

Darkness 121

Chapter 121: The Revelations

Kahn kept the letter in his pockets and left the house.

His destination was a secret and desolate location outside of the city as mentioned in the letter.

Just an hour ago, he read the letter and had many thoughts about the message written inside the letter. The main context was something he hadn't expected to receive from the sender.

The most important part of it was these simple words.

COME QUICKLY. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.

Kahn understood that these were not the type of words the people who sent him the letter would casually use if it wasn't of utmost importance.

20 Kilometers away, in a wide-open mountainous area, was a small bungalow. People usually did not dare to come to this area given the identity of the owner and nobody wanted to disturb this person when he came here to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. This area was not visited even by travelers. The wide grounds here could even hold a battle of at least a thousand people.

Kahn with his newly increased stats, physical skills and abilities that he recently gained, was now 2 times faster and powerful than before he started the whole war against noble clan heirs. If the current him were to do it, he won't have to spend so much time. He'd probably hunt all the clan heirs in a matter of days and that too very effortlessly.

An hour later, he finally reached the location and met the person who sent him the letter. Along with this person was a middle-aged elf.

To Kahn, both these people were familiar figures.

They were Arkham & Solomon.

"What is it? Why did you call me? What's so urgent and important?" he asked the President & vice-president duo of Adventurer Association with a curious expression.

Arkham who was standing in the front and was currently clad in a blue and rare rank armor along with an epic rank claymore sword, looked at Kahn solemnly. His expression appeared as if he felt wronged by Kahn.

The middle-aged Elf, Solomon finally spoke to him.

"So the rumors were true. Although you haven't broken through to the Semi-Saint Rank.. You did manage to reach the level of a Peak Grandmaster Swordsman." spoke the elven mage.

"Eh? What are you talking about?" asked Kahn.

Although he had indeed broken through the peak grandmaster rank.. That wasn't public information to anyone. Not even Albestros knew it yet. So the main question was.. How did these two people know about it? What rumors were they talking about?

"We will talk about it later. But first.."

BOOOM!!

A shrill sound of an oppressive aura quickly filled the surroundings and Kahn's Survival Instinct alarmed in his head like a siren!

A dark red barrier was released over this green open ground full of a variety of trees and flowers. A radius of 2 Kilometers was covered inside this red barrier and Kahn's countenance froze.

The very next second, he suddenly felt like he lost the control of his body. This immense pressure even put him on the ground as his entire body lost the strength to even stand up and he slumped down on the spot.

"What's the meaning of this?!" asked Kahn in an enraged tone. This sudden surprise had caught him off guard.

Although Kahn liked staying vigilant, these two men were not exactly his enemies and had helped him greatly when he came to Flavot city. In the name of the assassination contract, he had gained a lot of resources, money, subordinates while hunting and most importantly, increased his Weapon Mastery to reach a level where he was able to break through the Grandmaster rank.

In a way, these two men were his biggest benefactors so far so he naturally felt no sense of threat or hostility from both of them.

"Arkham will explain it to you." spoke Solomon and walked behind the Magic Swordsman.

[SYSTEM WARNING!!

The host has been put under a Suppression and Expulsion magic formation. All of the host's physical and magical attributes have been reduced by 70%.

Unable to keep the subordinate in the host's shadow!]

The loud alert from the system rang in his head and the next moment, a broad and long black shadow appeared out of Kahn and left the barrier.

THUD!

BOOM!

CRACKLE!

A gigantic figure of a Basilisk was expelled out of the barrier. The nearby trees and boulders were destroyed as soon as the ginormous body of this majestic beast came to be.

Gasp!

Both Arkham & Solomon gasped in surprise after they saw Rudra's terrifying figure leaving Kahn's body.

"That.. If I'm not wrong; that's a Basilisk!" shouted Solomon in surprise.

[Rudra! We're under attack! Wake up!] Kahn called out the Basilisk.

But no response came from the subordinate. As if it was inside a long due sleep.

Kahn instantly remembered what the variant Basilisk told him 10 days ago. That he'd be in a long sleep, he can't and won't be able to wake up after eating the body and core of the Magma Drake dungeon boss.

Kahn understood that unlike him, Rudra didn't have some Divine Ability to help him absorb bodies, cores and even the bloodlines. He had to absorb them slowly, especially when it was someone with the Draconian bloodline. And because of that, Rudra was put under comatose for an entire month.

"So that's how you did it!" spoke Solomon with an excited face.

"You must be a feak of nature to have contracted a Godbeast as your familiar." he spoke again.

War Dominance!

"Hey.. What the fuck is this? Why are you suddenly attacking me?!" spoke Kahn after he released his murderous and chaotic aura with full capacity.

After he reached the peak grandmaster Rank, War Dominance had risen by one stage and his aura was now 3 times stronger and denser. And the bloodlust he was emitting had also gone through a qualitative change.

But under this restriction barrier.. He barely gathered the strength to properly stand up.

This time, it was Arkham to moved forward and spoke to Kahn.

"We have a score to settle, Kahn." spoke Arkham and released his murderous dense blue aura at Kahn as if he was looking at a mortal enemy. His eyes were full of wrath and unimaginable bloodlust.

He then pulled something out of his space ring and threw it towards Kahn. And round object rolled towards Kahn who was standing 10 meters away.

The round object was a head!

The head belonged to someone Kahn knew very well. This person had helped him a lot, albeit for a fee till now.

The Snakekin!

"Or should I call with your other name.." spoke Arkham and gave Kahn a deathly glare.

"Azrael."

Chapter 122: Hidden Story

Kahn was surprised to see both of the old men knowing his other identity as Azrael. But when he looked at the severed head of the Snakekin, he understood how they found out.

Because so far, only Albestros and the Snakekin knew about his other identity as the angel of death. One of them kept this as a secret because Kahn was going to avenge his children while the other kept his mouth shut because Kahn was a wealthy customer who paid two to three times more for simple jobs such as intel gathering or spreading rumors.

"So you know that I'm Azrael.. But why does it affect you? I don't remember killing anyone who was remotely related to you." asked Kahn.

What enmity did the two men in front of him have to suddenly ambush him like this?

The old peak grandmaster rank magic swordsman walked forwards and a dense burst of dark blue aura was released from his body as his vengeful eyes landed on Kahn.

He was currently clad in blue armor and had a claymore sword in his hand. Arkham's countenance was of someone who had been greatly wronged. He unsheathed the sword and pointed the end at the young man standing in front of him. The sword's appearance matched a lot to Jon Snow's Longclaw sword.

Arkham's red eyes that were fumed with anger stared at Kahn.

"Because you... Killed my son!" declared Arkham.

"Wh.. What?!" asked Kahn with a baffled expression on his face.

"Who's your son? I haven't killed anyone who wasn't an enemy or part of their forces." he replied.

"Erwin Malfoy is.. was.. my only son!" revealed Arkham.

Gasp!

Kahn gasped and his eyes were full of surprise.

Because Erwin Malfoy was the first noble clan heir he killed.

"What?! How's that possible? Isn't he the clan heir and the son of the Malfoy clan head?" asked Kahn.

He too put a hand on his sword, Lucifer.

"30 years ago, when I worked for the Malfoy clan as the clan head's bodyguard.. I had an affair with his wife. We eloped one night when I was on a duty to escort her to a place." said Arkham.

