Enhancement and Illusion Barrier disappear from your body." he warned seriously.

"Ah, okay, Captain!" they replied, humbling themselves before his command. They knew this was their only path to victory, and the burden of these sins would be shared among themselves.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

They spread out in all directions in their shadow forms, using the darkness to their advantage.

Aengus turned his attention to a group of soldiers sitting around a campfire, making them his first target.

"Ahh, when is this wait going to end? I want to kill somebody!" one soldier grumbled, his bloodthirsty voice echoing near the campfire.

Their shadows danced with the wind as they spoke.

"Just a few more minutes, guys. I heard we're launching our attack at midnight!" another soldier announced with a wild grin.

"What if they attack first, Captain?" a soldier asked, fear creeping into his voice.

"Haha... they wouldn't dare. Besides, we have Lord Halton's protection. He's cast surveillance and defensive barriers all over this area. If any of them try to infiltrate, they'll be caught immediately," the captain replied with confidence.

"Yes, Lord Halton is mighty. We should be grateful to him," the others sighed in relief.

Aengus slipped into one of the enemy tents, placing a Chaos Orb in a hidden location.

Swoosh!

He took a final glance at the unsuspecting soldiers, silently offering a prayer for their journey after death, before vanishing from that camp.

“Who’s there?” one soldier muttered, his instincts kicking in as a chill ran down his spine. He glanced around fearfully, his skin prickling with a sense of impending doom.

His fellow soldiers shot him displeased looks, irritated by his sudden outburst. “Did you guys not hear something?” he asked, his voice trembling slightly.

They frowned, dismissing his anxiety as nothing more than fart. “No, we didn’t hear anything. Stop being a killjoy and let us enjoy the moment.”

His companions shrugged it off, making a disgusting face.

The unsettled soldier looked around, confusion and dread filling his gaze as the tingling sensation persisted, warning him of something terrible.

But, as fate would have it, his foreboding feelings were of no use; some destinies are inevitable.

—

Aengus moved stealthily in his shadow form, his target set on the enemy warships. These were no ordinary vessels; over a hundred massive warships loomed above, each equipped with powerful magical cannons.

Their sheer size and firepower could easily determine the outcome of the war if left intact.

Standing at the base of one warship, Aengus tilted his gaze upward, marveling at its scale. The vessel towered at least 500 meters from the ground, its colossal weight likely tens of thousands of tons. It was a marvel of engineering and magic alike—an enormous weapon designed to dominate the skies.

“Whoosh!”

Aengus jumped up, reaching hundreds of meters in height with a single leap.

He felt the chilly wind brushing past him gently, choosing a dark spot to land.

He looked down to find himself on top of one of the cannon's heads, smelling the destructiveness of gunpowder and magic.

Chapter 228: Chapter 228: Getting Caught?

With another jump, he landed smoothly on top of the warship's deck.

There was some artificial light above, but no guards in sight.

He sneaked over to the cabin, identifying a vulnerable spot where the warship's mechanisms operated.

"Hahaha...Envor Feodor, your wish finally came true. This kingdom is finally meeting its doom!"

"Pah, that's true... They dared insult me. They deserve it. I just said a few bad words about them, and the Emperor was enraged, hahaha..."

From inside, Aengus heard a few men conversing, mixed with faint moans from women.

"Ahn... Please be gentle, Sir Feodor! Ahn!"

"Not inside, Please! I will get pregnant."

Smack, smack!

"Ooh, shut up bi*ch, just take it all inside..." the man only grunted with pleasure.

"Haha... Feodor, slow down a bit. You're getting old... No more juice in you... haha.." another man's vulgar voice echoed, reaching Aengus's ears.

Aengus turned away with disgust, but he didn't forget to place the Elemental Chaos Orb in a corner for their demise.

He was though curious if the man inside named Feodor was the same envoy he heard in the meeting. Either way, it was not important as long his work got done.

With another jump, he leaped onto another nearby warship.

This ship was well-guarded, likely housing some influential officials inside.

"Sneeze! Achoo!"

One guard suddenly sneezed, making Aengus freeze in the shadows.

The guards turned vigilant, their sharp eyes scanning the deck with Clearcut precision.

Finding no one, they looked at the first guard with a displeased expression.

“What? Can’t I even sneeze?” the guard shrugged.

They shook their heads helplessly and shifted their attention ahead.

Aengus continued to move, swapping shadows as he progressed.

“Commander, we are ready to attack tonight!” he overheard from the cabin, thanks to his sharp hearing.

“Good! Proceed with the Imperial Decree!” came the domineering command.

Without wasting any time, Aengus placed another orb here as well.

In this manner, he methodically planted eighteen orbs across various warships, covering half of them.

At the nineteenth one, however, something unexpected happened.

As he moved within the shadows on the deck, a sudden, intense light flooded over him. His shadow form dissipated, leaving him fully exposed.

He realized the deck was unique, adorned with luxurious decor and a concealed barrier that he thought he’d bypassed undetected. But from the looks of it, Clearly, he hadn’t.

Caught red-handed, Aengus saw a man in a red military suit smirking as he approached him.

“You think you’re so brave, daring to enter my domain, Soldier of the Araknis Kingdom!” the man sneered, pleased with himself for catching what he thought was a mere intruder, unaware that he was facing true trouble in the form of Aengus.

“Haha, what a foolish youngster! Trying to trick Lord Halton—The master of barriers? It’s a joke. He is unmatched in this field,” another mocking voice chimed in from the shadows, revealing an old man with a beard.

Aengus looked at the man calmly, even after getting caught. But, It was astonishing to see someone able to see through his Barrier of Chaos.

An imitation is an imitation, The saying is true after all. It can never be the same as the Barrier of Ruination, without any flaws.

The man was obviously a Transcendental, and a very special one at that. He specialized in Barrier Skills, both offensive and defensive. Aengus learned about Halton's skills after using Appraisal.

"What's with the response? Why aren't you shocked? Or afraid? Shouldn't you beg for forgiveness at least?" Lord Halton asked, feeling disappointed at not getting the expected reaction.

Aengus grinned, finding it amusing.

"It's because... I am stronger—"

Whoosh!

Kacha, Kacha... Crack!

Aengus suddenly threw a casual punch to test the defensive barriers that Halton had cast all around himself and his allies. Though they were SS-Rank barriers, some layers shattered instantly, leaving the major layers still intact.

"Haha... Only this much? Too weak...", Halton sneered at Aengus's power, though he felt a slight impact.

But, honestly, inside he was shocked by the seemingly young man's speed and strength. A young man capable of challenging a Transcendental was no simple matter.

Since when had the Araknis Kingdom produced such prodigies? Why hadn't he heard any news of such a young talent?

"You call yourself stronger, then let's see how you handle this, brat," Halton cackled, regaining his composure.

Aengus, wanting to test Halton's barrier, quickly found himself inside an illusion barrier where he surprisingly saw memories of his past with his mother. He saw himself eating and playing as a child with his mother, Eleanora—carefree and unburdened before he was deemed unworthy of wielding the Darkness law and the Family Head seat.

These bittersweet memories replayed, turning his heart heavy.

Of course, the barrier showed these memories only to him, trapping him in the illusion. Even if Halton tried his hardest, he wouldn't have access to them.

"Enough!"

Aengus, having had enough of the display, quickly just snapped his fingers, causing the barrier to disappear with the help of Chaos energy.

Halton was gleeful, but that soon faded as he saw Aengus easily escaping the Illusion Barrier.

It was an SS-rank skill, for God's sake. It could easily drive a person to madness by using their deepest, sorrowful emotions.

But he didn't know that Aengus was immune to mental attacks due to his unique skill: Nullified Mental Attacks.

The old man beside him stiffened, feeling a little afraid of the boy now.

"Why couldn't Lord Halton defeat a simple 'Rat'?"

"Are you done?" Aengus asked coldly. "If so, let's start this for real."

As soon as he finished speaking, Aengus disappeared from his spot, appearing right before Halton like he had teleported.

Despite his considerable speed and reaction time, Halton couldn't track Aengus's movements.

Bang, bang! Shatter, shatter!

One after another, Halton's defensive barriers broke, and he felt the impact on his body, coughing up blood from his mouth and nostrils.

The old man was scared out of his wits, seeing this. He tried to escape, but Aengus bound him in place.

Chapter 229: Chapter 229: Ruination
Thud!

With the last barrier shattered like glass, Halton was hit directly by Aengus's fist.

He spun in the air like a whirlwind and smashed into the metal fence of the warship.

"Ahhh.."

His chest was caved in with a fist-shaped indentation, blood flowing out, creating a grisly scene.

As Halton lay in a deformed state, Aengus moved in to finish him off.

"Whoosh, Whoosh, Swoosh!"

Before he could, Aengus looked up to see several powerful figures. Their auras radiated, buzzing through the air, gathering above him in mere seconds.

Most likely, they had been alerted beforehand or simply heard the commotion.

Aengus remained calm even in the presence of so many Transcendentals. There were at least ten of them.

Ten SS-Ranks, and who knew how many more still hidden among them. It was an impressive number compared to the Araknis Kingdom's forces.

In a way, this was to be expected from the Imperial forces. He'd heard rumors that they had even more back in their domain. This was merely the tip of the iceberg.

From the start, the Araknis Kingdom never had a chance of winning against the Imperial forces alone. The only way to defeat them was by teaming up with other kingdoms. However, the Imperial forces had anticipated this, taking proactive steps to foil any alliances.

The Transcendentals first looked at Halton's miserable figure lying in the corner, whose eyes regained hope upon seeing them. Then, their attention shifted to the surprising young man who had caused all this.

They were enraged and displeased by the fact that someone from a small kingdom dared to infiltrate the Imperial forces so boldly. If others found out, they would become the laughingstock of the whole world.

