

## **Darkness 551**

### **Chapter 551 The Disciple**

In the early morning, an announcement spread across the vulcan empire via various information outlets and people about how Throk Oakenshield had accepted a challenge from another dwarven saint blacksmith that he would take a human as his disciple and teach him the blacksmithing craft.

And there will be a faceoff between this human and his previous pupil Helsi, who changed sides and joined master Tawerik when the second prince Rogis, who was now the most hated prince in the history of the empire; targeted the old and honest dwarf.

That how his own people and friends who had been with the old dwarf since decades betrayed him the moment they heard the cruel, racist and psychopath second prince targeting him.

And when everyone was hitting him down at his lowest... the dwarven blacksmith Tawerik stole all his people and students. And even challenged the old man.

But unexpectedly... Throk Oakenshield bet his honor, reputation as well as his company on the line. Saying that he could even teach a human and make him a worthy blacksmith... someone better than his most prized pupil who betrayed him.

Thus he chose a human and signed a contract with the opposite side. And a year and a half later... both these pupils would represent their masters and face each other.

The one to win will uphold the pride of their master and the one to lose will cause their downfall.

As the news spread throughout the common populace, Throk was portrayed as a sorry person who was a victim of prejudice, and betrayal, an honorable person who paid the price of standing against a cruel mass murderer who hated the church and the dwarven race.

The narrative described him as the one who would rather break than bow in front of certain death.

This news was something Kahn had asked Hector and Venessa to spread on their own volition as part of phase four since both of them were already desperate.

But in reality, he was just using them to solidify a background story for himself in this empire and no one would suspect his origin because everyone will think that he was just a random normal human who was chosen by Throk Oakenshield for this challenge.

In the news, Kahn's name wasn't mentioned anywhere because it was a Redemption Story for Throk Oakenshield.

Because sooner or later... he'd have to reveal his identity as a first stage saint and he could use Throk's name for it since his name would be known by many in the near future.

Thus, all of this build-up and him receiving some of the limelight was to make a lot of money and resources in this empire while becoming a capable blacksmith for his own sake.

And at the end of it... both sides already declared that prince Hector/princess Venessa were officially going to become the sponsors of Throk Oakenshield in his time of peril. As a form of responsibility to

negate the damage and mental stress received by one of the top 5 dwarven blacksmiths of the Vulcan empire.

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Rathnaar already had plans to help out Kahn and greatly benefit from the situation more than they should have.

Knowing what kind of opportunity this whole incident with Throk and Rogis got Kahn dangled up in their battle... the peak saint planned this whole thing which would not only help them gain resources of their own in a vast amount but not endanger their livelihood or take unnecessary risks.

It was something even Kahn wasn't able to plan easily as he lacked experience and didn't know how things would turn out.

And given how big of an untrustworthy person Oakenshield was... Kahn needed the old dwarf bound to him till he became a saint blacksmith himself.

So using the smithing challenge as an excuse, he made sure that the old and cunning bastard couldn't back down since there was no official contract or even an oath between them.

And hence, now that Throk was trending on social media, Kahn was also going to use it for his personal profit.

He told Hector and Venessa that if they spread this issue as well... They will be seen as heroes who extended their help to the dwarf and the human he was preparing for the blacksmithing challenge.

The public opinion would be increased and they'd gain support from both the dwarven race and those who wanted to appear as saints on the surface.

And seeing the profits only by just spending some of their resources and using their name... both of them jumped into the deal.

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"You... what the hell are you doing here?!"

Asked Venessa with a shocked expression as the figure who just walked in behind Throk was someone she had met nearly a month ago.

Kahn bowed and saluted the prince and the princess in the vulcan tradition and spoke in a soft tone.

"Pleased to meet you again, your highness." he said with a charming smile.

? ?? ??-?? ??? . ??? Venessa suddenly was rooted on the spot as she couldn't make sense of things.

"Huh... you know this human, sister?" asked Hector as he noticed something odd.

But instead of replying him, Venessa secretly active her Sandhed Charm again.