The blade of his sword shone with a blue hue.

"A year later when Erwin was about to be born, we were even ready to run away and start a new life somewhere else. But thankfully, he had his mother's hair color. And I don't know how she did it, but the clan leader never found out that the child wasn't his own." spoke Arkham again as he explained.

"I gave up on being his father in name. Because the life he would have was far better than anything I could ever give him. I left the post and started working as an adventurer. All I ever wanted for him was to let him have a life without worries. And you... You killed that very son of mine and hung his body in the middle of the city for everyone to watch!"

Boom!

A dense and murderous aura was burst out of the old man and a blue water elemental aura started coalescing on his sword.

Kahn on the other end brandished Lucifer and activated the bloodline effect. And the sword had all the red-veined patterns glowing as a blistering heat was released from it. He activated all of his attack buff and defensive skills as he took a defensive stance.

"How the fuck was I supposed to know that?! And you want to avenge that rap*st bastard son of yours?" he asked, getting ready to face the old man.

"Good or evil, it doesn't matter. Blood is blood." declared Arkham.

Currently, Kahn only had one-third of his stats, skills and magical abilities, their effectiveness was greatly subdued under this restriction barrier. His strength, speed and senses were also greatly reduced. If not for him breaking through the peak grandmaster rank, he wouldn't even be able to stand properly under this magical formation.

He regretted being careless and not expecting the old men ambushing him out of the blue. Because he never had any reason to suspect these old men as their relationship was somewhat friendly.

Slash!

Arkham swung his sword towards Kahn and three water blades were launched at him.

Side Hopper!

Kahn used the quick sidestep skill and barely managed to evade the water blades.

Boom!!

The small boulder and the medium-sized tree behind him were crushed and cut through these water blades.

Kahn who knew enough about science quickly understood the destructive force behind these water blades.

Because these were high-pressure compressed water blades. Just like the water jets that could even cut through the metals like aluminum. And given Arkham's strength and rank.. These were more than enough to cut a man in half just with a single attack.

[Fuck! Why can't I get a break for once!] thought Kahn.

Swoosh!

Arkham launched another set of attacks and Kahn tried to dodge them to the best of his abilities.

[System, how much strength can I use with all my attacks increase and buff skills?] asked Kahn to the systems. First, he had to know his own fighting prowess before he even engaged in a frontal clash against Arkham.

There was no hope for reconciliation either. Because the old man was now adamant about killing him.

And on top of that, there was also Solomon who was only just watching from a long distance as if he was enjoying the show.

[The host can only use 62% of his original strength and efficiency of physical and magical abilities & skills.] replied the system.

[Dammit! I'll barely be able to hold him off. And he hasn't even gotten serious yet or used his other skills.] spoke Kahn and ran in another direction.

The only thing that was helping him evade the attacks from the old man's sword at this point was his Survival Instinct blessing. Or else, he'd be a fish on a chopping board.

Slash!

Another one of Arkham's water blades came in his direction, this time he decided to reply with his own attack.

Darkblade!

Kahn swung Lucifer and launched the sword blade attack made up of dark magic and darkness element.

Boom!

The clash between these two elemental aura blades shook the surroundings and a huge crevice was formed on the ground just with the aftermath of their collision.

Solomon on the other end of this fight widened his eyes in surprise. He hurriedly asked in a loud tone.

"Impossible! How do you know the forbidden Dark magic?!"

Chapter 123: The Better Swordsman

Kahn stood while maintaining a distance of 15 meters from the swordsman. His eyes were also vigilant of the elf in case he tried to sneak attack him.

"You think I'm going to tell you?" he spoke sarcastically.

Crang!

Arkham wasn't surprised or fazed by this sudden revelation. His eyes and mind completely focused on Kahn. Unlike the elven mage, Arkham had gone through hundreds of battles and always expected the enemy to have a few trump cards in their sleeves.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

Arkham ran swiftly and in just 4 seconds, he appeared in front of the defender.

Screech!

Their swords faced each other and multiple sparks came out of them. The sound of two hard and sharp screeching metallic swords clashing against each other filled the area.

Kahn who was already very weak compared to Arkham at this point was thrown back eight meters away.

He landed on his feet and quickly activated Darkness Barrier.

A dark and dense defensive barrier was cast around him and just in a second, he was completely covered and protected by this barrier for 10 meters radius.

"What's this?! How is he using a mage's spell?!" shouted Arkham and looked towards Solomon.

"Impossible... He isn't even using an artifact." spoke Solomon and looked at Kahn as if he had seen an anomaly of the nature.

"Doesn't matter. He's still gonna die!" spoke Arkham and attacked the darkness barrier.

Dhang!!

A loud noise of two powerful things colliding resounded in the area. Surprisingly, Kahn's darkness barrier which was made of 3 times his defense stats withstood the water aura blades that came from Arkham's sword.

For a moment, Kahn finally felt some relief. Now he could at least protect himself for a while.

He was certain that both the men already made preparations in case he tried to run. So he wasn't a fool to think that he could just easily escape from the clutches of these old-timers, one of whom was also the 2nd most strongest person in the entire city.

But before he could even revel for few seconds, a bright white light beam pierced through the darkness barrier and it was instantly shattered.

Kahn looked in this direction where the attack came from. It was Solomon who attacked with a light elemental mage spell.

[Dammit! I forgot dark magic is only weak against light and holy magic. With my current strength, it can't be any more useless in front of that elven bastard.] he cursed in his mind.

With this elven mage's interference, his only advantage was gone. He couldn't even use Berserk God Mode this early because both these men were seasoned fighters. He won't be able to take them out just with a sudden buff in strength. He had to be very careful.

For the next 5 minutes, Kahn kept running away and throwing Darkblade skills from time to time and maintained a distance.

To Arkham, it was like chasing after a mouse. And because his mana was limited, Kahn couldn't even use the Domain Artifact to separate the man in a different battleground.

"Stopping running away like a coward!" shouted Arkham.

"Why don't you terminate this suppression formation and fight me then." ranted Kahn.

"I guess I have no choice." said Arkham and all of his aura started forming a big cloud above his head.

"Let me tell you a difference between a normal swordsman and a magic Swordsman, kid. A normal sword user even at peak grandmaster rank can only use aura blades and physical attacks.. But a magic swordsman can also infuse his mana and an element they have the highest affinity with. This combined attack is far more powerful than anything you can do." spoke Arkham and the blue cloud turned into water and 10 water blades identical to his previous attacks formed in the air.

Arkham then held his greatsword in both of his hands and lifted it towards the sky.

[Shit! My darkness barrier can barely stand one blade.. There are 10 now!] thought Kahn.

Arkham swung his sword downwards and launched all the high-pressure compressed water blades at Kahn.

The young man quickly activated the darkness barrier again.

BOOM!

BOOM!

THUD!

CLANG!

SCREECH!

Multiple sounds of a barrier and sword attacks clashing echoed in the surrounding before the noise finally stopped. A white fog appeared after the collision and filled the entire battlefield.

The land where Kahn was standing was obliterated into nothingness and dozens of long crevices had shattered the ground.

Finally when the fog started dispersing from the surrounding.. A brightly burning red figure was revealed.

ROAR!!