Thus, they had to capture the one responsible for this and hang him to death after torturing him, to let the world know the consequences of going against the Imperial Army of the Kairos Empire.

"Apprehend him!"

"Boom, boom, boom!"

Instantly, an endless barrage of dangerous skills was targeted at Aengus.

He was already zigzagging between enemies on top of the deck, using his speed to his advantage. Some attackers used instant-speed techniques to catch him, while others unleashed destructive skills in flawless coordination.

"CREAK!"

The warship creaked heavily under their combined assault as multicolored energy signatures spread outward, visible to the soldiers below.

Warning commands echoed between the enemy armies of millions, instantly putting them on high alert. They scrambled out of their tents, readied their weapons, and looked up at the warship, witnessing the cataclysmic confrontation.

Even the massive command ship was beginning to buckle under the sheer might of the attacks. Some soldiers tried to get closer to see what was happening, but they were incinerated by the intense energy radiating from the battle above. Chaotic elemental energy only added to the destruction.

“Oh my god! Just who are they fighting? How many are there?” one soldier shouted in awe and curiosity.

“I can’t even see through this intense energy. Let’s get to safety, guys!” another muttered cautiously.

The soldiers, like a swarm of ants, rushed to a safe distance. Some stumbled and fell, getting trampled in the chaos, but no one paused to help. Humanity be damned!

Aengus found himself at a disadvantage due to the enemy’s coordinated assault. Ten SS-Rank powerhouses were no joke. It was like nonetheless astonishing see him unharmed, ignoring the faint marks of assaults.

“BOOM!”

The ship beneath them was instantly obliterated, leaving remnants of ash and smoke scattered through the air. Sharp metal fragments rained down like deadly drops, piercing the guards below and claiming lives in their path.

Aengus spread his mighty Dragon Wings, glaring down at the ten Transcendentals.

“Haha...”

Hovering in the air with a dominating presence, they grinned, feeling victorious as they forced him into a corner.

A stronger Transcendental floated forward, equipped with his own pair of wings, though they appeared pale in comparison to Aengus’s Dragon Wings. Aengus’s wings looked alive, seamlessly part of him, while the other’s appeared ordinary, like those of a common flying beast.

Despite feeling envious, the Transcendental feigned arrogance.

“Boy, tell me your name. Why go to such lengths for an insignificant kingdom? You’re incredibly talented; why waste your future on them? You could easily have a bright

future if you join the Imperial Army. What do you say?" he offered, recognizing Aengus's "potential".

He knew it was no small feat to achieve Transcendental strength at such a young age. They would need to conduct thorough experiments on him, seeking the secret to his strength. Perhaps he could even be the key to Godhood.

They grinned sinisterly inside, their intentions malicious and treacherous.

Aengus smirked, seeing through their facade.

"Why would I need you when I have this strength? I'll create my own empire, trampling whoever opposes me and rejecting peace."

The Transcendentals' faces turned ashen at his arrogant attitude.

"Boy, you're foolish. This will only lead to your demise," one of them sneered.

Aengus looked unbothered, continuing to smile and ignoring their unpleasant expressions.

"Captain Zero, we're done," a voice echoed in his ear.

In an instant, Aengus's expression turned cold, catching the mental transmission.

"So, the time has come..." Aengus muttered, resigned to the inevitable.

The Transcendentals felt a bad premonition. Some among them had caught the mental transmission in the air and relayed it to the others.

It made them slightly tense.

The boy was an anomaly, and who knows what he do next

"What are you planning now? Tell us!" the first in command demanded, masking his panic.

Aengus looked back at the enemy soldiers, mourning the losses about to unfold.

Facing downward, he answered, "Nothing. I just thought of a way to even the battle. You have over 20 million soldiers. It's time to reduce those numbers." His voice was barely audible.

"What do you mean by that?" one of them asked, the foreboding feeling growing stronger.

“First Commander, we need to stop him quick!” one of them roared.

The first in command, angered by the situation spiraling out of control, lunged forward, determined to kill the source of his distress.

Aengus uttered only one word: “Ruin.”

Chapter 230: Chapter 230: Fusion Sword Skill

The World shook with his command, like triggering a apocalypse.

Rumble, rumble!

A cataclysmic display of explosions erupted in several places across the Imperial Army camps.

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

The explosions were so massive and intense that, for a moment, they created an air vacuum across a wide area, spanning kilometers.

Alongside this, several spatial fissures were born because intense reaction of the explosions. These fissure devoured Imperial soldiers in masses.

“Save...”

Screams of terror and despair echoed as far as the eye could see.

It was pure chaos!

The Imperial Transcendentals stared wide-eyed, witnessing the cataclysm on such a large scale. Almost half of their mighty army was caught in the explosions, turned to dust particles in an instant.

“Pure Ruin!” One of the enemy Transcendentals muttered in disbelief, shocked by the destruction on the ground.

They shifted their eyes to source of Ruin, a Soldier, appearing so ordinary. But he was not.

Strangely enough , Aengus was seen collecting—no, devouring—all the precious energy particles of the dead, forming a black hole in his palm as he hovered in the air.

“Demonic ability?”

Another muttered, looking a little frightened, sensing Aengus growing stronger by the second. Aengus’s aura was the living proof of that.

“He’s a devil! Kill him!”

They roared, charging at Aengus in desperation.

The first in command took the lead, feeling a momentary satisfaction at landing a hit on Aengus. But, to his shock, Aengus barely reacted, as if he had been struck by nothing more than cotton candy.

Aengus was absorbing stats and soul power, which made him ecstatic for a moment, allowing them to strike him as they wished.

“Haha...”

He laughed, watching their futile efforts, feeling absolute confidence in his strength to withstand their attacks. He wanted to make them feel true despair and force them to submission to him for future conquests.

Otherwise, they would merely become his resources—that was their fate.

In the distance, Aengus saw the Kingdom’s forces advancing, seizing the weakened Imperial army’s vulnerable state. They got the signal and it was time to Kill.

The three generals led their army of millions, charging forward like lightning-borne warhorses. They swept in like a flood, cutting down enemies with precision and fury.

“Lowly bastards! Cowards!” the Imperial commander roared, realizing the disadvantageous situation they were trapped in due to the enemy’s trickery.

The Transcententials turned their venomous gazes on Aengus, identifying him as the mastermind behind this sinister plan.

“Soldiers, form the Kairos formation!” One old commander bellowed domineeringly.

A sudden, overwhelming presence emerged on the battlefield from the Imperial side. An older man with a devastating, tsunami-like aura stepped forward, reviving the Imperial soldiers’ spirits instantly.

“The Imperial Teacher is here!” someone shouted in relief.

“We’re saved!” another cheered.

“Kill the cowards!” voices echoed as the Kairos soldiers quickly took their prearranged formation, striking at the Kingdom’s forces like a hawk descending on prey.

General Leon, Felix, and Martin were also quickly engaged in a fierce, sky-shaking battle. They fought in the sky to avoid harming the lower ranks, where collateral damage could lead to massive destruction.

The Imperial Transcendentals regained some confidence upon seeing the Imperial Teacher joining the battle personally, leading the soldiers in a tight formation.

Now, all they had to do was defeat the enemy before them, then the three generals and the Northern Duke on the other front, and their victory would be assured.

The battle was between 10 millions+ Vs 15 millions+

There was a significant loss of over 5 millions soldiers because of those explosions and corrosive Venom.

Aengus paused, absorbing the energy in the air. He looked at his stats, which had crossed the 20,000 mark in each section. He was now comparable to 2,000 ordinary healthy men in a true sense.

He felt his rejuvenated cells growing stronger and more powerful, making him feel almost invincible.

His soul also recovered significantly, making him feel comfortable all over.

He grinned at the frustrated Transcendentals, and they turned mad.

“You’re a scourge, you know that!” the first-in-command said, taking out a shiny SS-Grade sword from his Spatial Ring.

They all took out their own weapons, turning serious, perhaps planning something different.

All of their weapons were different-colored swords mostly, which struck Aengus as odd.

And he didn’t have to wait long.

“Kairos Divine Sword Fusion!”

The ten of them gathered, connecting their swords as if performing a ritual. They looked determined, and soon seamlessly merged as one—a massive-sized divine sword radiating pure holy aura.

Aengus was surprised.

The fused sword was not an illusion; it was real.

The sword was at least 3,000 meters long and 500 meters wide.

It shone like a beacon of light, attracting the fighting soldiers' attention and pausing them, struck dumb by the power displayed before them.

The scale of the sword was mind-boggling, turning the night into day by its sheer presence alone.

General Leon and the others looked worried at Aengus, who hovered facing the fused divine sword alone.

Aria and her team were among the soldiers as well.

She looked at him worriedly, clenching her fists. She wanted to help, but she felt useless in the face of the battle unfolding before her. She knew she would only be a burden if she went ahead carelessly.

She might even be used to threaten Aengus to give up if they get to know about their relationship.

She focused deeply, executing the A and S-Rank skills effortlessly. Her movements were like blinks, making her execution deadly. On the sidelines, her nature power was also at work, clearing enemies on a large scale, protecting her like their goddess.

Her graceful footwork and precise kills were noticed by Aengus, who was impressed by her dedication. From the beginning, he had been keeping an eye on her from time to time.

He turned his attention to the holy “mountain” before him.

Calling it a huge mountain wouldn't be inappropriate.

As everyone's eyes were on Aengus, waiting to see his next move, but he heaved a sigh in response.

The sigh buzzed like thunder in everyone's ears, gradually transforming into the roar of a primordial beast.

Abyssal Blazing Dragon (SS)!

Under everyone's astonished gaze, Aengus, in a flawless motion, transformed into his Regal Dark Fire Dragon form, which was now an SS rank skill after all the transformation skills assimilated, leveling it even further.

Chapter 231: Chapter 231: Future Emperor?

