

Darkness 201

Chapter 201: Dinner Invite

After a long time, Kahn woke up from a merry sleep. Although he could work day and night without breaks or eating anything for weeks.. The mental drain was something that would easily burn you out both physically and psychologically.

In the current situation, the Bloodborne enterprise now had a monopoly over the weapons & arms business in Rukon district. And with the official backing and support from dozens of top-ranking clans of the empire.. Rukon district that ranged to nearly 200 kilometers from one end to another was now Kahn's turf. Every other arms dealer had left the competition.

And the district which was only known for the commerce related to Alchemy products and resources was now also getting famous as the district where the Bloodborne company was located and the Grandmaster Blacksmith, Albestros Winston lived.

After the clans who started selling his products in different districts under their own management, the amount of business offers Kahn was receiving were increasing every day.

And the S rank cores he received were also proving very useful as he rose to level 138, rising by 13 levels in the past month alone. If this continued.. Kahn was certain that he'd reach level 200 within a year. Meeting one of the conditions to reach the saint rank and enter the realm of these godly beings.

But before that, there were still a few things he had to take care of. And those were namely learning proper magic and studying the Dimensional Law.

He could no longer afford to delay these two factors. Otherwise, he would regret it later and curse himself for not perfecting his skills and mastery. Because they were all important to keep himself alive.

Even with all the skills he absorbed and created, Kahn was feeling far inferior and weak after watching the first stage saint mage wiping out the enemies and surrounding 5 kilometer area just with his normal spells and attacks.

Compared to him, Kahn only had magic skills and spells to use them because of the Ability Absorption divine ability; but no real knowledge or techniques behind them.

Even now, he only had noob-level knowledge and understanding about Mana itself.

'Fake it till you make it' was the current approach Kahn had till now for the magic department.

So now that he was finally settled and had people to run the company in his absence, his next target was to learn magic and study the space law on the side.

Stability & Peace was within his reach. So all he had to do now was gradually increase his levels and skills so that he could become a saint soon and decide whether to stay in this empire or not.

But for now, he finally had something of his own in this new world.. Something worth protecting and fighting for.

"I guess I should meet him now that things are all settled." said Kahn and looked forward to the night.

That very night in Kahn's new grand mansion he bought recently and lived with all of his subordinates and Albestros.

Despite the old blacksmith's reluctance, Kahn brought him to live in this new place because neither was the old building secure and fitting for them to live any longer. They were more likely to be looked down upon by others now if they still lived there given their current wealth and reputation.

But Kahn already made arrangements for having the property managed and keep it well maintained.

The new home looked like a castle from the Victorian era with plenty of defensive measures structures installed. And the main reason why Kahn chose this costly place to live was because it had an underground training facility spanned for 2 kilometers and was magically fortified to even not break down from an attack of a semi-saint fighter.

This was going to be his new training grounds of magical skills and combat techniques he wanted to learn and practice. And this applied the same for his subordinates who also needed to perfect their skills and weapon mastery.

It was so big and wide that even Blackwall would easily fit in there. For all his subordinates except Rudra, there was everything they needed to keep raising their strength.

As the night finally came, Kahn had new servants prepare for a small feast. There were 52 new servants he hired who looked after the property and worked in different professions.

Even the chef he hired was a peak master rank chef and had a salary of a million gold coins. The servants were all experts in their fields.

All the subordinates who had taken a human form had rooms and areas to live in this 3 story grand mansion within the 4 kilometer radius of the entire property.

Kahn finally experienced what it meant to be living like truly rich people.

The 400 master rank guards were also paid very well and unless a semi-saint attacked this force, they would be even able to kill a peak grandmaster fighter together.

At this moment, he felt a sense of relief and already started imagining about his retirement and living his remaining days peacefully like an old man who lived a content life.

Who said money doesn't buy happiness? It helps you buy things that can make you happy.

Knock! Knock!

"Sir, they're here." said Alfred, Kahn's new butler.

The old man with grey hair and a mustache was the head of Kahn's new servants team and also the main attendee.

If Bryan Cranston's Walter White had grey hair and mustache.. He would just look like Alfred.

"I see. Let's go." replied Kahn and went to greet his guests who just arrived.

In front of the main entrance of his mansion, came a highly luxurious carriage made for royalty and escorted by a dozen of beginner grandmaster soldiers.

As the welcome ceremony and formal etiquettes were performed, a regal appearance of a slim, silver-haired young vampire exited the carriage.

"Welcome to my humble abode, lord clan heir." said Kahn as he slightly bowed.

"Haha, you surely jest. There's no need for such type of formality between us, brother Kahn." spoke the vampire.

It was none other than Szayel Mor Vandereich.

But the next second, another slim and beautiful figure exited from the carriage and Kahn's expression turned somber and his eyes filled with absolute hatred and bloodlust as soon as he saw this new addition.

"What the hell is she doing here?!!" shouted Kahn as he pointed his forefinger towards a princess-like female vampire who was dressed in a white and golden armor set.

This person was someone who tried to kill Kahn & was one of the members of the group that tried to kill him previously. It was no one else but...

Vivian Mor Vandereich.

Chapter 202: Fate Worse Than Death

In front of the main entrance door of the mansion where two rows of servants dressed in black and white along with the two different queues of armored guards placed opposite to each other, stood a man in the middle.

Dressed in a combination of dark blue aristocratic longcoat and with the high grade and costly black pants and boots, Kahn welcomed the guests for this small gathering between acquaintances.

His and Szayel's relationship as friends was already out in the open so there was no need for secret meetings anymore.

But after seeing the new addition, namely Vivian who was also one of the people who wanted him dead, Kahn was taken aback.

Because although he saw how Vivian burned the traitors, he knew that her punishment was inevitable even if she was the clan leader's daughter. Because as per his knowledge from Szayel, their clan put the rules and doctrine of the clan above lineage & everything else.

"Tell me, what is she doing here?" asked Kahn in a stern tone, trying to hide his anger as he clenched his fists tightly.

"Ah.. About that.. Let's talk inside. It's not something we can talk about in public." spoke Szayel as the merry and pleasant welcome witnessed by hundreds of onlookers, the servants and soldiers from both sides wasn't exactly a good place to reveal clan secrets.

Kahn nodded in response and calmed his mind.

The soldiers who came as security for Szayel were escorted by his own as the soldiers also had food and entertainment waiting for them on a side of this grand property.

After giving them a small tour of the main areas of the new mansion, they stood in the main hall of the mansion.

