

## Darkness 41

### Chapter 41: All out Hunt

In a fortress in the South of the Flavot city, a group of high-ranking soldiers and military officers were discussing amongst themselves.

THUD!

A loud thud was heard in the room as a middle-aged man donned in high quality and well-crafted white armor banged his fist on the table.

"How the hell did this happen?! There are a total of 26 bodies now. The first time could be considered luck but yesterday there were even more victims despite putting the city under surveillance. And how's that Azrael killing so many people in a single night who are far away from each other's location?" asked the fully armored man.

"Captain Nordak, we think that it's not done by one person but an entire group. Because the way these murders were committed without causing any commotion or alerting a single guard on duty.. Even if he is an assassin, it won't be easy to kill so many people in a single night. Besides, one would need to be a mage to create a silencing barrier to prohibit any noise to leak out of the scene, and an experienced assassin to land the killing blow by surprise." said one of the elderly men sitting on a chair next to the captain's table.

Suddenly, a young black and long-haired woman interjected.

"If I may Captain.. We found that there was no sign of struggle at the crime scenes. It was just one quick attack to either heart or neck and that too came from the front and not the back. All the cases indicate that the victim actually saw the killer coming in front of them and still they died without a chance to resist at all." said the woman.

"Lieutenant Beatrice.. If what you say is true then we have a problem. The killer may be someone extremely experienced at killing and also is too strong.. Maybe at the Peak Master rank. For now, he's only killing the lowlife criminals. But if this continues, everyone in the city will laugh at us. And you too know what will happen if Commander decides to intervene.." said the captain of city guards.

The Lieutenant's face turned grim and looked horrified just by the mention of their Commander.

"Yes, Captain. I'm tightening the security & adding hundred more soldiers. But I want to suggest that we put on a curfew at late night." said the black-haired woman.

"And create panic as well as mass hysteria? Doing that will only give this guy more attention & acknowledgment from the people. Pretty sure this psycho only wants reputation just like all those nutjobs we've dealt in the past." said the captain and refused firmly.

"I'm giving you the authority to control our specialized Assassin Squad and spread them in the city as you see fit. I will try to convince the upper management that everything is under control in the meantime." said the Captain.

"And issue an All out Hunt order for Azrael. Anyone offering reliable intel on him would be rewarded with 5000 gold dramus." ordered the captain.

"Understood! I will not disappoint you sir!" said the woman and saluted.

On the opposite side of the city, a man was stuffing his mouth with delicious barbecued meat and aromatic wine. The nearby people were looking at this man as if they saw a filthy beggar eating in a restaurant for the first time.

"More. Bring me your other special dishes." ordered the young man and gulped the wine.

It was none other than Kahn who was eating in a high-end restaurant without any restraint or table manners. He was now filthy rich after yesterday's transaction with Nikola. So he naturally wanted to celebrate it and hence came to this high-end restaurant which was comparable to a Five Star Hotel on Earth.

The food was beyond anything he ate in his previous life.. Everything was so perfect and well cooked while savoring the flavor of the base ingredients.. It was so delicious that Kahn forgot about holding back and ate like a hungry wolf.

After yesterday night's performance, the name of Azrael was the talk of the entire city. No matter where he went, everyone was talking about the newly committed murders. To some, Azrael was a hero while to others, he was nothing but a psychopath using the name of justice to seek attention and gain fame.

As for Kahn, the real Azrael.. he was just happy by the fact that he killed 3 more people from his contract yesterday night. 3 of them often made business deals with Stragabor's family and played a major part in the family's income source. This was like hitting a nail right in the center of your eyebrows.

To make matters worst, Kahn also looted all the fortune these people had stored up in their space rings, treasury & warehouses. His current worth was 83 thousand gold coins. And that's why Kahn was spending money in such a frivolous manner.

He was certain that his current worth would make him one of the top five hundred richest people in the city.

Since Kahn was no Robinhood.. He didn't feel guilty after looting his targets and keeping all the money to himself. Because in the near future, he would be needing a lot of money if he wanted to establish his reputation & authority among the top-ranking people in the city.

By now, according to the rumors that spread in the city.. Azrael was actually a vengeful ghost of a man who died because of such criminals & never received justice in the city. Some saying that he was a savior who was going to get rid of all the criminals one by one. Many of the common folks were already seeing him as a hero because it was the normal citizens who were affected by the crimes and oppression the most. So finally someone taking out the scum of the society gave them a lot of relief instead.

Kahn decided to visit the dungeon again today and test his strength and newly created skills. He also had to test the Hive Mind skill and raise the levels of his new army.

Kahn's main objective wasn't just to raise his levels or gain abilities anymore. What he wanted was to fight the strongest and reach a level where nobody in this city could make him feel threatened or have the ability to kill him.

By now, Kahn had the general idea that even someone as strong as Stragabor or Arkham would be at best level 55. Probably Solomon & some top ranking Military & Government officers were the only ones past that level. So he didn't have to be wary of other adventurers now. Because he could easily rekt an entire team of 20 just by himself with his current strength.

Still, he wasn't comparable to someone at Grandmaster Rank even if he had the advantage of levels and attributes. Because even a zoo lion was still a lion, it won't have a problem decimating the local dogs. The difference between Rank & Mastery signified that very aspect.

When Kahn reached the 11th floor of the Bromnir dungeon, he was welcomed with a desolate city made up of white, yellow & reddish stones. The architecture instantly reminded Kahn of the Ancient Greek Civilization and how they used to build their cities. His sight could not make the end of this city because of the tall height and wider build constructs throughout this city.

Kahn couldn't use Shadow Walk on this floor because it was daytime and the spacious roads barely connected to each other so he won't be able to use this skill efficiently.

Kahn took out the map of this floor and jumped on top of a building. Due to his abilities & now raised levels.. It was no different than making a normal jump for Kahn even if the height was 10 meters tall.

Kahn ran and jumped from one building to another without making a sound and finally came across a group of the inhabitants of this floor.

Kahn was amazed at the build of these resilient and incredibly strong creatures who had wiped out hundreds of teams in the past 3 decades and barely 10 teams were able to clear this floor.

Because the creatures in front of Kahn didn't just have giant bodies.. They also had incredibly thick hide, blunt weapons in their hands that could sweep 3 to 4 people in a single swing. The defensive abilities and physical resilience towards magic these creatures had made it incredibly hard to hunt these monsters even if you had a large number of people with you.

Every step taken by these massive monsters sent waves through the ground and shook the surrounding with their stomps. As for the description of these creatures..

7-meter tall body.. Barechested and arms as big a tree trunk.. Two sturdy and pointy horns with a head, legs and hooves of a Bull.

The creatures that stood in front of Kahn were none other than the nightmares of every adventurer..

The Minotaurs.

### **Chapter 42: The Reigning Champion**

The group of three giant Minotaurs was keeping a guard on the city streets and taking a stroll to keep an eye out.

Kahn was crawling on top of a building roof, trying to avoid the gaze of this group. He was currently thinking of a plan to take out these minotaurs one by one. Every single one of these creatures was too big in size and also had highly defensive abilities that made it even harder to kill.

Soon, he noticed a pattern between these minotaurs.. One would check the end of the street while the other two took turns in checking the other end. Kahn was waiting for an opportunity to take out the one who would be alone in the middle of their guard post so he could distract it when the others were away.

A few minutes later, when the one minotaur was alone while the other two went to check the ends of the street as part of their routine, Kahn jumped down and hid behind a big and sturdy stone wall.

PHEWHEW!

Kahn whistled and the minotaur on the guard finally felt like it heard something. And just as Kahn had expected, it followed the noise.

Kahn had merged himself with the shadow behind the wall using Shadow Walk so the giant monster didn't notice him. As soon as its back turned towards Kahn, he jumped out of the shadow and from his own shadow three more figures jumped out the next second.

Unlike before, Kahn no longer needed to verbally command his subordinates to come out of his shadow. Thanks to the Hive Mind ability he got from Synthesis.. He could telepathically command them and they'd react as per his will without needing a verbal order.

The three figures were none other than Omega, Blackwall & Ceril. Just as their footsteps made noise, the lone minotaur looked their way and was alerted of the enemy's presence.

It roared loudly and stomped its leg on the ground, trying to alert the fellow guards, but it noticed that even after its roar and heavy stomp, there was no sound coming out from its mouth or a single vibration from the ground.

Just then, it noticed Ceril who had a black mage staff in his hand and a faint blue barrier surrounding their location.

Silence Barrier.

It was a Mage exclusive skill that could only be performed by an Intermediate Rank mage.

Ceril, who was created from the bodies of a Mage & Summoner class had inherited this skill. The moment they jumped out of the shadow, he had cast the silence barrier and removed any sound from their surrounding.

The minotaur roared again, albeit producing no noise. Omega and Blackwall charged at this lone minotaur and clashed with it using their bodies. Blackwall used his Knight's Taunt and Templar's Will to enrage the giant bull creature and banged his sword on the big shield he was holding in his left hand.

The minotaur was instantly enraged and focused its attention. Omega attacked with his sharp claws on its legs, trying to make it fall on the ground.

The minotaur quickly swung the giant wooden club it had to guard against the attack.

Blackwall used the Knight's Charge and hit its back and throwing it out of balance. Omega on the other hand used this opportunity and used Shredder Claws on its head to disorient it and blur its vision. The minotaur lost its balance and fell on the wall on its right-hand side.. Thanks to the silence barrier, not a single sound was heard.

The giant body of the minotaur was now under the rubble of large and heavy stones from the wall and was trying to get out of it.

At this very moment, a small figure of a man jumped on its chest and a jet stream of greenish liquid was thrown in the eyes of the minotaur.. Instantly melting them away as the poison went inside its brain and only the lifeless body of the minotaur was left lying under that rubble.