A roar of a primordial beast filled the region where the fight was going. The blistering red flames that came out of this figure burst loudly and a man clad in black red armor and a helmet with two burning horns that appeared like a descendant of dragons came to be.

The intense and terrifying heat coming from this figure had partially negated the damage received from the water aura blades that was a combination of 3 destructive forces.

Drakos Armor!

Kahn had called out and equipped the Drakos Armor as soon as the darkness barrier broke and activated the bloodline effect at maximum capacity.

"What the.. Is he a monster?" asked Arkham in surprise.

Both the old men were taken aback by his new appearance that came to be from nowhere.

Kahn's new appearance looked like a demonic beast. His armor being on fire at various places gave him a horrifying look.

The next second, 12 pitch-black swords appeared above his body. All of them were identical to Lucifer in size and appearance.

Every single one of these swords was made up of Darkness element and a black aura was released from them as they floated in the air above him.

It was Kahn using his Sword King skill for the first time!

A ghastly and terrifying voice came from the Kahn dressed in his beastly Drakos Armor... Making it sound more like a Dragon speaking in a human voice.

The words echoed in the entire battlefield and filled the surrounding with a chaotic and dangerous aura.

"Now then. Allow me to show you who's a better Swordsman."

Chapter 124: Sacrifice and Gain

Kahn in his Drakos Armor now stood in front of the two men who planned to kill him in this desolate and forested valley. No one would even know how he died or where his body was buried.

[System, how much of my strength I can use now?] he asked the system because it was the best way to calculate his battle prowess.

[78% at maximum.] replied the system in its usual lifeless and robotic voice.

"This.. That's Dormammu Volstov's skill!" shouted Arkham in disbelief. Being a magic swordsman himself, he knew of the clan head of the Volstov clan, one of the strongest powerhouses in the city. And of course, about his Sword Lord skill.

If Arkham had broken through the Semi-Saint Rank, his own skillset would be comparable to the seventy two year old demonkin.

"So he did kill that Demon bastard. I don't know how he acquired his skill.. But you're lucky that I'm with you." spoke Solomon with a solemn expression.

"Don't interfere.. He's my kill. I have to avenge my son with my own hands." said Arkham and released his terrifying aura again as he dashed towards Kahn.

"Show me how good of a swordsman you are, kid!" he said and swing his sword at the young man dressed in draconian armor.

Clang!

Both swords collided along with Kahn's darkness swords and Arkham's water elemental aura swords as their master clashed against each other in a head-on confrontation.

Spark flew in the air as both the fighters swung their swords at each other from right to left, from upwards and downwards. Small shockwaves filled the place as they kept making quick and lethal, their movements so fast that normal onlookers would only register flashes and afterimages of their attacks.

Despite being disadvantageous in terms of stats, Kahn faced the old man without fear in his eyes, his mind completely focused and his senses on full alert. His gaze full of bloodlust even gave the experienced fighter such as Arkham a sense of wariness.

Boom!

Swords after swords attacked each other from different directions. Both sides completely equal in strength. If Kahn wasn't under this suppression formation, he would definitely have an upper hand over the old magic swordsman in terms of physical strength.

Kahn quickly used Side Hopper and appeared 10 meters behind. A water aura blade just passed by his previous location and was aimed at his head.

Although he had a few skills he could use to outmatch the old man, but with Solomon being present here would make things complicated because he knew light elemental spells and could easily destroy his dark element attacks.

If anything had Kahn learned recently was that you never reveals your trump cards too early. Or they'll lose their advantages and usefulness.

He quickly disappeared from the spot and appeared 50 meters away from his original location. He held Lucifer with both of his hands and moved it behind his back.

SHRILL!

CRACKLE!

A darkness aura and lightning appeared over the sword blade and both these different yet two of the most destructive elements started fusing.

Arkham sensed a foreboding of a dangerous attack if he allowed Kahn to attack with this skill. He dashed at the enemy who was charging his attack skill.

As soon as he came in 20 meters proximity in only 3 seconds, Kahn quickly slashed his sword towards the incoming enemy.

Dark Lightning Strike!

BOOM!!!

An ear-deafening explosion happened in the middle of this mountainous battlefield and a dark and bright aura destroyed 100 meters of solid ground and obliterated it into nothingness.

Dozens of trees and giant boulders were shredded into small pieces and half of the battleground was put on a fire. This attack was enough to kill even someone like Arkham without leaving a single trace of his body.

10 seconds later when the smoke and fire finally subsided.. Kahn saw a figure of a half-burned man whose armor was tattered into pieces and his face and torso were bleeding profusely.

But in front of this man, was a white barrier that appeared at the last second and saved the man's life.

"Fuck!" cursed Kahn as he looked at the source of this defensive barrier.

It was Solomon who was only watching from afar for some time.

He then joined the fray with Arkham himself. And started launching elemental attack spells at Kahn.

With his increased attacking capacity and the increased speed and defense because of the Drakos Armor & Lucifer both being used at the same time, Kahn kept dodging and defending against the attacks.

It was one thing if he fought against Arkham alone, but with the Semi-Saint Rank magician in the fray, Kahn barely stood any chance to attack them.

[How do I get rid of this Suppression formation?] he thought. Because it'd be his only way to get out of his current predicament and regain all of his strength.

But the next moment, a plan hatched in his mind.

[Let's do it the John Wick style!] he planned.

For the next few attacks, he let Solomon and Arkham's attacks and spells deliberately hit him.

And being the natural enemy of fire, Arkham's water blade attacks started breaking Kahn's Drakos Armor.

With each hit of the high pressured water blades, his armor started chipping little by little and his body was pushed back time to time as if he no longer had enough strength to defend or dodge the onslaught from the duo.

Kahn dropped on his feet and started panting due to exhaustion and seeing the opportunity, Arkham used the same water blade swords skill like before and attacked with 10 water blades.

BOOM!

A sonic boom filled the area and Kahn was thrown against a giant tree trunk.

"Argh.." wailed Kahn as his Drakos Armor did its best to defend its owner before it was broken into pieces and Kahn's body dropped on the ground. Barely having the strength to stand up. He was holding his sword as his entire upper body was bleeding profusely with multiple long and wide gashed leaking streams of blood.

Cough! Cough!

He threw up a mouthful of blood on the ground.

Arkham walked in front of him with a look of someone who was finally going to finish an oath they had taken.

He grabbed Kahn by the throat and gave him a look of disgust.

"Now my son can rest in peace." he said and quickly tried to stab Kahn in the gut.

Clang!

Kahn's left side of the abdomen which was just about to be stabbed was now fully covered with black hexagonal scales and he, on the other hand, threw the sword in the air.

Kahn quickly activated Drake Claws and grabbed the sword and Arkham's arm with both hands. He had sacrificed his newly made Drakos Armor so he wanted it to be worth it.

Before the peak grandmaster magic swordsman could even react, Kahn's eyes flickered yellow.

Executioner's Gaze!

Arkham was paralyzed on the spot.

"Then you can go and join him in hell!" declared Kahn as a black extension came from his back and quickly grabbed Lucifer that was still swinging in the air.

Thack!

Arkham's head was pierced right in the center by the black and crimson sword. Kahn quickly grabbed it and used all of his strength.

Slash!

Rip!

Kahn cut Arkham's body upside down in half.

An open skull, cut-down bones and torn intestines along with the spray of blood gushing out the old man's body was now spread on the ground.