[Let me handle this.] said Rathnaar and cast two similar formations that repelled the effects of this artifact which made everyone speak the truth without being suspicious; one for Kahn and one for Throk.

"You mean... the last time... the auction house... the body..." spoke Venessa in as she tried to connect dots on her own.

[Old bastard, just agree with me without showing any surprise. Or our deal is null.] warned Kahn as he telepathically informed Throk using an artifact hidden in his sleeves.

"So this is the person you bought that Jatvuarym for?" asked Venessa.

"Yes, your highness. Master Oakenshield is that person." lied Kahn as he nodded in order to create his cover.

Because Venessa was connecting Throk to be the mysterious client Kahn filled in for in the auction house of Oslo city where he bought the body of Jatvuarym for 40 trillion.

"Your highness... you know my new disciple?" asked Throk with a curious gaze.

"Your disciple? Is he the human who's going to participate in the challenge?" asked Hector in an astonished voice.

To both of their curious gazes, Kahn kneeled in respect, more likely trying to look submissive, and spoke in a gentle tone.

"Kahn Salvatore at your service, your highness."

### **Chapter 552 The Squabbling**

Kahn introduced himself in front of the first prince and the third princess in his original appearance and voice as he knelt in front of both. This was a way of him trying to show them that he knew his place in their presence.

"Is this really your new disciple? He's not even a semi-saint." said Hector as soon as he noticed that Kahn was only a master rank individual.

Because at this moment, Kahn was hiding his levels at only Master Rank by using the new mythical rank metamorphosis bloodline which was many times effective in masking his original rank.

Previously, he could hide his rank to Peak Grandmaster at best in front of other saints who were proficient in using world energy. But the now evolved Mythical Rank metamorphosis bloodline was many times better in hiding his true strength.

But regardless of the situation... Both Hector and Venessa felt like this was a lost cause already.

Because Helsi was rumored to be a semi-saint and Kahn wasn't even a peak grandmaster. So as a result... his skills and levels would be limited because of his rank which was the key factor in becoming a capable blacksmith.

"Master said he will provide me with resources to raise my rank till next year... but sadly, we don't have anything left." said Kahn in a dejected tone.

"This is already a lost battle." said Hector regrettably.

Just then, the opposite party interjected.

"If you don't want to, you can back out. It's not like anyone is forcing you to." she said with a benign expression.

Hector then has a complicated expression.

Because If he let this opportunity go... he would be surely kicked out of the race to become the next emperor.

This was the reason why Rathnaar and Kahn gave a biased advantage to Venessa in phase three of their plans.

So that Hector couldn't back out in the fourth phase when the time came.

And if he didn't back down, Venessa couldn't back down either.

And with the announcement already spread across the empire... none of them could retract those rumors otherwise the one to back down will be seen as the loser and also an inconsiderate bastard. While the other one will be glorified by the church and the dwarven race, resulting in gaining their support as well.

So that way... both of them will be forced to declare their support for Throk.

To Kahn... their support meant both financial support and connections that they needed for the plans he had in the future which included him earning money by many folds as soon as either of them officially became their sponsors.

Now, all it remained to see that which one would be the final winner.

"Master Oakenshield... I would like to sponsor your company." said Venessa in a respectful tone, to appease the old dwarf.

"No, master Oakenshield. It should be me who sponsors your company.

I have always admired and respected your great work.

? ?? ??-??? ??, ??? Rogis was indeed an incapable fool who could not see the quality of your works." spoke Hector as he lied on the spot.

"The thing is, my prince... we are short on time.

Although it is possible for me to teach Kahn all my skills and have ways to make him a saint even before the challenge officially starts...

We will be in need of abundant resources. Something I no longer have.

All my wealth went into paying the collateral amount and debt for my company when I went bankrupt because of the second prince." said the old dwarf with a sense of loss.

"As you can see... There isn't even a single employee in my company now.

And I'm not that shameless to ask for money and resources from your highness just so I could save my pride." continued Throk with a crestfallen look.

