

## Darkness 181

### Chapter 181: The Order

Kahn now stood at the front door as he entered the main headquarters of the Assassin organization named the Red Right Hand.

He was here to find the true culprits who accepted the contract and started killing his people.

[Too many people.. I can't take them all by myself.] thought Kahn as he gauged the strength of the nearly two thousand fighters. These were indeed one of the top professional killers who worked on a contract basis. As he strode within the crowd from one side to another.. Nearly 2 kilometers of the rectangular area was full of these fighters. Even the weakest one he sensed was a beginner master rank warrior.

Kahn also sensed 2 Peak Grandmaster Rank fighters. One being a mage and the other being a female ogre who was a battleaxe warrior.

Who knew how many assassinations were conducted and lives were taken by these people.

What he wanted to do here was look for the exact records and find out who were the people that targeted his company & hired these people to kill his employees.

He wasn't stupid to think that out of all those people he offended that day, everyone was part of these targeted killings. He wasn't a psychopath to go and kill everyone because of mild suspicion.

But by knowing the names of the people responsible, he would be properly able to exact revenge on those who were the root cause of it.

During his stroll around the area.. Kahn was looking for the best ways to use the battlefield to his advantage.

And the biggest and most key advantage he could use was none other than..

The Ventilation system.

Because this place was an underground facility, there were plenty of ventilation ducts coming inside and the grid was made to supply air to every corner of this vast market-like floor.

There were a total of 11 doors altogether from different sides, like the one Kahn previously came from. And as the wolfkin revealed previously.. There were plenty of isolation barriers and detecting formations.

Anyone stupid enough to break in through this facility won't leave out of here alive. And if not for Kahn, who learned about the password and had the appearance of one of the well-known members, a grandmaster rank archer.. He too would've been noticed and caught as soon as he entered the tavern above.

As he silently checked the nook and cranny and the divided sections for the bigshots of this profession and those who had a rich clientele.. He finally decided on how to deal with this situation.

In half an hour, Kahn silently and successfully planted 20 isolation formations, 12 anti-teleportation artifacts and 6 domain artifacts of his own.

And now, even if a big fight was to break out.. Nobody outside or above the ground would be able to sense the commotion.

Kahn now possessed over 30 fear toxin timer bombs. He planted 20 of them on different desks under the name of looking for a suitable contract and then using his extension skill, he planted the rest in the ventilation system.

After carefully rigging this entire facility to his favor.. Kahn decided that it was the time for the real thing.

He went to the restroom and changed back into his old man Kahn appearance.

Now, he stood in the very center of this wide facility full of criminals and murderers.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

His loud clapping noise echoed and silenced half of the facility as he used a sound amplification scroll.

"Listen, everyone.. I have an announcement to make!" he shouted, quickly garnering the attention of everyone who was going about their affairs.

"Those who took the job of killing the Bloodborne company's people, raise your hands. I have an extra offer from the main clients. They say they will give 50,000 gold coins to each person who previously accepted their contract." spoke Kahn loudly.

Gasp!

Multiple people present here, let it be dwarfs, botirs, thralls or elves suddenly had all of their attention on him.

"But only those who accepted the job previously are eligible for the next proposition. So those who did.. Raise your hand!" declared Kahn.

Thud! Flutter!

One by one.. Hundreds then over a thousand and then nearly two thousand.. Almost 99% percent of the professional killers here raised their hand.

"What the fuck?! How come all of you accepted the job?!" asked Kahn.

"Ha ha ha!!"

"Pfft!! Is he for real?"

"What rock were you hiding under, dipshit?"

Hundreds of people started laughing at him altogether.

A purple thrall standing close to Kahn spoke..

"Don't you know? The contract on that company & killing their people paid 3 times the normal price?.. We all took it. But the client's instructions were that we all had to do it on selective days and in small numbers.

Otherwise, it will reveal that an entire company was on a hit list and the total number of dead people would get noticed by the public.

Seriously, how do you not know that?"

Kahn was struck with surprise. He only knew that a selective number of people had taken the contract but this was an entire organization-wise contract?

And they even paid 3 times the normal price.. Did someone really hate him to the core and wanted to see him and his company buried in the ground that badly?

"Hey! What kind of nonsense is this?!" suddenly an old human mage shouted from the other end of the facility.

"I'm the one in charge of dealing with this matter and reporting to our clients. Who the hell are you?!"

"Really? What proof do you have that I'm not the one to relay their orders. Do you even have the ledger and contract details given by our clients?" retorted Kahn.

"Yes I do!" declared the peak grandmaster mage and took out a big record book from his space ring and placed it on the table.

"Now tell me who the hell are you? I haven't seen you before either." asked the old mage.

"Since you guys are all so cooperative.. I'll tell you the inside information." he declared and looked around the thousands of people full of different species, races and genders..

"My name is Zeus. And I have been ordered to kill everyone who took the contract against the Bloodborne company." declared Kahn... Zeus, the Archer in his mature and rustic voice.

Everyone who heard this sudden declaration was caught by surprise.

"What nonsense!! By whose orders?" asked the mage in an enraged tone.

BOOM!! BOOM!!

Kahn quickly released War Dominance at full capacity and revealed his strength as a Semi-Saint Rank Archer to everyone present inside this vicinity.

His pressure already put nearly a thousand of the weak fighters on the ground as Kahn then replied in his tyrannical and domineering voice...

"By the order of Peaky Fookin' Blinders!"

## **Chapter 182: The List**

Zeus, the archer's sudden declaration about claiming their lives left everyone present in the inner vicinity of this assassination organization stupefied.

But as soon as he revealed his aura of a Semi-Saint Rank fighter.. Everyone who found his claims absurd was left with no other choice but to take those words seriously.

"Impossible! How's there a semi-saint fighter here? How did he come inside without triggering the formations and alarms?" asked the female orc warrior with a bewildered expression on her face.

"Fool! Don't you see.. Even if you're far stronger than us; do you really think you can take out thousands of us together?" spoke the mage in a tone full of scorn. In his opinion... Zeus was being too full of himself.

"Yes, I do. And about taking out all of you together.." spoke Zeus and pointing his forefinger towards the ceiling.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Multiple fear toxin bombs exploded from both the ground and inside the ventilation ducts, quickly spreading the dense white fog in this underground facility with each passing second.

"Attack!"

The old mage on the other hand, quickly cast a lightning spell and shot at Zeus who was over half a kilometer away.

Crackle!

The lightning spell approached Zeus with a speed so fast that no one could even register how fast it was.

But to Kahn, who now had his Hero of Darkness title in effect which raised all of his physical attributes such as strength, defense and speed by 3 times along with 2 times increase in mana capacity and damage done with by magical skills and attacks.. Everything appeared very differently.

His reflexes and speed was already on a different level compared to when he fought during the daytime.

His aura alone was 3 times stronger already and nearly put a thousand people on their knees in the 2 kilometer long facility. By no means, this was comparable to a First Stage Saint Rank person but it wasn't too weak either.

When the lightning attack came closer to Kahn, he found it rather... slow.

Kahn sidestepped and saw the lightning spell slowly pass through his previous location. He was simply unfazed.

[Is this my peak now? I'm already faster than lightning?] he thought as he was having his own version of Barry Allen dodging the Batarang moment.

The next second, the entire place was engulfed in this white fog and clouded their vision.