"Whoaaa, what!"

"God!"

The soldiers from both sides were struck dumb, pausing the war to a complete stop. Their eyes were on the unfolding spectacle before them.

Aengus was now the epitome of an apocalypse.

His dragon form left everyone stunned by its sheer size. He was now a 6,000-meter-long and 2,500-meter-wide black dragon.

Terrifying!!

It was as if he had ascended to the heavens; his dragon head and crimson eyes pierced through the clouds, almost reaching the edge of the troposphere.

Each of his wings shone like the sun, radiating with a mixture of crimson fire and hellfire. It made the very air burned, and ground scorched.

The blazing heat produced from his body above melted people nearby, as if the sun itself had descended right above their heads, so close.

General Leon, though shocked, smiled as he watched Aengus shine so brightly, just as he had once told Aengus he should.

"So, it's true, Leon... we welcome a new Emperor?" General Felix and Martin muttered beside him, both awed and terrified.

"Yes. He is the one who could bring true order and peace," General Leon murmured, his gaze fixed on the massive Fire Dragon.

From their conversation, it seemed that Leon had once spoken to them about Zero's goal and promise. At that time, they dismissed it as a joke, but now they were beginning to take it seriously, sensing a bright future ahead.

“Mm..Hmm... it looks like he was born for this task,” General Martin agreed, looking contemplative.

“Now that I think about it, with this monstrous dragon form, it would have been pretty easy to defeat the Beast Lord in Darkwood Forest, right? That basilisk was far smaller than him now, if I remember correctly.” General Felix smiled brightly, feeling a weight lift off his chest. It was because he had made a decision for a better future.

General Leon had no definite answers, but he noticed the acceptance on Felix’s face. This made him feel hopeful for the future.

—

As the apocalyptic fight raged high in the sky, Aria and the squad watched in awe at their captain’s sudden transformation and the earth-shaking battle unfolding before their eyes.

Just as promised, none of the squad members died in the encounter with the enemies. When they were close to death, they were miraculously saved by the mysterious, instant death of their enemies.

“We underestimated Captain Zero once again, everyone. He is a god among men!” one soldier said with a fanatical expression.

The battle had paused due to the apocalyptic fight above, and they marveled at the world-shaking spectacle before them.

“CREAACK!”

“RUMBLE!”

With each collision, the world trembled, the air thinned, and the clouds vaporized. The starry night sky was clearer than ever.

Aria was happy to see him shine. She hoped this would clear all the inferiority complex and suffering he had endured in the other world.

Once he returned, he would be able to stand proud, making his mother happy.

As for her... the future was uncertain about their journey together, but what was wrong with being a little optimistic?

She might have to wait a little, but she had confidence in him to overcome any obstacles.

Aria ensured their squad’s safety to fulfill the promise on his behalf.

Delilah, Drake, and Yona were shaken to the core, imagining such a powerful presence beside them just a while ago. They were simply too stunned to speak.

The two captains looked on with reverence, as if witnessing godly might.

As for the Northern Duke and the royal princes, their expressions were bright and incredulous. They were certain they were going to win after Aengus's might was revealed.

"I can't believe a person surpassing the Transcendentals was seen in our kingdom," Crown Prince Malcolm muttered, feeling the heat grazing his face even from miles away from the main battlefield.

"Haha... I even doubted his strength at first, thinking he was just an arrogant brat," Duke Milroy said with a regretful sigh.

"Now that I think about it, he was just being humble in front of everyone, hiding such power inside him. How embarrassing is that?" he laughed, mocking himself.

"Milroy, what's happening? We heard we're winning."

Suddenly, an old, husky voice reached their ears.

They turned to see the King himself, present on the battlefield, accompanied by a few guards and closely guarded by knights.

The nearby soldiers gave respectful bows, acknowledging his wise presence.

Duke Milroy smiled. "Yes, royal brother. Look... your wish is coming true, though it was the hand of an unfamiliar person."

The old King gazed at the night sky, illuminated by a burning sun and the holy aura of a sword.

"It's the Kairos Empire's Legacy Skill of Sword Fusion! And who is that Dragon, Milroy?" the King asked.

Crown Prince Malcolm answered, "Father, it's the same boy that General Leon, Ethan—or Zero, you could say. Delilah teamed with him at that time."

"Oh..."

King Milphomor recalled the boy with black hair from the High Human race.

"I see... But I thought he was a High Human. Since when did this young man become capable of defeating so many Transcendentals together?" the King asked, doubtful but trusting that Milroy and his son wouldn't lie.

"Well, he can't be judged by common sense. Perhaps he is the key to breaking out of this world, just as foretold in the old divination," Duke Milroy replied.

"Anyway, big brother, you should really consider how to get him to join us. It would ensure the kingdom's long, prosperous future," Duke Milroy suggested, his arms crossed.

The King seriously considered the proposal. The young man's future was limitless, full of potential.

His old, shrewd eyes turned to his youngest daughter, Delilah, among Aria's group, seemingly coming to a decision.

—

Aengus's paw slammed down once more, easily deflecting the sword's charge and feeling slightly ticklish from its sharpness.

The impact created a devastating air pressure downward, forming a massive crater beneath his paws, as if a mountain range of five peaks had emerged. The fusion sword vibrated intensely from the impact, becoming dull and cracked as it was forced into the ground, creating a sword-shaped crater, same as the five-clawed mountain range.

Chapter 232: Chapter 232: Foolishness?

Aengus gripped the God-slayer Aegis, now shaped as a scepter, in his powerful Dragon's Claws and brought it down with immense force onto the Fusion Sword lying before him.

The moment the scepter made contact, the air around them vibrated violently, the sheer force of the strike causing the massive sword to fracture and shatter with a deafening clang, followed by a thunderous boom.

—

"Heavens..."

The Imperial teacher, who had once appeared like a savior to boost the soldiers' morale, stood in shock, his mouth agape at the sight of ten Transcendentals being crushed by a single person.

In that moment, he knew they were defeated.

Forgetting the remaining soldiers, he slipped away silently, escaping the imminent doom. He had arrived as a lion and left as a cat.

On the main battlefield, the ten Transcendentals returned to their human forms, breaking away from the sword fusion skill quickly. Their conditions were dire.

They bore burn marks everywhere, where searing heat had grazed and chaos energy had torn their flesh away in chunks.

“ROAR!”

Aengus let out a sky shaking Dragon roar, shattering the spatial fabric with sheer pressure alone.

The roar was targeted at the Imperial soldiers, who had gathered together like ants, while some tried to flee.

With the dragon’s roar, they felt their eardrums burst and stopped in their tracks, clutching their ears in pain. But they understood what Aengus demanded: absolute submission.

The ten million Imperial soldiers quickly prostrated, feeling defeated and weak as ants before the dragon’s mighty presence, which seemed made to dominate the world like a true emperor.

Aengus quickly returned to his human form, his face one of indifference.

He went near hovering just above the surrendered Imperial army, still prostrated, not daring to rise.

In a commanding manner, Aengus summoned Aria beside him with an invisible power from his squad. Aria floated gracefully and arrived smoothly at his side.

Aria was slightly taken aback by the sudden call, but she was happy to gain recognition from him, just as he had promised.

Aengus then addressed the entire Imperial army.

“What is the young man trying to do?” the King asked, looking at General Leon beside him.

Strangely enough, General Leon smiled and replied, “Your Majesty, whatever he does, please don’t interfere with his path. We are powerless against him, and we can’t control him. But I know he is not a bad person. It will all be for the greater good.”

Though Leon's words sounded mysterious, the King, Crown Prince Malcolm, and the Northern Duke could guess something of Aengus's intentions.

This made their expressions unpleasant, but there was little they could do. They didn't have the power to take control of the Imperial army from him.

Though it was tempting to gain another over 10 million soldiers, it was equally dangerous.

It was tough as snatching lion's mouth, despite being a cat.

Aengus looked at the severely injured ten SS-ranks and announced loudly,

"Your higher-ups are all defeated, so henceforth you are ordered to swear loyalty to the new Order." He paused, letting the words sink in.

"Those who refuse will face death. In the name of ZERO, you may now submit to your new Emperor and Empress. From henceforth, there will be just one order in the world: the Liberation Empire. Those who stand in the path of liberation and peace will see their legacy reduced to ruins. They will be my enemy."

His declaration spread far and wide, making everyone's eyes widen. This was no simple declaration; it was a challenge to the entire world, to both Solis and Abyss.

"What is this young man doing?" The King looked frustrated for some reason.

"Why is he announcing that so loudly? Doesn't he know this will reach everyone's ears soon? I thought he had potential and even considered him as a suitor for my daughter, but now he seems foolish to me..." The King's old face showed disappointment.

General Leon shook his head in disagreement. "No, Your Majesty. That was his intention from the start. He wants everyone to know and come to wage war against him. It seems clever to me..."

The King and the royal princes looked at Leon with a mix of fear and apprehension.

"You mean, he's confident he can win against all of them? This was just a plan to capture their forces quick?" Duke Milroy asked, finding it unbelievable and extremely daring.

"Well, that seems to be the case. He is in a hurry for some reason," General Felix added. "Didn't you all see how he grew more powerful during battle? They were just mere resources for him to grow strong," he explained calmly.

The King's expression turned grave at this revelation.

"I see... Isn't that a little... demonic, Leon? It's quite similar to Beelzebub, who has devoured all of Arcadia City. What do you make of this?" he asked Leon, voicing his doubt.

General Leon remained unafraid.

"Yes, it is somewhat similar, Your Majesty. But I can tell his energy signature is not Nether—it's unique, out of this world. Besides, he knows how to control it well. I don't think we need to worry about this. Didn't His Majesty hear his declaration? He wants the world unified and liberated under one rule.