[Phew! Barely made it in time.] Kahn spoke to himself and mentally ordered his subordinates to hide in his shadow again. Because this was the best strategy he could come up with given his current situation. Taking out the enemy one by one without being noticed was his best approach because in a group, these minotaurs were hard to deal with.

Kahn on the other hand found this method viable because there wasn't any way he would be able to kill these monsters without causing a commotion and alert its nearby allies.

Because from what he had read, in the entire history of this floor, hundreds of teams failed because of the same reason. Just one minotaur was strong enough to take on 5 to 6 people by itself and they'd always create loud roars and noises during a fight. And as more minotaurs joined the fight, the more difficult it would be to kill them. Even an Intermediate Master Rank Swordsman like Kahn would have a hard time killing a single one of these creatures in a one-on-one fight.

So Kahn used the numbers and his strong fighters to catch it off guard, and deal damage while using Silence Barrier to prohibit any sound leaking out so no enemy would be alerted.

He too could cast the Silence Barrier but it needed the caster to stay at the same position and put all of their focus on keeping the barrier functioning. Hence he used Ceril for this job while he dealt the finishing blow with his Poison Acid which can quickly take out a fallen enemy in a matter of seconds.

The Grandmaster Rank Poison Acid ability he had gained after absorbing the legendary Somir's body indeed lived up to its reputation.

Kahn soon noticed that the other Minotaur was coming back from its stroll and now he didn't have any more time to absorb the body and abilities of this dead minotaur in front of him.

Kahn repeated the same process for the remaining minotaurs on guard and caught them off guard just like this one. Soon he had 3 dead minotaurs in front of him. He started using Ability Absorption divine ability on these bodies and absorbed their abilities & skills.

"System, show me the abilities & skills." Kahn commanded the system to check the new skills.

[The host has acquired the following abilities & skills :

Magic Resistance (D Rank) (Passive) :

Allows the host to create a physique resistant towards magical attacks and damage.

Health Recovery (C Rank) (Passive) :

Enables the host to recover the health at a small rate.

Minotaur Might (D Rank) (Active) :

Greatly increases the host's physical strength for 20 seconds.

The host has acquired the Minotaur bloodline.

Current Bloodline purity : 8%]

"Huh.. I guess the small fries are small fries in the end." said Kahn and put his hands on the remaining two dead bodies of the minotaurs.

"Merge!" Kahn ordered and started the Synthesis.

I'm just 3 minutes, he welcomed a new ally who was a meter taller & twice stronger than its predecessors.

"You're now part of the Legion." said Kahn and the new subordinate bowed in front of Kahn and entered inside his shadow.

For the next 5 hours, Kahn covertly repeated the same process on the small groups of minotaurs he found and killed them one by one. Whittling down the enemy numbers.

He now had 30 minotaur subordinates in his legion. All of them were Elite Rank monsters.

He didn't use them to create another bigger or higher species version because he simply had no interest in spending his cores on small fries. He wanted to catch a big fish and then use these foddors.

As per the old records, there were nearly 80 Minotaurs on this floor and Kahn had killed more than 60 of them. He was completely focused and committed, while his sheer will didn't let him become overconfident and make any mistake.

Kahn now hid amongst the broken and fallen buildings in the city and looked at the end of a big colosseum.. No different than how ancient Rome had those Gladiator fight arenas.

And at the end of it.. There was a giant throne made of fur and bones of the fallen minotaurs.

Currently, some sort of competition was being held amongst these monsters and they were killing each other with their weapons and bare hands.. Even using their giant horns to pierce through the hearts of their opponent.

Kahn realized one thing that these monsters were fighting to decide who was the strongest amongst themselves.

At the end of the competition.. Stood a red minotaur who had a metal club that had multiple spikes as its weapon. It then roared and shook the entire arena with its mighty scream in victory.

The next second however, it pointed the weapon at the giant minotaur who had a giant Battleaxe lying next to its legs.. The minotaur in the arena was now openly challenging the one sitting on the throne, as if trying to contend for the position of the king.

The giant minotaur sitting on the throne snorted in anger and grabbed its Battleaxe and a giant shield and straight-up jumped inside the arena grounds.

**BOOM!**

A big cloud of dust was released and the entire arena shook from the ripples of waves as soon as the reigning king of the arena jumped inside the battlegrounds and stared at the challenger with eyes full of rage and contempt.

Kahn could feel the pressure even from a mile away.. Based on his experience from fighting and facing monsters and people; Kahn quickly understood the level of this yellow minotaur..

"It's a Lord Rank Floor Boss!"

### **Chapter 43: A Worthy Opponent**

An extremely fierce battle was happening at the moment inside the Arena and the surrounding minotaurs were cheering and banging their weapons on the ground in support of their favorite fighter. Some of them even started infighting with the supporters of the other side.

Kahn was astounded by the strength and merciless fighting style of these contending minotaurs. Especially the reigning champion of the arena. Because unlike all the Minotaur he had seen so far, it was far brutal, more intelligent and extremely well versed in the fight. It always defended itself properly and intentionally let out openings just to reel in its opponent to attack. That way, it would quickly throw it off balance and make a powerful strike of its own. The red minotaur however was no weakling.. The ferocious attacks did give it an edge in this fight to the death.

Kahn didn't dwell on looking at this battle and quickly started luring out the remaining minotaurs using the overly noisy arena as a way to kill the enemy so many will not notice that their comrades went missing one by one.

Finally, the result of the match was in front of everybody. The seat of the champion would still be held by the yellow minotaur..

RAAARRRRR!!

Loudly roared the minotaur and banged its chest with fists and displayed his strength and authority. The battle was indeed a very close call and the yellow minotaur had won by throwing its shield on the opponent at the critical time to disorient it and then swinging its giant battleaxe to cut the head of the opponent in the end.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

"Nice. Thanks for being such a showman." joked Kahn as his voice spread in the entire arena. He was currently sitting on top of a slab-like structure just above the throne of the yellow minotaur.

"A human?! How did you get inside here?!" growled the Minotaur.

"Don't worry.. I made sure no one disturbs our little chat." spoke Kahn without any worries. He wasn't surprised to see the Minotaur speaking because even the Half-Lord rank Silver Kobold spoke so why couldn't a Lord rank Minotaur.

The next second, he jumped inside the arena and stood before the giant yellow minotaur, taking his sword out of his space ring and pointing it towards the reigning champion.

"Care for a battle?" asked Kahn and let out a slight smirk.

"Hahaha. You seem quite foolish for a human. Even though I don't need it.. Can't you see that you're surrounded by me and my kin? How do you plan to leave this place alive? Hahaha!" bellowed the minotaur in mockery. The fellow minotaurs then started laughing and grumbling as well.

"I guess you're right. How about we make sure that no one disturbs us?" proposed Kahn and suddenly dozens of black figures started jumping out of his shadow.

THUD! THUD! THUD!

One by one, many giant figures landed on the ground of the arena and started filling in this wide space which neared about 200 meters in total length.

"What... What is this?!" shouted as the Minotaur Boss saw Kahn's army of pitch-black soldiers.. Omega and the Six Generals being the spearheads of this group.. But what shocked it the most was seeing nearly 40 of his own kin mixed in this army.

Kahn walked in the front and stood like the leader of this army.

"Don't worry.. They're not for you. They're for them." announced Kahn.

"Finish them all!" he commanded and his army charged at the surrounding minotaurs that were enjoying the thrilling battle not too long ago.

"You wretched insect! You dare come in my domain and attack my kin in front of me!" roared the floor boss and grabbed its giant shield and charged at Kahn and his army of black soldiers.

The remaining 18 or so minotaurs raised their weapons and dashed towards their enemies without a care for their lives.

BANG! CLANG! THUD! STOMP!

An extremely fierce battle took place in a matter of seconds and the swarm of black soldiers and the minotaurs clashed against each other.

The Minotaur floor boss was so fierce and extremely powerful that just one attack from its giant battleaxe was enough to shake the ground and split it in two for 5 meters with a single swing. It hacked 3 of Kahn's soldiers in just one wave while crushed 2 by bashing his giant shield on their heads.

[Finally.. A worthy opponent.]

Omega and the other subordinates targeted the group of minotaurs, engaging and luring them away and leaving Kahn free to fight the floor boss.

Just when the floor boss was cleaving through the enemy soldiers, a swift swing landed on its shield as he was forced two steps backwards..

It finally saw the attacker who even made the giant body of his trembling and nearly making his hand go numb.. The minotaur warrior gazed at the front and saw a man holding a giant sword nearly 5 feet long.

"Your opponent is me." spoke Kahn and activated War Dominance for the first time since last week.



The pressure released from him was many times powerful and more oppressive than it ever was before. Since Kahn's level rose by quite a lot, so did the density and chaotic nature of his War Dominance aura.

A Lord rank monster was comparable to a Beginner Grandmaster rank fighter. The established difference that came between the ranks was already obvious to him. Because even if he was 10 levels higher than a Grandmaster rank opponent, there was still a 50% chance that he'd lose because at the end of the day; experience and quality of your skills always defeated someone who had superficial mastery of their combat skills and techniques.

The minotaur boss released some sort of skill and its foot on the ground, a loud sonic boom exploded from the area and the nearby 20 meters of ground was shattered into pieces. Kahn who was standing inside this range nearly lost his balance and was thrown backward just with the ripples of this stomp.

Before he could regain his footing, the minotaur boss charged at him and swung the shield at his head.

CLANG!

Kahn was thrown 3 meters back after he blocked the attack with his sword just in nick of the time.