Not a single one of his enemies was able to see him. And although there were some Mithrans present in the crowd, they too were affected by the hallucinogenic effects of the fear toxin that had made their senses dull drastically.

Instead of waiting on a ceremony, Zeus quickly nocked an arrow on his epic rank bow and used the Archer's Lance skill by infusing his condensed mana with fire attribute and shot straight at the mage.

Clang!

But before it even hit the mage, the female orc warrior used her battleaxe to quickly protect the old mage.

Zeus's figure disappeared and he straight up ran in the direction of these two peak grandmaster persons. Because in this entire facility, only these two had the strength to fight him.

So he wanted to take out the strongest of the enemy side first and deal with the mobs later.

Using Hunter's Intent which was evolved to a SS Rank skill now, he could already see their most vital organs.

Executioner's Gaze.

Zeus used the Executioner's Gaze skill on the female orc warrior and paralyzed her on the spot. He then used subterfuge skill to change her perception of direction and sense.

Stab!

A dagger was stabbed right in her neck as she lost her life before the Executioner's Gaze skill effect ended. And the dagger came from another Zeus... a Doppelganger to be exact who used the shadow strike and appeared behind her at the last second.

Before the Peak Grandmaster Rank mage could even collect himself, Zeus had already come 10 meters closer to him and nocked his arrow as he aimed to kill the mage.

BOOM!!

A loud sound of a barrier breaking resounded in the surroundings as his Archer's Lance skill broke through the defensive barrier this mage had and blew up his brains.

He was already far stronger than these people after his levels rose; but with the Hero of Darkness title being in effect.. It was like fighting against little children for him.

He then nocked another arrow and used this same skill to break open one of the doors and provided an escape route.

"Remember! The Bloodborne enterprise has Semi-Saint Rank fighter backing them up. From now on.. If anyone ever targets them, they're dealing with me!" declared Zeus in his kingly voice.

The next second.. Over three hundred mana arrows varying from fire to water elements came into existence as Zeus used the Death Volley skill.

Shoot! Shoot! Swish!

These arrows then descended on all the murderers and criminals in this facility. Because of the fear toxin, they already were like a rat trapped in a cage and couldn't even react properly to the incoming attacks. Every wave killed 200 to 250 people.

Every single one of them had blood on their hands and killing these killers wasn't going to weigh down on his consciousness. Because if not for him finding their headquarters by his own.. these killers would've murdered his people in the name of the contract.

After over a dozen attacks of Death Volley skill.. Kahn had successfully massacred the majority of the people present here. All his skills had 3 times more damage, effective range and force behind them. And because of that, none of these people were able to protect themselves even with their armors & defensive barriers.

He now stood in the midst of punctured, burned, cut down, half-torn bodies of these professional killers.

Although over a hundred people managed to escape from the opening he made. It was all part of his plan.

To make these people spread the news about how his company had a semi-saint rank archer named Zeus and how he massacred an entire assassination organization because they messed with his people.

This was exactly what he meant about making a statement using his new persona aa Zeus.

To warn off any future potential threats who may dare to do the same.

The ones who escaped will do his free publicity amongst the underworld & anyone who was looking forward to having a piece of him.

"Awaken." commanded Kahn after he took the Mage & Female orc's body in his space ring to use them later as they were peak grandmaster fighters after all.

All these people were trained fighters with proper gear in the end. And he was already short on manpower recently. So no way he was going to let these bodies go to waste.

Zeus then?picked up the record book about clients this mage took out previously. He came to the middle of this room so the synthesis divine ability could cover maximum area for him to create more subordinates.

This was a list.. The list of people who were responsible for his people's deaths & wanted his demise.

He spoke with a ghastly and solemn voice as he opened the book.

"Now, I'll show them the real consequences of messing with me."

### **Chapter 183: Crossing Names**

Kahn now sat on a comfortable chair in the middle of the facility, holding the record book about the clientele of this criminal organization who worked as hired killers.

So far, more than a hundred of his employees had died at the hands of this assassination organization and Kahn partially avenged all the innocent employees who died as collateral damage & without even knowing why.

Kahn knew that at the end of the day.. He was the main person responsible who got these innocents mixed into a rivalry they had nothing to do about.

Since it was his first time running a business & having 4 thousand people work for him.. Never had he imagined that someone who had an enmity with only him would hurt the people unrelated to that matter.

All Kahn's plans and precautions were mainly based on his personal safety & the people that were most important to him. But he hadn't factored in the safety of his normal employees when he revolted against the council members of the chamber of commerce who wanted to oppress and bury his company in the ground.

Protecting himself wasn't an issue but now he had become accountable for all the dead people.

Although his choice was sound & reasonable at that time about sparing the lives of those business tycoons..

Kahn learned the hard way that even the good choices have bad consequences.

So after partially avenging all those who died because of this contract.. Kahn was now looking for the one who gave the contact in the first place. Only then would they properly be able to pass.

Kahn checked through pages after pages.. Each page filled with details about people they were hired to kill.

Apparently.. Plenty of business organizations and influential figures used these hired killers to take out the competition and for various reasons.

And when Kahn finally reached the last page after quickly scrambling through, he finally found the list with all the names & details about the clients.

"Danaerys Tarjaerion, Tywin Lansister, Robert Voratheon, Eddard Swarrk, Jorah Borjomir, George M. M. Rartin, Houdini Warsmeich.."

Spoke Kahn as his eidetic memory kicked in and he remembered who these names belonged to.

On that day, he had given a detailed look and memorized the faces of all the members of the main COUNCIL as well as the names written on their respective chairs. And these names belonged to 7 out of the 13 members.

He now knew the exactly responsible people and how they collectively spent 30 million gold coins just to have his company disappear out of existence.

And Kahn could finally move to his next step without killing someone who didn't deserve it.

After an hour, all the new one thousand subordinates were ready.

Armin jumped out of Kahn's shadow and asked.

"Where to now, master?"

"Now.. We cross the names on the list" he replied as decided that it was time for deliverance.

He wasn't a fool to wait for the next day till the news spread about his deeds and the culprits were informed.

So everything had to be done in this single night.

Kahn in his Zeus persona covertly left the facility and moved to his next target's living addresses.

Although there were only 4 hours left till sunrise.. It was enough for Kahn as working in the dark was his specialty already.

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He now stood a kilometer away from a mansion that was even bigger and wider than his own.

Now he had more than a thousand new subordinates in the Legion. So he was anything but short on manpower.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Nearly a hundred assassins, 30 archers and 20 mages came out of his body. All of them were equipped in decent gear and they were past level 80 because of the merging process and Kahn used 20 thousand A Rank cores to upgrade these new subordinates.

The low-level fighters will no longer prove useful to him because even the weakest fighters in Rathna were at least level 45.

"You know the rules, and so do I."

Spoke Kahn as he telepathically commanded the members of Legion about what approach they had to do using the Hive Mind skill.

Including this mansion, the entire property itself was 2 kilometers wide and over 400 armored personnel were at the night patrol.

Kahn commanded all the assassin & thief subordinates to diffuse the alarm traps one by one as his mages & artificers took care of the formations spread around the borders of this estate.

Through the shared vision from the Hive Mind link, he could see everything from afar.

"Remember, don't kill anyone innocent or the guards. Just incapacitate them and infiltrate quietly." ordered Kahn to his assassins.