Kahn gazed at the two identical pieces of meat and blood dropped on the ground and spoke with a content voice.

"Perfectly balanced.. As all things should be."

Chapter 125: The Nightfall

And just like that.. A peak grandmaster swordsman, one of the top 10 fighters of the Flavot city died in the act of trying to exact vengeance.

There was once a time when Arkham had helped Kahn with improving his weapon mastery when he gave his test inside Adventurer Association. The man had also offered him the assassination contract, eventually leading to him getting enough resources and money to raise his levels and strength.

With the assassination contract alone, Kahn gained many skills and even created his Six Generals. In a way, Arkham played a vital part in Kahn's making into the man he is now.

But at this moment, the same was killed by his own hands and cut in half.

Kahn's gaze then changed to Solomon, the President of Adventurer Association and the old-time friend of the magic swordsman.

Kahn quickly covered his entire body in somir scales and took a defensive stance against the Elven mage.

But unlike how he expected the elven mage to attack him, get enraged to the core and go in a frenzy to kill him.. The elf looked at the scene from far distance and didn't have a slight emotion of rage or surprise.

Solomon looked at the scene with lifeless eyes as if what happened just now didn't affect him in the slightest.

"You.. You could've saved him in the last moment just like before. But why didn't you.." asked Kahn as he activated his 12 darkness swords again.

"Eh, don't fret. It's nothing like what you think. He was a good companion but outlived his usefulness." replied Solomon.

"What do you mean?" asked Kahn in a puzzled tone.

He always thought of this duo as partners in crime. But the elven mage just said that Arkham outlived his usefulness.

"Don't you get it.. It's you who have helped me clear an obstacle in my path." he replied with a stern tone.

"What the hell are you talking about?!" shouted Kahn. His senses were already on full alert and he was skeptical of where the direction of this conversation was going. He wasn't a fool to leave his guard open at this moment and let the elven mage attack him from someplace else.

But in response, the president of the adventurer association only threw a light smirk back at him and replied.

"It's because I was going to kill him later anyway." spoke the regal-looking elf donned in high-quality mage attire.

"You what?! I don't understand.." asked Kahn in a completely bewildered tone.

"Arkham tried to kill you because he wanted to avenge his son. He asked me to come as a backup in case you really had broken through to Semi-Saint rank as per the rumors. But I had my own reasons to accept the invitation." spoke the elven mage.

"And what's that?" asked Kahn.

The next second, Solomon summoned a torn-down page that appeared to be part of some logbook.

"You see, I had my suspicions but after looking at that Basilisk, I'm very certain that you have it." he spoke.

"What's that list about?" asked Kahn as he could see hundreds of names written on both sides of the page.

"It's the list of people who entered the Bromnir dungeon the very day when it was cleared." explained Solomon.

"Amongst all the people who bought the dungeon passes.. Only you had the strength and means to do it. I was already suspicious about your high leap in strength and how your familiars were growing strong with each passing day. But when I saw your name in the list.. I was certain that it was you who cleared the dungeon and killed that damn lizard who was guarding the final floor." smiled Solomon as he patiently elaborated how he found about Kahn being the person who cleared the Bromnir dungeon.

A fire arose from his hand and burned the page to crisps. The elven mage pointed his forefinger at the young man.

"If you want to stay alive.. Give it to me." he ordered Solomon.

"Give you what?" asked Kahn.

"Don't play fool in front of me! Give me the dungeon core.. or should I call it... The Emperor's core." declared the elf.

Flabbergasted!

Kahn couldn't believe how the elf already knew about Emperor Rathnaar, the founder of Rakos empire who was a Peak Saint Rank swordsman and his core being hidden inside the Bromnir dungeon.

"You.. How do you know about it? The first sage said that nobody knew about its location." he spoke.

"Since you've helped me finally get it.. I'll let you know about the truth." said the mage as he folded his hand behind the back.

"I, Solomon Elfenheim, belong to the Elven clan that was one of the founding clans of this Empire. In our ancient archives.. Lied some records about the first Sage taking away the first Emperor's core after his death and hiding it somewhere close to the Abyss forest." explained Solomon.

"But nobody in my clan believes it anymore. I was once the chosen heir of my clan. Until one day, my younger brother surpassed me and defeated me in a dual for the position of the clan heir. I was thoroughly humiliated by that wench!"

"After spending years to improve my magical skills and finding ways to increase my power, I came across those ancient records and decided to find the core. Because it's not just a core.. But an unimaginable source of mana and world energy. If in right hands.. It can even destroy the entire capital in a single night." spoke Solomon.

"And during my journey.. I came across these newly formed dungeons 70 years ago. I was but a beginner grandmaster rank mage then. But with all the artifacts and resources I had. I did manage to clear the dungeon floor.. I even killed that undead Lich. Until the last floor." spoke Solomon and his face turned somber.

"That was an enemy which was far stronger than me in every aspect. I couldn't even scratch that drake. But I did manage to see the core.. And at that moment, I knew that the ancient records were correct. And it was indeed the Emperor's core acting as the dungeon core in the first place."

"I barely managed to leave that place alive using an Epic rank space teleportation artifact. And since then, I've lived in this shithole of a city to break through the Saint Rank and kill that Drake with my own hands. I even became the president of that wretched adventurer association filled with nothing but barbarians and mentally disabled insects twenty years ago, just to mandate and keep an eye on the core." said Solomon and completely released his dense and terrifying purple aura.. It was far denser and heavier than Arkham's aura.

"Now you have two choices. Give the core to me and I'll let you leave alive.. Or I rip your heart out and take it myself." threatened the elven mage.

If it was the other time of the day.. Kahn would've thought about this offer although he wasn't a fool to think that the mage would let him live anyway.

But as the sunset had finally gone. He replied to the elven mage with two simple words..

"Fuck off!"

Said Kahn as the system gave him a notification.

Chapter 126: The Rumble

Kahn's response even surprised the middle-aged elf as he did not expect the young man in front of him to be so daring to refuse the final offer.

"So you've chosen death!" spoke Solomon loudly as he released his mighty aura of Semi-Saint Rank fighter. He was the 2nd most strongest person in the entire Flavot city yet the man did not even flinch before insulting him.

Kahn who was standing 50 meters away wasn't even fazed by the immensely terrifying aura. Just as soon as the sun disappeared and the night finally fell. Kahn regained his strength and was now one and half times stronger and powerful.

If he were to fight Arkham in his current state, the peak grandmaster rank swordsman wouldn't even stand a chance against him. Although this restriction formation had suppressed him greatly and his stats were reduced by 70%, the Hero of Darkness title gave him a 300% increase in strength and 200% in magic spells & mana.

With many of his passive attack buff skills, he managed to get 1.5 times stronger. This was enough for him to at least fight against the elven mage on even grounds.

"Don't act like you were going to spare me if I gave you the core. Why would you spare me if you wouldn't even spare Arkham." spoke Kahn as he readied himself to fight against the enemy and released War Dominance at full power.

Boom!

A chaotic and deathly black and red aura released from his body and the sonic booms filled the surrounding battlefield. Kahn unequipped the Drakos Armor and only his torn-up black longcoat that was shredded at this point dropped in the ground.

"You.. How did you recover your strength? My formation is still active." asked Solomon in a puzzled tone.