His hands trembled after bearing the brunt of the impact. The boss then dashed towards him and swung his battleaxe at him horizontally.

BOOM!

Kahn was thrown 10 meters away and he rolled in the ground.. Almost losing the grip on his weapon. Before he could even get up, the boss minotaur jumped right on top of Kahn who was still lying in the dirt.

"Fuck!"

CRACK!

The ground cracked as soon as the feet landed on the ground. Kahn used Side Hopper and barely managed to evade the attack in the last second. He quickly stood on his feet and took a defensive stance again.

It had been barely 10 seconds and he was already pushed back, thrown away and even nearly squished like a grape under the attacks of this minotaur floor boss. He had finally met a monster that completely dominated Kahn in terms of combat style.

He quickly activated Defense Fortitude and a tangible shield-like aura surrounded his entire body. This was Templar exclusive skill which raised the user's defense by twice and attack power by half.

CHING! CLANG! DING!

The dungeon boss attacked Kahn repeatedly over and over as all this human in front of him could do was defend.

"Puny human! You dare to challenge me in a fight?! Let this arena be your final grave!" bellowed the minotaur and swiftly bashed its giant shield against the barely standing human.

BOOM!

Kahn's entire body was thrown against the nearby wall and he caved in pain.. his bones felt like they nearly cracked from the impact.

Blergh!

Kahn coughed a mouthful of blood as his body fell on the ground, barely managing to lift his head as his eyes blurred and nearly losing his sight.

[A stun skill?] he questioned as he felt some sort of status effect affecting his body.

At this moment, the battlefield was no different than a pool of blood. The red and black blood filling the surrounding area far from where Kahn & the floor boss were fighting.

BAAAHHHHH!

Screamed the last surviving minotaur as Omega ripped its heart out with his claws and tore out a big chunk of meat from its neck with his large fangs. As the body landed on ground, he looked at the surroundings and found that all the remaining enemies were killed while they had lost a dozen of their soldiers that were part of the Legion.

His gaze quickly shifted towards Kahn, his master. At this moment, Kahn was defending and being pushed back by the attacks of this dungeon floor boss.

Omega quickly dashed towards the minotaur to protect his master. Currently, he was the only one amongst Kahn's soldiers who could fight this dungeon floor boss on even terms.

[Don't interfere!]

Omega heard a command in his head and stopped his charge and stood in bewilderment. His gaze landing on his master.

The minotaur's battleaxe glowed red again and it was going to perform its ground spitting axe attack.

BANG!

Kahn used his sword to block the brutal attack again and nearly got decimated in the ground.. His legs almost giving up and then he was flung backwards again.

He threw up another chunk of blood from his mouth as he was nearly splattered to pulp from the glowing axe and if not for his sword being made of Mythril, he would've but cut into two pieces.

The battle was already won as currently only the Minotaur boss was left and Kahn's soldiers could easily kill it with their large numbers. But still, he was adamant about facing it alone.

Kahn barely had the strength to get up at this point.. His trembling hands were bleeding, his arms and legs were cut in few places, there were plenty of bruises on him while half of his face was covered in his own blood.

He adjusted his footing and grabbed the sword tightly with both of his hands and challenged loudly..

"AGAIN!"

**Chapter 44: Training Buddy**

Inside of a wide and circular arena, a man and a minotaur were fighting in a battle of life and death.

To put it in simple words, Kahn was getting his ass handed to him by the minotaur dungeon floor boss.

Arghh!

He groaned in pain as his wrist had nearly broken from the impact as he tried to defend against the attacking boss.

The minotaur checked his surroundings and was fearful of Kahn's soldiers attacking him if he put Kahn in a corner. All of his brethren were already dead. He no longer could use the skills that'd help him command them to wipe out the enemy side.

And none were coming out from the city either because Kahn had already killed them all one by one and very covertly. And because of this.. It wasn't certain that it could survive. So running away was the only reasonable choice for it.

"Don't worry. They won't attack you.. If you kill me, they'll die as well." revealed Kahn as he stood up and changed from his defensive stance to an attacking one.

"Windcutter!" exclaimed Kahn and surrounding air started coalesced onto his sword and extremely tense air pressure was excluding from the blade.

Kahn slashed his sword towards the minotaur's body.

CRINGGKKK

The sound of metal and the highly compressed wind blade clashing filled the entire space as the giant body of the minotaur boss was shoved by 5 meters after using his shield to defend himself from this attack.

[System, show me the progress.] he ordered the system to reveal the current progress of his combat skills and techniques.

[Combat Mastery for Weapons :

Sword : 79%

Daggers/Knives : 68%

Bow : 63%

Axe : 54%

Shield : 35%

Spear : 51%

All at Master Rank.

Combat Techniques progress as follows :

Windcutter : 23%

Deflect/Parry : 37%

Sword blade : 29%

Lacerate : 13%

Pincer : 21%

Mastery progress for Skills as follows :

Shadow Walk : 93%

Firestorm : 53%

Defense Fortitude : 89%]

"Ugh.. Not enough." spoke Kahn and charged at the floor boss and taunted it to attack again.

To be correct, it was more like he was intentionally getting attacked and defending against the minotaur boss as he wanted to improve his mastery in his defensive skills first.

As the battle went on and Kahn used many of his defensive skills including the Knight & Templar defensive skills to block the attacks from the enemy. With more time being spent being on the defending side, his mastery of these skills was rising at a fast pace. Because the enemy was stronger and secondly because it was fighting for his life.

If Kahn died, the floor boss will live so it didn't hold back in its attacks. This was an experience Kahn couldn't possibly get from any of the battles he had so far because his enemies didn't want to kill him.

His instructors that trained Kahn a week before didn't fight him at their best. Even the sparring test with Arkham was inadequate as he was only trying to test Kahn and not kill him.

The main reason why he was choosing this floor boss to practice them was because it had sentience and was well versed in the art of war. It used every skill it had to completely decimate Kahn in the ground and knew when to land a killing blow and when to defend.

So it was the best choice for him to build an actual combat experience and foundation because even if he trained and improved his Weapon Mastery and Combat Techniques mastery, it would never be comparable to the benefits and experience he was getting from this real and overwhelming fight.

Because a Lord Rank monster was no weaker than a Beginner Grandmaster Rank enemy.

[Are we done?] asked Kahn to the system.

[Yes, all the defensive skills the host currently possesses have reached 100% proficiency and their Rank can be evolved. Some Skills have met conditions to be merged using Synthesis.]

[Good.]

"Now my turn!" shouted Kahn and extremely light and incredibly sturdy black hexagonal scales started appearing on his body and covered all the parts including his injured legs, shoulders and the exposed area like the forearms. Except for his face, his entire body was covered in these lustrous and dark scales.

Somir Scales!

Kahn finally used the innate defensive skill he got after absorbing the body of the legendary Somir.

The magically reinforced clothes and gear he was wearing had many defensive skills such as barrier shield and even mana eruption to throw off the attacker. It would certainly be useful to anyone and save their lives at critical moments..

But in front of this dungeon boss, who had the attacking prowess to cleave 10 people in half with a single swing of his battleaxe; it was like blocking a bullet with a paper.

So Kahn used his best and most effective defensive skill he had. Even a Grandmaster Rank Swordsman won't be able to cut him in half when he was using this ability. The scales were no different than Carbon fiber armor. So now, he had no reason to worry about getting injured.

What happened next left even Omega, who was worried about his master's safety and ready to jump in the battle if Kahn was near death; let out a surprised expression.

Because the Kahn who was getting beaten to death, thrown around and nearly stampeded upon till now suddenly started swinging his sword at the giant minotaur floor boss with newfound strength and expression on his face turned to that of a Predator. Similar to the one when they were hunting monsters in the forest nearly four weeks ago.

"Come at me you weak cow!" scorned Kahn at the minotaur in disdain.

"Cow? What did you just call me, you vermin?!" spoke the floor boss in an enraged voice and attacked the human next to him furiously.

CLANG! CLANG! BANG! SHRKKK!

Unlike before, Kahn was now both attacking and parrying the attacks from the enemy than just defending and blocking against them. His movements becoming extremely fast and sometimes, his image nearly flickered as he continuously attacked the yellow minotaur again and again from different angles and directions.

Pincer! Stab! Sword Blade! Windcutter!

Kahn started using his different sword skills and aimed for vital points of the enemy. And whenever the boss tried to use the AoE skills like shattering the nearby ground to disorient Kahn or use the battleaxe to split the ground, he'd quickly retreat using Side Hopper.

After some time, Kahn put his sword and started shooting mage spells like Firestorm, Water Blade, Wind Blade, Frost Spikes at the giant body of the minotaur. Almost burning it to death but then freezing it to death the next second.

No matter what the Lord rank dungeon floor boss did, it could never reach Kahn as he was simply too fast and agile.

After half an hour as Kahn was finally satisfied with the skill progress. He stopped shooting his magic spells and took out a high-grade bow which was extremely well designed and looked like a rare weapon.

It was one of the weapons Kahn found inside the space ring of the Scarlet Lion team commander who was killed by the silver kobold.

He took a quiver full of arrows and tied it to his back. Before the boss reached near to him, he dashed away in another direction and started shooting arrows at the boss and used various archer skills.

Yes.. The almighty dungeon floor boss that had killed and wiped out hundreds of adventurers team with his brethren and could easily take out a group of 15 by itself.. The one who put Kahn near to death and threw him around on the arena ground many times as if toying with his opponent.. Was now nothing but Kahn's practice dummy.

A dummy whose only part was to move and let the attacker try out various attacking skills and spells on it. Its biggest advantage in numbers was gone.. Its army was wiped out and now, the weak enemy it was treating as a joke had turned the tables on it.