One by one, all the assassins secretly reached inside the estate and the mages cast a silence barrier so that no one could hear them sneaking inside. Anyone who came close to finding them was either gagged or incapacitated before the guards could be warned.

Just in 20 minutes, Kahn in his Zeus persona stood inside the master bedroom, an alluring & seductively dressed foxkin woman with 9 tails was asleep in her round-shaped emperor-size bed. Completely unaware of the intruder who had a red epic rank dagger in his hand.

She was one of the business tycoons who colluded in the act of hiring the Red Right Hand to have his employees killed since they couldn't directly touch him.

"Wakey, wakey.. Little foxy." spoke Zeus as he slightly released his aura and frightened the female who suddenly woke up as if she received an electric shock.



"You.. Who are you?! How did you get inside? Guards!!!" asked the foxkin as she saw Zeus standing in front of her.

"Shhh! Don't wake up the guards. They're sleeping soundly. They deserve a good nap too." he said and took out a page from his black longcoat.

"You know what this is, right?" asked Zeus with a devilish smile.

"You.. Where did you get it? It was supposed to be kept a secret.." said the foxkin as she shuddered under his vengeful aura.

"The Bloodborne company and its people belong to me. All of them are my possessions." spoke Zeus and increased his aura by twice.

He brandished the daggers and rubbed them against each other as he gave a sinister and wrathful look, filled with nothing but pure bloodlust to this beautiful foxkin woman and spoke..

"And I don't like it when someone touches my possessions."

#### **Chapter 184: The Round Table**

Zeus now stood atop a tall watchtower with a black bow in his hands.

In front of him was a heavily guarded castle-like estate made full of stones and metallic fencing. It didn't feel like he was here to hunt a rich business tycoon, but a general in his fortress.

After the visit to Danaerys, the foxkin, his next target was the brown Lionkin named Tywin Lanshaire.

He managed to finish off one of the conspirators and now 6 more remained.

Although he could easily wreak havoc in this estate and kill everyone in this place with his Legion. But to condemn everyone to the fate of death just because of one person wasn't a wise decision.

There were plenty of innocents who lived in this estate since this was a mansion of a normal businessman who wasn't even a master rank fighter. This wasn't a clan of fighters but normal citizens who lived normal lives.

Just because of one bad fish, the entire pond shouldn't be declared dirty.

"3 more hours.. Still, 6 people left. I need to hurry." spoke Zeus and merged inside a shadow using the Shadow Walk skill.

Swoosh! Swish!

After him, nearly hundred of assassins followed behind and the mage subordinates who already surrounded this estate cast isolation and silence barriers on various entry points to let their comrades successfully enter the place without alerting anyone.

The hidden traps & detection formations were already taken care of so the intruders had no problem entering the place.

10 minutes later, a giant body of a 4 meter tall Lionkin, who had his mouth and limbs tied up was thrown on a ground full of yellow grass outside of the estate.

Zeus successfully kidnapped one of the main culprits and got him to a desolate tree line.

He pulled out the gag on Tywin's mouth.

"Who are you?! Why have you kidnapped me?" asked Tywin as he struggled to get out of the binds.

"Don't be surprised. You should've seen it coming even before you conspired to hire killers against the Bloodborne company." spoke Zeus in his calm tone.

"The.. The.. Bloodborne company.. Whoever hired you.. I'll pay you double. Just let me.."

But before he could propose a deal properly, an arrow pierced his right thigh.

"Arrhggg! You bastard!"

Shoot!

Another arrow shot and punctured his other thigh.

"Motherfucker!!" shouted Tywin.

"Hey, Language!" reprimanded Captain Am.. Zeus.

"I'm short on time.. Tell me why did you lot go this far?" asked Zeus as he released some of his domineering pressure.

"You think I'll tell you, bastard!" refuted the Lionkin.

"Oh.. I think you will." said Zeus and took a glimmering blue orb that sized as big as a watermelon.

Suddenly, the orb glowed and three projections were created above it on different screens.

This was exactly like those surveillance artifacts Kahn bought and had in all of his shops and offices.

In all three of these screens, were three young Lionkins sleeping soundly in bed. One was a little girl while the other 2 were boys in the range of 7 to 8 years old; but not far from them, were 2 assassins holding daggers in their hands in each rooms.

"Let me be frank.. I'm going to kill you for sure. But if you tell me exactly what I want.. I promise that I'll let them live. You have my word." said Zeus in a grim yet chivalrous tone.

"No! Please.. I'll tell you everything! This isn't simple like you think. Even I was against the idea of hiring that organization.

My children.. They don't have a mother. If you kill me.. They'll become orphans." pleaded Tywin as soon as he saw the threat on the lives of his children.

"And so did the employees of my company. They too had children, they too had wives. Some of the killers even killed the entire family including children & newborn babies.

You should've thought about it before you even got mixed into these affairs. Or I guess you didn't think that one day.. Someone you saw as weak and defenseless would have a leash on your own fate, am I right?" asked Zeus.

There were no Saints on the battlefield.

Even the people Kahn killed had families and children. And he owned up that fact.

Being good or evil was your own choice despite the world & environment around you. Some made decisions to survive while some made their choices based on their morality.

Kahn knew that he was no saint at this point. His hands were already covered in blood, he wouldn't put a halo of doing it because someone posed a threat to his life or he had to do it in order to survive.

The biggest kindness he could offer was not to kill the innocent bystanders at best. Or outright kill someone just because they looked at him the wrong way.

But if someone belonged to the enemy side.. Showing mercy would have its consequences.

He already saw what happened when he spared their lives because he didn't want to involve innocent people. His own people lost lives because of his error in judgment.

And he was the one solely responsible for it.

But now.. The dead won't come back and all he could do was at least punish the people behind their deaths.

At this moment, Tywin was having a mental breakdown and cried as he pleaded Zeus to spare his life.

Just because he was well off in his life, he didn't mind the weak getting killed, but karma found its way back in the form of Zeus.

When the morning sun finally arose.. Inside a wide meeting hall, a white Snakekin who was tied to the chair placed around the round table where the meeting with Kahn happened two weeks ago, woke up from his slumber.

Houdini Warsmeich finally opened his eyes as he regained his consciousness after being knocked out by someone during his sleep.

Gasp!

He gasped as soon as he saw the scene in front of him..

On the round table, in front of 6 chairs belonging to some of the members of the council.. Were six heads that belonged to his fellow conspirators.

"Aaaa!!!" screamed the snakekin.

Houdini shuddered in fear, completely out of his wits and with nothing but disbelief in his eyes.

Right in front of him, was a letter and there were plenty of words written on it.

But the words written at the end were what frightened him the most.

The words were an open declaration and there were terms stated in the letter. And the final words being..

"Do as I say or you're next!"

## Chapter 185: The Real Culprits

2 DAYS LATER.

Inside the chamber of commerce arms & craftsmanship department, a meeting was being held at the time of the afternoon. Just 2 days ago, there were 13 seats available but now only 7 of them were occupied.

And out of the current members of the council available, every single one of them was sweating heavily just with the happenings in the past 2 days.

After the incident of Zeus leaving the decapitated heads of their fellow members of the council right on the round table they were sitting.. All of them were taken aback and couldn't believe that their fellow business tycoons who were no less rich than them were all killed in a single night.

And Houdini, their chosen president & the main representative was tied to the chair and presented with the heads of their comrades.. All of them were now fearful for their own future.