And, forgive me for being presumptuous, but I promised him my support in achieving this goal, in exchange for ensuring that the Araknis Kingdom remains under your rule. So, there's no need to fear him taking the throne."

King Milphomor was pleased with Leon's consideration.

"We weren't concerned about the throne, Leon. I was worried about the boy. I've had enough of this bloodshed of innocents and the poor. Nonetheless, the Kingdom is grateful for your consideration," the King spoke, gazing at Aengus and Delilah.

After considering everything, the King once again decided to consider their relationship.

However, the young man had already declared Aria as Empress so resolutely that the chance of Delilah becoming the main wife was slim. Still, he would be content if Delilah could at least become a concubine of the rising Emperor.

It was a difficult choice as a father, but it was for Delilah and the Kingdom's good.

—

The soldiers hesitated slightly at the thought of following such a young rising Emperor against the whole world. His big ambitions were a daunting wall that made them pause.

Though he had proven to be powerful, that alone wasn't enough to assure them he was worthy of being Emperor. That's what they thought anyway.

Meanwhile, the Ten Higher-Ups were stoking the flames of doubt.

"Don't listen to his lies, everyone! He's someone who doesn't know the difference between heaven and earth. Think of how he slaughtered your comrades, friends, and family," one Imperial Transcendental muttered, clenching his teeth in pain.

“Kid, don’t be so arrogant. You still haven’t seen the real world. The Imperial forces are out there, and Emperor Kairos won’t spare you—just you wait,” the first-in-command said viciously.

Chapter 233: Chapter 233: Age: 19

“Oh... Perhaps you’re all forgetting who I am.”

His voice grew colder by the moments, “I didn’t request your submission; this was an.. ORDER!” Aengus’s voice thundered, making the air vibrate with intensity.

He slapped the bound Transcendentals’ faces so hard that their heads twisted, snapping their necks instantly. They were dead in a single blow. He didn’t forget to crush Lord Halton, who had tried to flee but was similarly bound by Aengus’s power.

Halton’s face filled with despair, the color draining from his features as he watched Aengus effortlessly kill the ten Transcendentals. No one could stop him now—unless the gods themselves interfered personally.

But that was not possible currently, so the outcome is Death.

Aengus knew it would be difficult to gain their loyalty, and they couldn’t be enslaved with Shadow Monarch’s power either, so he remained calm about the decision.

Under the soldiers’ horror stricken eyes, Aengus instantly gulped down 6 Transcendentals using Omni-Devour, leaving other five for Aria and others.

[Strength +700, Agility +700, Defense +730]

[Strength + 670....]

....

[Orgin Mana +4,000]

[Origin Mana +4,500]

....

[Your Soul recovered slightly]

[You have been granted a new Class: Chaos Creater (SSS+)] [Do you want to equip it? Yes / No]

—

[You have acquired a new active skill: Crimson Tempest (SS) – Summons a whirlwind of blood-red energy that slashes through enemies with relentless fury.]

[You have acquired a new active skill: Meteor Breaker (SS) – Calls down a massive meteor, dealing area-of-effect damage and causing tremors that knock back foes.]

[You have acquired a new active skill: Valkyrie's Descent (SS) – Calls upon ethereal wings and a spear of light, allowing powerful airborne attacks and defensive strikes.]

[You have acquired a new active skill: Arcane Pulse (SS) – Releases a powerful surge of magical energy that disrupts enemy abilities and weakens defenses.]

[You have acquired a new active skill: Celestial Shield (SS)– Creates a barrier of light that deflects attacks and gradually regenerates the user's health.]

You have acquired a new active skill: Frostbound Dominion (SS) – Unleashes waves of freezing energy, immobilizing enemies and covering the ground with ice.

[You have acquired new active Skills: Barrier Of Despair (SS), Barrier of Crystalline Bulwark (SS), Prismatic Shield (S), Celestial Bastion (SS), Divine Halo (SS), Black Thunder Barrier (S), Ironclad Ice Fortress (SS), Guardian's Embrace (S+), Solar Flare Dome (S+), Divine Sword Fusion (SS)]

—

[Name: Aengus Degaro]

[Age: 19]

[Title: Dragon Slayer]

[Race: Human-Beast-Demon-Dragon-Seeker]

[Level: 64]

[Occupation: Emperor]

[Class: Chaos Creator (Accept/Decline)]

[Bloodline Lineage: Seeker (Royal), Beelzebub (Partial-Royal), God-beast Basilisk, Death Leviathan (Half-Noble), Fire Dragon (Noble), Wyvern (Elite)]

[Special Trait: Greater Spatial Teleporter]

[Soul: ZERO]

[Laws: Space, Water]

Physical Stats: >

[Strength: 26,300]

[Agility: 26,400]

[Defense: 27,540]

[Origin Mana: 240,000 / 240,000]

<Skills:>

– [Active: Ancient Petrifying Curse Eyes (SS), Reflective Scales (SS), World Corrosive Venom (SS), Apocalypse Awakening (SS), Abyssal Blazing Dragon (SS), Crimson Tempest (SS), Meteor Breaker (SS), Valkyrie's Descent (SS). Celestial Shield (SS), Frostbound Dominion (SS), Barrier Of Despair (SS), Barrier of Crystalline Bulwark (SS), Celestial Bastion (SS), Divine Halo (SS), Ironclad Ice Fortress (SS), Divine Sword Fusion (SS), Guardian's Embrace (S+), Solar Flare Dome (S+), Prismatic Shield (S), Black Thunder Barrier (S), Dimension Slip -3 (S), Seven Elements Chaos Manipulation -12 (S), Sacred Kirin's Healing -2 (S), Sacred Kirin's Blessing -2 (S), Symbol Of Good Fortune -3 (S), Earth Turtle Shell -2 (S), Ancient Shield (S), Primordial Beast King -2 (A+), Chaos Isolation Barrier -4 (A), Void Venom Blade Tempest -2 (A), Ice breath (A), Lightning Roc's Skybreaker Dive (A), Golden Wyvern's Scales (A), Tempest Tiger's Lightning Veil (B), All-Seeing Sovereign -12 (B), Elite Human Transformation -29 (B), Inferno Warlord's Rage (B), Ravenous Stonebeast (B), Arctic Bear's Glacial Shield (B), Aqua Serpent's Vortex (B), Phantom Mirage (B), Hurricane Gale (B), Space Warp -34 (C)]

– [Passive: Heart Of Chaos (S), Supreme Hunter (A), Phoenix Resurgence (B), Water Breathing (C)]

[Special Skills: Monster Breeding (Level- 7)]

[Demonic Abilities:

– Peak: Shadow Monarch's Dominion

[Unique Skills: Appraisal (Basic), Nullified Mental Attacks (Rare), Rapid Cast (Rare), Omni-Devour (Ultimate), Universal Synthesis (Ultimate)]

—

After devouring them, his aura grew stronger, suppressing everyone present with sheer terror.

Aengus realized he had turned 19 today. Meaning It his birthday. This marked the day the Ruination Emperor was born, beginning his eternal legacy.

The surrendered soldiers understood he was not one to be taken as softhearted. He was on the path of ruination for his enemies. He was the Emperor of Ruination.

"We swear loyalty to our new liege!" the millions of soldiers shouted loudly in unison, their voices echoing over the battlefield.

One soldier stood up passionately and shouted,

"Long live the Emperor of Ruination!"

"Long live Emperor Zero!"

Starting with him, everyone began echoing Aengus's ceremonial ascension to the Emperor's throne.

"Long live our Emperor and Empress!"

"Ruination Emperor!"

"Ruination Emperor!"

"Ruination Emperor!"

Some excited soldiers screamed at the top of their lungs. Aengus's powerful aura, which seemed to suppress the world, was enough to make them feel confident in the upcoming war.

They removed their uniforms, blending in with the crowd under their new identities.

This sight left the King and royal princes awestruck, not to mention the Araknis Kingdom's soldiers. Even they began to feel compelled to bow before his presence.

"Just how strong was he now?"

"How did he manage to convince millions of Imperial soldiers so easily?"

They closed their mouths, founding him unfathomable. There were still so many mysteries around him, feeling they couldn't uncover in their lifetime.

Aengus stored the corpses in the pocket of space, while cheers bounced in his ears. It was the incredible brainwashing effect of Shadow Monarch's domain.

He looked at Aria, who was feeling happier for him than for herself after being acknowledged as his Empress. The joy of seeing him shine with power meant more to her than anything else.

She felt a warm sensation on her left hand; it was her Emperor's hand.

He entwined his fingers with hers and whispered, "It's my birthday, My Empress. Why don't you do something special for me?"

Aria was stunned, then filled with joy upon hearing the news.

"Really? That's wonderful news, My Emperor'," she replied, chuckling with equal delight as she held his waist gracefully. He now stood slightly taller than she did.

"So, what's my gift?" he asked, a seductive smile playing on his lips.

Chapter 234: Chapter 234: A Historical Signature

"Ah, sure, I have something for you!" Aria whispered beside his ear.

"Alright, let me see what you've got," Aengus replied eagerly, glancing at Aria as she began to activate her mysterious nature power.

Her hair turned snowy white, and her eyes shone with an intense emerald green.

Drake, Yona, and Delilah moved closer, sensing the situation had calmed down. Yet, they maintained a respectful distance from Aengus. He was now an emperor with over ten million soldiers, a force comparable to a powerful army on his own.

"Congratulations, your imperial highness!" The King of the Araknis Kingdom approached with his generals following closely behind.

"We acknowledge you as the sole Emperor of this world. Please accept our allegiance," the king said respectfully, acknowledging the establishment of the Liberation Empire.

"Thank you," Aengus responded, looking at him perfunctorily, then turned his attention back to Aria, who was preparing something with deep focus.

The king raised his brows but said nothing. Compared to Emperor Kairos, the young Emperor wasn't too disrespectful, at the least.