The minotaur boss was now reduced to punching bag.

After another hour as soon as Kahn had completely raised his mastery in various weapons except daggers to 100%, he let out a content sigh.

"Time's up!" declared Kahn and the next second.. He was standing on the giant minotaur's shoulder who was 11 meters tall. But before it could even react, Kahn used his Ripper Claws that were coated in his venom acid and plunged them inside the eyes of the floor boss.

"BAARRGHH!!" wailed the minotaur in pain before his huge body dropped on the ground. The venom acid instantly melting its brain in seconds, living up to the reputation of a legendary monster's innate skill.

"How many?" asked Kahn to Omega.

"14, my master. 3 of them were the minotaurs you created." replied Omega.

Kahn nodded in response. Omega's speech was getting more coherent very quickly and he was gaining proper intelligence. Now the Lycan possessed 25% Bloodline purity of Godbeast Fenrir. So Kahn was sure one day, it would turn into an intellectual subordinate in the future if he managed to acquire more bloodline of this Godbeast.

He put his hands on the dead body and started absorbing the abilities of the Minotaur dungeon floor boss.

"Now don't disappoint me."

#### **Chapter 45: Another one!**

Kahn started absorbing the abilities of the dead Minotaur floor boss of this dungeon. And since it was a Lord Rank monster, it took him much longer than usual to finish the Ability Absorption process.

"System, show me the list."

[The host has acquired the following abilities & skills :

Ground Splitter (Active) :

The host can condense mana and land a devastating blow at the ground/surface and create crevices around the 5-meter range in all directions.

Field Pressure (Active) :

Allows the host to fill the surrounding 30 meters of space with heavy gravitational pressure to slow down enemy movements.

Health Regeneration (Passive) :

Allows the host to constantly regenerate health during a battle at high speed.

Minotaur Aura (Passive) :

Allows the host to command and exert dominance over Minotoris species monsters & individuals.

Minotoris Bloodline absorbed.

Current Bloodline purity : 138%]

"Nice. Show me abilities available in Synthesis." Kahn commended.

Just by looking at the skills he absorbed.. Kahn realized how big of a bullet he dodged by killing all the minotaurs in the city. Because given the abilities of the Minotaur Boss, it wouldn't be a problem for it to swarm its enemies with an army of hundred or so minotaurs that were present in the city and since each of them was extremely strong, Kahn and his small army would easily be wiped out in an open & frontal clash.

No wonder hundreds of adventurer teams met their doom on this floor in the past decade alone.

[Out of the newly acquired abilities, Field Pressure can be merged under War Dominance aura and Hunter Intent to increase their effectiveness and range of abilities. The rest of the newly acquired abilities currently do not mix or are compatible with the other abilities & skills the host has.]

"Huh.. So even that can happen?" Kahn thought as it was the first time there were not any possible results for ability merging. Maybe as the system said, there needed a certain level of compatibility.

"Well, there's always a first." spoke Kahn and began creating new subordinates by merging the already created minotaur subordinates that unlocked the evolution skill.

He spent the next 2 hours just to finally get a result of a Half Lord Rank subordinate after using the current Minotaur bloodline purity he had & a lot of monster cores.

"Blackwall, come here." ordered Kahn as Blackwall, the Guardian Knight subordinate walked in front of him. Kahn then put his hand on Blackwall & the newly created subordinate and the other one the dead body of the dead minotaur boss.

[50 B Rank monster cores are required for the synthesis to be successful.]

"Again? You're tearing me apart, system!" he growled in discontent. Because he was running out of monster cores at this rate. Even though the current Kahn was filthy rich, he was still restricted on his

high-grade monster cores stash. And recently, the system was asking too much of these cores for Evolution to succeed.

First it was Omega, then Oliver and now Blackwall.

The reason he chose Blackwall instead of Jugram for this because even though Berserker was more suited for this type of merging, the Minotaur Floor Boss had a lot of useful skills such as Field Pressure, Health Regeneration & Ground Splitter which could not only make a damn strong attack subordinate but also someone who can have crowd control skills, AoE attacks & with incredible defense. That was basically the definition of a great Tank in a team formation.

Because even Omega was only good at dealing damage and dodge quickly with his abilities & stats, but his defense was average at best. And a team formation never works if you don't have a strong and powerful tank who can bear the brunt of devastating attacks and hold the line while other team members do the damage and chip out health from the enemy target.

After spending an hour, the Evolution for Blackwall was finally complete. Now he was even firmer, broader and the 3 meter Guardian Knight was now 12 meters tall, more ripped in physique than the original body of the yellow minotaur. He didn't have a snout like the Minotaur but a Human face and horns were coming out of his head. Blackwall retained his human appearance but his eyes completely turned red with no iris in them.

"Show me his stats."

[Following are the statistics for the subordinate named Blackwall

Name : Blackwall

Species : Sega-Minotoris (Variant Minotaur)

Evolution skill unlocked (Level can be upgraded through eating other monsters & cores. And Rank can be upgraded with higher & purer bloodlines of the same species.)

Rank : Lord

Level : 58

Strength : 320

Agility : 210

Dexterity : 220

Defense : 658

Mana : 130

Abilities & Skills :

Battle Roar :

Allows the subordinate to stun anyone present in a 100-meter radius except the host & fellow subordinates for 30 seconds.



Ground Shatter :

Subordinate can create a domain of shattered ground which can disorient enemies under a 30-meter radius.

Axe Splitter :

Condenses dense mana around the Subordinate's weapon and allows to attack the enemies with an extremely powerful swing.

Condition : Only applicable on a battleaxe weapon.

Defense Amplifier :

The longer the subordinate defends against an enemy, the more defense will increase in a set amount of time.

The subordinates can also grant twice the defense for 5 nearby subordinates.

Health Reserve :

When health is closer to depletion, allows the subordinate to instantly recover 30% of maximum health.]

"Motherf.." Kahn gasped in bewilderment.

Too strong! Blackwall was now too strong. Plus he gave a lot of defense buff to other teammates as well. He was like the Ultimate Tank unit Kahn always had seen in RPG video games.

"Blackwall, take the axe and the shield." he pointed at the weapons of the dead floor boss. And gave Blackwall an extremely heavy and high quality Black armor he had in the new space ring that looked like made from a high rank monster with incredibly thick hide and armored body parts no different than a metal.

Blackwall now looked like a Death Knight from those RPG novels. Rather than a subordinate, he looked more like a Dungeon Boss himself.

After letting out a content sigh, Kahn moved to the remaining 5 or so dead bodies of the minotaurs they were still intact and started cutting them in various places with his sword, making deep injuries. After he was done, he put them in his new space ring. He didn't spend time creating new subordinates. Rather he had a use for these.

It was already close to the evening when Kahn returned to Flavot city. But rather than going back to his current accommodation; Kahn decided to visit the Adventurer Association.

And as expected, he met with Malcolm first on the counters. The hall was currently full of hundreds of people who were returning from their hunts and submitting their Quests and other commission works to receive their pay.

"Haven't seen you in a while, kid. Thought you were already killed inside a dungeon. Hahaha" joked Malcolm as he was pleased to see Kahn alive and kicking.

"Unlike certain someone here, I'm too young to die. Haha" replied Kahn sarcastically.

"Say that again.." Malcolm's eyes turned somber.

"N.. Nothing. I just wanted to sell some monster bodies to the association. They're all intact so will need your people to carry them."

"Huh.. How many? And how big can they be?" asked Malcolm curiously.

"Why don't you see yourself." said Kahn and walked into the center of the hall.

"All of you listen! I need you to quickly move away and leave the middle of the hall empty. Don't say I didn't warn you." loudly shouted Kahn and instantly gathered the attention of hundreds of people standing in the main hall.

"Oj, who the fuck do you think you are?" shouted one of the people in the hall.

"Nobody listens to warnings anymore I see." mumbled Kahn as activated his War Dominance aura, quickly filling the entire hall under an extremely fierce and dense aura.. Kahn noticed that the gravitational force exuded by his aura was now 50 to 70% more than before. He realized it was because he absorbed the skill of the Minotaur boss.

People started to stumble on their steps and some even fell right on the ground because they simply couldn't handle this pressure.

Kahn now looked extremely domineering. As if a tiger was standing amidst a group of rabbits. He wasn't releasing any killing intent but everyone felt like they were currently facing the Grim Reaper itself.

He quickly deactivated the aura and spoke again..

"Do I need to elaborate myself again?"

The surrounding people in the hall quickly cleared off the middle of the hall and stood on the sides like obedient children. Because at the end of the day, the one with the biggest fist made the rules.

That was exactly the type of life they lived in this profession.

"Kid.. What exactly did you bring?" Malcolm asked as he was unaffected by the aura since Kahn specifically did not let it affect the middle-aged receptionist.

"This.." said Kahn and raised his hand upwards and a giant body of horned creature came out and landed in the middle of the hall.

THUD!

Speechless.. The entire crowd was shocked! Even Malcolm felt like he had lost his ability to think.

"A minotaur! It's a goddamn minotaur!" finally a veteran adventurer among the crowd shouted in surprise.

"Kid.. Where.. di did.. you find this?" Malcolm asked as his mouth stuttered in shock.

"What do you mean by finding it? I killed it!" replied Kahn with a grin on his face.

"Don't lie brat! No one can take down a minotaur alone. You need 5 to 6 people to kill one. Either you already found a dead minotaur on lower floors or you killed it by luck!" bellowed a mage in the crowd.

"By luck you say.. Then how about this?" smirked Kahn and used his space ring again.

THUD!

Another giant body of a minotaur dropped as hundreds of people present in the hall gasped in surprise.

THUD!

Another one.

THUD!

Another one.