In reality, the cunning old dwarf had decades of his wealth and resources completely left untouched. Just that they had cleaned out the whole company and moved all the machinery, blacksmithing materials, and money into multiple space rings just to give the company building the look of a dilapidated site.

"Don't worry about that master Oakenshield.

I'm fully capable of supporting your company." spoke Venessa.

"If I just say a word, many people in the military who support me will offer you contracts for weapons and artillery.

I'm talking Quadrillions of Harlen in terms of wealth." said Venessa with a smug tone.

Seeing how she was taking away his only chance, Hector also chimed in.

"I can offer you all my connections related to materials, distributors, suppliers and even two of the fireborne clans who support me to make official dealings with you." said Hector as he outdid what Venessa offered.

While Throk and Venessa were surprised, Kahn had a calm expression.

Because he knew that for Hector... it was his last straw.

Then both Kahn and Throk looked at Venessa with expectant eyes... as if demanding to raise the stakes.

"Then I can offer you security, modes of transportation and flying ships for your company's products for free. And also the money to buy raw materials and the equipment of the highest quality for your forge." said Venessa as she blew away Hector's momentum.

"You!... You're doing this intentionally, aren't you?!" bellowed Hector with a pissed-off expression.

"What are you going to do about it?" asked Venessa sarcastically, without a hint of fear in her eyes.

Soon, both Hector and Venessa started arguing amongst themselves and didn't seem to stop even after 10 minutes.

"Wait... I think I have a way."

Suddenly, the voice of the young man in front of them broke their argument.

Kahn, who was still kneeling, got up after Hector and Venessa stopped and continued in a respectful tone...

"If I may, your highness.

I have a perfect strategy that can help you both and also make a profit in the way." said Kahn like a seasoned mediator.

"How?" asked Venessa.

To her question, Kahn let out a devilish smile as it was time for him to show what he was best at.

Because it was time for Kahn...

The Businessman.

### **Chapter 553 Business Proposal**

Right before the two members of the imperial family and one of the top 5 blacksmiths of the Vulcan empire... Kahn declared that he had a plan that would be beneficial to all their sides.

"You... you are going to suggest us a business plan? What do you even know about business, human?"

"We're not talking about some street shop here." spoke Hector as he didn't like Kahn, a human to meddle in their matter.

"Please listen to me, your highness. Although I may not have much experience in making business deals of this large scale... but I have an idea that fits perfectly to your situation." replied Kahn while bowing in respect.

"Alright, let's listen to him first." said Venessa in an affirmative tone.

Kahn then took a deep breath and brought forth the business tycoon inside him who had been sleeping for quite some time since he became the Sovereign of Verlassen and then came to the Vulcan empire.

"Let's say that both of you declare your support and deliver upon your promises..."

Then it's an obvious fact that the company will thrive even more than before.

However... it won't be able to expand regardless given how there will still be people who served the second prince and will hold a grudge against us." started off Kahn as he addressed the main issue.

The old him already knew about how the elite were always able to blacklist someone without backing easily.

"But instead of wasting our time and resources on dealing with these petty businesses..."

We will sell all of our products at manufacturing cost to both of you." declared Kahn.

To his declaration, all three of them were stunned.

[What the hell are you doing, boy?! Who are you to make decisions about my company?] argued Throk via the artifact.

[Just watch and learn, you old bastard. You may be a great blacksmith... but this is my area of expertise.] replied Kahn.

???-???-??, ??? "Since both the imperial prince and princess are sponsoring us, I believe you shouldn't lose out on money because of it.

The quality of the weapons will be guaranteed by Oakenshield company.

And you could use companies in your respective names or even clans who need weapons in an abundant quantity.

And you can sell them as the direct source." proposed Kahn.

Because if it was just their company doing everything by themselves to stay in the business... they were too many risks and people he would have to face, whether it was an enemy or some business organization who targeted them.

But if it were the imperial family members... who the hell would dare to go against them?

"Think about it. There are other 4 saint blacksmiths in the empire, all of whom are from the dwarven race... but you know how hard it is to appease them or even have your weapons and armors made by them.