All attention shifted to the new Empress, who seemed eager to prove herself for the Emperor.

Aria gestured her hand toward the sky, flowing green energy spreading above from her palm.

To everyone's astonishment, the night sky quickly disappeared, revealing a bright red sun rising from the east.

"Oh My God!"

Most of them were gobsmacked at the miracle. It was barely past midnight—how had day suddenly broken with a mere hand gesture?

They stared at her in shock, but something even more incredible happened next.

In the middle of the Five-Clawed Mountain Range and Sword Mountain, water began to pour in magically, filling a massive basin hundreds of meters deep, forming a small ocean.

Tree roots sprouted from the scorched ground at an incredible speed, slowly shaping themselves into a statue. The scale of the statue was enormous, nearly 1,500 meters long and 400 meters wide.

Aria was clearly struggling, but gritting her teeth, she held on.

Aengus looked on in astonishment, guessing what she was attempting. Her determination made him smile, and he allowed her to continue without intervening.

Very quickly, an exact replica of Aengus appeared—a statue in military uniform made of lush greenery, vines, and flowers. The massive figure depicted Aengus holding his weapon, Aegis, shaped like a scepter, striking down against the Fusion Divine Sword. He looked regal and dominant, with a serious expression on his face. The colorful flowers of various types painted the statue in intricate detail, like a vivid, lifelike version of him.

As everyone watched, marveling at the beauty, Aria panted and sweated, clearly exhausted from her efforts.

Aengus gently held her shoulder, looking at her with affection. Instead of scolding her for overexerting herself, he offered a compliment as she gazed up at him.

"That was incredible, my beautiful empress. You're a true goddess of nature," he said sincerely, acknowledging her attempt to impress him—or perhaps to create a lasting memory for the world to remember.

As he observed, he was stunned to see that her powers even seemed to affect the Sun and Moon. Though it was unclear if those celestial bodies were real or illusions, he knew he wasn't capable of something like that himself.

Aengus grew increasingly curious about her strange abilities, wondering how her powers could command even the stars. If her strength continued to develop, she would be an incredible ally in the Primal Realm.

However, he was still uncertain if it would be possible to bring her along.

He decided to attempt merging her with one of the otherworlders who possessed a Unique Skill, hoping it would allow her to enter the Primal Realm. His goal was to journey with her to new worlds, and naturally, he intended for Bella to join them as well.

Aria, pleased by his words, felt the pain was worth it.

"Do you really like it?" she asked gently, seeking further confirmation.

Aengus pondered as he looked at the statue and answered, "Yes, I do. But I think it's lacking something."

"Oh? And what might that be, 'Ruin Emperor'?" Aria asked, chuckling lightly.

Aengus touched her cheeks and answered, "You, of course. I noticed how you dominated your enemies. It lacks a companion—someone who is hardworking, diligent, and a loving Empress." His face softened with a gentle smile as he flirted.

Aria's blush spread over her face and neck, like a vivid ripe apple.

After a few seconds, he let go of her to focus on something.

He took a step forward, and similar to Aria, he began creating a statue of her with white hair, holding her dagger, positioned right beside Aengus's statue.

He used multicolored Chaos energy to create a perfect statue of Aria, with exact details, just like she had done.

Aria and the others watched, fascinated by the massive display of art and creation.

Their new Emperor and Empress faced the Tyrannical Kairos Empire's Fusion Sword together.

It was token of Love and signature of the historical moment that would be read throughout the future generations to come.

“Now it’s perfect!” Aengus commented with a slight smirk, turning to Aria.

“It’s beautiful!” Aria said, admiring her own statue. Her shimmering eyes never wanted to leave the scene.

Aengus then turned to General Leon.

“General, why don’t you help me with this?” Aengus asked General Leon, indicating the soldiers to establish new ranks among them. “It’s time to fulfill your end of the deal.”

General Leon smiled slightly under the radiant sun, pleased with Aria and Ethan’s partnership. If he had a daughter, he would have liked her to marry someone like Aengus. He seemed pleased with Aengus’s character—never hesitating to become a devil when necessary, yet a beacon of hope in dire times.

Some might consider him a mass murderer or a dictator, but in this world, that’s what was needed right now.

“Of course, I never forget my promise, young Emperor!” he answered, stepping forward to help.

General Felix joined in as well.

“Don’t forget me... I would like to join the cause, Emperor Zero, but my loyalty will always belong to the Araknis Kingdom.”

General Martin hesitated, unsure if he should join, looking at the King.

“You can join them as well, Martin. We are now in the same boat!”

The wise King Milphomor gave Martin permission to join and help. He was hoping this would bring the Young Emperor closer to the Kingdom.

“As you say, Your Highness, but my loyalty will always belong to my homeland,” General Martin said resolutely while joining Felix.

Aengus gave them a respectful nod, welcoming their participation with open arms.

Duke Milroy whispered to the King, “Royal brother, are you doing the right thing? What if they join their empire for real?”

The King looked at their backs and replied, “I trust them, Milroy. I know they wouldn’t betray their homeland. And do you think our kingdom is safe now?”

No. We are now tied to the Young Emperor in the same boat. Whether we lose or win, only time will tell.”

"I hope so..." Duke Milroy muttered in a barely audible voice.

Crown Prince Malcolm accepted the situation calmly, while Mikail clenched his fist, feeling utterly defeated.

Chapter 235: Chapter 235: Cutting Down Enemies

With the help of the three Generals, a proper structure of order and command was quickly established, utilizing several of the kingdom's captains and commanders as superiors.

Commander Zain, Raya, Captain Dior, and Ren eagerly volunteered for the role. Drake and Yona were granted titles of nobility due to their connection to the Empress, while Delilah opted to remain simply as their friend.

This structure was only temporary, with nothing set in stone yet. Aengus had also marked some of the higher officials, mostly S-Ranks, with the Shadow Monarch's power, allowing him to control their lives at will.

For the time being, the Liberation Empire settled just outside the capital city of the Araknis Kingdom.

The ordinary folks of the capital city watched curiously at the new army under a different banner.

The Liberation Empire's banner was pure green in color, featuring a mighty dragon shape in the middle.

"So, that's the Liberation Empire they spoke of?" one curious pedestrian commented, behind a broken wall.

"Yeah, I heard our new emperor is a young man with transcendental power. Isn't it too hard to believe?" another answered, his tone one of disbelief.

"Why don't we see for ourselves?" another boy asked, curiosity intensifying in his mind.

"Hmph, but there are guards... We won't even get to see our hero who saved us and promised to bring peace to the world," a common girl said angrily, sneaking a glance behind the collapsed wall. Her eyes shone with admiration and yearning.

But what happened next fulfilled her and their curiosity completely.

Flash!

A sudden, blinding flash of light appeared in the western sky.

Then from the Liberation army settlement, Aengus emerged, appearing as his usual self, yet radiating a powerful, royal presence that set him apart from the masses.

“Our new heroic Emperor is here!” one of the girls remarked admiringly from her hidden position.

“Ah ha, but who’s the old man with him?” someone asked, scratching their head.

“Ignorant fool, don’t you recognize the true Hero of Light? That’s Elyon, a top brass of the Humanitarian Alliance,” another replied.

“Oh, but why is he here? Is he against the Kingdom’s coup in the Kairos Empire?”

“We’ll have to wait and see, won’t we? Hey, stop pushing... You rascal!”

—

Aengus had just been exploring the Chaos Creator class, which he’d recently gained access to, but then he suddenly sensed Elyon’s aura. It stopped him in the task and made him vigilant.

“Why are you here again, old man?” Aengus asked, looking at Elyon with narrowed eyes.

Elyon, standing atop a magical bird of light, looked at the Banner of the Liberation Empire.

“I cannot believe this!” He seemed too surprised to answer immediately. “Just how is this possible?”

Elyon shifted his attention to the young man he had spared a few days ago. Back then, Aengus had been so weak, but now he looked like the embodiment of true power, a powerhouse surpassing the transcendental.

“What’s your goal, boy—no, young emperor? I hope what I heard isn’t true,” he asked, his tone turning slightly cordial.

Aengus thoroughly observed Elyon and answered calmly,

“You haven’t heard anything wrong, Hero of Light. I just want peace in the world. I am not against humanity, nor the demons. They all will be unified one day.”

“Is there a problem from you?” He asked with narrowed eyes in threatening manner.

Elyon shook his head in disappointment.

“You don’t know what you’re getting into, young Emperor. There’s still so much you don’t understand. They will not end the war between humans and demons. Don’t waste your potential on impossible aspirations. Just join humanity, and let’s eradicate the demons completely... That would be the best option. What do you say?”

Elyon looked hopefully at Aengus, waiting for him to agree with his proposal.

Aengus seemed uninterested but was curious about something.

“Who are they? Are you talking about those ‘Gods’?” he asked in a mocking tone.

“There is no true god in this world, just fake cowards who treat this world as their playground, am I right?”

Elyon narrowed his eyes, finding the audacity of the young Emperor. He seemed too arrogant for his own good.

But he didn’t realize that this wasn’t arrogance; it was confidence to clear any obstacles that came his way.

“You’re right and wrong at the same time. Anyway, it would be a sin to mention their exalted names in this world, especially in front of a sinner like you, who has murdered millions,” Elyon said, his expression holy and devoted.

Aengus was about to answer, but General Leon’s voice drifted into their ears.

“And who is the judge of sins and virtues?”

General Leon appeared, forming an icy platform on his path to the sky.

“Tell me... Are you the ones? the mighty heroes of the gods, who trade the lives of commoners, the weak, like they mean nothing? Don’t remind us of the so-called righteous deeds you once did, Elyon,” he said coldly, glaring at Elyon with unwavering disdain.

Elyon’s holy presence seemed to dim under the weight of Leon’s rage and displeasure in the air.