"What the fuck?!" screamed a Tigerkin in the crowd.

THUD!

As the 6th dead body dropped out of his space ring.. Kahn finally stopped and looked at Malcolm and asked in a smug voice..

"So, do you have enough money to buy them?"

#### **Chapter 46: The Rising Star**

The adventurer association main hall was currently filled with loud gasps and whispers. None believing what was in front of them.

"Impossible!" shouted Malcolm in denial as never in his wildest dream did he imagine someone like Kahn being able to kill 6 giant minotaurs. Even a group of 30 won't be able to take them out together in a fight.

"Do we have a deal?" asked Kahn as if he was in a hurry.

"Wait.. I don't think we have enough. I'll have to talk with the president. Stay here!" said Malcolm and ran upstairs hurriedly.

Kahn already expected this type of reaction from the middle-aged receptionist because as per his knowledge, Minotaurs were one of the most sought-after monsters in any place because of various uses and rarity of the materials one could salvage from the dead bodies.

Their blood was actually a very important ingredient in high-grade health recovery potions and various alchemy recipes. Their hide and fur were used in making light and highly durable armors and clothing, especially fancied by the truly rich people. Their horns could be used to make rare quality weapons such as sabers and daggers while the bone marrow was used in high quality medicines used to cure impotence or reinvigorate someone's little friend. And many rich people liked to boast a head of a minotaur hung in their mansions.

Each body was no different than a small fortune. But because Minotaurs always traveled in groups and appeared on high level dungeon floors, not many actually tried to hunt them.. Mainly if they were desperate for money or had a death wish.

Even a Grandmaster Rank fighter wouldn't casually pick a bone with them.

Hence they were extremely hard to come by and demand was high no matter where one tried to buy them. But to get six bodies at once.. Even something as big as Adventurer Association which had nearly a couple of thousand people doing transactions on daily basis had to take notice because the profits will be huge if they sold it to the right people from the Noble class or an enterprise.

After half an hour, Malcolm finally returned seeing that Kahn was joyfully talking with other adventurers who were curious about how he managed to kill these minotaurs by himself. But unlike some upstuck and ignorant guy, he was telling them strategies on how to lure out the enemies and how to set up traps and use magic scrolls to create a silence barrier and whatnot.

"Here.. We want all of them." said Malcolm and continued.. "The Vice-president says he's happy with your swordsmanship advancements."

"How much is it?" asked Kahn curiously.

Malcolm came close to Kahn and whispered.

"It's 25 thousand gold coins. That's the best we can offer you. Because it'll be us who will have to spend a lot of time butchering and harvesting the bodies properly." replied Malcolm as he passed a low grade space ring, that held the money inside; similar to the one Kahn bought in the beginning.

"Well, pleasures doing business with you." said Kahn and left the Association building without looking back. He knew no one would dare to follow him or try to rob him because of the display he put in the hall with his War Dominance aura.

Rather than going back to the merchant enterprise, he went to visit the rundown bar again to meet the assassin. He still had to deliver some of the heads of the people in his contract and receive his pay.

But unlike what he was expecting.. As soon as he entered the bar.. The 3 men inside quickly walked outside, not bothering to ask him the code and closed off the door from the exit.

"What the.." before he could continue, Kahn sensed a malicious killing intent directed at him and his Survival Instinct alerted him of an incoming attack.

Kahn quickly used Side Hopper and barely dodged a knife to his throat. He took out his daggers from the black trenchcoat he was wearing and tried to stab at his right. Since his level was higher than the last time he came to this place, his reflexes and speed were already exceeding his attacker.

CLANG!

A sharp noise of metal clanging filled the room and a dark hooded figure started appearing from the point of impact.

"Well.. Nice to see you again." spoke Kahn and gave a light smirk to the one who attacked him.

"What the fuck kid!! I thought you wanted to use that list to practice your skills. But what the fuck is up with all that Azrael bullshit?! Do you have any idea how deep shit we're in?" spoke the assassin.

It was none other than the Snakekin who was his mediator and also the one who taught him assassination skills along with providing him intel on the criminals he was killing as Azrael.

"Well, care for another job then?" asked Kahn nonchalantly.

"Fuck you! Just deliver your contract targets and get the hell out of here!" bellowed the snakekin.

"Don't be so quick to refuse. Just hear me out." said Kahn as he put his dagger in.

"It's nothing dangerous and won't cause you any harm. I'll even pay you double the price; What do you say?" declared Kahn.

The snakekin reluctantly put his knife away.

Kahn took a space ring from his finger and threw it to the assassin..

"There are 25 thousand gold coins. And here's what I need you to do.."

Kahn left the bar after he explained the task.

Kahn had decided that it was about time he stopped freeloading on Nikola's kindness and searched the city for a reputed housing company and through them, he rented a small bungalow near the hillside of the city for living after paying 2000 gold coins as monthly rent.

The reason why he did this because he no longer wanted any eyes on him and could not afford to have the father & son duo being attached to his name. Because it could bring them unnecessary harm instead.

After having dinner in his new house, made by the chef that was hired to provide his service here; He put Ronin on the guard duty of this place as the Rogue subordinate could hide perfectly and guard his master most efficiently.

Kahn finally embraced the goodnight sleep in his new and extremely comfortable king-size bed.

The next day, he didn't leave his new house and spent most of his time eating the cores he received from the snakekin yesterday night and merging few new skills.

Because even though he wasn't at Grandmaster Rank yet, many of his skills and combat technique he had met the conditions to rise in rank and were now available to merge with other skills and abilities.

Kahn always gave priority to the most useful skills that he'd use in a majority of the scenarios so he spent quite some time thinking carefully and how they'd help him in an actual battle.

By the evening, he was practicing his combat skills and techniques in the huge garden that came as part of this new property. He was currently covered in sweat and the top of his body was completely exposed.. Revealing his ripped built and pulsating muscles along with his abs.

One of the servants, named Jerome came to Kahn and asked him in a hesitant voice..

"Sir.. Are you the Kahn.. The one everyone is talking about?" asked Jerome with uncertainty in his eyes..

Kahn simply smirked and questioned back,

"What do you think?" he carried on with his training without looking back at the servant.

After he had his evening snack.. Kahn decided to mingle in the city again. He was currently donning a black cloak and hid his face under the hood.

"So, do you believe what they're saying about the guy who hunted those minotaurs by himself?" Kahn heard one of the people sitting on a bench.

"Yeah.. My cousin is also an adventurer. He said he saw the guy pull out those giant minotaurs from his high-grade space ring in front of hundreds of people. I heard not long ago that all those monsters were killed by attacks from a sword." replied the young man sitting on the other end.

"I heard it as well. This guy seems to be close to becoming a Grandmaster Swordsman. Just imagine how strong he must be. There are only 3 Grandmaster Swordsmen in the entire city for the past 2 decades.. Another one means a big shift in the power balance." replied the first guy.

Kahn strolled across the city for miles and heard thousands of people talking about him. Some rumors even saying that Kahn killed all the minotaurs with a single swing of his sword. And some were extremely exaggerated to the point that they completely changed his origins to a prodigy from one of the most influential noble houses from the capital who came to gain experience in Flavot city by fighting and hunting inside dungeons.

"I guess my money was well spent." he spoke to himself as this was exactly what he paid the snakekin for.

No matter how outstanding his performance was in the association hall.. It won't reach to too many people outside of their profession even with hundreds of witnesses. So Kahn had decided to use the highly reputed Assassin and his information network that was spread around the entire city to spread rumors about him and his deeds about killing so many minotaurs alone.

Why work hard and prove yourself if you want to gain fame?

Who said you can't become popular overnight?

Now it was time for Kahn to sit amongst the truly powerful.

#### **Chapter 47: The Banquet**

Two days had passed since Kahn's deeds had spread across the entire city and many people in the city tried to look for his whereabouts.

Some wanted to hire him as their chief guard, some wanted to challenge him to a fight while some wanted to establish good connections with him so they could make deals with him like buying rare monsters and herbs from him.

Only now did Kahn realized how big of a deal minotaurs were. Everyone wanted to contact the source itself than go through adventure association and buy at a higher price. Plus making friends with an emerging grandmaster swordsman was their main priority.

Only a handful of people from the adventurer association and Black Griffin merchant enterprise knew of his current location.

"System, tell me the progress." spoke Kahn who was intensely training and perfecting his combat skills and techniques. He had made the flowery garden as his training grounds instead. He had all the weapons and types of equipment from the space ring he robbed so there was no shortage of resources to aid his training.

[The host has achieved 100% Weapon Mastery in the following:

Sword : 100%

Daggers/Knives : 100%

Archery/Bow : 100%

Axe : 100%

Shield : 100%

Spear : 100%

Greatsword : 100%

Cleaver : 100%

Saber : 100%

Hatchet : 100%

Throwing projectiles : 100%

The host has achieved 100% Combat Techniques/Skills mastery in the following:

Shadow Walk

Firestorm

Windcutter

Sword Edge

Parry/Deflect

Side Hopper

Defense Fortitude

Knight Wall

Ripper Claws

Lacerate

Archer Sight

Frost Spike

Water Blade

Pincer ]

"Phew.. Finally!" Kahn sighed and finally felt like he could take some rest.

"What's my current rank? How do I break through the grandmaster rank?" asked Kahn curiously because he thought achieving 100% mastery would help him break through ranks.

[The host is currently comparable to a peak master rank fighter. And to break through the next rank for any weapon mastery or skills, the host must complete 100% mastery along with absorbing the skills and eat the core of an opponent belonging to the higher rank in those jobs/classes.]

"So to reach a grandmaster, I must kill a grandmaster rank opponent, eat their cores and absorb their skills?" questioned Kahn to the system.