The only ones they care about are the Emperor and his four Advisors. They do not give any preferential treatment to you or your followers. So it's obvious that you won't be able to get such an opportunity to have a saint blacksmith like master Oakenshield on your side easily if not for his current situation." he iterated.

"Imagine if you could provide legendary rank weapons and armors to your top followers and supporting clans via master Oakenshield within months instead of having to wait for 3 to 5 years...

Wouldn't they pledge their wholehearted loyalty to you?" asked Kahn to the two firebornes.

Just then, both Hector and Venessa realized that it was indeed the case. Compared to other prideful blacksmiths, Throk was much more approachable. And if they officially became his sponsors...

They would also get direct access to him and if they went with Kahn's proposal... there were too many benefits.

"Obviously, the work will have the logo of Oakenshield company but since you're the direct distributors...

The amount of profits both of you would make by cutting the middleman..." said Kahn and stopped with a coy expression.

Both Venessa and Hector were astonished as soon as they realized what Kahn was implying.

Because they weren't just talking about some city-level deal. Rather at least more than a billion people who supported them throughout the whole empire.

Just by becoming a direct source... they would be making way too much money.

[What the hell are you doing, you brat?! I've never worked on that big scale. At best, my business was done with local companies of the capital.]

[Think big, old bastard. Don't you want to go from one of the top 5...

To the most popular, the richest and the most influential blacksmith in the whole empire?

The top 3 blacksmiths have support from the Fireborne clans and church, but you...

I'm offering you both the imperial prince and princess on a silver platter.

Think big and you'll make it big.] said Kahn with a smug grin.

Although it looked like it was these three sides who would be earning a lot of wealth...

In reality... it'd be him who was going to milk them dry since his sponsors were going to take care of money, materials, transport, dealerships, connections and other stuff.

On the other end, he'd have his generals manage the company while Throk handled the manufacturing and the forge.

He was going to overwork Throk to the bone and then rake in a huge amount in the name of management of the company.

This wasn't the Rakos Empire where everyone was equal. He couldn't go through the ordeals of setting up a company or face opposition from locals, not even after the recent bans and restrictions lifted on the human race.

Kahn learned a lot from the business mini-arc already. So he knew what to do and what not to do. And now... he had no intentions to waste time on the same repeated plotline again.

So this way... not only was he going to learn blacksmith skills for free, have a saint blacksmith as a teacher... he was going to have Hector and Venessa do all the heavy lifting while they poured in all of their money and wealth to maximize their personal profit.

And the one to mooch off on all the hard work done by the three individuals standing in front would be...

Kahn.

### **Chapter 554 The Businessman**

While Hector and Venessa were contemplating the pros and cons of the proposal presented by Kahn... Throk had a constricted expression but he tried to hide his disagreement to see what kind of endgame the human saint was aiming for.

Both Venessa and Hector relied on their position as members of the imperial family and all their wealth, properties and everything about their existence was provided by the imperial clan.

But they had nothing of their own.

This was also the reason why he proposed this idea to both of them. To have these two gain a sense of having a backup source of income that was their own and couldn't be taken away by anyone.

And Kahn's business proposal was a godsend opportunity for both of them. Something that was far more beneficial compared to only providing safety and resources.

The money and connections they invested would keep increasing as the months passed by while their influence, their authority and even their personal standing even without the support of their biggest backers would keep getting stronger than before.

"But who will get the credit of sponsoring master Oakenshield?" asked Hector with a concerned expression.

Because the whole announcing their support and sponsoring the old dwarf was done by both the parties only to get their name known to the empire.



"Since both of you have allied with us...

You both will get the credit." said Kahn.

"Nonsense! That's unacceptable." spoke Hector.

Venessa also agreed with his statement because it was indeed the case. But then Kahn carried on...

"However... to your people... it will appear that only you are the official sponsor since you could negotiate the prices on your will and use it to make deals with those people who want to earn your favor.