This room was filled with luxurious furniture, dozens of intrinsically decorated ornaments, statues and artistic paintings. Every inch of the hall expressed wealth and prestige.

Szayel sat on a luxurious and comfortable sofa and Kahn sat on the opposite end along with Albestros.

The grandmaster blacksmith's expression was no different than Kahn's when he saw Vivian.

He was also present there that day and already knew how she was one of the people who wanted the ruin of their company and also kill both him & Kahn.

For some reason, Vivian didn't sit on the sofa and stood behind Szayel, acting like a complete and aloof stranger. She didn't even look at Kahn or Albestros straight in the eyes.

"Before you ask too many questions, allow me to clear out the confusion. She has gone through a core-binding ritual with me." said Szayel.

"What?!!" exclaimed Albestros with eyes full of shock and bewilderment.

Kahn was confused so he asked with a curious expression on his face, "What's this core-binding ritual?".

"You don't know about it yet? Well... not many know about this ritual anyway. Her core has been bound to Szayel. She is now unable to kill him or herself and forced to follow every single command of the one she's bound to." replied Albestros with a complicated and thoughtful countenance.

Kahn was surprised by this revelation and asked in a curious tone.

"Doesn't that mean she's basically Szayel's slave now?"

"Not exactly. Because slaves at least have their own emotions and in case the master dies, they will still live on.

But as for her case... if Szayel dies, she dies as well. And as the years pass, little by little, her consciousness will be taken over by the core binding magic. In a decade or so, she will have no free will of her own or possess any sentience. She will be an emotionless puppet, only living for the sake of serving the master. Her life will have no meaning left to it.

Her fate is worse than death." elaborated the old grandmaster blacksmith.

He was also an Artificer so he knew how these binding rituals worked. It was the same method he used on the Drakos Armor & Lucifer when he made them for Kahn. But doing it on inanimate objects was one thing but to perform this Core binding ritual using archaic formations and subjecting a sentient being with the pain of that procedure..

Albestros could imagine the amount of trauma & torture to the body and soul Vivian went through during the ritual.

Kahn on the other hand looked at Vivian again, only now did he notice a small teardrop gathering over her eyelids.

But instead of feeling sad towards the fate of this vampire heiress, Kahn let out a wide grin instead. He looked at Szayel and gave him an understanding gaze.

"Stand still, do not resist or retort." commanded Szayel.

Kahn then stood up and walked close to Vivian as he pulled up the sleeve of his longcoat.

He stood right in front of Vivian and took a deep breath.

SLAP!!!

SLAP!!

SLAP!!

Multiple loud crisps of slaps filled the entire hall, even the servants who stood near the borders of the walls were shocked.

Vivian's cheeks were turned red and visible fingermarks on them. Kahn hadn't held back in the slightest bit when he slapped her.

"You know.. The only reason you're still alive is because you're the daughter of the clan leader. Otherwise, I would've killed you so quickly.. that you wouldn't even realize how you died!

It was one thing if you wanted me dead.. But you and your people came after innocents around me. And hundreds of families were destroyed.

Although I compensated them with a hefty amount.. It's still not enough.

You're nothing but a trash who looks down upon the lives of everyone because you feel entitled about your birth and species.

People like you should be put behind cells to rot till your death." said Kahn angrily.

"Kid.. That's enough." spoke the old grandmaster.

Hitting a woman or someone whose fate was already sealed didn't sit right with him because of his moral code.

But instead of listening to Albestros, Kahn's face turned sinister instead. He let out a devious grin as he inspected Vivian's body from head to toe.

That look alone sent shivers down Vivian's spine but she couldn't speak or run away because of the command.

Kahn then bit his lips and spoke in an evil tone.

"Oh, this is not even the beginning. Now, let's begin the real fun."

Chapter 203: Punishment Deserved

At this moment, inside the main hall of the new grand mansion where Kahn & the gang currently lived, a beautiful and elegant vampire woman who looked in her mid-20s by appearance was thoroughly insulted.

To Vivian.. It felt like a stab in her heart as the once mighty and powerful clan heiress and one of the most beautiful females in the entire empire who was sought after by millions of males, had thousands of letters for marriage proposals monthly was now slapped in the face by a commoner.

Unlike her, Kahn had no lineage or a powerful background. He was but a nobody of low birth and wasn't even worth thinking about twice.

Compared to the clan heirs within their own faction and in Rathna alone.. The human that slapped and insulted her was but a measly bug who she would be able to squash at any moment with just a word.

But in her current predicament, not only she couldn't do anything to get back at him... she couldn't even speak or move because her body wasn't even in her own control ever since the core-binding ritual.

Szayel, the useless and incompetent stepbrother of hers who wasn't even a grandmaster rank magician yet despite being nearly 60 years old, now held the leash on her life.

His commands were like the second nature of her body already. Forget trying to break through it.. Her body didn't even allow her to use mana or any form of force to put resistance against his commands.

If Szayel told her to stab herself with her sword, she would end up doing it anyway.

Vivian could barely contain her cries and sadness in her heart after being consumed with rage but was not even able to speak a word.

Everything was supposed to happen just like she wanted after months of planning and using a perfect decoy.

Under the name of Neutral Faction declaring a war against the Pureblood Faction and killing hundreds of their clan heirs of the strongest clans, Szayel was supposed to get killed on the same day.

But all of their plans were thwarted because of one no-name human who appeared at the last moment and saved Szayel's life.

Although she had tried to have Kahn killed on 2 occasions already, he still managed to live on.

[I'm going to kill both these bastards one day! They've ruined everything! Just wait till I find a way to break this curse.] thought Vivian.

But after Kahn gave an insidious grin after looking at her body... a newfound sense of immense danger was created in her mind.

Rather than looking like a handsome man with classic robes of a noble.. Kahn's figure suddenly appeared like a Demon Lord with absolutely nothing but malice in his gaze.

"Tell her that she can fight and even kill me if she wants to. I'll teach her some lessons on both of our behalf." said Kahn.

Szayel agreed with this proposition. Now, he had no care for Vivian as a person or someone from his family after knowing what she thought about him.

As soon as he gave the command, Kahn quickly used the Domain Artifact and both he and Vivian were encapsulated in a dark domain, completely secluded from the rest of the world.

"Now then.. Show me what you got. I will not hesitate from breaking your bone or putting my foot on your head." declared Kahn and quickly released War Dominance at full capacity. With the Hero of Darkness title in effect, he was already 3 times stronger than his peak.