"You're awfully talkative. Is it because you think you can easily kill me?" asked back Kahn.

Darkblade!

He launched his 50 meters range attacks and used the 12 Darkness swords suspending in the air to attack the elf from various fronts.

Snap!

The elven mage only snapped his fingers and a bright white barrier came in between him and these swords. But this time, Kahn's darkness swords weren't reflected but actually pierced through the barrier.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

One by one, his swords started piercing through the barrier and Kahn jumped up in the air.

Solomon who saw him somersaulting in the air cast a fire spell and shot it at the incoming assailant.

Bang!

Before the fire spell could even hit Kahn, his darkness barrier covered him and completely negated the damage received from this spell.

Kahn slashed his black sword with crimson flames on it against the white barrier.

Crack!

The barrier instantly shattered into two and disappeared.

Swoosh!

Kahn quickly used side hopper and instantly appeared in front of the mage and swung his sword at the elf.

Bang!

A yellow barrier suddenly came into existence and exploded as Kahn's sword nearly came a meter close to the elf.

"If you think this is enough to kill me.. Then let me show the difference between a Semi-Saint rank mage and just a normal peak grandmaster."

Spoke Solomon and the ground around him shook as a highly condensed mana completely covered the mage.

The next second, the figure of this elven mage started levitating and rose up 15 meters in the air. This was the elven mage using his full power and an unimaginable pressure filled the surroundings, even Kahn felt a sense of danger.

So far, Solomon hadn't even used half of his strength and was only toying around with Kahn ever since the battle began in the first place.

"Let me tell you about the difference between you and me. It's like the story of the monkey trying to capture the moon. However close he thinks he is to the moon, it's still just the reflection of the moon in the middle of the lake. No matter how he struggles to capture that "moon", he inevitably sinks to the bottom of that lake to no avail. You will never reach me."

Declared Solomon and 4 different elemental orbs around him came into existence. Fire, Water, Light and Wind elements coalesced in the air and the size of these orbs started becoming bigger.

The mana that came from Solomon's body started compressing these orbs and the pressure that came from them gave Kahn a sense of dread and danger. His body flickered and appeared 50 meters away.

Shrill! Crackle! Chitter! Howl!

The intense elemental aura from these giant orbs was so terrifying that even Kahn who was currently covered in his Somir scales felt like he won't survive if these elemental orbs hit him.

"The simple difference between you and me.. is the difference between skills!" declared Solomon as if he was a Deity looking down on a normal and weak mortal.

Boom!! Boom!!

Solomon started directing his hands towards Kahn's position and one by one, these giant orbs that were growing in size started throwing multiple small orbs of these elemental energies and destroyed the ground, trees and boulders.

Each of these small orbs blew up 10 meters of space wherever they landed. The fire spells burned everything they touched, the water spells changed their shapes into spears and blades as if they had a free will of their own, the wind attacks cut everything in the surroundings and the light elemental beams simply obliterated everything that came in their way.

[Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!] cursed Kahn as he ran away from one direction to another like a deer who was being chased by multiple cheetahs.

His footsteps didn't stop for a second before his figure flickered from place to place. And wherever he passed from would be bombarded by these spells and get destroyed in the process.

But he came to a realization very quickly how Solomon was in a completely different league than himself.

Because the elven mage had the advantage in the attack range, he had various magical and elemental spells. And there was also the plethora of barriers and artifacts the mage had on his hands that protected his life.

And on top of it all, Solomon had the high ground!

Even if Kahn leaped into the air and aimed to kill the flying mage, he'd also expose himself to a mid-air attack.

Kahn used shadow walk and appeared from the elven mage's sight and sprinted towards the edge of the formation. Only then he'd be able to stand a fighting chance against this guy.

In just a few seconds, Kahn had run half a mile away with his full speed as he aimed to get out the restriction formation. Because he had indeed underestimated the elven mage, thinking that with the boost in his stats; he'd be able to fight the semi-saint rank opponent as an equal. But the reality brought him out of his delusions very quickly.

Since Solomon was alone and lacked speed like Kahn, he won't be able to cover all fronts and the defender had a chance to escape.

But just as he was about 100 meters close to the exterior of this barrier and charged his Dark Lighting Strike to hit the dome, a figure suddenly appeared in front of him in the air and looked down at Kahn with a mocking expression.

Solomon who was a kilometer behind Kahn suddenly appeared in the air above him.

Kahn who read enough information about teleportation scrolls and space magic during his little break for a week after killing the dungeon boss found it odd because the Elven mage was neither using a scroll nor an artifact.

"Oh, if you think you can run away from me.. Let me tell you a little secret." spoke Solomon as he grinned at Kahn.

"I have spent more than a century studying and becoming good at using one of the rarest laws of reality in this world.. The Space Law." declared the elf and gave a smug expression at the Kahn was finally thought he could escape out of this formation.

The next moment, before Kahn could even comprehend the meaning behind the middle-aged Elf's revelation, Solomon appeared 25 meters in front of him and threw all the elemental spells at Kahn.

The spells were so fast that he didn't even get time to react or dodge.

Boom!!!

The ground shattered as Kahn's body was struck by these destructive and ear-deafening spells. His entire body was thrown 200 meters away and collided against the trees and boulders in the way.

Thud!

Bang!

Crack!

Trees after trees and boulders after boulders broke as his body struck and collided against them. Kahn ricocheted from time to time and finally cracked open the ground he landed on.

"Argh..!"

Cough! Cough!

Kahn coughed up a mouthful of blood and his body was riddled with wounds.

His Somir scales barely managed to protect him against the onslaught and he used Lucifer to protect his face and head at the last moment.

One by one.. All the scales dropped on the ground as he got up. His scarred and bleeding torso was revealed and the scales barely managed to protect his vital points.

Solomon was on par with the Magma Drake dungeon boss already. And with the variety of highly terrifying and destructive elemental attacks, along with the space law he was proficient at; he surpassed Kahn in every single aspect let it be range, attack power or speed.

Kahn got up on his feet using the extension as his foundation and looked at the elf who had a villainous grin on his face.

[System, for how long can I use it in my current state?] he asked the system.

[Only 9 minutes] replied the system.

Kahn resolved himself to have a battle to the death in this moment. It was Do or Die situation for him now or else, he'd be buried in the ground.

[Do it!] he commanded and suddenly.. A loud screech was released from his body and suddenly.. His entire body underwent a transformation.

Before Solomon, now stood a monster that he had never seen in his life..

At this moment.. Kahn had finally used the special ability that could grant him the abilities of various species and monsters at the same time.

The Bloodline Merge!

Chapter 127: Bloodline Merge

Before the Elven mage stood a bare-chested figure of a young man who had lean muscle built with an appearance that differed far from his earlier one.

Kahn's figure now looked drastically different than his normal look as if he had completely transformed into a being that couldn't be called a human.

After using all his available and battle-oriented bloodlines he had, Kahn went from looking like a human to a demonic entity.

His black hair turned completely white and grew waist-length long. On his head, there were 4 black horns; two on the forehead and two on the sides.

Both his arms turned pitch black and blistering heat was released from them. His Claws retained the appearance of the Drake Claws and both of his eyes glowed yellow. His human ears also became longer and pointy.

In the middle of his chest was a bright red glow as if a source of intense heat lied there.