And on the same day.. They learned that the dead members had jointly conspired together and hired the Red Right Hand, one of the top assassin organizations in the entire district.

But to their surprise, the entire organization was also wiped out on the same night. And the main culprit behind it all was actually a Semi-Saint Rank fighter.

Even in the entire empire which had more than 4 billion people living in it, there were less than 200 semi-saint rank people and they had successfully incurred the wrath of one.

Even someone of their reputation, wealth and connections couldn't manage to befriend such a person but they actually ended up causing his company a lot of damage.

The young boy who came 2 weeks ago was the representative of this grand persona and all they did was try to create more problems for this powerhouse.

"President Houdini.. Are you sure we might be spared? Because I think running away seems like a more reasonable approach to me.

Although all of our businesses and wealth would be gone.. Just staying alive matters more to me." spoke a black man depressed in a white and green coat.

"You think I didn't have that thought? But running away is not a wise choice. Because not only this Zeus is a semi-saint archer, he also has a thousand people under his command like a criminal organization.

From the very beginning, we never had a chance to escape." replied Houdini.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

The next moment, the main door was opened and the guards escorted 3 new members inside.

Two of them were familiar figures to these members as they were none other than Omega & Jugram who put them all kneeling on the ground. And behind them... entered a man in his mid-50s.

This new individual seemed far more regal and imposing than all of them combined.

All the members got up from their seats and bowed down in respect to this man clad in black & white regal clothes who appeared like a leader of some rich noble clan.

BOOM!!

The next second however, an immeasurably heavy pressure was released from the domineering man with black hair & beard along with the white patches.

Instantly, every single one of them was put in the ground from this chaotic aura as the tyrannical voice landed on their ears.

"Good thing that all of you came at your own discretion. Otherwise, I would've hated to find you myself." a ghastly & majestic voice came from this person.

The members of the council and all the guards couldn't do anything but to have their faces plastered on the floor. Their bodies having nothing but goosebumps & frozen countenance.

The reason why all of them were present here for this meeting was because Zeus, the semi-saint rank archer himself had ordered them to be present to the meeting using that letter left on the round table. And anyone absent will be marked as the next one to die.

Hence, they had no choice but to be present here at this moment.

Zeus then sat on one end of the round table.

"Such a comfortable chair. This table also looks rather spacious I would say." spoke Zeus and chuckled.

But to the members who were frozen stiff on the ground, it felt like they now stood in front of the grim reaper.

Of course, the table would be spacious... because he killed the people who occupied these chairs.

Zeus then deactivated his aura & spoke.

"I assume you all know why I'm here. And who actually owns the Bloodborne company?"

"Yes sir.. We apologize for creating trouble for your company. We did not know such a grand persona held the command of that enterprise." bootlicked a yellow botir.

Zeus then sat leisurely spoke..

"I don't like to beat around the bush. From now on.. Never even in dreams are any of you to create trouble for my company. I don't care about the market prices and stuff. You all will readjust it.

And my nephew, Kahn will have a seat at the council. Although he's not the kind to interfere in these things often.. I want you to take care of all the conditions and documents.

In return, I won't kill any of you and interfere with your businesses either. But there won't be any form of forgiveness ever again. You will surely join your friends if it comes to that." threatened Zeus in a calm demeanor.

Although he could rob them easily again & force some unfair deals like asking for a cut under the name of protection fees.. This wasn't a good choice. And these remaining members except Houdini weren't the ones who conspired and hired those killers.

Because even a cornered animal fights back.. So he didn't aim for another skirmish.

"So, do you all agree?"

All the members nodded in unison to this question.

What Zeus had implied here is that you're good as long as you don't mess with me. So they had no reason to disagree if it meant them having their heads intact.

The aura released from Zeus was something not even the pressure from both Omega & Jugram could imitate together. So they had no other options but to nod.

"Good. Then all of you may leave... Except you, Warsmeich." spoke Zeus as he gestured all of them to leave the place.

Houdini on the other end was shuddering in immense fear as if he'd soon get a panic attack.

"Do you know why I haven't killed you already?" asked Zeus in a skeptical tone.

"No.. I don't." spoke Houdini in a jittery voice.

The next moment, Zeus again revealed his aura full of bloodlust at the snakekin and commanded..

"Well then.. Tell me about them." said Zeus as he sighed before continuing..

"The real culprits behind all of this."

### **Chapter 186: The Surrounded Enemy**

Houdini Warsmeich, the president of one of the departments of the Rukon Chamber of Commerce now stood rooted on the spot as if he had seen a ghost.

"W.. What do you mean?" he asked the semi-saint archer in front of him.

Instead of replying, Zeus took out an intrinsically carved wooden box. The next second, Omega walked in front and took out a silver lighter from his pockets.

Zeus took out a cigar no small than a cuban cigar from Earth. Omega then lighted it up and Zeus smoked it leisurely.

"Don't be so surprised, Warsmeich. I knew none of you had the balls to actually go against my company after the previous warning. And before I killed them.. I interrogated them all.

And every single one of them told me that they didn't want to go to these extreme measures at all. That it was you who forced them to collude in hiring that organization." said Zeus as he reveled in the zesty taste of this expensive cigar.

"I am sorry Mister Zeus.. I don't know what you're talking about. I only agreed to this meeting because I wanted to offer my apologies. I will give you any amount of money you want." spoke the Snakekin in a scared voice.

"Oh.. Has your backer thrown you away after you lived out your usefulness?" asked Zeus.

He currently looked like an Italian Mafia boss conducting usual business.

"I understand that you don't want further trouble & only wish to solve these matters before things escalate even more as you no longer have someone to protect you." said Zeus and continued his carefree tone as he released half of his aura and froze the surroundings again.

"You made a good living. Had protection from authorities and there were courts of law.

You want me to spare your life but you don't ask with respect.

You don't offer friendship. You don't even think to call me 'Sir'." spoke Zeus as he returned to his calm demeanor.

Houdini was sweating heavily on the other end. He thought offering an exorbitant amount of money may help him worm out his way and continue living his life without losing everything he built over the years.

Zeus got up from his chair and looked at the snakekin as if he felt wronged.

"Warsmeich, Warsmeich."

"What have I ever done to make you treat me so disrespectfully?"

Asked Zeus in his mature and kingly voice as he walked closer to Houdini and placed his hand on the snakekin's shoulder.

"I understand that someone has been using you as a proxy and pulling the strings behind the curtain. Give him up, and work for me from now on. Otherwise, you know very well that people like me do not prefer to have loose ends.." proposed Zeus.

The next second however, Houdini dropped on the ground.. Even more terrified than before.

"You.. You don't understand, Sir. Those people are not someone even you can mess with. The person who ordered me to do all of this is a First Stage saint.. I'd rather have you kill me than him." revealed the snakekin.

"And what if I told you that I have means to get rid of this person? Will you still not talk?" said Zeus.

"Are.. Are you sure? I don't want to die." asked Houdini in a jittery tone.

"After the recent events.. Your backer would think that I will kill you anyway. But if you give up his name.. You at least have a chance to stay alive." replied Zeus.

Houdini nodded, understanding the gravity of the situation. This was one of the reasons why he had no choice but to attend the meeting.

For reasons unknown, his backer suddenly absconded and gave up on him after Zeus killed the other members.

Houdini knew that there was no way for him to get away at this point. He could always run away but then will have to look over his shoulder even in his sleep for the rest of his life. But here.. He could at least try to make amends.