One by one, multiple barriers released from Vivian's body and protected her from Kahn's murderous aura. And now that she could speak in this isolated domain.. Vivian didn't hold back from speaking her true intentions..

"You human scum! Don't think that this shall be the end of I, Vivian Mor Vandereich! One day, I will trample upon everything you love and care about. And when that time comes.. I'm going to make you watch all of it with your own eyes!!" shouted her vampire heiress with a wrathful gaze and stared at the man in front of her.

"Oh, is that so? First, you need to be at least on my level. Or is it that you plan to have your little servants do it for you?.. Oh wait, you don't even have any more servants. You yourself are nothing but a slave now.

Didn't you hear Albestros? In just a decade, you will become a lifeless husk of your current self. Boy would I love to see your face then." spoke Kahn with a mischievous tone.

He was kicking Vivian down when she was at her lowest but didn't feel bad in the slightest.

Kahn summoned Lucifer after two months for the first time. The last time he did was on the day he and Vivian clashed.

"Show me your motivation!"

Said Kahn and quickly used the Sword King skill as he created more than a hundred aura swords made from different elements.

He lowered his aura so Vivian could move and then simply pointed Lucifer in her direction.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Dozens of flying swords dashed and attacked Vivian.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Vivian was left with no choice but to dodge and parry the swords attacking her as the force behind every single of these swords was something she could barely tackle head-on. She used multiple defensive artifacts to cover her entire body in protection barriers and gathered her mana to launch an attack.

In just a dozen of attacks, Vivian was already forced 10 steps behind and her arms were barely keeping up with the fast attacks. Forget attacking Kahn or fight on even terms.. She was thoroughly oppressed from the very beginning.

[What kind of nonsense is this?! I've trained with semi-saint swordsmen before. Why is he so many times stronger than them?] asked Vivian.

She herself was a peak grandmaster swordswoman so she easily understood the difference in strength by just a few of these exchanges.

"Don't think just because I'm currently not favored by my clan, you can actually injure or kill m.."

Before she could finish the sentence, an unimaginable pain suddenly hit her mind.

"Arrrrrrhhhhh!!!" screamed Vivian after her brain finally registered a black greatsword plunged in her left thigh.

Vivian dropped on the ground, she didn't even see when Kahn attacked her with this greatsword with the speed of light. The barriers broke instantly and she was poked before she could even feel the attack coming from 10 meters ahead.

To her screaming and wailing figure.. Kahn only replied solemnly with a devilish grin.

"I'm not gonna kill you. I'm just gonna hurt you really, really bad.."

Chapter 204: Scarred for Life

Inside the secluded domain were a young man and a vampire girl who were confessing their extreme affection towards each other through the classic method of exchanging their blades.

BOOM!!

Vivian collided on the walls of the domain and groaned in pain. This place was already a kilometer wide inside the domain space and from the past few minutes, Kahn had been flinging her body again and again with every swing and of his sword.

Even the epic rank sword in her hand was vibrating and cracking after defending against the semi-saint human. Currently... Vivian, the reputed and powerful clan heiress who had thousands of people at her beck and call was now reduced to a punching bag by the man in front of her.

"Come on! Get up... I still haven't enjoyed enough yet." said Kahn as he appeared next to her body and kicked her in the stomach.

"Argh!!" wailed Vivian as her body caved in from the kick and she was flung in the air.

Thud! Thud!

She rolled over on the ground and spat out blood from her mouth.

Cough! Cough!

"You.. You're never getting away with this!" shouted Vivian and got up. Tonight, her pride was thoroughly being trampled upon and toyed with for the first time in her life.

A low birth nobody was now treating her like a random henchman of some street gang and beating her like a thug on a street.

Kahn on the other hand was releasing fear toxin from his vacant hand while beating and flinging her so she wouldn't notice anything. And slowly, a white fog started descending in this domain, filling their surrounding area with the hallucinogenic smoke.

When Vivian finally started noticing the fog around her, it was too late for her as she had already inhaled a lot of this toxic air. And soon as her senses started dulling, the tall and black-haired enemy of hers started giving off a chaotic aura as his appearance started changing little by little in her eyes.

Crack!!

"Arrrrrrr!!!" wailed Vivian in agony as Kahn appeared behind her and broke her forearm with a single punch.

But instead of letting her scream more, Kahn quickly let go of Lucifer and grabbed her neck and lifted her.

"I hear you're very proud of your face. Well... you're indeed very beautiful. Only if people could see the true hideous nature of yours." said Kahn.

"How about I give you a makeover?" he said with a smirk.

Punch! Punch! Punch!

Kahn's left fist full of force enough to break a medium boulder landed on her face.

Thwack! Thwack!

One after another, the fists hit her beautiful face as her lips and nose started bleeding profusely.

Just in 3 minutes, her entire innocent-looking face was swollen up and her cheeks were also bleeding. Every single punch of his hit like a hammer in the face.

And the grip on her neck almost choked her to death as well.

He then threw her on the ground and stepped on her legs.

Crack! Crack!

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!" she screamed with all her might.

This was exactly what Kahn intended to do when he was staring at her figure before.

Not to do anything lewd to her as someone of the opposite gender.. But to decide which bones he would break.

Crack!

Kahn broke the bones in her right arm, and then the right leg. One by one, he was Breaking Bad.. Breaking bones in her body.

The domain was filled with hoarse and pitiful cries of this female vampire.

"Stop screaming and moaning like this! If anyone heard us, they'd say I am doing indecent things to you." he said in an irritated tone.

He didn't care if she was a beautiful girl or felt the need to hold back because she was a woman.

Because if the roles were reversed, Vivian would have his head on a pike just because he ruined her plans.

Who knew how many innocent lives this 76 year old vampire girl had taken in order to reach her goals. Kahn was certain that her count completely overshadowed his own.

Kahn was using her sudden appearance and her being bound to Szayel as a slave to finally let off all the guilt and anger he had amassed over the month.

Even though he always prioritized on looking after his own benefits.. He still hadn't grown numb to killing or deaths to the point where he wouldn't care if someone innocent was caught in crosshairs because of him.

First with Jessica and now with his employees.. He did that mistake twice already and both times, he hadn't thought of the consequences as he wasn't the center of attention during those incidents.

So all the anger he had stored up was finally being let out and he was beating up the main culprit behind the incident.

With the fear toxin effect kicking in.. Kahn appeared as a gigantic and burning demon to Vivian who didn't even have any strength left to scream at this point.