You tell them that it's you. And since you're providing them with the trademark weapons, you will be seen as the official sponsor." spoke Kahn in a calm tone.

"The rest should depend on how you reel in the fish by yourself.

You provide us money, materials, resources and everything that's needed to make weapons and armors...

In return, we will sell it back to you at the manufacturing price.

After that... you sell the product through your channels based on the market price or your own choosing based on the type of people you want to reel in on your side.

The profits you'd make on the investment and processing fee to us will be at least tripled after you're done selling them throughout the empire.

The more you give us, the more you'll receive in profits.

You invest One and get Three at the end." elaborated Kahn.

Again... the two imperial scions were left speechless because of how well thought plan Kahn came up with.

Because it didn't matter solely about credit anymore. They could achieve that by spreading the news as it is. It was up to the populace and who they believed in.

? ?? ??-??? ??, ?,?,? But what Kahn suggested to them was a proper business strategy that would not only help them earn a lot of money that was their own but also make real and powerful allies who actually depended on them for quality weapons supply.

It was a leverage over their followers they couldn't just get with verbal praise or promises. Rather, the supporters would believe that Hector or Venessa actually had the final say, thus cementing their support even more.

Like Kahn said, nobody needed to know the inside deal. And gaining more support and followers would be left to their capabilities.

Hector at the moment had a competitive look in his eyes. Because he wasn't the guy who liked to rely on uncertain things.

"You're the smartest human I have met so far." said Hector as he truthfully admitted.

Venessa however... had a different expression. ? ??? a ???e?

Instead of being surprised or taken aback... she was intensely staring at Kahn as her gaze was completely transfixed on him.

After having a detailed conversation with the involved parties on how to start their deals and revive Throk's company... the two imperial scions left their people in order to renovate the dusty company building.

Kahn and Throk sat in his main office and started a conversation of their own.

"You're so fucking dumb, boy!

How is selling everything to the prince and princess beneficial to us?

We will be tied to them and later they will negotiate prices on their own. We will be forced to accept loss since we don't have any other customers." complained Throk as he thought that Kahn saturated their business completely.

Kahn in return, facepalmed himself.

"This is why a shepherd cannot do a butcher's job." he said and started explaining.

"Think about it...

They will be giving you money, resources, materials, transportation, security, connections and everything we need to expand the business to a much grander scale.

They will be the figureheads and face everything related to the selling and purchases.

We will get our cut only for manufacturing without having to spend a single harlen from our pockets unlike before when you had to buy the materials on your own and pay the suppliers and distributors.

No matter what one believes... whether it's Hector or Venessa backing us... everyone will be under the impression that you have the support of at least one of the imperial scions." said Kahn in a calm voice.

"Then others who previously stood on equal footing with you in business deals will come flocking towards you. Because gaining your support will also mean that they'll have a way to rely on the imperial family.

But this time... it will be you who has the biggest bargaining chip.

It will be us who will decide what price we will sell our products to them.

However... We won't be selling any of our products to them on manufacturing cost... but the market price." said Kahn with an evil smirk.

"So even if they don't want to... they will buy stuff from you at a high cost and they will sell it in the market at a higher price.

But in the meantime... we will make the profits without even spending anything from our end since the prince and the princess will be paying for everything.

Although the prince and princess will also earn a lot... we are earning many times more than we're putting in any effort for.

And given the scale of the operation... We will build new manufacturing buildings, sites for forging and will get the required necessities under the name of investment from the two.

Just our share of profits will be tens of quadrillion in just a single year." explained Kahn.

The Businessman inside of him was exuding an aura of richness just with these words.

"So by taking a small initial loss while favoring the imperial prince and princess... it's us who will be making a lot of money in the end." he concluded.

"I take my words back.

You're not some prince of an empire... but some genius business strategist, aren't you?" asked Throk with his eyes wide open as soon as he realized what Kahn achieved today.

To his words, Kahn replied in a laid-back manner as he spoke...

"I'm just a regular everyday normal accountant."