[Yes.]

"Hmm... That makes it troublesome. There aren't many grandmaster individuals in this city in the first place. And I don't have an enmity with any of them either. So to kill them for the sake of upgrading my rank doesn't seem a reasonable choice. I guess I'll need to look for enemies in higher places and bigger cities from now on." he let out a worried expression.

At this very moment, in the same fort in the South of the Flavot city.. A meeting was held by high ranking officers and some law enforcement authorities.

"I'm disappointed in you, captain Nordak. It's been a week and you still haven't found who this Azrael is. It's a slap in our & entire city security department." spoke a slim and old white Lionkin elderly man.

"Please, honorable Magistrate; give me 2 more days and I'll definitely catch Azrael and bring him in front of you." spoke the middle-aged captain.

"I don't want to hear any excuses. You don't even have proper suspects about who could this Azrael be." reminded the old magistrate.

"If I may speak, honorable magistrate.. Recently we did have a suspect who has caught our eyes. It's an adventurer named Kahn. And according to the information we've gathered, this person has no prior information available about him except the fact that he once belonged to a mercenary group that was ambushed and killed by bandits close to the Abyss Forest. He was the only survivor who escaped in the forest and survived there for few weeks before appearing to save a merchant caravan that was ambushed by those same bandits." spoke a brunette woman clad in armor. She then continued her findings..

"And he's also the first one to pass a test conducted by the grandmaster magic swordsman, Arkham Holland. He now works alone as per our information and is presumed to be a peak master rank swordsman. Based on the patterns Azrael does the killings, we assume that he is a peak master rank assassin himself. So we have some suspicion about this individual." the woman expressed her thoughts.



"Lieutenant Beatrice, one is a swordmaster while the other is an assassin. What's there to feel suspicious about? Since when has anyone managed to learn two different jobs and skills? Even someone like Arkham can only infuse some magic in his attacks and combat skills. And I'm friends with Solomon myself.. If there was something wrong or suspicious about this guy, he would've at least sent me a message." scolded the old lionkin magistrate.

"And I've heard the talks as well.. He killed not one but six minotaurs himself. If he was Azrael, why would he display his strength to the public that could lead many suspecting gazes at him given the current situation? It's no different than blowing your cover by your own hands." emphasized the old lionkin.

At this moment, the captain Nordak of the city security department interjected.

"Sir, I have some thoughts about this as well.. One thing I noticed about both these individuals is how quickly they rose to fame and became the talk of the city. Even though I admit that killing that many minotaurs alone is indeed an accomplishment worth noticing.. But don't you think it spread too quickly? Nobody gets that famous in just 3 or four days.. Nobody." remarked the captain.

"Fine.. I'm holding a banquet at my mansion tomorrow night, send this Kahn an invitation as well. Plus, commander Straze will be present there as well, he could be our way to test whether this person is close to becoming a grandmaster rank swordsman or not. And I'm certain many of the powers & factions would like to know that themselves." spoke the old magistrate cunningly.

"As you command, sir magistrate. We will also provide tight security in case Azrael decides to show up." said the lieutenant and bowed.

Both the man and the woman along with other officers left the room. The old lionkin leaned comfortably on his chair and rested his head.

"So, what have you found?" spoke the old man and suddenly an Elf, covered in an assassin outfit appeared out of nowhere and stood in front of the old magistrate.

"We've researched this guy and he's a real deal. But for some reason, he has always kept a low profile since he showed up in the city. The only two noticeable incidents were when he was accused of killing the second young master of the Sigurd family and when he passed an assessment test which was conducted by Arkham Holland himself. Based on our intel-gathering, he doesn't seem like to be the Azrael." spoke the elf.

[[Author : I feel the need to clear some misunderstandings.. The inhabitants of Vantrea don't level up too fast or become a Master rank fighter even after decades of training. Kahn is an exception because of his Divine Abilities & blessings from Kravel. So everyone is under impression that Kahn was a peak master rank swordsman since the very beginning.]]

"This is going to affect my position if we let this Azrael roam free. We can smother the small time criminals with no background.. But it'll be a problem if he points his dagger at the nobles and law enforcement authorities. You know how many corrupted and sadistic bastards we have here.. Especially those nobles and their heirs." spoke the old man with a somber face.

The next morning, Kahn was practicing his newly merged skills and techniques in the garden when he saw Jerome coming towards him with a shocked expression.

"Sir.. You have received an invitation.. from the magistrate." spoke Jerome with a ghastly voice as if the information was too much for him to process.

"Huh.. What kind of nonsense are you talking about?" asked Kahn.

"The seal on the envelope belongs to the magistrate's office, sir. Anyone else using it is a crime in this city." replied Jerome as he handed the invitation.

Kahn read the context mentioned in the invitation and noticed how he was over-praised for his talent in swordsmanship.

"I see. So they want to check out if I'm a real deal or not." spoke Kahn to himself and decided that it was about time he introduced himself to the top brass of this city.

Kahn spent his afternoon looking for a fitting attire in a high-class clothing store which sold the costliest clothes. He couldn't afford to go to this banquet in his regular clothes as that would make him look like a dirt-poor nobody.

Because even the female shop receptionist gave Kahn a suspicious gaze as if he mistakenly entered inside without knowing what type of people came here.

Kahn paid no attention to her gaze and asked for an assistant and looked for the most costly and regal clothes.

He chose a black set of highly delicate clothes made of rich quality materials and many intrinsic silver patterns. As for the shirt, he chose one a white shirt, then a red inner coat and a green tie.

He handed 5 thousand gold coins to the store manager and left the store.. Leaving everyone gobsmacked in his wake since none of them expected him to be this rich.

As the nighttime came, he hired an extremely luxurious carriage and came to the magistrate's mansion. After handing out the invitation card and passing through the security, he finally entered the grand hall of the mansion.

As soon as he entered inside, he saw a crowd of many people in flamboyant clothes talking and gossiping amongst themselves.

The speaker on the side of the door announced his entrance to the crowd in a gentle tone..

"Ladies and gentlemen, I introduce you to the famous adventurer of our Flavot city.. mister Kahn." said the speaker.

Sudden gasps of surprise were heard from the crowd.. And many eyes turned towards Kahn and gazed at him with expectant eyes. Especially the young and beautiful noble girls and women in the hall.

The combination of this attire along with his handsome and charismatic appearance made Kahn look no different an heir of a noble family.

Too charming and elating for all of them and his strong physique could be noticed even through his clothes.

Under these curious gazes and expectant eyes.. Kahn spoke to himself..

#### **Chapter 48: Mixing with the Elite**

Kahn took a deep breath and entered the large hall. Although he was feeling awkward a bit inside, he still maintained his confident look and looked approachable.

He grabbed a glass of wine and greeted the organizers. Unexpectedly, as soon as he entered and started to look around; some of the guests approached him and greeted & formally introduced themselves to Kahn.

Kahn didn't have any problems getting mixed up among these reputed and influential people as one would expect because at the moment, his reputation was at its peak.

"I've long heard the renowned name of yours, mister Kahn. And I hope to cooperate with you on many things in the future if you have time." spoke one of the well-dressed guests who displayed proper etiquette and demeanor of a well-mannered individual.

"Pleased to meet you as well. And I do appreciate you being direct about it than beating around the bush. I like such type of person the most." joked Kahn and started a friendly conversation.

As a grain of sugar was in front of them, many of the guests started swarming like a group of ants towards Kahn and tried to make his acquaintance before others had a chance.

Soon, there was one side of the hall that was filled with dozens of people making pleasant and praising remarks to Kahn while he greeted them politely and replied with utmost respect like someone belonging to an Aristocrat background.

But to some younger men in the crowd, the sight was displeasing because who didn't like attention and gain recognition of the masses. Especially for the ones belonging to the upper class of society. Something such as power, reputation and respect is what they yearned for most.

The nail hit the coffin when many young and beautiful girls and some extremely gentle looking women adorned in lavish clothes started paying attention to Kahn and even gave occasional flirting remarks, praising his extremely masculine body and handsome face.. This even made Kahn feel shy occasionally because who didn't appreciate compliments from the opposite gender?

Kahn kept a polite smile on his face and laughed in response, showing a welcoming attitude to these young and gorgeous women.

"Eh, what's so good about killing a bunch of braindead monsters? And since when can a Commoner be better than those from Noble clans?" spoke a young and round-faced man among the guests. His voice was was loud enough to reach every corner of the hall.

"Yes. I believe he didn't even kill those minotaurs by himself and had help from others. All those rumors seem like nothing but a sham to me." complained another noble heir among this crowd, adding fuel to the fire.

But unlike some Beta main character, Kahn wasn't the type of guy who'd allow others to talk down on him or let such remarks slide if somebody specifically targeted him.

"I feel like if you gentlemen have some misgivings about me.. May I know why?" asked Kahn in response, his voice was loud enough to reach everyone's ears.

"Ah, don't mind us. We just don't fit in well with posers and lowlifes." spoke a slim man from this group with condescending eyes.

"Then why do I see a bunch standing in the middle of this hall?" replied Kahn as he sipped his wine elegantly.

GASP!

Suddenly the entire hall went silent as multiple gasps and shocked whispers were heard. Kahn's remark was targeted towards this group of young nobles who were standing exactly in the middle of this hall at this moment.

This was no different than declaring this bunch as useless and incapable through that retort.

"You! What did you say?! Do you know who I am?" spoke a grumpy guy from the group, totally enraged after Kahn's banter.

"No, I don't. And I don't care.." declared Kahn in a nonchalant voice.

Why should he swallow down an insult just because he was surrounded by a bunch of upper-class people? None of them were related to him or had any friendship so why would he shut up and not respond in the same way as the other party.