"Kill me.. Please.. Kill me." pleaded Vivian, her eyes full of fear as she begged for a swift death. What she was experiencing now wasn't anything different than someone on the verge of inevitable death.. But they couldn't die even if they wanted to.

Kahn pulled her hair up and looked right in the eyes of this heiress whose face was now all bleeding and bruised up. His eyes were full of wrath and immense bloodlust.

"Wish I could, sweetheart. But sadly I can't. But remember.. If you ever come after me or anyone related to me...

I will fucking kill you. And I won't care about the consequences or the wrath of your clan and any other bullshit. There won't be mercy next time. Do you understand me?" declared Kahn.

Controlling the immense pain in her body, Vivian nodded in response.

If not for her being a vampire who had a lot of vitality and physical health recovery rate because of their species and bloodline advantage, she would've passed out a long time ago already.

Kahn took a high-grade health recovery potion out of his space ring and poured it in her mouth.

After a dozen minutes, she was back to her old appearance thanks to her bloodline and the potion since her body was already of a peak grandmaster.

Kahn wanted to scar her for life so she would never dare to go against him or target anyone related to him since he couldn't directly kill her.

But he wasn't like Naofumi either who let Malty go just with the name like Bitch because she was royalty or belonged to the nobility.

He already knew how mercy to your enemies would cost you later. But he couldn't kill her because of his current strength and the trouble it will bring later.

So in a way, it was her first and final warning to ensure about the consequences of coming in his way ever again. It was a lesson that would be etched in her mind till her last moments.

After Vivian changed into new armor while Kahn kept his gaze in the opposite direction, he deactivated the domain artifact.

But as soon as their figure was revealed out of the dark barrier, everyone was left speechless..

Szayel on the other hand shouted in surprise.

"Did you just take her virginity?!"

Chapter 205: The Misunderstanding

An awkward silence filled the main hall after Szayel's sudden question took everyone by surprise. Even the sullen and nearly lifeless eyes of Vivian were wide open after this abrupt question that came out of nowhere.

"Hey, hey.. What the hell are you talking about?" asked Kahn in a flustered tone.

Even Vivian whose face was all sullen and ashen as she still hadn't recovered from the scary and inhumane treatment Kahn gave her a few minutes ago was suddenly brought back to reality.

"I just found out that I share a sense of mental link with her. And through the connection, I felt like she was in immense pain... but also pleasure." explained Szayel.

Kahn's ears perked up and his eyes were wide open after hearing Szayel's words.

So in conclusion.. Vivian was not only suffering but also getting ecstatic from all the pain?

[Masochist! She's a closet masochist!] thought Kahn.

Because only that could explain how Szayel felt that emotion from her inside the domain.

Huff! Huff!

Vivian huffed and for some sweat dropped from her forehead and for reasons unknown, her face had a red tinge all over it.

To everyone except Kahn, it looked as if Vivian had just done something tiresome.

[What the fuck?! Why is she acting like a holy maiden so suddenly?] he thought.

Kahn came close to Szayel and whispered the truth in his ear. The vampire clan heir then nodded in response.

But to all the servants present in the hall.. They all reached a common consensus in their minds together.

That their owner was a scum!

It was one thing him slapping her.. But after taking her to the domain..

He did the ding dong doo with the poor woman!

Vivian's figure also looked very fatigued and her long silver hair also looked a bit disheveled.

All the maids who saw this ordeal instantly got a very low impression of Kahn as all of them scorned him in their minds.

Kahn then ordered the maids to arrange the dinner table as they headed for the room to talk over the rest of the things there.

But as soon as they started walking.. Everyone whose eyes were already on the heiress also found something very odd.

Kahn also metaphorically facepalmed himself after noticing the change in Vivian.

Because after they moved to the dining room, Vivian started walking... funnily.

As if her legs and thighs were very weak, her way of walking looked very unbalanced.

This cemented everyone's former beliefs about the happenings inside the domain.

Little did everyone know that it was because Kahn actually stabbed right through them with this sword and then broke her bones.

Kahn felt like crying at this moment.

The torture he did to Vivian in the name of final warning also pleased her and in return and his reputation amongst the people also hit rock bottom.

Even Albestros gave Kahn a look of contempt and created some distance.

Omega who stood at the far end grinned and gave Kahn a thumbs up as if he was happy that his master finally had some good time.

The whole thing was inexplicable to everyone. There was no way left for Kahn to redeem himself at this point.

[Somebody wake me up from this horrible dream!] cursed Kahn.

When they finally sat on the long dinner table and were served with delicacies and different types of dishes varying from rare monster's meat to exotic drinks.. This was far beyond anything he saw so far.

The new chef lived up to his reputation and served them the feast of gods.

But just when Vivian was about to sit, an obsolete command landed on her ears.

"Who said you can sit? Stand near the wall!" ordered Szayel as he gave a hateful look to her.

Vivian was rooted on the spot.

This clearly wasn't her day so far.

First, she was beaten to death by Kahn and now, she wasn't even allowed to sit and eat all the aromatic and delicate food that was just an inch away from her.

Albestros, who was a kind person at heart found both Kahn & Szayel's treatment of the girl extremely disappointing.

But these two brats were actually grinning even after their childish behavior like some sadists.

But to Kahn & Szayel, this felt like a little win as they couldn't kill the vampire girl and hence, even these childish shenanigans felt very pleasing to them.

"My hands hurt.. Pour me some wine." ordered Szayel to his stepsister who wanted him dead for a long time. He was thoroughly enjoying bullying her now.

When the dinner finally ended and Kahn went on a small stroll around the open grounds of his new home.. It was only him & Szayel at this moment.

"Tell me, mister Kahn.. What is your plan for the future?" asked Szayel as both the men tread from the lush green open ground under the serene and tranquil moon.

"Just Kahn is fine. We can be considered friends now, right?" he joked.

"As for the plans.. I think I'm gonna take a break. The past 2 months since I came here have been very hectic.

Many things happened very quickly and I still find it hard to believe that I am in my current position in such a short time.

Well, I did learn some harsh lessons in the meantime.. But I think that's enough for now at least." replied Kahn truthfully.

"I agree. Even my world turned around by a lot in just the past two months. Before.. I didn't even have any confidence in myself or felt like I deserved to be our clan's heir.

Everything in my life has been handed to me. But now that I found out about how the people I once looked up to tried to kill me just because I was weak.. I have learned a profound aspect of life itself." said Szayel as both of them slowly walked on the windy and open ground.

"And what is that?" asked Kahn.

Szayel took a deep breath and spoke with resolute eyes..

"That power rules everything!"