With the bloodline merge skill, Kahn had taken a form that included all the offensive and defensive abilities he had.

Since the dark magic spells and attacks didn't prove useful against this elemental mage who also revealed that he knew of the space law.. Kahn was forced to use this form.

Among the horns, the ones on the forehead belonged to the Basilisk, while the two on the sides were Drake horns. Both his arms and legs were covered in Somir scales and the claws belonged to the Drake Claws skill. His eyes had turned bright yellow just like Rudra and the center of his chest was fiery red just like the Magma Drake. While his ears turned long and pointy similar to the demonkin clan head.

[System, how much?] he asked.

[The host's physical strength has risen by 400% and speed has increased by 200% for the next 9 minutes.] clarified the system.

[Good.. Save the settings. From now, we'll call it the Asura Mode. Now, let's make the best use of it.] spoke Kahn and gave a deathly stare to the Elven mage who was hovering in the air.

"You.. What kind of monster are you?!" asked Solomon who was out of his wits.

He had never seen anyone or anything like Kahn's current form. And the aura Kahn emitted was completely different than before. It became more chaotic and terrifying as if different primordial monsters had merged into a single entity and released their bloodlust on the elven mage.

Kahn on the other hand, wasn't in a mood for a chitchat or monologue. He only had this buff for nine minutes even after reaching the peak grandmaster rank and hero of darkness title being in effect. So he understood that it indeed came with heavy aftereffects when this bloodline merge skill ended.

Flash!

Kahn's body flickered and appeared right in front of the mage in their air as he swiped his claws at the elf.

Both swipes of his claws created heat energy blades and struck Solomon's chest.

Bang!

Another protective layer from his body came to be and exploded. Kahn was flung backward from the repulsive explosion and landed on the ground again.

[How many defensive artifacts does this bastard has?!] he ranted.

He dashed and disappeared from place to place and gave the elf sense of wariness as Kahn's figure flickered from one place to another. Even the semi-saint rank mage whose senses were far keener was having a hard time registering his speedy movements and mostly only notices the afterimages.

Clang!

Just then, 2 black swords attacked his back and the mage quickly created a light element barrier that protected him. But unlike the earlier times, the swords were far stronger and did more damage to the barrier as if they too had received a boost in speed and strength.

Kahn called out Lucifer and the sword flew right in his hands. A barrage of swords attacked the elf from various directions and he was forced to retreat from time to time. His countenance turning that of annoyance & irritation.

Kahn who was using the Sword Lord skill directed all 12 of his darkness swords at the mage while he himself charged Lucifer for the Dark Lighting Strike skill. His boost in magical skills effectiveness helped in merging both the elements much faster than before.

Solomon on the other hand used his elemental spheres to attack and counter the swords. When he finally noticed Kahn's murderous aura aiming right at his position, he cast two more barriers in between them.

Slash!

Bang!

Kahn slashed the sword towards the mage's location and a loud bang along with the explosion that destroyed multiple yellow and blue barriers filled the surroundings and the shockwaves from this clash fluttered the tree leaves and flowers in this mountainous valley.

Solomon's figure fell on the ground after a long time but he then disappeared from his place in the next second.

Kahn's Survival Instinct alerted him from an attack coming from behind and he quickly squatted down.

A lightning spell that was aimed for his head barely missed it by a microsecond. Solomon's figure was revealed behind Kahn. Before the mage made another spell attack, a red burst of energy was released from the demonic body as if an atomic bomb had exploded.

"Arghh.." wailed Solomon in pain as he was thrown backward for 20 meters just from the outburst of this skill. The nearby ground was decimated and big cloud of dust formed at the center of the explosion. A third of this battleground was already destroyed and on fire because of Solomons attacks, and now Kahn added more fuel to the fire.

Kahn just used the Defense Reserve skill that had been storing all the damage he was receiving from the elven mage's attack since the fight began.

Solomon's clothes were completely tattered and now his face and chest were bleeding because of the living bomb exploding right in his face.

Kahn's figure was revealed from the dust cloud and he dashed at the now injured mage.

"Don't look down on me you damn mutt!" shouted Solomon and tried to launch all his elemental spheres at Kahn in one go.

One by one, multiple explosions filled the surroundings and everything that was around these two fighters was being burned, torn, cut and obliterated just from the clashes of their respective attacks. Explosion after explosion kept destroying the once lush greenery of this forest.

Till now, 8 minutes had already passed since both sides attacked and countered each other. And now, only one minute remained until his Asura Mode would be deactivated.

[It's about time we.. Ended this!] spoke Kahn to himself and activated his final trump card..

BERSERK GOD MODE!!

Chapter 128: The Decisive Moment

As soon as Kahn activated the Berserk God Mode, his physical strength received a huge spike.

His muscles and bleeding wounds contracted as his appearances turned more ghastly.

A black & red aura erupted from his body, extremely heavy and oppressive that even the semi-saint rank elven mage felt like kneeling under this pressure full of bloodlust.

"Nonsense! How are you increasing your strength.. Are you a True Demon?" asked Solomon as he summoned 4 light elemental spears around him.

But without wasting any time on a reply, Kahn quickly dashed in the direction of the mage. His movements were so fast that even the mage barely saw his afterimage.

Bang!

Clatter!

Boom!

Before Solomon could even see where the assailant went, the protection barriers quickly activated and shattered the next moment.

Because currently, Kahn was in his Berserk God Mode and had 5 times his original strength. And with the one and half times buff in strength because of Hero of Darkness title, along with 4 times increase in strength and 2 times in speed because of his Bloodline Merge skills, he was so strong that he didn't even need Lucifer to attack the elven mage. His bare fists were more than enough.

Punch! Bang!

Crack!

Each of his punches put cracks in the defensive barrier and broke them one by one in just a matter of seconds.

Solomon's expression turned ghastly as if he sensed an impending doom coming onto him.

Shatter!

The 5th barrier broke after Kahn's forceful punch and green defensive barrier was destroyed, revealing the sullen face of the elf.

Solomon who felt fear for the first time since he broke through to Semi-Saint rank was rooted on the spot in disbelief as he saw a freak of nature standing 10 meters away from him.

Kahn's long white hair floated in the air as he stood next to the mage who declared that Kahn would never be able to reach him. The black and red aura along with the protruding horns gave Kahn a look of Demon Lord at this moment.

Solomon quickly recovered from his daze and tried to use the space law to disappear from the place.

SHRILL!

Just as he was about to disappear, a pitch-black dome came into existence and the covered 100 meters of space around them. The elven mage froze on the spot, his body unable to move a muscle.

Void Realm!

Kahn cast void realm dark magic spell when the elf was about to disappear and run away. To Solomon who was unable to move now, this came as a big surprise because he hadn't even seen Kahn make any gestures or chants before he cast this spell.

Kahn's image flickered again and he appeared right next to the mage, trying to stab the man in the chest with his claws.

Boom!

But before he even came a meter close to him, a burst of light aura erupted from Solomon and Kahn was launched in the air.

Solomon used the light element aura to break past the restrictions of this dark magic spell that were like each other's natural enemies. Even though Berserk God Mode gave Kahn an insane boost and multiplying his strength by five times for a short time, the same thing didn't apply for his magical skills or mana. So Solomon was able to break through the restrictions of this spell with ease.