Elyon scoffed and replied,

“Leon, we told you already, we are from the Cathedral of Gods. We don’t interfere with mundane affairs too much. But he will incur the wrath of the Gods, eventually making us your enemies. I am trying to avoid that as much as possible, but if needed, this will be brutal!”

He threatened, gazing at Aengus with a bone-chilling coldness.

Aengus narrowed his eyes, not liking Elyon's threat right before his face.

"Rip!"

Using Space Laws, Aengus tore through space and extended his hand, catching Elyon off guard.

As Elyon saw his hand being grabbed by the young Emperor, his heart skipped a beat, and without hesitation, he cut off his own right arm with his sword.

With this, he quickly made his escape from Aengus's clutches with a light-speed dash.

Elyon glared at the young man, but there was no sign of pain on his old, battle-hardened face. His arm quickly regenerated, using Holy Light elements to heal rapidly.

Aengus remained unfazed, slashing down at Elyon with his God Weapon once again.

"What!"

Elyon was speechless as he was cut down in two, unable to react or dodge in time; it happened that fast.

"It's a projectile clone, Ethan," General Leon informed.

"I know..." Aengus replied as he watched Elyon's body disappear into light particles.

Chapter 236: Chapter 236: Saintess Lumenaria
Holy Cathedral of the Gods, Hero Empire

In the heart of the Holy City stood a massive temple that seemed to touch the sky, its gleaming surface radiating a holy aura throughout the city, purifying everything in its presence.

Inside the cathedral, Elyon sat in deep meditation in a grand room where statues of various gods stood in a circular formation around him and Valen.

The towering statues encircled them in a stiff, solemn silence.

"Haaahhh..."

Elyon suddenly opened his bloodshot eyes, breathing heavily. The old man clutched his chest as if in severe pain.

“Cough, cough!”

Valen, who had been watching his master intently, grew worried.

“Master, what happened to you? Are you feeling fine?” Valen asked with concern, touching Elyon’s chest.

After a shower of radiant holy light on himself, Elyon had recovered, but the fear in his eyes was obvious.

“Calamity is coming, Valen. We need to be prepared!” Elyon said, looking at the statues, as if lost in deep thought.

“What calamity, Master?” Valen seemed confused by his old master’s sudden rambling.

Elyon shifted his attention to the door and answered, “That boy will be coming, and you need to defend him at all costs...”

“By that boy, you mean the one by whose hand I was defeated once?”

“Yes,” Elyon replied seriously.

Valen looked incredulous.

“Master, you’re scared of him now? That’s unbelievable! Even I can defeat him now that I have regained my class and the blessing from the Divine Goddess of Light. I can deal with him easily. I don’t think there’s any need to worry about him...”

I will take revenge for the shame he brought to your teachings. I won’t let down our Goddess again.” Valen said with determination, vowing before the striking female goddess’s statue.

Elyon looked at Valen with pity.

“Master, why are you looking at me as if I’m a fool?” Valen asked, noticing the frown on Elyon’s old face.

“Che... Because you’re one... foolish heir of mine,” Elyon berated him sternly.

Valen felt shame and continued to listen as his master sighed and went on.

“He is a Transcendental now, a rising Emperor nonetheless. And what are you? An A-Rank?” Elyon scoffed with disdain.

“He challenged the world to submit to him, and my clone was instantly destroyed by him with a single swing of his sword. Do you know what this means? He has long surpassed you and us. He probably doesn’t even remember you, I assume...”

Valen’s mouth fell open in surprise.

“But — how? How is this possible?” He found it unbelievable that his enemy’s strength could grow this quickly.

“I’m not sure how... but it did happen, however unbelievable it might sound.”

“Master, do you think some god is helping him with an endless amount of Divine essence?” Valen guessed wildly.

Elyon denied this, scolding him again.

“Rascal, do you think Divine essence is like cabbages, that some god will hand it out so freely? Besides, it’s not so easy to become a Transcendental by just using Divine essence.”

Elyon explained, then suddenly turned his gaze toward the hallway, feeling a familiar presence approaching.

“Why don’t you tell us about this young man as well, old man Elyon?”

Followed by a melodic voice, an angelic, beautiful woman in a radiant white dress entered, her graceful footsteps giving her the appearance of a holy maiden.

“Saintess Lumenaria... Welcome,” Elyon said with a natural smile, bowing slightly before her.

“Greetings, Saintess... Please accept my bow,” Valen said, bowing slightly out of respect for her holy presence. She was also someone who had taught him at times, so his respect came from deep within.

“Little Valen, I see you have fully recovered after consuming the Divine Essence. That’s wonderful,” she said kindly. Her compassion for humanity was well-known, spreading her reputation as a representative of the Goddess of Light.

Valen blushed slightly at the beauty of the Saintess, struggling to suppress the feelings that had begun to emerge ever since Aengus stole the Heart of Light. He wasn’t sure if he should feel grateful or resentful for these feelings, but he was enjoying this sense of freedom.

Saintess Lumenaria, sensing the young man's admiration, dismissed it as a child's innocent awe of her beauty.

"So, tell me about the young man you mentioned... everything in detail," Saintess Lumenaria said, after bowing before the statue of the Goddess of Light and chanting a unknown prayer.

"Certainly... Please, have a seat, Saintess."

The Saintess sat down on the clean ground with the grace of a queen.

Elyon remained unaffected, as always. Like Valen in his previous state, he held no desires, no yearning for freedom. His only goals were to serve the gods and remain on humanity's side.

Elyon then began recounting the story of Aengus, from their first meeting in Dwarvania to his sudden rise as an emperor, detailing the young emperor's ambitious goals.

After listening to everything, the Saintess' eyes gleamed, suspecting something about the young man's origin.

"I think he is one of those Otherworlders seen in the Dragon Empire, Elyon. Perhaps I should meet him... we could have a nice chat," Saintess Lumenaria smiled mysteriously.

"That's good, Saintess, but forgive me for not accompanying you. That little guy sees me as an enemy now, and I don't waste my energy on him unnecessarily unless the gods command me..."

"It's okay, I can manage. The Goddess of Light is with me," Lumenaria said graciously as she stood up, under their puzzled gazes.

"Saintess, about the Divine Essence..." Elyon stood up, hesitating to complete the sentence.

Lumenaria turned around and looked at Valen, then at Elyon.

"Sure, you can have as much as you need. If it works for young Valen, I have no problem. It is time for the final war."

Elyon looked pleased after hearing her approval. Valen looked gratefully at Saintess Lumenaria as she left the place.

He vowed to absorb all the Divine Essence and become a Transcendental, whatever it took.

“Let’s go, Valen. It’s time to do or die.. “

Chapter 237: Chapter 237: Real Birthday Present
[Class: Chaos Creator (Stage 1)]

[Rank: SSS+]

[Description: As a master of Chaos and Controller of the Battlefield, this Class allows you to harness the Rage and Emotions of everyone, bending them to your own Will or that of your allies to make them stronger, even more determined for victory.

Note: Even one with the Strongest Will can Transcend Eternity!]

[Effects:

1. +30 stat points per level-up (can be increased after Class Level Up).
2. +3 extra skill slots after each Rank up.
3. Extra Class Skill: Chaotic Maelstrom (SS)

A swirling storm of chaotic energy that damages and disorients anyone caught within its range. Enemies are bombarded with random effects such as disintegration, explosive bursts, and temporal slowdowns, making escape difficult and risky.

4. Passive Effect: Your power level will now be accurately measured from now on.

Current Balanced Level: 267]

Aengus finally chose a class he found useful after so long. Alongside rage and other emotions, it allows him to gather the power of destruction and Chaos from the battlefield to make him more formidable when needed.

Seated next to Aria on the bed, Aengus distributed his stat points and felt his power increase. He suppressed the aura from leaking out, careful not to wake Aria, who was sleeping, exhausted.

His level was now 267, far beyond the Transcendentals he had encountered so far, who ranged from level 120 to level 170.

Much of the contribution to reaching this level of power came from Omni-Devour. From now on, whenever he uses Omni-Devour to get stronger, this class would increase his level for accurate measurements. However, if he uses Omni-Devour to level up, it will not grant him extra attributes from leveling up.

Level 267 was incredibly powerful, considering what he had encountered so far. Elyon, at level 170, was the highest powerhouse he had seen so far, followed by the Generals, whose levels ranged between 120 and 150.

This made him realize the true power gap compared to other Transcendentals. However, he knew that sometimes one's level is not everything. Skills, weapons, Mana quantity, and more matter as well.

Aengus attempted to synthesize two SS-rank skills, but even when combining three, the rank didn't increase—only their effects grew stronger. Reaching SSS rank seemed extremely difficult, or perhaps he was missing something. He decided to ask the Generals about it later.

Turning off the status panel, he touched Aria's face gently, thinking about his plans for the future.

He had declared war against the entire world and needed to be ready. First, he decided to free the ancient Dwarves, hoping they could help create powerful warships for the Liberation Empire.

"Mm Hm...!"

Then he noticed Aria's eyes flutter open, her gaze meeting his face close to hers.

"You're awake, Aria... Quickly freshen up. We'll be going to meet the ancient Dwarves to free them from under the cliff. Then—"

"Haah..." She didn't let him finish. Aria's face suddenly moved close as she kissed him deeply, her breathing heavy, her eyes filled with temptation.

Aengus accepted her invitation, and they became entangled on the bed, casting an isolation barrier around them.

"Make me yours, Ethan," Aria whispered sweetly beside his ear.

"Are you sure?" Aengus asked for confirmation, remembering her reserved nature.

Aria nodded gently. "Yes, I'm sure. This was my original gift for your birthday. I want to make this day memorable." Her voice was low and passionate.

Aengus glanced at her body, which seemed to rise with warm invitation.

"All right... I'll be gentle," Aengus said softly as he began to undress, making Aria gulp silently in nervous anticipation.