Chapter 206: Heart to Heart

A soft and refreshing breeze passed by the two young men who were expressing their honest thoughts to each other after summarizing the events of the past couple of months.

"Oh, you're realizing that now?" asked Kahn as he chuckled.

"Not exactly. It's something I always knew but never truly realized the weight and depth behind those words.

You may as well call me someone born with a golden spoon for that... but my world has always been different than other people.

Till now, I've never truly worked hard to become strong. I had resources, people, excellent teachers but not even once did I give my best at achieving anything.

And after becoming a peak master rank magician... I haven't been able to move forward for more than 2 decades now. If I was strong, no one would have thought of my life as expendable." said Szayel as he sighed deeply.

"The last part, I agree. If you think about it, both of us were nothing but small pawns for your father & the pureblood faction if I'm being honest.

They used your life being targeted as an excuse to justify killing their enemies & used me after saving you as means to set a bait. Who knows how many people are involved behind all of this." said Kahn as he folded his hands behind his back.

Szayel who heard it knew that Kahn's insinuation was indeed true. His father used Kahn as bait while his grandfather used the whole thing as means to kill more than 50 thousand members of the Demi-Human faction under the pretense of exacting revenge.

In the end, both were just means used to hide their true intentions and mask a rivalry.

But since beggars can't be choosers, both of them had no choice but to swallow down this punch in the face simply because they were weak & powerless in front of the true powerhouses who sat at the top.

Both of them shared a sense of similarity in that aspect.

"Oh, by the way... there's something I wanted to tell you. It's not out of the clan's close circle yet but after the execution ceremony, the cores of the traitors that remained were gathered.

Unlike others, the core of a saint can't be destroyed easily.

There was a 5th stage saint amongst the traitors, an elder of the clan to be precise. His core was given to my father for him to absorb it and become a 5th stage saint in the upcoming decade." said Szayel and revealed a top-secret of his clan.

"What?! Doesn't that mean all the other clans also have the cores of their saints gathered after the execution ceremony? And why are you telling me this? Isn't it too risky?" asked Kahn in a surprised tone.

"Because it is indeed related to you in a way. So I felt like I should warn you." replied the vampire heir.

"Me? How? Don't tell me I provoked someone from your clan again.." said Kahn with a grim expression.

"Nothing like that. But something weird happened recently. Do you remember Kereberos, the first stage saint magician?" asked Szayel.

"Of course. What about him? Wasn't he also burned along with the others?" asked Kahn curiously.

"Yes, but during the gathering procedure..

His core went missing." explained the silver-haired vampire.

Gasp!

Kahn gasped in surprise after the revelation.

This old mage was the one who targeted him and had the chamber of commerce create trouble for him and even had his people killed.

After the vampire lord caught him that day, this old and bald mage was used as a means to find the other traitors within their clan and then those people to find the other traitors hidden within their entire faction of three hundred powerful clans.

The old mage was the very reason Kahn learned a very harsh lesson recently. But to have his core gone missing, and that too in the main headquarters of their clan. This was something completely unexpected.

Watching Kahn's surprised face, Szayel nodded and spoke again.

"Don't worry. It's not coming to bite you back this time. There was an investigation in the clan but the culprit hasn't been caught yet. But we are certain that it was one of the clan's inner people because I went to oversee the harvesting process and found out about the missing core.

We've taken enough security measures to find the culprits. I just felt like you should know." said Szayel.

For the rest of the night till midnight finally came.. Kahn & Szayel spent the rest of their time chatting about their future plans and in a way, ended up deepening their friendship. Not just for the sake of it but to truly become friends with each other.

Both of them let go of their previous pretenses and fake acts of helping each other.

Since both of them were in a similar situation now, a form of kinship was formed between and for the first time.. Kahn felt like he indeed found someone who also related to him albeit in a completely different way.

But during the moment he was shaking hands with Szayel to bid the vampire heir farewell... a black shadow suddenly jumped from the shadow of the vampire and mixed with Kahn's.

After Szayel & his entourage finally left and everyone went back to their rooms for sleeping.. Kahn stood in his new master bedroom.

He quickly used the domain artifact again to seclude the entire space around him and a lean and muscular, long black-haired man with green eyes who was clad in black assassin clothes appeared next to him.

"So, I assume you succeeded." said Kahn.

The figure in front of him was none other than Ronin who appeared for the first time after a month.

"Yes, Master. It did exactly as you commanded me to do." said Ronin in a ghastly and stoic voice.

The next second, he took out a box from his space ring and handed it to Kahn.

Kahn then opened the lid and the entire domain was filled with bright light and a white orb that sized as big as Kahn's fist was revealed.

Kahn grinned happily after looking at this orb and spoke with a greedy & excited expression.

"Finally... the core of a First Stage Saint!"

Chapter 207: Behind the Scenes

On the very night when Kereberos, the first stage saint magician vampire was surrounded and then defeated by Ismatrazel, before they met.. Kahn passed Ronin to Szayel's shadow when they stood in a warship and watched the two godly saints fight.

At that point, Kahn was already aware that the fourth stage saint swordsman and leader of this vampire clan had been using him since the very beginning. That he was using Kahn's shoulder to shoot a gun.

And he turned the young man who saved his son's life into a chess piece in his schemes before Kahn even knew it.

This left a bad taste in his mouth so Kahn wanted to use Ronin, who also had his Shadow Walk skill now which allowed the assassin class fighter to completely hide and submerge in someone's shadow without even leaking or revealing the smallest bit of your aura.

Ronin was to be his planted spy who would later reveal the real intentions of the clan leader and the vampire clan. To see whether they were trustworthy or he had to think of them as his enemies.

Kahn learned that day about how he wasn't always the smartest person in the room. Some had far more wisdom and experience than him. So Kahn took the opportunity and used Ronin as his inside man who would hide and then know everything and all the inner plannings of the clan through Szayel.

That was the primary & Kahn then did the same with all the members of the chamber of commerce this time. The subordinates had been reporting any suspicious activity by the council members to him for the past month.

But since Szayel lived in a very highly protected area that was filled with hundreds of magic formations, barriers and detection traps, it wasn't possible for Ronin to return and report to Kahn casually at all.

Besides, the headquarters of the Vandereich clan was more than 600 kilometers away from where Kahn lived. So there was no form of communication he could do with the rogue class subordinate either.

Kahn already ordered Ronin to commit suicide with an explosion just like a suicide bomber in case he was caught by someone. Since he could always revive the subordinate by spending high-grade monster cores and mana ores, it was something affordable at that time.