"I.. I will tell you everything. But you have to promise me that neither you, nor any of your allies will kill me." he said and took three round-shaped metallic artifacts out of his space ring.

"If you do.. I will tell you everything without holding back. Or you might as well kill me already." spoke the snakekin as he took a deathly gamble for his life.

"What is this?" asked Zeus.

"A Blood-oath token. It is used to make extremely important contracts. If either side breaks the contract, they will die in 10 hours." revealed the snakekin.

"Fine. Have it your way.." quickly agreed Zeus.

After the blood oath was commenced between Kahn, Omega, Jugram & Houdini as they all pierced their thumbs on the needle present at the center of the artifact.

Houdini then spilled out all the beans. He was also surprised how quickly Zeus & his underlings very quickly agreed to the demands than hurting him or torturing him.

He felt like they too were very desperate to get rid of the person who got him mixed in these matters in the first place. And if he didn't comply with Zeus.. He'd die anyway. So betraying his backer seemed more logical than dying as collateral damage.

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When the midnight moon shone brightly in the sky over Rathna.. There was a large mansion that was situated near a waterfall and completely isolated from the normal populace.

One would have to travel very deep in the dense and forested area situated at border of the Rukon district to reach this place.

At this very moment.. This entire mansion was being surrounded from nearly 5 Kilometers by over Ten Thousand soldiers dressed in white and golden attires. Their batallions had taken for sides and even the flying battleships were hovering over this force.

There were thousands of warriors, mages, assassins and archers. And among these soldiers.. There were nearly a hundred Grandmaster Rank people.

The most common trait of these soldiers was their white hair, long ears and their glimmering red eyes.

The force was something Kahn had seen and even fought against before. But now.. They were his allies in a sense. The force these people belonged to was none other than..

The Vandereich Clan.



## Chapter 187: First Stage Saint Rank

Inside a grand mansion situated at quiet and peaceful forested area, stood an elderly Vampire.

This elderly and skinny vampire clad in blue and yellow mage robes was now practicing magic in an open and wide hall where the floor had plenty of mana ores placed at different ends and there were dozen of oval, pentagram, rectangular-shaped magical formations floating in the air as the mage was completely immersed in the study of magical formations.

But the next second, a loud and ground-shaking voice filled the entire 5 kilometer forested area where the man was situated.

"Kereberos Mor Vandereich, We have received the clan's orders from the Ancestor & the Clan Leader. You are to be imprisoned and brought back safely to the clan headquarters.

We are also allowed to use extreme measures should you refuse. Please come peacefully!"

A shrill and high pitch announcement was made from a flying warship hovering 100 meters above in the air. These ships looked like spacecraft and had 4 turbines and an outlet at the bottom that was expelling hot and intense heat while maintaining the entire body of the ship.

Even 100 loudspeakers from earth would not be able to cover this distance from 5 kilometers away. The use of magical formations to amplify the sound was done so effectively that it didn't adversely affect the soldiers below the warship.

The warship itself was a kilometer long, 300 meters wide and 100 meters in height. Anyone would think that this ship equipped with magic cannons and hundreds of artillery guns would be enough to kill anyone, let it be a Semi-Saint Rank fighter or a bonafide Saint.

But in reality.. This wasn't the only warship. There were seven more, 2 on each side including this one. Along with the 10 thousand soldiers using different weapons, belonging to different jobs and having different areas of expertise.

And all of them had come together just to catch one person.. A First Stage Saint Rank Magician.

The mage inside the mansion was taken aback by this sudden announcement.

"Impossible! Have they found out?" asked the bald vampire mage to himself.

The next second, he cast 4 different archaic magical formations in the air, each directed in a different direction.

Four 20 meter tall magic formations appeared in the air above these 4 battalions that managed to encircle this vampire without alerting him, these were the exact replica of the ones cast by the mage, just much taller & wider. But they appeared far taller and wider.

"What's the meaning of this?! Do you not know who I am? Is that a way to talk with your clan's elders?" asked the mage.

Next, an authoritative tone responded to this voice.

"As per the clan's orders.. You are no longer an Elder of the clan and neither are you a member. As decreed by the Ancestor & the Elder Council.. You've been branded as the traitor to the clan. Come with us without resistance." replied the commander of the warships.

"I see. Then I will give you a choice as well. I can feel that you've sealed the space in this area and no teleportation scroll would work anymore. But if you let me go.. I will not kill any of you. In the end.. You're all my kin." said the mage in a ghastly tone through these magic formations hovering in the air.

His threat had a calm before the storm sense of feeling. Even the thousands of soldiers listening from 5 Kilometers away felt a sense of danger just from his words.

"We are ordered to bring you in. Please cooperate. This is your final warning." replied the commander.

"Hahaha. All of you must be delusional if you think this is enough. You leave me no choice. I shall remember your sacrifice." said the mage sarcastically.

"All battalions, attack!!" ordered the commander and the charged cannons that were awaiting the orders shot enormous magic beams full of destructive mana. All of them aimed in the direction of the grand mansion.

BOOOO!!! BOOOO!!!

One after another, thunderous and ground-shattering noises filled the 5 kilometer vicinity as if an atom bomb landed and obliterated everything that came in its way. Sending tremors to the nearby ground out of this encircled area.

When the mushroom-shaped ginormous cloud of dust finally faded. The once noticeable grand mansion was nowhere to be seen. Not even a small broken pillar of the property was left.

A 100 meter long hole deep in the ground could be seen from the magic binoculars placed at these warships.

The commander who gave the order to nuke the mage heaved a sigh of relief as he couldn't see the target.

"Huh.. Is that it?"

Suddenly, a grim voice befell on the ears of everyone present and in the sky, a figure of a Vampire flying was finally revealed to these people in commands of these warships flying in the air.

In the mage's hands was a staff working as a source to channel the barrier.. But the force that now covered the mage and acted as protection was something completely different than mana.

"Impossible.. How can he be this strong? He should have died." spoke one of the vampires who were in charge of a warship.

The same reaction came from the other people in charge of the 7 warships.

This wasn't Earth where an explosion of this caliber was enough to kill thousands of people. The entire setting of this world was different and one thing was very clear...

Magic ruled over everything. Let it be to become an insanely strong being or destroy anything that stood in your way. You needed magic to do it all.

"He.. He's using World Energy. But wasn't he considered to be someone mediocre when it comes to channeling the world energy?" asked the commander as he communicated with the battalion leaders through a communication artifact.

"I already gave you all a chance. But seems like your brains have rotted just like our Ancestor & the Clan Leader!" shouted the vampire mage and waved his epic rank staff.

Swoom! Swoom!

One by one, nearly 20 magic formations appeared in front of the battalion while the vampire mage was still hovering in the same place as before. His effective range to cast spells was far beyond something that even a Semi-Saint Rank mage could do.

Even Solomon had the effective range to cast and attack with spells at 1 kilometer at best but this vampire mage was on a completely different level.

"Charge the cannons, everyone attack!!" commanded the vampire in charge over thousands of long-range artillery magic guns started shooting at the mage, all the 8 warships were enough to decimate an army of 10 thousand soldiers easily.

"Amateurs." said the bald vampire and 10 layers of magical barriers came into existence.

On the other hand, the magic formations cast by this mage were now glimmering brightly and released a deathly and heavy pressure in the surrounding.

All these formations quickly released different elemental attacks, varying from lightning to fire.