But the excitement inside her outshone her fear as she prepared herself for the new experience.

Outside, Drake, Yona, and Delilah were sitting under the warm sun, enjoying the moment. They glanced now and then at Aria and Aengus's quarters, their imaginations running wild.

Drake was clearly trying to ignore the two girls' teasing questions, which had only intensified.

"Wow! They're still not out. Looks like our Empress Aria is taking some personal time to celebrate her Emperor's birthday, isn't she?" Yona commented mischievously, glancing at Delilah and Drake.

Delilah's curiosity grew after hearing Yona's remark. "Yona, what could they be doing inside for so long?"

"Hehe..." Yona chuckled, looking knowingly at Drake. "Of course, what a man and a woman do alone when they're in a relationship."

"Oh, you mean... that..." Delilah's face turned red as she recalled her maid's teachings about the relationship between men and women.

"Stop it, you two... She's my cousin. Can we change the topic now, please?" Drake said, exasperated, feeling awkward around the two women.

"Oh, are you feeling shy, Drake? Don't be a kid; be a man," Yona taunted.

"You..."

Drake looked irritated and playfully tackled Yona, intending to teach her a lesson. They both tumbled onto the ground, neither willing to back down from the friendly fight.

"Hey... That's rude to a lady," Yona protested, finding herself pinned under Drake's grip, her hands held down as his face hovered close to hers. Her cheeks flushed at the unexpected closeness.

Drake had already passed puberty, so it felt only natural to feel something for the opposite gender.

He had some thoughts about Yona, who was around his age. Her changed personality intrigued him; her courage on the battlefield and her spirited nature had become qualities he admired.

He glanced at her from the corner of his eye, but he had no intention of confessing his feelings yet. A lingering sense of inferiority held him back, something he knew he needed to overcome first.

Whether Yona would accept him or not was still uncertain. But he was willing to give it his all.

Delilah covered her face with one hand, feeling a bit embarrassed.

Her thoughts drifted to her father's recent suggestion about becoming Aengus's concubine.

She felt torn between two choices: to accept or reject. She hadn't given a definite answer.

She did like Ethan; he was reliable and strong. But they weren't that close, so there was a chance he might reject her.

Moreover, Aria was her friend, and she didn't want to betray her.

She knew Aria held a monogamous mindset, making the idea of a three-way relationship more challenging, even if she agreed to be a concubine.

"Ahem! What are you two doing, Yona, Drake?"

Suddenly, Aria's voice made them freeze.

They looked up to see Aria and Aengus, appearing completely normal, as if nothing had happened between them.

But upon closer inspection, they noticed a subtle difference in how Aria was walking.

Yona stood up and began circling Aria, inspecting her, which made Aria blush with a mix of embarrassment and faint irritation.

"What are you doing, Yona? We haven't done a thing!" Aria replied hastily, but then she paused, realizing her slip.

Yona stopped and gave a knowing smile.

"And, Lady Aria, how did you assume I was talking about 'that thing'? Haha..."

Chapter 238: Chapter 238: Empowerment
"Yona!"

Aria took out her dagger and glared at Yona like a fierce lioness.

“Ahem!”

Aengus cleared his throat, reminding Aria to avoid any strenuous movements.

He felt a little guilty for being so rough in excitement.

He could heal her using light element but she had refused his offer, insisting on leaving it as it was, which surprised him.

He understood her reasoning, which only made his affection for her grow more.

Aria touched belly time to time, but her movements only caught by Aengus.

Yona, startled by Aengus’s voice, quickly straightened up.

“Oh, sorry! I forgot our Emperor is present here,” she said in a teasing tone, though the respect and hint of distance in her eyes were clear.

Aengus wasn’t just a friend now; he was an Emperor with an ambition to liberate the world from the oppressors.

Aengus ignored Yona’s teasing and continued,

“Yona, Drake, and you as well, Princess Delilah. I have a gift for each of you, though you haven’t given me one yet.”

Yona and Drake looked intrigued.

“Hey, we are planning something for you..” Yona retorted.

“Forget about her, Brother-in-law...What is the gift?” Drake asked excitedly, finally acknowledging Aengus as his brother-in-law.

Aengus found it a little awkward, but his face remained casual.

Aria smiled at the term of address, pleased with Drake’s thoughtfulness.

Delilah’s expression faltered suddenly.

“Etha—no, Your Imperial Highness, please just call me by my name. Don’t call me a princess. Aren’t we friends?” she asked, her face falling slightly as a pang of hurt surfaced.

“Of course, you’re not... We barely know each other,” Aengus nearly replied, but catching sight of her expression—and Aria’s—he changed his words.

“Of course, a friend of Aria is my friend too. We’re grateful you cared for Aria when she needed it. It just feels a bit improper to address a royal maiden by her name so casually.”

He genuinely meant the last part, though most of the credit went to General Leon. It didn’t hurt to offer courtesy.

“Great... I don’t mind,” Delilah answered, her expression brightening as a soft happiness surfaced in her eyes.

Aengus could sense what might be on the princess’s mind, but he had no intention of engaging with another woman right now.

It would only create tension in his healthy relationship with Aria. It was already a generous gesture on her part to accept Bella’s relationship with him.

Aengus created a small, square-shaped room with Chaos Energy with just a single stomp, casting an isolation barrier around them.

While they were still startled, Aengus swiftly took out the remaining three SS-Rank corpses from his pocket space.

The corpses looked fresh, and the trio watched with apprehension, wondering what he was going to do with them.

Aria, however, knew and so she smiled. She herself had been synthesized with two SS-Rank corpses before they were intimately engaged. She was now an S+ Rank powerhouse with SS-Rank skills, and her control over nature’s power had also increased significantly.

“What are you going to do with them, Ethan?” Yona asked, looking confused.

Drake and Delilah also wore expressions of curiosity.

Aengus answered calmly,

“I’m going to make you three S-Rank powerhouses, but you’ll need to endure pain a bit.”

The trio looked stunned.

“Is that even possible? Wouldn’t that shatter the common understanding of the world?”

“Yes, it’s possible—but only through me. And I trust that you won’t share this information with anyone without my permission. Remember, no secret can remain hidden from us. Be mindful of that,” he said seriously, making the consequences of betrayal clear.

They nodded mechanically, feeling a twinge of fear as they looked into Aengus’s calm yet dangerous dark eyes.

“Excellent. Let’s start with you, Drake.”

Aengus gestured for Drake to lie down beside a corpse with skills suited for him.

Drake excitedly followed his instructions and lay beside the corpse bravely, though the faint scent of decay drifted into his nostrils.

“Argh!”

Yona and Delilah’s faces turned pale as they witnessed Drake’s painful reaction, screaming as the otherworldly process began under Aengus’s command.

Aria stood beside Aengus, watching with slight worry as the reflection of a sky-blue light shone in her eyes. But she had confidence in Aengus and trusted he wouldn’t let any harm come to Drake.

When the process was over, she sighed in relief.

Drake was unharmed and far more powerful than before. He took a single step forward, and the grassy ground sank under his sheer strength.

“Uh... sorry.”

Embarrassed, Drake quickly controlled his strength and approached them cautiously.

“Now, you two,” Aengus said to the ladies after confirming everything was fine with Drake.

As Drake shared the details of his new S-ranked skills with Aria, Aengus began the process with the two ladies.

As for why Drake gained S-Rank skills but not SS-Rank ones, it was because his soul was significantly weaker than Aria’s.

The other two ladies also quickly became S-Rank powerhouses and thanked Aengus from the bottom of their hearts.

With that done, Aengus removed the barrier and walls.

“Aria, come with me. We need to set the ancient Dwarves free to join our Empire.”

Aria gave a small nod.

“Alright. Drake, Yona, Delilah, you should manage the soldiers with the generals. We’ll be back soon.”

They agreed without any fuss, though they were curious about meeting the ancient Dwarves.

Aengus held Aria’s hand, and with a whoosh, he flapped his wings with incredible speed, holding Aria gently in his arms, princess-style.

Flying under the bright red sun, they found themselves in their own little world.

“Are you still feeling pain there, Aria? I told you to let me heal you so this wouldn’t have happened,” Aengus said with a frown as he noticed her pained expression.

“Tsk, you don’t have to. I wanted it this way. Besides, The pain has already lessened a lot... But someone was too excited,” Aria replied, glaring at him, huffing angrily.

Aengus felt guilty and looked away, avoiding her piercing gaze.

Chapter 239: Chapter 239: Arriving In Silk City

Aengus and Aria reached the cliff where the ancient Dwarves were supposed to be.

But Aengus’s expression darkened when he attempted to connect to the barrier and couldn’t establish a connection at all.

As the cliff came into view from above, he shook his head in silent fury, his face barely containing his frustration.

They landed steadily at the peak, and he saw no sign of the barrier.

“Where is it, Ethan? All I see is a shadowy jungle below,” Aria said, looking at him with doubt. “Or is it only visible to you? Yes, that must be it.”

“No,” Aengus replied, suppressing his anger. “The barrier is gone, and so are the Dwarves, for some reason.”

“Huh? Gone? But you said only you could release them from the barrier, so how could it have disappeared so suddenly?” Aria asked, looking slightly tense.

"I don't know. Give me some time to investigate. But I know one thing: they wouldn't disappoint me for no reason."

Aria nodded. "Alright. Let me come down too."

Both of them descended the 500-meter cliff as smoothly as feathers.

Aengus, with all his senses, including his sixth sense and the skills he had gained, began searching the area thoroughly. Surely, there had to be some traces left somewhere.

And they didn't have to wait long. Aengus detected traces of intense Nether energy clashing with Mana. It was now confirmed that demons were somehow involved in this kidnapping.

But he couldn't understand—how could someone from this world have managed to break past the Barrier of Ruination? Even the Demon Lords shouldn't be able to do that.