But everything changed on the day when the Pureblood Faction suddenly announced an empire-wide grand execution ceremony of the traitors. After Kahn conversed with Szayel through the jade medallion, he also learned that all of the traitors caught including Kereberos were going to be killed in the evening.

Suddenly, Kahn's had an idea as a very risky yet extremely rewarding plan hatched in his mind.

What he aimed to do was steal one of the first stage saint's core. Because he would never be able to kill a first stage saint rank by himself even with the help of all his allies and subordinates. And neither was his relationship with the Vandereich clan that good for them to hand him a saint's core either.

Plus, inhabitants of Vantrea didn't just eat cores and rose in ranks like him. They had to spend months and in some cases, years to physically maintain contact and absorb the mana stored within these cores.

Only Kahn was one of the oddities because of the Ability Absorption divine ability. And if he suddenly rose to a first stage saint rank after a short time of getting the core.. His identity as one of the chosen Heroes would be at risk of being exposed to the top powers of the empire.

No way he would be able to hide that fact since the aura around the saints was completely different than the ranks below them.

So there was only one choice left. And that was to steal it!

On the day of the execution, there were millions of citizens heading to their respective clan headquarters throughout Rathna.

Kahn disguised as one of the people in the crowd heading towards the headquarters of the vampire clan and used shadow walk to travel through the thousands of vampires that were gathered in the main headquarters where the grand execution ceremony was held.

And when he finally came into the inner circle and reached in 10 kilometers proximity to Szayel, he could finally talk with the subordinate.

Kahn specifically told Ronin about his plans and how he had to carefully steal the core of a first stage saint. Coincidentally, Kereberos was the only one at that rank amongst the traitors, rest were above & below him.

But being greedy here wasn't the best choice either. If the cores of all these saints went missing, Kahn would be in deep shit sooner or later. If they found out, he would be dead for sure and the heat it would bring back to him was something he couldn't deal with even now.

Besides, Kahn couldn't even use the cores of the saints of higher stages. Dealing with that issue later was a more reasonable choice than completely enraging the top powerhouses of this clan and dying a painful death.

When the night finally fell and only the ashes of the traitors were left on the execution ground after cooling down, Ronin passed from Szayel to shadows of the guards and then used the dark of the night to steal the core, using his assassination skills and the fear toxin to divert the guards stationed as security.

After he successfully stole the core, he waited for an opportunity to leave the place but the best chance he got was when Szayel came with a group of grandmaster rank soldiers to collect the cores and safely escort them.

Luckily, there were no monitoring devices or artifacts present here as no one would ever imagine someone infiltrating and stealing from the clan right in their main headquarters.

Using the dark shadows and carefully masking his presence, he again hid in Szayel's shadow as that was the best choice to meet Kahn again.

Even without the direct commands from his master, Ronin was already very careful and intelligent; inheriting Kahn's opportunistic and patient behavior to perfectly execute the task.

And since no one would dare to inspect the clan's heir and the candidate for clan leader's position in the future, no one even dared to inspect Szayel after a thorough investigation was done by the clan which resulted in some of the soldiers getting imprisoned for failing their duties.

And ever since then, he had been hiding and waiting to get out and meet Kahn all this time.

Kahn on the other end was completely consumed with thousands of things to do in the past month after the deal with the 8 big clans and the saints who visited him that day.

But since the system hadn't notified him, he knew that Ronin was still alive. Just that it was unclear whether he succeeded or failed the task.

And during his conversation with Szayel he had a couple of hours ago, he had all his questions answered by the clan heir.

He wasn't traced or even considered as one of the suspects.

Kahn held the bright and glowing white core in his hands after Ronin appeared after one month.

Even though he wasn't proficient in using or sensing the world energy, he still could feel the extremely condensed world energy within this fist-sized core.

Just by touching the core, he felt an immense reserve of energy that can be used for destroying the army of tens of thousands if used properly.

And this was just a first stage saint's core. The cores of the higher stage saints would be far powerful and contain more energy inside them.

"Well done." said Kahn as he nodded at Ronin who successfully managed to steal this core from the headquarters of the Vandereich clan and remained untracked, waiting patiently for this exact moment.

Kahn let out a content sigh as he looked at the core with a joyous smile.

Kahn finally had one of the main sources to become a saint which was also the hardest one to get. He wasn't stupid to even think about killing a bonafide saint himself after looking at how the mage oppressed the army of ten thousand and didn't even receive a scratch from those destructive magic cannons that could obliterate hundreds of Kahn together.

"Finally.. Half of the battle is won." said Kahn as he put the first stage saint's core in his personal space ring.

He gave 1000 SS Rank cores to Ronin as his reward and decided that it was time for the subordinate to take some time off and rise in levels just like the others.

All Kahn needed now was time.

By his estimation, he would need at least half a year to reach level 200 and then he could finally become a certified saint.

A realm that was in a way, a realm above the mortals and felt more like pseudo gods.

Kahn laid on his bed and spoke in a tired voice.

"Finally... I have everything I needed."

Chapter 208: The Preparations

One week passed after his reunion with Szayel. Kahn now had a different set of priorities given the fact that he was finally done with establishing himself in the capital, had no need to worry about money, resources and even had the backing of some of the top clans and Saint rank figures behind him.

To the current him, it was already more than enough as his goal wasn't to trample the heavens but to create a safe-haven for himself where he could be without worries about the things he thought he needed when he came to Rathna three months ago.

Most of it involved him getting targeted & having to face economical pressure. And after the incident with the Vandereich clan, Kahn was now a wiser person to not even trust his closest of friends.

He had done this mistake with Arkham & Solomon once and now the clan leader of the vampire clan cemented that lesson in his mind.

And the other lesson was that even sparing innocent lives from the enemy side had its consequences. It was either you or them.

Now Kahn didn't even trust the people who worked for him, let it be in his company or his house.

In the past week, he had been making arrangements for the much-needed break he wanted.

Ceril & Omega were now introduced to the company management as the only two people who were authorized to make decisions and approve any big transactions.

The teams of people in logistics and management were ordered to report everything to them since both of them were free and no longer had different places to handle.

Currently, Ceril handled the new main headquarters, Jugram & Omega handled the other branches and also acted as the main powerhouse to protect it.

To his surprise, Ceril who was a necromancer by profession was extremely quick to study & catch up with how the way of business worked. Just like magic, he was becoming very efficient in processing and handling documents and transactions as if he too inherited Kahn's eidetic memory.