BOOM! Crackle! Splurge!

The long and thick lightning strikes, big and round water orbs, waves of fire and blades of compressed wind then attacked the fronts of these battalions stationed in the four directions.

Everywhere these tremendously strong attacks landed, not only they broke through the protection barriers cast over the foot soldiers, cavalries full of monster steeds.. It also bombarded the formations with these elemental attacks and killed more than 300 soldiers with each hit.

For someone from Earth.. It would appear as if the Gods were punishing their creations in the form of natural disasters or a calamity. But in Vantrea.. This was just a single First Stage Saint Rank magician taking an offensive mode.

One by one, dozens of these attacks landed and killed over a thousand soldiers in a matter of a couple of minutes.

Before the magic cannons could even charge, the vampire mage finished chanting his incantation and 4 more pentagram-shaped magic formations came into existence just a kilometer away from in directions aimed towards the soldiers.

Explode! BOOM! Dhang!!

Pure beams of destructive world energy coalesced and struck like lightning and obliterated the warships that looked near-indestructible one by one.

Just in the first wave.. 3 out of the 8 warships including hundreds of operators in each of them were obliterated into nothingness.. Not even a trace of their bones or ashes was left to see.

Pure destructive.. Only pure destruction filled this forest as if a heavenly tribulation had struck and judged everything in existence.

Hundreds of deep crevices filled the ground below as the burnt and thoroughly decimated ground was left asunder.

It hadn't even been 5 minutes but more than 3 thousand soldiers of the vampire clan were massacred by one of their own elders who had been serving the clan for over two hundred years.

Wails and screams of agony filled the battlefield as only charred and mangled flesh filled the surroundings with a gory sight of War and bloodshed.

"Now go and repent coming in my in your next lives!" shouted the mage in his stern voice.

This time 8 more pentagrams, even bigger than the previous times came into existence and charged themselves to land another volley of magical attacks on the battalions.

"Run! We're done for!" shouted the soldiers in fear.

**BOOM! BOOM!**

One by one, all these attacks charged at the targets and loud, ground-shaking noise filled the entire forest.

But as soon as the clouds of dust faded.. Everyone including the Saint Rank mage was baffled.

Although the attacks indeed land in the direction of targets.. They never truly connected the grounds.. Rather, something came in between and saved thousands of these soldiers.

As the sight finally cleared, everyone was awestruck after looking at the ginormous constructs that acted as a barrier and saved their lives at the last second.

12 red ginormous swords, each one of a height more than 100 meters acting like an impenetrable wall.

There were three of these godly swords in front of the battalions on the four sides, so close to each other that large-scale destructive spell could go past them.

And suddenly.. A kingly and domineering voice filled the entire forested area of 6 kilometers in length.

"Sorry, I am late. The faction council meeting was hard to escape from." spoke a majestic looking swordsman clad in a white and golden Epic Rank armor set.

His waist-length silver hair fluttered in the air and his mature and calm demeanor could be felt by every living being who saw him.

The next moment, more than 5 thousand soldiers shouted in unison with an ear deafening chant, welcoming the arrival of this kingly persona.

"ALL HAIL THE CLAN LEADER!!!"

### **Chapter 188: The Vampire Lord**

The loud cheers of joy & worship filled the battlefield as soon as this Vampire Lord showed up.

Although over three thousand of the soldiers had died just from a single wave of attacks from this First Stage Saint Rank magician, the sudden last moment shield of swords made by the clan leader saved the lives of the remaining 7 thousand soldiers.

Even 8 warships that could kill 30 thousand enemies on their own failed to kill & defend against this one mage. If not for their leader showing up in nick of time, many more would've died; even more brutally at that.

"To think that you of all people were colluding with our enemies and betrayed the clan. I'm truly disappointed in you, Sir Kereberos.

You were there when all the founding clans came together and fought against the Imperial Army. You yourself led thousands of soldiers in that war. But now.." spoke Ismatrazel who was flying two hundred meters above the ground.

"You've become the very thing you swore to destroy."

Spoke the vampire clan leader, shaking his head in disappointment.

Although they were located approximately 4 Kilometers away from each other, not only the mage but every single person present in the 10 kilometers radius could clearly hear his domineering voice.

The Fourth Stage Saint Rank Swordsman was on a completely different league than the former. Even his calmly spoken words had a completely different intensity to them.

The simple words that were amplified using the World Energy had an indescribable force & authority that could not be described.

"What do you know... You and your father ruled over the clan for 2 centuries now. Your rule will only ruin us and we vampires will grow weaker if you keep prohibiting us to kill humans and others for blood. We must use these livestock as they were meant to be.

We are natural predators & rulers. We're meant to hunt & rule like kings!" declared Kereberos, the elderly vampire mage as if a fanatic was giving their speech full of self-proclaimed doctrine.

"So that was it? Is that your reason to betray the clan by selling off my son, one of the candidates for the clan leader's position to our enemies? What would you even achieve by betraying your own to those who only want our demise?" asked Ismatrazel.

"You should know that our entire species was once prosecuted and hunted in this very empire because many of our predecessors killed indiscriminately and as a result, we were boycotted by the entire empire 400 years ago.

From being the public enemy to now becoming the leader of one of the strongest factions of the entire empire.. Do you know how hard it was for our ancestors to keep our species alive?

If not for my father.. Our clan would have regressed to bottom of the power structure after the loss we suffered a century ago.

And now we already have a system where we buy fresh human blood and everyone gets their fill for the month.

Unlike the vampires of the other empires, we're not bloodthirsty monsters." elaborated the vampire clan leader.

"Hah! Spoken just like your father. I've spent 2 centuries serving the clan and I know for sure.. We've become far weaker compared to our predecessors. And you father and son duo have a big part in it." scoffed off the old mage.

"Sir Kereberos.. As my senior and someone who served the clan for this long.. I ask you to come with me peacefully.

Sir Belmont, your elder brother was also my teacher before he fell in the Great War. So I ask you to surrender.

Because if I am forced to use even the slightest of my strength.. Given the difference between our levels; I can't guarantee that you will survive." said the Vampire Lord.

Only now did the thousands of soldiers understand that why was their mighty and absolute leader was talking with the fallen elder than just directly forcing him to concede.

The orders from the Faction Council were to apprehend this elder and the vampire lord wasn't afraid of not having enough strength.. But rather being too strong that he might accidentally kill the elderly mage.

"If you think I will surrender without a fight.. Then you're gravely mistaken." spoke the old mage and waved his staff. 5 different artifacts suddenly appeared in front of the mage and the source of mana started channeling to the staff that was the medium of casting the devastating spells and elemental attacks.

Just from the heavy pressure exerted by these spells alone. It could be felt that all strength & intensity behind these attacks was being amplified by 5 to 6 times.

The normal soldiers and the operators who stood on the ground and in the remaining warships were completely rooted on the spot despite being 5 Kilometers away from the source. To them.. It didn't feel like some Saints were fighting, rather it felt like some Gods were now getting ready for a fistfight.

The majority of the soldiers finally understood why Saint Rank fighters were prohibited from fighting in a populated area as agreed by all the factions in the empire under a pact made over a hundred years ago after the Great War.

Just the normal attacks from these beings were enough to kill thousands of soldiers and citizens.. The amount of destruction these people could cause was completely unfathomable.