Trying to control this situation calmly would only make him look weak and a conman. Who would take him seriously if he didn't retort back in an authoritative tone?

"You lowlife scum! You dare insult us?! Are you tired of living?" shouted the first round-faced young man.

Kahn walked in front of the group of people that were surrounding him. He placed the wine glass on a table and folded his arms. He raised an eyebrow and replied in a dejected tone.

"Why would I feel threatened by a bunch of weaklings?"

The crowd went into disarray as soon as Kahn's last remark was heard.. Kahn had called these group of young heirs as weaklings.. Like he had no fear of the consequences and didn't fear the ire of these noble families at all.

Some found his attitude extremely brave while the majority of the nobles present there found his words extremely arrogant. This was a society of Elitism after all. A no-name coming in their circle and calling their young-uns as weaklings was no different than a slap in their face.

"You ignorant cretin! You dare fight me?!" shouted a young guy who was around the same age as Kahn.

"Yes! Do you dare fight us, young filthy commoner!" replied a Tigerkin young man from the noble group.

Although Rakos Empire wasn't run by a Royal family and worked more like a Democratic country, there existed a class of people who had a say in running this Empire. So definitely they had their sense of superiority and elitism.

"Even if I accept your challenge, I don't think it's appropriate to cause a fight here in front of all these people. It'll ruin this pleasant gathering." replied Kahn in a carefree tone.

"I'll allow it."

Suddenly an old Lionkin amongst the crowd who was surrounded by many old age people who were wearing extremely expensive clothes spoke in a soft tone. But his voice spread across the hall regardless and everyone in the hall turned silent the next second.

Unlike the other lionkin Kahn had seen, the old man in front of him wasn't excessively tall or had any muscular built. But from the looks of it, he held immense power and authority.

"Let me introduce myself.. I'm Gravis Kenthaar, the Magistrate of the Flavot city." spoke the old man as he walked towards Kahn and tried to shake his hand.

Kahn shook the hand in response and spoke "Pleased to meet you, honorable magistrate. Apologies for not recognizing you and greeting you when I came. I simply hadn't had a chance to meet your grand figure before." Kahn spoke with a calm demeanor, looking completely unaffected by the magistrate's regal appearance.

"I too wished to meet such a promising talent such as you, mister Kahn. Your grand and heroic deeds have reached my ears as well." replied the old man with a benign smile on his face.

At this moment, a middle-aged man and a brunette woman dressed in formal military clothes walked and stood behind the old magistrate. They were none other than captain Nordak and lieutenant Beatrice. Yet none of them spoke a word and simply looked at Kahn with discerning eyes.

"Since there seem to be some misunderstandings between you and these young men.. Why don't you display some of your skills to all of us? I'm certain that many of us would like to see them as well. Am I right everyone?" spoke the magistrate and looked around the hall.

"Yes, yes. We would love to see some entertainment as well." spoke a noble from the present guests and soon many others followed him. Some of the noble heirs belonged to the families of these nobles and Kahn calling them weaklings was also a disrespect towards their entire clan. So they too wanted to see him beaten and asking for forgiveness.

"Sure, let's take it to open space. It will give everyone a proper view as well." said Kahn.

Soon he and the group of noble heirs went outside in an open garden, followed by all the attendees.

Kahn stood on one side and the group of 8 heirs on the other side. They all took out their weapons, all of them seemed to be sword users for some reason.

Kahn found it reasonable as swords were the most glorified weapons for the noble class and military ranks.

Kahn took out a wooden sword from his space ring.

"Why aren't you using a real weapon? Are you afraid of something?" asked one of the heirs.

"Yes, I'm afraid... Afraid that I might end up injuring you lot." replied Kahn with an expressionless face.

"You! Let me go first. I'm going to teach this filthy scum some manners!" roared a man and walked ahead of the group.

"Wait!.." spoke Kahn and put his left hand in the left pocket of his trousers while he pointed the wooden sword in the right hand at the group of young nobles.

"I don't have all night. Let's finish it in one go." Kahn said.

"What do you mean?" asked the man who was about to fight Kahn.

Kahn simply let out a smirk and replied.

"Come at me.. All at once."

### **Chapter 49: The Difference in Skills**

Total silence.. Whether it was the group of Noble heirs, the guests or even the security personnel.. Everyone stood rooted to their spot after Kahn's declaration..

All at once? Was he looking down on the opponents too much? Mainly the heirs of the noble clans who had years of training in fighting by professional teachers were not even worth his time?

"Impudence!! This young man is acting too shamelessly. Acting as if he is the only strongest person in the room. This is an insult to our families and name!" shouted one of the enraged old noble snakekin who was part of the elderly crowd that was talking with the old magistrate previously.

"There's a limit to how much one can be ignorant and not know their place." spoke another demonkin noble as he gave a disgusted look to Kahn.

"Oh, Is that so? Then how about this.. You all attack me together and if I get injured or even die.. none of you will be held accountable. How does that sound?" spoke Kahn in his usual carefree tone.

"Courting death!" shouted a young heir.

"Yes.. What glory is there to gang up on an opponent?" asked the tigerkin young man.

"You lot truly overestimate yourselves, don't you? Compared to the type of monsters I've fought and killed.. I wouldn't even consider any of you a threat."

Another insult!

Kahn was outright insulting the group of Noble heirs.. Well, not just them but also their clans indirectly.

"Do it! Teach this lowly baffoon some manners and show him his place! He's asking for it!" shouted an elderly nobleman.

"Fine. Don't regret your words you lowly commoner. It was your fortune to even be allowed to enter this banquet.. But doesn't mean you can get away with insulting our noble clans." replied the round-faced young man and the group of young noble heirs took their attacking stands.

Kahn didn't take any form of stand and remained aloof with the wooden sword in his right hand.

"Prepare yourself!" shouted the guy in the front as the group of young noble heirs charged at Kahn together.

"Power slash!" shouted the first guy.

"Ripple stab!" shouted the second guy.

"Tornado swing!" roared the third guy.

One by one, the heirs shouted some preposterous names and swung their swords at him.

Kahn rolled his eyes and quickly reacted in a nanosecond..

He sidestepped and slapped his wooden sword on the neck of the first guy, pointed and stabbed the second guy on the heart and simply parried the third guy's horizontal swing.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Kahn quickly walked from his initial position to the end of this group and made swift attacks and incapacitated every single one of the heirs.. His movements were so fast that all everyone saw was a black streak passing through the group of young noble heirs and in just 5 seconds, he was already at the end of their side.

Thud! Crack! Chink!

The onlookers finally registered the sounds of slapping, stabbing, parrying, swinging, breaking, and clanging.

"Argh!" groaned many of these young men in pain as they dropped on the ground one by one.

"Ah!.. My neck!" spoke the tigerkin man as he almost felt like choking on his saliva from the swelling he had on his throat.

Kahn who still had his left hand in the pocket was at the other end where the group previously stood, he gave out a bored and lifeless look on his face instead.

He was thoroughly disappointed in these young men. Even though they were nearly as same age as him.. In his mind, he was still the 30 years old Elric from his previous life.

"Amateurs!" shouted Kahn as he walked towards the young men who were now dirtied in the grass after they fell. Embarrassing themselves in front of dozens of these noble and influential figures.

"Did you people even train properly till now? You, round face, you're full of openings! The demonkin, you're charging too fast without maintaining a proper footing." spoke Kahn.

"The tigerkin, your attacks have force but no form. The elf, your build is not made for swords, use a spear or halberd instead!" he admonished the heirs and started pointing out their mistakes in stances, fighting techniques, forms and timing.

"And most importantly.. Which idiot told you to shout the names of your attacks loudly?! Do you want to alert your enemies and help them counter you instead?!" roared Kahn as he was utterly stupefied by these morons in front of him.

"Not a single one of you knows how to actually use a sword. It's nothing but fancy moves with no technique and skill behind it. If this was a real battle, all of you would be lying dead on the ground." his voice thundered and even gave a sense of fear to all the onlookers.

The group of noble heirs however felt chills in their spine and felt like a giant predator was about to tear them alive.

"If this is all the new generation of this city can offer.. Then I only see a bleak future for this city and our Empire!" complained Kahn as if he belonged to the upper class of society even above all the people present here.

He slightly let out his aura and let everyone including the crowd feel this pressure of authority and dominance.

As for why someone as calculative as Kahn was causing such a commotion, even going as far as directly insulting these noble heirs and their families..

It was because he wanted everyone to feel that he wasn't someone they could afford to mess with and should be dealt carefully. But at the end of the day, he was just one man.

But if a young, talented and strong person such as Kahn were to act as if he came from a bigger background.. People would at least try to investigate deep into it than having beef with him just because of few provocative words. That's why Kahn faked his background right on the spot and gave a sense of mysterious heritage through his words.

They would naturally feel the need to know the extent of the power that stood behind this man.

The nobles who played the power game in their sleep easily took this hint and stopped themselves from retorting despite his haughty and disrespectful words.

Kahn put his wooden sword back in his space ring.. In reality, he didn't even use a single skill or ability when fighting this group. It was basically his physical strength, reaction speed and reflexes doing all the work along with the techniques that were now ingrained in his subconscious mind after raising their mastery to 100%.

Kahn was indeed a bonafide peak master rank fighter now. And to take this bunch of amateurs.. He didn't even need to use half his strength or any skill.

He picked up a glass of wine and walked away from the group lying on the ground and towards the old magistrate.

"Apologies for my rude behavior, honorable magistrate. It's just that I lose my temper whenever I see someone making a joke out of swordsmanship with their faulty and meager mastery." said Kahn in a loud tone that reached the ears of all the guests.