Ronin on the other hand was left in charge of Kahn's new mansion which was named as the Wayne Manor by Kahn for reasons unknown. And Alfred, his main butler who got the job as soon as Kahn heard the name, was in charge of acting as his main attendee and one who managed the property with the highest authority in case Kahn & his subordinates were not present.

Armin, the subordinate with a Legendary Class who also had Alchemy & Healing abilities finally gained access to tons of resources and medicinal ingredients after Kahn spent millions of gold coins and bought them for him.

Kahn knew that Omega & Six Generals were no longer just brainless subordinates who abided by his commands without thinking twice. All of them had sentient will now and they were evolving as a living beings with each passing day, having their own thought process and personality traits.

But since the master himself was an amalgamation of peculiar personality traits and different tastes... no way would his creations be normal.

Omega was a sword freak who only cared about practicing and perfecting his sword skills. Ceril was a sadistic creep who just wanted to study and experiment with dead bodies by cutting them whenever he had free time.

Jugram was a musclehead and like his job class, he thrived on discipline and strength. He would often put all the security personnel in a strong practicing regime like some military drill Sergeant.

Ronin was a quiet person but actually liked collecting information on everyone and everything around him. Unlike Kahn, he was so cautious that he asked Kahn to give him 200 assassins and deployed them in the shadows of all the people who worked in their mansion and security.

And the biggest freak out of all of them was Armin. The seemingly harmless and kind-looking guy was actually a maniac who studied Alchemy recipes, potions and tried to create new types of poisons.

But what made Kahn facepalm himself was that for testing all these new recipes & poisons.. Armin was using himself as a test subject.

Since he had tons of SSS rank healing skills and even a legendary rank ability that could bring back someone from death if used under certain conditions such as a short time after death and body being intact, he was suffering and learning through trial and error by himself.

Like how a mad scientist would sacrifice their own body and mind for the sake of proving their research right.

The only ones left were Blackwall, Oliver & Rudra.

In the past week, Kahn made the arrangements and set up an office full of transmission artifacts that covered 300 kilometers of distance, all of them connecting him to all the main offices and shops should something of importance came up and he needed to be informed about it as soon as possible. More like a direct command base from where he would send out orders to his people.

So Kahn was finally free to put time into studying magic. Something that was far more important but so far, neither did he have the free time nor he had enough resources required for it.

And since he wasn't a 15 year old kid anymore, he didn't want to waste his time by joining a magic academy in the capital. He had enough confidence in himself that given enough time and practice, he would be able to increase his skills and proficiency just like he did with his swordsmanship.

Although he was jack of all trades and master of none.. This also entailed that he could reach the top in all of them.

And the main reason he thought so was because he had the biggest helper that no one else, not even the rest of the heroes summoned in this world had.

And that was the Weapon Mastery & Combat Technique mastery blessings given by the War Deity himself.

Contrary to his previous beliefs, the Combat Technique mastery blessing was also applicable for magical skills and spells than just physical attacks.

All he needed was proper knowledge & understanding of magic itself and he could soar through the sky in months while it took others nearly decades.

Kahn now stood in his new study room and took nearly 40 books out of his space ring.

These were exactly the books he found in the space ring of the semi-saint rank elf magician who tried to kill him in Flavot city, Solomon Elfenheim.

The elven mage who spent two centuries studying and gathering useful books and resources related to magic, ultimately gifted Kahn the top-grade archives people studying magic would never get their hands on in their lifetime.

Kahn took a deep breath and grabbed a violet cover book, the cover itself gave piqued Kahn's curiosity as soon as he read the title...

THE TRUE MEANING OF MAGIC.

Chapter 209: Dabbling in Magic

'What is magic? Is it an external force? Or is it a part of nature itself? Is it present in everything in the world? Or is it accessible only to the gifted beings?'

The first introductory lines of the book Kahn held in his hands started with the most basic questions yet the very foundation of studying and understanding the concept behind magic itself.

According to the book, the magic in Vantrea wasn't just something in nature but one of the constituents of the matter itself.

Just like on Earth, where atoms created matter, magic was the binding force that was present along with these atoms. But given the amount of magic that was present in this world and its density present in nature itself.. It was completely negligible.

Since the external force itself was so dense, many living creatures didn't even feel any magic present inside their own bodies. And because of that, a very less amount of inhabitants in this world could use magic.

Let it be a magician or a swordsman, all of them had to use magic as a form of medium to perform their skills & abilities. But only the ones who had the affinity towards mana, a condensed form of magical energy, could efficiently use them. And by either utilizing mana ores or monster cores, they could raise their levels and then raise their affinity, physical strength and compatibility with the mana itself.

Even if you belonged to a physical class job or had physical traits that made you strong, mana was the main driving force behind it which made your physique far stronger than someone without any access to mana ever could.

And that's why those who could use and manipulate it were like powerhouses than those who couldn't. Even a beginner fighter class being was stronger than 10 beings of their species and race. And the key difference was mana which made it possible.

In Rakos Empire, the ratio was 30 out of 100 people who had the affinity and access to it. But there was also another way.

And that was to trigger this inherent connection to magic by using monster cores & mana ores to forcefully invoke that ability.

This was the most effective way to awaken and see whether one had the affinity or their bodies had no potential.

And this method was already practiced in schools and people could test it in places provided by the government or any private organization.

This brought out 5 to 8 additional people in the equation. And anyone who didn't qualify or awoke their affinity before crossing the age of 30 meant that they truly had no way to use it in their life.

And because of that, only those who kept rising in ranks after invoking their job class had far stronger bodies and a longer lifespan than normal citizens.

This law also applied to monsters, other magical creatures and beings in the world. Just that they didn't go through some test but rather lived it as if it didn't matter.

For them, rising in levels and rank meant an increase in physical growth and abilities. And the higher the rank, the more evolved creatures they would be.

This also explained why the majority of Kahn's Lord Rank and above subordinates were more than 10 meter giant creatures, let it be Omega, Ceril, Blackwall or Rudra.

Since the base creatures used for their evolution were already this big and high ranked, making them appear like giant creatures than what Kahn had seen and read in novels and mangas of his world.

Because on earth, a Lycan like Omega would be 4 to 5 meters tall at best but in Vantrea, his height and build was 12 meters tall that was triple the height of a normal house. The same went for Blackwall, Jugram & Ceril.

Even Rudra was 25 meters tall when he slithered normally. If it was earth, he would be comparable to King Kong in height but in this world, there were far bigger creatures than him and he was only a mythical creature. There were still Godbeasts and Dragons above his rank.