So, what was the reason?

"Those hateful demons! It's all their fault... I want to slaughter them," Aria said with hatred, her tragic past experiences making her emotions spiral out of control.

Aengus placed a calming hand on her shoulder. "Calm down, Aria. The day will come, and you won't have to wait much longer. Now, let's bring your family members back to us quickly," he said gently.

Though he hadn't yet found any clues about the Dwarves' disappearance or who was behind it, he was determined to teach those responsible a memorable lesson. And the day was just on the corner.

Aria's mood settled after hearing her family members being mentioned.

"Alright, let's go..."

Aengus quickly opened a Space Portal to the Darkwood Forest, marking their last known location using the Greater Spatial Teleporter.

They found themselves in a blackened desert-like land, with no beasts in sight. It was to be expected after what had happened to them recently. The creatures must have fled in terror, not wanting to be devoured like one-third of the forest.

"Did you do all this?" Aria asked, awestruck, standing at the edge of a hollowed-out dark area shaped like a massive lake, with soil devoured at least 300 meters deep.

“That’s brutal...” Aria felt a pang of sadness for the beasts and humans who lost their lives in his hands, but she had no intention of blaming him.

“Yes, this was the price of the power I gained. Do you blame me now?” Aengus asked calmly, though with a hint of anticipation for her support.

And she answered just as he’d hoped.

“No, I don’t blame you, Ethan. Sometimes I feel very sad about the destruction, ever since I awakened this mysterious nature power. I was prepared for it, but it still hurts...” Aria looked truly sorrowful.

Aengus, worried for her, comforted her, “You’ll be fine, Aria. I’m always with you. Perhaps it’s the lingering emotions of nature affecting you... You need to work on increasing your control over it.”

“Hmm... I think so too,” Aria replied, gazing in the direction of Silk City, where her family was currently staying.

“Ethan, let’s go... Silk City isn’t far from here,” Aria said, taking the lead.

Aengus followed her, spreading his wings in a flawless transformation. He picked her up in his arms once again, making Aria blush.

“You do like holding me close, don’t you? But I like it too...” Aria murmured, burying her head in his chest.

Aengus smirked lightly. “Of course...”

With that, their journey to Silk City continued, piercing through the sky like a flash of light. He flew in a smooth wavey path, making the experience more enjoyable.

“Mom! I just saw a shooting star!” A small boy shouted excitedly from a muddy road below, looking up on the sky in awe.

“A shooting star? Where?” His mother, a simple woman, looked up as well, but her excitement quickly turned to fear.

“That’s not a shooting star, son. It must be a powerful Hunter,” she murmured, staying alert.

“Wow! I want to be like them someday... to protect you, Mom!” the boy said, his voice filled with a dreamy longing.

His mother smiled gently. "I'm sure you will, Kian. Now, let's head back." She lifted him onto her shoulders, but the boy's gaze never left the figures soaring through the sky, heading toward Silk City. Their destination lay elsewhere.

"Ethan, we here," Aria said, pointing below.

Aengus slowed their speed, noticing the vibrant city below.

They floated above the bustling mid-sized city, alive with activity.

Their imposing presence quickly drew the attention of the citizens on the streets and in their homes.

Some closed their windows, not wanting to get involved.

Others looked up with displeasure, feeling that the duo showed no respect for the city's laws as they hovered boldly above their heads, hurting their pride.

The lower ranks didn't want to interfere, sensing the man and woman's calm and confident expressions, as if nothing could deter them.

Just when Aengus and Aria landed on the road, they were immediately surrounded by a few C-Rank guards.

Aengus and Aria remained calm, but the guards could feel a powerful, suppressed force radiating from them, especially from the young man.

Upon closer inspection, they noticed that the unknown young man wore a sophisticated military uniform with seven stars on each shoulder. His upper garment was midnight black, with intricate gold streaks woven into the embroidery.

It was the temporary uniform given to him by the Generals, marking him as the Supreme of Liberation Empire.

The guards then judged he must be a high-ranking official from another kingdom or somewhere unfamiliar, as they didn't recognize the uniform.

Chapter 240: Chapter 240: Silvermoon Family Condition

"Lord, why are you two here? This is trespassing and against the city's rules," one of the guards cautiously reminded.

"Just call your City Lord. He should know me by now," Aengus replied calmly, continuing his walk toward a small, rundown house alongside Aria.

“The City Lord?” The guards were startled. As simple guards, they rarely saw the City Lord, yet this young man spoke of him casually. Their initial aggression faded almost instantly.

However, a few disgruntled nobles murmured nearby.

“Who does this young man think he is? Why is he acting so arrogantly?”

“Guards, you should capture him. He might just be bluffing,” barked a wealthy young noble in an expensive outfit.

A few lackeys behind him eagerly chimed in, flattering him.

“Young master is right... Look where he’s going—to a doghouse, no less. There’s no way someone like him knows the City Lord. That arrogant basta*d is beneath our mighty City Lord,” one lackey sneered condescendingly.

“Yes, you should do what young master Quin says,” another added, fueling the situation further.

The guards hesitated. There was some truth to the words, but the young man seemed dangerous, and they didn’t dare take him lightly.

“Forgive us, young master Quin, but we believe we need to inform the higher-ups,” one of the guards replied before they began marching toward the City Hall.

They didn’t want to risk facing Quin’s wrath by staying there either.

“Cowards!” Quin spat, waving his folding fan dismissively at their cowardice.

“Hey, you two, go gather our men. We’ll teach him a lesson. How dare he disrespect the whole city!” Quin barked at his lackeys.

The two nodded and disappeared.

“Fu*k, without power, I have to rely on these fools. Without power, even a stranger dares to disrespect me...” Quin kicked a big tree by the roadside in anger.

Ouch!

“What’s the use of being a noble clan heir without those fu*king God’s Gift...”

—

Once inside, Aengus looked around the rundown wooden house, dust and decay everywhere. He couldn't believe his eyes that the Silvermoon family members were living here.

Soon, a woman came into view just outside the kitchen.

"Ahh... Aria, you're back!"

Aengus looked at Drake's mother, dressed in a violet dress, remembering the last time they met at the Silvermoon Clan estate. He found irony in their sudden change in condition—from a noble clan to poor commoners. It almost felt instant.

She looked tired and worn out as wrinkles began to emerge on her once beautiful, flawless skin.

"Hello, Aunt!" Aria greeted respectfully, and Aengus followed suit.

"Hello," Aengus said simply, but it buzzed as fiercely as a beast in Aria's aunt, Noelle's, ears.

Noelle looked stunned at the sight of Aria with an unfamiliar young man. She couldn't recognize him as the same young man who had defeated her son in a duel.

She found the young man extremely handsome, as the overbearing charm from Aengus's presence began to affect her as well.

It was embarrassing, but Aengus could do nothing more, as he had been suppressing his charm with his power as much as possible from the beginning.

Seeing this, Aria felt proud. But she knew she couldn't let her uncle's wife be so flustered.

"Ahem! Aunt, this is Ethan, my husband..." Aria reminded, a faint blush creeping onto her cheeks after she mentioned him as her husband.

Noelle looked awkward, realizing she had been staring at an unknown young man for too long.

Then she registered the word "husband" in her mind, processing it immediately.

She studied the young man and felt she had seen him somewhere before.

She looked Aria in the eye.

“Your husband? Since when did you marry, Aria? And why does he look so familiar... What did you say his name was?” Noelle asked, not having registered Aria’s words clearly.

Aria reminded her with a smile, “He’s Ethan. He came to our clan months back...”

Noelle looked enlightened, her eyes widening in surprise as she matched the previous face of Ethan with his current one. It matched completely, but he looked more handsome and mature. There was a temperament of a true powerhouse in his posture, which she didn’t miss. She felt insignificant before his presence. Even Astrid, her husband, had never given her the same pressure as Aengus did.

“I can’t believe you’re the same young man, Ethan. Welcome, welcome! Please, take a seat!”

Noelle seemed flustered, pointing towards the wooden chair in the waiting room just beside the kitchen.

“Forgive us that you had to see us in such an unsightly condition...” Noelle said with a hint of shame as she began dusting off the chairs.

Aengus didn’t move and stayed rooted on the spot.

“It’s okay, Aunt. I’ve seen worse. You don’t need to feel ashamed of past experiences. We’re family now... just like Aria said.” Aengus held Aria’s hand, showing their closeness.

Aria was grateful for the consideration and echoed,

“He’s right, Aunt. You don’t need to go to such lengths to make us comfortable. We’re a family.. ”

“Oh, you’re right... We are.” Noelle paused and smiled at the duo. “Ethan has grown into a remarkable man...” she mumbled, trying to recover her composure.

“Yes, he has,” Aria agreed, then glanced toward the other rooms and asked, “Are my father and uncle alright? And where are the other children?”

Aria’s tone grew anxious toward the end.

Aengus had already sensed their condition, noting their weak forms lying on the bed, but he chose not to interrupt.

“Oh, right, the kids are outside. And brother-in-law and Astrid are fine for now... But I don’t think they will last much longer... Astrid... he... sob!” Noelle broke into tears.

“Did you bring the medicine, Aria? And where is Drake?” she asked through her sobs.

Noelle looked desperately behind their backs towards the entrance but found no one.

Aria, seeing her aunt’s miserable state, felt a pang of sadness. Gently holding Noelle’s hand, she answered,

“They’re currently in the capital, aunt. They’re safe. You don’t have to worry. And we brought the medicine to cure Father and Uncle as well. I’m not lying... Everything will be fine, just like in the past,” Aria promised.

“Really? That’s great, that’s... great...” Noelle wiped her tears and stood up, a glimmer of hope returning to her eyes. “Follow me quickly... Save them!” She led the way, her steps filled with renewed hope.