Before Kahn's feet landed on the ground, the elven mage made a grabbing gesture and pulled his entire body closer as a white glowing blade made of the light element was formed in his left hand.

Stab!

Kahn's chest was pierced through this blade before he could use his arms to guard himself. The light blade passed right through the middle of his chest and exited out of his back.

"Argh.." groaned Kahn in pain. His eyes and face had a look of disbelief. Even with his immense boost in strength and fighting capacity... He still failed to kill the elven mage.

"Any last words?" spoke Solomon as he rejoiced in his victory. A crackling sound was made on his right hand and the elf summoned a lightning spell in his hand.

Kahn who was now stabbed in the chest only smirked in return and his eyes flashed purple the next second.

Solomon suddenly felt a deathly aura coming right in front of him as his sharp senses picked up a murderous intent coming where he was stabbing Kahn.

"Die you fucking demon!!"

Solomon hit Kahn with the lightning spell and the young man didn't even get a chance to dodge or evade.

Blast!

Kahn's head... EXPLODED.

His brain and broken pieces of skull splattered on the ground like a squashed watermelon.

"Ha ha ha! Didn't I say I'll kill yo.. "

RIP!!!

A sound of something getting stabbed and ripped out reached the Elven mage's ears and he finally saw the source of it.

A black and red claw that looked like hot magma was running through its veins appeared out of the left side of his chest.. And inside the claw.. Was a beating heart.

A jarring and ghastly voice landed on Solomon's ears. The words were in an echoing demonic voice...

"Omae wa mou shindeiru."

Solomon's entire body shuddered in fear and he looked behind his back where the source of this voice was standing.

"Impossible.." before he could even finish, his body slumped on the ground as the elf still had a horrified expression on his face even in his death.

The figure holding his heart was....

KAHN

Unlike what the mage thought.. He never actually killed Kahn. As soon as the mage broke through the Void Realm spell, Kahn quickly activated the Doppelganger skill before the bright flash disappeared and used Shadow Strike to appear right behind the Elven mage.

And the Doppelganger who had 50% of his physical strength and skills, used Subterfuge skill when its eyes flashed purple. This ability messed someone's perception of vision and direction; after his senses were altered, Solomon felt a murderous intent coming from the front but in reality, it was coming from behind him.

The Doppelganger served its purpose before it died and Kahn finally dealt the killshot and ripped out the elf's heart just when his Berserk God Mode was about to end.

His gaze landed on the now-dead Semi-Saint Rank magician who was the second most strongest person in the entire Flavot city.

He used Asura Mode, Berserk God Mode, Void Realm, Subterfuge and Shadow Strike.. All of them under a minute to finally kill the insurmountable and nigh-invincible enemy.

Kahn dropped on the ground as the aftereffects of the Bloodline Merge and Berserk God Mode finally kicked in.

His appearance started changing and in just a few seconds, he was back to his normal human appearance.

Kahn started losing his consciousness and was about to faint because the weakening effects were too much for him to handle.

Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud!

Four black figures jumped out of his shadow at this moment and consecutive thuds filled the battlefield.

A 12 meter tall monster with bright red eyes looked at the fallen figure beside the mage's corpse.

A tyrannical voice filled the surroundings and Kahn, who was barely able to keep his eyes open saw four familiar figures.

"Rest now, Master. We will protect you."

Chapter 129: Greater the Risk, Greater the Reward

The bright moon shone in the sky above, the once peaceful and tranquil scenery was now a remnant of a destroyed battlefield as small embers and smoke filled this mountainous valley.

In this contradictory environment that would hardly look appealing to anyone, a young man was lying on a bed inside a wooden coffin.. a wooden cabin.

The countenance of this young man was of someone who was completely exhausted and dehydrated. But even in this situation.. He was sleeping soundly.

Around this wooden cabin, were 4 figures who acted as guardians of an ancient tomb full of riches and treasures.

In the front, were two giant figures that were more than 12 meters tall. In the back of this cabin was a skeletal being who was hovering few meters above the ground. Inside the cabin itself, was a slick and lean build man standing beside the bed.

The four figures were Kahn's biggest and few of the strongest subordinates. These were the ones he chose to resurrect by spending all the mana cores and ores he had on him when the Magma Drake Dungeon Boss killed them in a futile struggle.

They were Omega, Blackwall, Ceril and lastly, Ronin.

Just before Kahn fainted due to aftereffects of the various power buff skills and two physically draining skills, his four subordinates had completed the resurrection procedure and appeared right before he fainted.

Now they were acting as his guards. But unlike before.. There was a change in their behavior and the way they conversed with each other.

"When will master wake up? It's morning already." spoke Omega, the Lycan who was also the strongest amongst all the subordinates currently present here.

"Patience. It will take more time than usual. Although master is much stronger now, he still went overboard with his attacking skills. The aftereffects will take more than usual." responded Ronin, the Rogue subordinate in a calm and collected tone.

"Wrong. I can sense my liege's mana recovering at a fast pace. He should be awake in a couple of hours." said Ceril, the Necromancer.

"But what should we do with those two bodies? Should I make two undead soldiers out of them?" asked the skeletal subordinate again.

"Impudence! Who are you to make decisions in master's stead?!" a rustic and domineering replay came from Blackwall, the Guardian Knight subordinate.

"Stop it! Master will decide what to do next. And he will need the bodies intact to absorb their abilities." interjected Omega in his ghastly and horrifying voice.

"You know.. Master hasn't actually said you're in charge when he's not awake." said Ronin.

"You.. Little insect. I am the first of us who master created. And I've hunted and fought beside him the longest. So naturally, I am the second in command. If you have any problems, fight me!" declared Omega.

"Hummph! Don't act like little children and make a scene here." interjected Blackwall, acting aloof and responsible as if he belonged to an upper class of society who pitied the mannerless fools.

"What did you say you damn bull?! You want to go one round with me?" retorted Omega.

"Yes, you think you're any better than us you big meat shield?" retorted Ronin.

"Uhhh.. Guys.."

"What?" they all looked at the skeletal mage subordinate.

Ceril pointed his boney finger in a direction.

"Urhhmm.. Why is it so loud in here.." a worn-out and tired voice filled the room and a half-naked young man woke up from his sweet sleep.

Thud!

Just the next second, all four of the subordinates kneeled in front of Kahn who was still lying in bed.

"So you guys are back! Good." spoke Kahn.

[System, How much time do I have left till the weakened state is gone?] he asked the system.

[The aftereffects of Asura Mode and Berserk God Mode have greatly affected the host's body. The host will require 17 hours more to change to the normal physical state.] clarified system.

[I see. Show me the new notifications.] he commanded.

[The subordinates have been Resurrected.

The loyalty of the subordinates has increased by 50%.

The total loyalty has risen by 100%

Congratulations to the host for unlocking Impartation skill.

The host can now share skills, abilities, bloodlines and job/class specific traits to the subordinates who have unlocked 100% increase in loyalty.

Note : This skill can only work with the subordinates with a 100% loyalty Increase.

Congratulations to the host for unlocking a secret condition of Evolution.

Subordinates with 100% loyalty can now be directly merged with a specimen without the need of another subordinate with Evolution skill unlocked.] replied the system.

"Finally!" spoke Kahn loudly. He always thought that the whole increase in 50% loyalty with the subordinates had a reason behind it because they were already made to be loyal to him. And all the subordinates he named had a 50% increase in loyalty.