Who knew if one day, Rudra could rise in levels and rank to become as big as Godzilla or maybe even the World Serpent from the Norse mythology.

And that is how Magic was basically the very aspect of life and creation that ran everything in this world.

The reason why Kahn was adamant about learning magic and improving his skills was that after seeing the first stage saint magician fight that day, he saw just how lethal and destructive magic spells were that decimated and obliterated everything in the five kilometer radius.

Compared to him, Kahn's magical spells and abilities that he got by killing and absorbing others looked like attempts made by kindergarten children. He knew the spells and the tricks but his foundation was as hollow as it could come.

And that is why, not a single one of his magical skills including the dark magic & darkness element spells and skills that were already made from one of the strongest elements in the world, never truly reached their highest potential and effectiveness.

He won't always be lucky to come out alive by coincidence or using some underhanded method when facing a true expert. Even someone with the same level and rank as him would come out on top if they had better knowledge and experience with magic and how to manipulate it at the best of their capability.

So after binge reading on the extensive topic of magic and its working principles, Kahn finally stopped at night and had a clear goal in his mind.

"From tomorrow onwards, I will begin my proper training."

Spoke Kahn with newfound clarity.

Because only studying never made improvements without actual practical applications. Just like the training with his physical classes and weapon skills, there were no shortcuts when it came to magic either.

So he planned to carry his studying and practice his skills simultaneously. Because this was the period of his real beginning as a magician.

This was the time for the real Grind!

Chapter 210: Basic Foundation

The next morning, Kahn stood in the underground training facility while being dressed in casual indoor clothes.

The new mansion he bought a few weeks ago had a history behind it. This property previously belonged to a fallen noble clan that served in the military and had hundreds of their members train under this facility. And the clan head was a female centaur, one of the rare species in the empire.

But after she fell in a war with one of the nearest empires 2 decades ago, the clan fell from prestige and authority since none of the descendants crossed the saint rank. And after being unable to maintain the clan's expenses as well as struggling to hold their positions in the military despite being a military-oriented clan, the leader had to put the mansion up for sale and move the clan headquarters to a more affordable place.

And coincidentally, Kahn was looking for a new place to live and as soon as the house selling company informed him about this mansion, he bought it without a second thought.

And the main reason was this training facility which was made over decades of hard work and devised to help nearly 500 soldiers at once, let it be mages, archers and melee classes. The whole facility was something Kahn desperately needed for quietly training without holding back and so did his subordinate.

The entire place spanned for 2 kilometers in radius with hundreds of instruments, training arenas for specific job classes and hundreds of magic formations and artifacts installed in here to hold its foundation and it could even easily withstand a full-powered attack from a semi-saint.

To Kahn, this would be his own Batcave.

There were two sections that were currently useful to him, one area filled with wooden tables and chairs to study magic while the other was an open ground where multiple stone monoliths were fortified with magic formation to make them durable enough to stand against large & powerful spells at the same time.

He intended to use them for target practice and try variations of magical spells & skills he had.

elemental magic spells, he learned that unlike the majority of the isekai world's he read and watched in mangas and novels, you couldn't outright perform and use any elemental spells just because you could use magic.

In Vantrea, you must have the core knowledge and understanding of the type of element you were using to cast a spell. For example, if you wanted to cast a water-related spell, you must study and understand the mana signature of these elements. Just like how DNA inside every human differentiated them from others of their species.

Then use that knowledge to adjust and manipulate the mana you had access to for matching the properties of these elements. After your mastery over mana manipulation over that element increased, you could ingrain the same composition in a spell.

So that way, as long as you have enough understanding and experience of a particular element, you could cast spells related to it and then increase your mastery.

But since Kahn's foundation itself was non-existent when it came to magic & knowledge of mana manipulation.. All the magical skills he had by absorbing others were like a house of cards. Easy to break with a small breeze. But because of his levels and rank, they were far deadly to many people he faced till now.

But it was one thing if he was in Flavot city where not a single saint existed but in Rathna, he would be chewed out by the true experts before he could even cast a single spell.

And this was the main reason why Solomon had completely suppressed him during their fight just with 4 different types of elemental attacks. Compared to the elven mage's spells, the ones Kahn could use were like a sheet of paper facing a bullet.

"I guess I should start from the basics even though I can already use many spells. The spells & skills I have because of the Ability Absorption divine ability will only provide me with superficial force. But not the maximum output or effectiveness." said Kahn and came in the open arena.

Lighting & ventilation wasn't an issue in the place & plenty of artifacts were installed in the facility which prohibited any sound from leaking outside.

First, he held a glass of water in his hand. Kahn then created a big blob of water in his left palm and tried to feel the structure of water itself in both of these samples.

Before, he thought it was just a state of matter but due to his rank, Kahn could now feel a slight amount of mana infused in the original glass of water. It wasn't just a physical state of matter.. But also a force was a part of it that had a big influence on its structure and current physical form.

"That's it!" exclaimed Kahn as a sudden realization struck him.

As per the Law of Conservation of Energy; energy can neither be created nor be destroyed, it can only change one form to another.

Like how the water turned into Ice in a solid state and then into vapour in the gaseous state. But in Vantrea, mana itself was energy and you could change the state of the matter itself while casting a spell and use the mana present in the world to change its structure and give it any form you want.

Kahn dipped his fingers in the glass of water while maintaining the blob afloat in the air. After feeling both of them, he felt like the original sample in the glass was much denser and contracted than the water from the spell he created.

Despite the same state of physical form, the mana density of his spell was only 40% of the original sample. In other words, his own spell was less than half times effective compared to the original thing.

"No wonder all of my skills and spells with mana are very weak compared to others. So that's why Arkham's mana-infused skills and attacks were many times stronger than my aura blades." said Kahn.

Even his swordsmanship skills had mana factored in them. So if he had only half-ass mastery over one thing, he would never be able to break past his limits and none of the merged skills he had from Synthesis divine ability would ever cross the saint rank.

[The first thing I must learn is not to study the spells but the elements themselves. And then use them to create the elemental spells with real power behind them. Although it will take more time than my original estimations.. It would still build me a strong and firm foundation.] thought Kahn as he tried to manipulate the density and structure of mana in the spell while trying to match it with the original water sample in the glass.

There were steps you simply couldn't skip in pursuit of power and mastery. This wasn't about training his physical skills and weapons techniques anymore..

But to train his mind & soul as well if he wanted to be the strongest guy in the room.