With those words alone, they could no longer retort as who would try to pick a fight with someone when their own offsprings were at fault.. That would look as nothing but incorrigible and unfitting conduct for someone belonging to the noble clans.

If any of them did, it would be considered a petty behavior and others will use that to talk down on them. That's how the facade of the upper class worked.

"It's understandable mister Kahn. And thank you for gracing us with your impeccable display of mastery." spoke the old magistrate.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

"Spoken like a true warrior!"

Suddenly, a stoic and mature voice came from behind the old magistrate.

It was none other than captain Nordak.

Even Beatrice who was also a swordswoman was elated after watching Kahn's flawless techniques and how he single-handedly defeated 8 people in just 5 seconds.

To many, it looked like swift movements but for someone like Nordak and Beatrice who spent years training their fighting skills and techniques.. It looked like they had witnessed a true master displaying their craft.

This instantly earned their respect for Kahn. Now they even felt wrong for suspecting him to be Azrael.

"In all my years so far.. I've never seen someone so young having reached such a level of expertise in swordsmanship. Mister Kahn, please allow me to thank you for sharing such a beautiful sight in front of us." spoke captain Nordak.

"Unacceptable! He must have cheated!!!"

A roar came from one of the noble heirs who couldn't accept his defeat and charged at Kahn with his sword.

Just as the guy was about to come 3 meters near him, Kahn finally used his one ability he never had a chance to use so far...

Executioner's Gaze!

## **Chapter 50: Gaining Approval**

It had been nearly 30 days since created his ability by merging Paralysis Gaze and Predator's Eyes. But he never had a chance to use it in a confrontation because this ability worked only on those who were weaker than him & only at one person or an enemy at a time.

However, this was perfect for this moment. Kahn wasn't going to allow anyone to talk down on him after his awestruck display of swordsmanship.

Since he couldn't kill the opponent because at the end of the day, the young man charging at him belonged to a noble clan. But there was a better way to do it without dirtying his hands.

"Deamos, no!!" bellowed a middle-aged nobleman who stood amongst the guests.

EXECUTIONER'S GAZE!

Kahn's eyes flickered with a yellow spark and met the eyes of the incoming attacker.

But before the attacker's sword could even reach a meter close to Kahn, the young noble heir fell in his charge after getting paralyzed on the spot and his body skidded on the grassy ground, just stopping before Kahn's feet.

Kahn didn't make any remark on this attempted murder.. Rather he maintained his calm and collected demeanor. Not even speaking a word and solemnly looking at the teen who was now close to licking his shoes.

"What's the meaning of this?! You can't even accept your fair defeat and attack someone from the back?!" roared the old lionkin in rage.

This was a banquet hosted by him, and this young heir made an attempt on someone's life right in front of him.. And that too after losing in an overwhelming manner. This was simply a slap in the old magistrate's face.

"Please forgive him.. My son is naive and foolish." the nobleman spoke as he ran towards the young man.. Afraid that the magistrate would order to kill his son on the sight.

"Get him out of here! I better not see him in the city again. Or I will not show any respect to your father or your family!!" spoke the old lionkin in an angry loud voice.

In the end, nobles held some authority but he was the damn magistrate of this city! He was officially chosen as the one to run this city by the government.. Anyone causing such a commotion and going as far as attempting to kill someone in front of him was an outrageous act.

Captain Nordak ordered the nearby guards to pick up this young noble heir who had created a scene and thoroughly shamed his & his clan's name by these actions.

"We apologize again mister Kahn.." spoke Nordak and left him alone.

Kahn's display of strength and dominance had left all the guests and onlookers completely baffled. Especially the old noblemen who thought he was just some nobody who lucked out and got popular. But now they realized that the young man they thought as nobody was actually a Dragon amongst men. They all had no choice but to notice him.

One by one, people started cheering and praising Kahn on his overwhelming and one-sided victory. Especially because he had made some of the noble houses lose their face by beating and admonishing their family heirs. This was soon going to create another storm tomorrow in the entire city.

"Hahaha! That was amazing. Even though swordsmanship isn't my lane.. I'm impressed!"

Suddenly a loud and majestic voice landed on everyone's ears.

A giant blue Tigerkin walked in fully black and white regal clothes. He stood in front of the old lionkin and then stared at Kahn.

The tall 4-meter long figure of a muscular demihuman stood in front of Kahn and reached out a hand to introduce himself.

Everyone else showed utmost respect towards the new addition to this banquet. No different than what they showed in front of the magistrate.

Kahn shook the hand of this tall figure and the next second, he felt an insurmountable pressure landing on him.. Coming from nowhere else but the blue tigerkin.

He felt like his kneecaps were to drop on the ground as he maintained his body to stand properly.

WAR DOMINANCE!

Kahn quickly activated War Dominance aura and broke this invisible pressure in just 2 seconds..

"Huh.. That quickly? I see that I underestimated your strength." spoke the tigerkin and deactivated his aura..

Kahn wasn't a weakling anymore like when he met Arkham, Stragabor and Solomon. His level had risen by nearly 24 levels compared to back then and so did his experience in fighting and Weapon Mastery. Now, he had no problems facing the aura of someone as strong as Solomon. Though in terms of actual combat strength, his capabilities against them couldn't be decided yet.. Kahn knew he won't have a problem escaping either. He was certainly weaker than the Tigerkin in front of him but he simply didn't care about it. He'd bridge this gap soon.

"You've already met the conditions to become a grandmaster.. Just that something feels missing before you break that threshold. Nevertheless, it's an accomplishment not even millions of people can ever achieve. I'm certain that you'll enter the grandmaster rank in a short time." spoke the muscular tigerkin.

His voice was clear for everyone to hear.

"You're late, Commander Straze." spoke the magistrate.

"My bad.. I took some time choosing clothes. I don't like attending such fancy parties you know. Rather fighting and killing monsters in my thing." said the blue tigerkin and returned to Kahn..

"Straze Boltomir, Commander of the Military Battalions that protect the city. Nice to make your acquaintance." introduced Straze as he shook Kahn's hand promptly, as if trying to check his strength through some pulse or something.

[System, details..] spoke Kahn and ordered the system to scan the demihuman in front of him.

[Scanning Complete.

Name : Straze Boltomir

Species : Nectoral Tigerkin (Rare Species)

Rank : Peak Grandmaster rank Brawler/Warrior (Semi-Saint rank)

Level : 88 ]

Peak Grandmaster rank! And about to enter in the Saint rank as well..

Kahn finally got the idea of this commander's strength.

The tigerkin in front of him was even stronger than Solomon, president of Adventurer Association. By far, the strongest individual Kahn had met in Vantrea.

"So even Commander Straze approves of mister Kahn.." spoke one of the guests..

"He's a true deal. There's no doubt. We must form a good relationship with him no matter what." spoke an elderly noble.

"And he's so strong and handsome! Totally my type!" spoke an old noblewoman who gazed at Kahn's body with covetous eyes.

Kahn suddenly felt a chill under his skin for a second.

The talk between these people continued while Kahn was gossiping with the two of the most powerful & influential people in the entire city.

While Arkham & Solomon held a huge authority through the Association, they were still not officially in command or control of the city.. The two people in front of him were..

The conversation shifted from his training to many other irrelevant things.

But then suddenly, the topic shifted towards one thing Kahn didn't want to talk about..

"So, mister Kahn.. What do you think about this Azrael?" asked the magistrate; captain Nordak and lieutenant Beatrice perked their ears to hear into the conversation.

But unlike what they expected.. Kahn's expression didn't change in the slightest or looked surprised at all.

Because Kahn had already suspected this as one of the two reasons why he was invited to this banquet in the first place.. One was to investigate his prowess while the other was undoubtedly about him being the Azrael.. The most notorious criminal in the Flavot city who has killed more than 40 people now.

Because a sudden emerge of two different and strong fighters doesn't happen by coincidence. Anyone with two brain cells could link the connection.

"Eh, nothing but just a psychopath. At the end of the day.. He is someone doing this for the kinks and using this whole judgment and justice to make himself look good. Because no matter how righteous his cause may seem.. He's nothing but a coward." spoke Kahn without a hitch as if he truly looked down on Azrael.

"Why do you think so mister Kahn?" asked commander Straze.

He simply nodded and replied..

"Because he's simply killing the small-timers.. The ones he can afford to kill without suffering consequences. If he was truly powerful.. He wouldn't kill under the blanket of night and hide behind the shadows." replied Kahn and continued..

"Because if it was me and I had the strength.. I would declare an all out war on everybody instead." said Kahn in his regal tone.

Instantly giving him a tyrant-like appearance.. Especially to lieutenant Beatrice who was already extremely impressed by Kahn's demeanor so far.

"Hahaha! Exactly my thoughts so far! Only a weakling would hide behind the shadows. If he truly had the guts, he would not make these petty killings and try to gut down big fishes instead." spoke commander Straze.

The night continued and Kahn enjoyed the delicious meals and company of many businessmen and nobles who tried to become friends with him.

Just during that time however.. He felt something was odd after he drank a glass of luxurious wine.

[Ronin!]

Kahn spoke in his mind and the rogue subordinates passed from of his shadow and mixed with the shadow of the servant who just served this wine to Kahn.

Kahn spent the rest of the time enjoying the banquet and finally bid farewell to everyone he came to know today. He was certain that his impression was solid and soon he'd be known amongst the top ranks and creme de la crop.

But as soon as Kahn came few kilometers away from the location of the banquet.. He ordered the carriage driver to take off and entered a dark valley.. His expression turned that of rage and his eyes fumed with anger.

Because during the party as he was merrily chatting and creating connections with the fellow guests..

Kahn was... poisoned!