One by one, dozens of defensive barriers came into existence and completely encapsulated 2 kilometer radius from where the Elder Mage floated in the air.

At the same time, all those archaic and tall magic formations started flying in a single direction.. In the direction of the clan leader who still flew in the air with a carefree attitude.

One by one, these formations queued up and aimed at the Clan Leader as the vampire mage was citing magic spells and stacking all these different elemental spells.

The most destructive spells started coalescing with each other and formed a harmony.

The frozen soldiers in the ground were completely awestruck. Kereberos was doing something that they only heard in myths.

He was fusing different elements together including the ones that were considered to be incompatible with each other.

"So this is the extent of World Energy..." spoke a young human male who stood amongst a group that was watching this battlefield on projection artifacts and was currently in a warship 15 Kilometers away from the battlefield.

When the elemental attacks finally fused, a shrill cry filled the entire battlefield as the combined spell of these elements was finally ready to attack Clan Leader.

"Die!" shouted Kereberos as he shot the combined attack and a large and bright red beam full of world energy was charged in the direction of the vampire lord.

**BBOOOOOOMMMMMM!!!!!!**

An ear-deafening explosion that formed a mushroom-shaped cloud as if a nuclear bomb exploded in this battlefield resounded in the 10 kilometers area was heard.

The soldier battalions far away felt the ground shattering and thousands of them fell on the ground from the tremors alone. Even the flying warships lost their balance from the shockwaves and sonic booms that were nothing but just the aftereffect of the explosion.

As for the main site.. Half of the forested area was now completely wiped out of existence and there were no trees or rocks. And the deep hole that a half a kilometer in height was formed.

If the previous attacks from the warships were completely unmatched... Then this combined attack by the mage proved to be five times more effective than before.

"Imbecile.. Did he really think that I didn't have enough cards in my inventory?" spoke the mage as he reveled in his victory as there wasn't even a trace of sand left where his spell landed.

The thousands of soldiers gasped in disbelief, many unable to process that their almighty clan leader was simply obliterated into nothingness.

As the cloud of explosion finally started fading after 3 minutes.. A tyrannical voice filled the 10 kilometers of the surroundings and gave shivers to everyone present in the vicinity.

"Are you done playing?" asked a majestic and kingly persona whose face was finally revealed to the onlookers.

The same place where the heaven-shaking explosion happened... A tall and mature vampire hovered in the air, simply using his palm that stopped the devastating magic spell.

Forget killing the vampire lord.. The combined spell that incinerated everything in the 10 kilometers vicinity hadn't even scratched his palm as the clan leader of the Vandereich clan stood like Neo stopping the bullets in the air just like the Matrix movie.

Thousands of soldiers and the vampire mage were left awestruck and completely baffled as soon as the vampire lord's voice confirmed that the Fourth Stage saint rank swordsman was still alive and kicking.. Completely unfazed by the spell made with world energy that was enough to kill 50 thousand people in a single shot.

"How.. It's impossible! That spell was more than enough to kill a Fifth Stage saint!!" exclaimed the elderly mage in disbelief, unable to accept the harsh reality.

"Oh, is that what you think happens when you rise in ranks as a Saint, sir Kereberos? Let me enlighten you then. By logic, I should be 3 times stronger than you given the gap in our ranks. But in reality..." said the Vampire Lord as he stopped in his words before continuing in a domineering and ghastly voice.

"I am 15 times stronger than you!"

### **Chapter 189: The Bait**

Speechless.. Kereberos, the Vampire mage was left speechless after hearing this new revelation. Because he hadn't risen in rankings after reaching the First Stage Saint Rank.. He had no idea what happens afterward.

The other people from the top brass of their clan hadn't revealed this spike in strength after crossing the new stages as if it was some sort of taboo.

Even his biggest card, the five epic rank enhancement artifacts give him only 5 times the boost in his spells range and attack damage. But even with that, he hadn't even managed to scratch the clan leader.

If someone thought the vampire mage was akin to some big and invincible powerhouse.. The fourth stage saint rank clan leader was even 15 times stronger than him.

Even the soldiers of the Vandereich clan who hadn't seen their clan leader fight at his best were shocked and bewildered.

"I don't believe it. If it was true, why haven't I heard of it before?" asked Kereberos.

"Why would any saint reveal their cards to the enemy or even an ally? Just like you, I have my trump cards as well." replied the vampire lord.

This response was heard only by the bald mage and nobody else who floated in the air 10 kilometers away, showing the immense control of the vampire lord over world energy.

Ismatrazel then gestured with both of his hands and made a gesture of calling something towards him. On the other ends of the forested area where the battalions that had lord hundreds of soldiers in each of them just from the waves of magical spells by the vampire mage felt their blood boiling.



And right in front of their eyes, the blood from their fallen comrades that lost their lives not too long ago started leaving their mangled bodies and flew in the air; towards the direction of their clan leader at an extremely fast speed.

In just 20 seconds, a gigantic orb of red blood, as big as a house was created in the air after all of the blood of the fallen vampires was collected at a single place. This orb was only 2 kilometers away from the mage who was still encapsulated and protected by the impenetrable barriers that previously faced the head-on attacks from the 8 warships and barely cracked.

"The blood of our fallen shall be your chains." spoke the clan leader and made a moving gesture of his right hand.

Ptew! Ptew!

Hundreds of chains and swords made with pure blood suddenly charged out of this orb and attacked the protection barriers and started drilling into the barriers one by one. And unlike the previous explosive beams attacked from the magic cannons... These swords and chains were created with world energy that could easily suppress anything made with mana.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Hundreds and then thousands of cracks appeared on these ginormous barriers that filled the long space. And just in 3 seconds, the first layer was thoroughly destroyed and the sword flew and charged at the inner layers.

"No!!!" shouted the vampire mage as after the first layer got destroyed, one of his enhancement artifacts exploded.

"Arhhh!!!" wailed the elderly mage as his body suddenly caved in and he spat out blood.

This was clearly the backlash of his spell and the artifact which he used as conduit getting destroyed. And he suffered from the mana he was using being obliterated.

BOOM! Crack! BOOM!

In the next dozen seconds, all the barriers were thoroughly cracked open while the mage threw up a mouthful of blood from the backlash.

His body lost its balance and he fell towards the ground.

Stab! Stab! Stab!

Just as his body was about to touch the ground, multiple chains made from the blood of the deceased soldiers stabbed his arms and legs and tied his body.

A grand figure of the Ismatrazel Mor Vandereich, the clan leader quickly appeared in front of the mage who was left defenseless. The vampire lord made a gesture of moving his forefinger in the air.

"Arrrr!!!" grunted the old mage as somehow, his right arm that was still holding the epic rank mage staff was cut off in just a second.

"You shall face the judgment from the Elders council and tell my Great Father about the other traitor hidden in the clan." said Ismatrazel and placed sealing artifacts on the mage that completely cut off his connection to mana and world energy.

"You think I'll talk? In your dreams, brat!" spoke the old mage.

"Oh.. You definitely will." replied the clan leader. And more chains encircled the mage's body.

The clan leader of this vampire clan had easily subdued this mage who seemed like an existence out of the world just by waving his hand twice.

Swish! Swish!

A warship that wasn't previously present in the 10 kilometers surroundings, suddenly flew in their direction and landed on the nearest ground.

A group of 10 people walked out of the exit of this 100 meters tall and enormous warship. In this group was a hooded figure under a black cloak. But the person leading this group was known to everyone here.