This was more of a test for him to unlock these skills and special conditions. So one condition was to name the subordinate and the other was to resurrect them if they died to unlock these abilities.

"System, impart the Metamorphosis bloodline to all of them and also share all of my skills and passive abilities based on their respective classes." he ordered.

[Command Completed.

The subordinates have unlocked the skills to switch into a human form, the same species as the host. However, their physical stats will be reduced by 20 Levels in the humanoid forms.

Note : The subordinates must be above level 85 and reach High Lord rank before this skill can be activated.]

"Holy mother of god!" exclaimed Kahn in surprise.

This was another godsend gift he received. Because now his subordinates could take human forms after meeting the prerequisite conditions.

This way, he can travel along with them and won't have to hide them in his shadow all the time. Not only could he use them to fight along his side in a battle out in front of other people, but he could also distribute roles in the team and have a small adventurer group of his own.

And since his subordinates will be in a human form. They will prove far useful even in front of a crowd without raising suspicion on his identity. Because he could never use them in front of people unless he wanted to kill the witnesses. But now, even with the 20 level decrease in stats, this was still a better alternative.

And they will regain their original strength after revealing their true form anyway. So now he and his horseman of death could also hunt in the open without having to worry about them scaring the people to death with their monstrous bodies and appearance.

"Wait.. I still need to get them to Level 85 and High Lord rank first." spoke Kahn and a sudden realization hit him as he looked at the corpses of Arkham and Solomon that were kept on the other end of the room.

Kahn grinned at the subordinates kneeling in front of him and took 4 bodies out of his space ring.

Kahn had been taking a lot of risks before this sudden ambush by Arkham and Solomon. So it was time he used what he received from the aftermath.

Because the greater the risk, the greater the reward.

Chapter 130: Remunerations

Kahn sat up and looked at the corpses of the two people he once had good ties with but later turned against him and tried to take his life.

While both of them had their own reasons that he couldn't have foreseen in any possible ways; the fact was clear to him that just because he felt a sense of familiarity with them, he had indeed let his guard

down and came up unprepared or without even thinking of the possibility of these people turning on him.

By the end, it was very clear to him that it was indeed his own negligence that could've resulted in losing his life. Just because someone had a good relationship with him, didn't mean that were harmless or wouldn't look for their interests even if it meant taking his life.

He ordered Ronin to bring both the bodies close to him. The blood was still dripping from the corpses of the duo, especially Arkham who was cleaved in half by Kahn.

First, he started with Arkham and put his hands on both sides of the cut-down body. His sword was lying beside the old man.

"Absorb." commanded and began the ability absorption procedure.

After 35 minutes, he was finally done.

[System, show me the new abilities.] he commanded.

[The host has acquired the following abilities & skills :

Sword Savant (S Rank) (PASSIVE) :

Allows the host to fuse Mana and Aura together to create swords infused with elemental attacks. Up to 8 swords can be created at the same time.

The attack damage, range and effectiveness of the sword attacks increased by 35%.

Aura Assimilation (A Rank) (PASSIVE) :

Allow the host to infuse mana in long-range attacks with accurate precision and balance.

Note : Time required time for infusing mana & aura reduced by 40%

Magic Swordman's Will (S Rank) (ACTIVE) :

Allows the host to cover and encapsulate any object with mana & aura as long as the host is holding any long and straight object.] replied the system.

"Noice."

He spoke and commanded the system to show him the merged abilities & skills.

[Following are the merged skills and abilities :

Sword King (SS Rank) (PASSIVE) :

A combination of Sword Lord and Sword Savant.

Allows the host to create a total of 50 swords made from aura, mana & elemental attributes.

The host can create different elemental attribute swords at the same time. All swords can move & change directions as per the host's will.

Time required to infuse different elements, mana and aura reduced by 50%

Attack damage and combat techniques mastery for all sword attacks raised by 100%.

The effective range of all sword attacks is raised by 50%.

Sword Battlemaster (SS Rank) (ACTIVE) :

Allows the host to control any sword in 1 Kilometre area via the host's invisible aura and mana threads.

The activation time is only 30 minutes. The time will increase with the increase in the host's combat technique mastery.

Congratulations to the host for breaking through Peak Grandmaster Rank for Sword Weapon Mastery.] declared the system.

"This is the way!"

Exclaimed Kahn in joy because Arkham's abilities made a major breakthrough for him and now he had his first SS Rank skills after Sword Lord skill he got from the clan head of Volstov Clan was merged with Arkham's Sword Savant skill.

The end result was even higher and many times upgraded version because not only his proficiency increased, his attack damage, range and the number of swords he could create increased by 3 to 4 times.

On top of it, he could give a separate element to each of these swords as he wished and he could now control any sword in a kilometer from him.

Along with the reduction in mana, aura and different elements, he could even use Dark Lighting Strike attack in half time than before. This would greatly benefit Kahn in the long run.

This indeed made him a total monster because if he faced 100 enemies in a fight and they had swords as their weapon.. He could simply use their swords to kill their owners. Just too terrifying of an ability similar to Magneto from X-men.

Although Arkham hadn't reached the Semi-Saint Rank, the skills he absorbed from the magic swordsman weren't any less useful compared to what he previously got from the clan head.

Ronin then plucked out Arkham's glowing golden core from his heart and handed it over to Kahn.

He cleaned it with a cleansing spell and ate the core in a single gulp.

After meditating for 5 minutes and spending a minute to subdue Arkham's remaining will in the core, Kahn rose by 5 levels and now reached Level 90. Because he was already stronger than Arkham under normal circumstances in terms of stats, and how each level up required more resources and cores; just Arkham's core alone giving a 5 levels boost was a good and acceptable outcome.

"Phew. Thank you, old bastard. I forgive you for trying to kill me.. Even though I killed your one and only son first." thanked Kahn shamelessly.

He glanced at the Semi-Saint rank mage, Solomon. This elf had actually pushed him too far and if not for his immense boost in strength because of the Asura Mode and Berserk God Mode, he wouldn't have been able to kill the mage this at all.

Even there, he had to let the enemy think that he killed Kahn, messed his sense of direction and made the elf drop his guard just for a second. And all of those different skills in the very last minute before he managed to kill this Elven mage who also knew about the Emperor's core.

Thankfully, no one else knew about the core or half of Rakos Empire would be after him if the news leaked out.

Kahn could never let anyone know about this empire toppling secret. Although he currently didn't know how to best use this in his favor.. It was something worth killing for.

And now by right, Kahn was actually the next Emperor of Rakos Empire but the decree no longer held any meaning to it. And Kahn wasn't stupid to think that anyone would even care about it.

Plus the Saint Rank people in the empire would wage a war on him if they heard about the truth and the core. Naturally, they would want the core for themselves and raise to the next stages of the Saint Rank. Unlike him, they'd have the means to utilize the Peak Saint Rank Emperor's core.

So for now, everything must be kept secret. He couldn't even afford to think about the Rise of the Emperor plotline as his circumstances and priorities didn't allow him to shift the story in that direction.

Back to the present moment, Kahn decided to target the Elf and his core that was lying inside his squashed heart. A greedy smirk appeared on his face.

"I wonder how many rewards I'll rake in next."