It was Szayel Mor Vandereich, the clan heir and also one of the candidates for the position of the clan leader in the future.

He stood in front of this elderly mage and asked with curiosity, "Why, sir Kereberos? Why would you collude with our enemies and plan to kill me? You once taught me how to control magic in my beginning years of training. So why do you resent me?"

"Hah.. Haha! It's because you're simply not worthy, kid. Look at you.. You're not even a Peak Grandmaster mage yet. Compared to your sister, you're nothing but a failure!

And to make matters worse.. You share the same ideology as your father and your grandfather. If the clan leader's position falls in your hands.. I see a bleak future for our clans. And that's why I didn't care if it meant giving you up." said Kereberos.

To this.. Szayel's countenance froze and immense wrath appeared in his eyes as he clenched his fists. Although the words came from a traitor.. Szayel knew what this elderly mage was indeed the truth. He was simply lacking compared to his stepsister and had always been foreshadowed by her glory and talent. But there was nothing he could say to rebuke this vampire mage.

"Tell me, how did you even find out?" asked the mage.

To this question.. Ismatrazel pointed his finger towards the hooded figure who stood behind Szayel and spoke..

"It's simple. Because you took the bait."

The figure under the black cloak then took off the hood and finally revealed the face.

"You..." spoke the old vampire in disbelief. The person that revealed himself was someone he clearly knew of but hadn't expected to see here.

"Nice to meet you, my dear well-wisher." spoke the man.

This young, handsome and muscular figure was none other than Kahn.

### **Chapter 190: The Advice**

The vampire mage now stared at the young human who stood in front of him with contempt.

"So you're my well-wisher." spoke Kahn as he gave a gentle smile.

"You human vermin! You have no idea how many people you've enraged by saving this brat's life and thwarting our plans.

Start counting your remaining days!" declared the old mage.

"Well.. Not the first time I've had such a rude greeting. But unlike you, I come bearing gifts." said Kahn coyly and suddenly, he threw a round white object in front of the now tied up mage.

This round object was a head that belonged to someone this mage had used as a chess piece for targeting Kahn & his company since they couldn't openly attack him without raising the suspicion of the Pureblood Faction.

It was the snakekin, Houdini Warsmeich.

The blood-oath token applied only on him, Omega and Jugram. But it didn't work on Ceril & Armin who hadn't taken part in the ritual. So Kahn had Ceril do the work and brought the snakekin's head as a parting gift.

Kahn chose to kill the snakekin who easily switched sides under small pressure. Because at the end of the day..

A snake may shed its skin, but it's still a snake.

"Your mistake was to think that I will not see through the fact of you using him as a proxy and targeting me from behind the scene.

But instead of scaring or torturing him, I made him think that we were on the same side. And believe me.. He was very keen on selling you out when I said that I have connections and means to kill you.

You left a loose end and thought that I would do the job for you.

And now that you've been caught.. So will be the rest." said Kahn.

He already had his suspicions when the member of the council including the snakekin president hired an entire assassination organization just to hurt him and his people. As if they no longer had any fear that Kahn would come knocking on their doors or kill them in their sleep.

There were only two logical reasons for it as far as he could think.

One, they received backing from someone who could easily kill Kahn's Peak Grandmaster subordinates.

Two, the backer was so powerful that the council members were more afraid of angering the them instead of Kahn.

And there wasn't anyone of that caliber whom Kahn had come in contact with or made an enemy of.

So the only possible suspects he had were the enemies that he made by saving Szayel's life that day.

But as per Szayel's words during the secret meeting they had, the Demi-Human faction wouldn't benefit from targeting him in any way. And first of all, they didn't even know anything about his part in all of this.

Since it was obvious that these traitors couldn't kill Szayel themselves, they joined hands with the enemy faction and both sides would profit in some way.

Only the top clan members of the Vandereich clan were informed about his doings. So whoever it was.. It was one of the Elders.

And from the words of this mage, it was also clear that the group of traitors believed in the supremacy of their own faction & species and wanted to rule over others or simply massacre them like true extremists and fanatics.

They wanted to kill Kahn out of their ego as he ruined their future plans and even exposed Vivian, Szayel's stepsister and one who was favored by these people for the position of the next clan leader.

It appeared as if the vampire swordsman girl was also one of such extremists and why they wanted her to become the next leader.

So after Kahn found out about the exact culprit hidden in the shadows, he informed Szayel through the jade medallion.

But even before all of this, as if having foreboding of the future, he asked Szayel to make a contact with the Faction Council and propose this idea even before the killings happened. His gut feeling had proved useful and the Faction Council had reached a consensus.

Just catching one guy was enough for them to fork out the names of the others. Not only from the Vandereich clan but also the traitors hidden in other clans of the pureblood faction. Now, the traitors didn't even know that one of them was already in custody and soon they would be too.

Kahn planned for this big part and acted as bait because he couldn't afford to fight these people on his own and he simply didn't know exactly who was pulling the strings.

And now, all of their work came to fruition.

"You did good work, Kahn. We are in your debt." said Ismatrazel as he nodded in approval.

"I've won... But at what cost?" said Kahn in a solemn voice with his head dropped down.

"More than a hundred innocent people died because their target was me. And since they couldn't afford being caught, they killed others to get to me." he said with an ashen expression.

At this.. Ismatrazel walked towards Kahn and placed his right palm on Kahn's left shoulder.

"Listen, kid. Whenever there's a war.. The first victims are the innocents who had nothing to do with it in the first place. That is the harsh truth.

A true leader must make sure that even if they're not present.. Their people are safe and protected. This is where you failed." said the vampire lord.

"And whether you lead by setting an example or through fear.. You should never be affected by the death of your comrades.

Over two thousand of my soldiers died because other Saints couldn't come here on time. But do you see me or anyone else crying?

Remember... an emotional leader is a weak leader.

And weak leaders don't win a war." spoke the clan leader.

"But you knew it would come to it. That's why you came to my company's grand opening. To rub it in their face and incite them to target me.

You planned to use me as bait on the very day I arrived at your clan headquarters and proposed the business deal. I was a chess piece in your game before I even knew it.

Am I right, Lord Clan Leader?" asked Kahn, his countenance filled with slight anger.

Ismatrazel was slightly taken aback but then nodded in response. There was no guilt on his face rather he looked impressed by Kahn's intelligence.

"To take down your enemies, you also need to create opportunities in order to trap them.

After my son told me about you, I knew that someday, you would be targeted by the impatient or the egotistical ones. And it happened just as I planned." replied the vampire lord in his domineering tone.

Kahn was just reminded that he wasn't the only one with foresight. Just now, Ismatrazel proved why he was the clan leader of this vampire clan which also represented an entire faction of millions.

Not only because he was strong but he also planned 10 steps ahead with his cunningness.

All Kahn could do was swallow down this fact.

Although he greatly benefitted from the support of the Vandereich clan, let it be setting a big business, having a connection with bigshots and influential people; even gaining popularity through their means... But it also came with a price.

A price paid with blood of the innocents.

"I can't bring back your dead. But I can at least offer a bigger compensation given how greatly you helped us excel in finding traitors within our ranks." spoke the vampire lord.

"What will happen to him & the others?" asked Kahn out of curiosity.

"You'll know soon..." spoke the vampire lord and continued in a domineering tone.

"Not just you.. but the entire Rakos empire."