### **Chapter 555 New Management**

After the whole thing was settled with the first prince and third princess regarding the allocation of resources and a particular sector of the company they promised to provide support, finance and manpower for...

All that was left for Kahn and Throk to do was to rebuild the Oakenshield company from scratch.

???-??? ??, ?,?,? Currently, there was not a single employee left in the company because of this whole beef with Rogis, then the imperial court.

But after the rumors of the imperial scions backing Throk spread around the capital while they were reconstructing the company and adding new machinery, forging equipment, facilities to increase the production... there were too many people who tried to visit Throk and make contracts with him.

But Kahn told the old dwarf to either not meet them or shun them off just like they did to him. Because if they looked approachable from the start... everyone would be under the impression that Throk actually needed them to support him as well.

And after they were told to return and Throk even declined to meet them, one thing was certain to all these business tycoons...

That the saint blacksmith didn't need any of them since he had a behemoth of a sponsor. This resulted in cementing their beliefs that the rumors were indeed true and now...

Throk was the most sought-after blacksmith in the entire Arkensan just in the first week.

In the following week... Kahn officially started recruiting employees. And the main tag line was that they'd hire based on qualification and not someone's species or origins.

This ended up resulting in a huge crowd forming 3 kilometers long queue on the road that led to their company.

Which was good for them because it wasn't just going to be the main company building but also 5 other production warehouses they recently purchased and set up in various places around Nidavellir to carry out smooth transactions and transportation.

Kahn already predicted that they were going to be swarmed with work and he already had experience in managing operations on an even bigger scale because of his time in Rakos Empire.

This time... many of the old employees who left the company last time even without severance pay and also some breaking their contracts; tried to return. Saying that they felt bad for their actions and apologized for abandoning the old man.

After hearing their heartfelt as well as remorseful apologies and given how kindhearted man he was... Kahn had every single of these old employees kicked out of the company grounds.

He had 2 main reasons for it. One, he didn't want those who jumped ship during the storm coming back under no circumstances because...

'No matter how many times a snake sheds its skin, it will always be a snake.'

Two, because he wanted the old dwarf to completely rely on him and his subordinates for management.

Throk was never a hard-born business but a true craftsman. So he had others take care of things related to this side of the business. And what Kahn was doing had saved him a great hassle so he didn't plan to question it.

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After everything was set up, new employees were hired under the Fire Oath... an equivalent alternative of the Blood-bind ritual in the Vulcan empire... they now had over 4 hundred thousand employees just in Nidavellir alone.

Out of them, more than a hundred thousand belonged to the dwarven race and all of them were forgers that they hired for a high salary.

After that... Kahn set up a new management team. The previous one that managed Throk's company had already run off with all of the funds and resources during the first week of Rogis and Throk's fight. ?  
??? a ???e?

So there wasn't any need to worry about anyone trying to return.

And this time... the main heads of management were 5 of the Generals and Omega. Leaves his subordinates in charge.

Kahn told Throk that all of them previously had experience in running an enterprise much bigger than Throk's company.

And he should focus on forging and oversight of the new blacksmiths they hired since he's the true expert in this field, while they'd take care of the rest since soon, they'd be flooded with work after the brand was officially relaunched.

Jugram was left in charge of security of all their warehouses, facilities and the main company building. Even the people provided by the imperial scions had to answer him because that was the part of their deal.

Omega was in charge of overseeing the transportation and shipment of products done to both of their sponsors.

Ceril would handle accounting and records as well as official dealing with their backers.

On the side, he was going to perfectly steal money bit by bit and fill in their own pockets.

Oliver was to look after the maintenance of all the company properties.

Armin was the head of the customer service department.

Ronin held the charge of official inspection and quality management of the resources such as crafting materials and product quality after they were forged.

"This place is under new management." spoke Kahn as he turned away another one of the old buddies of Throk who used to do business with the company for decades before the incident.

"Mister Kahn, the new batch of employees will start their work from noon." a hippopotamus lady spoke.

"Good. Give me the schedule for the rest of the day." said Kahn as he sat on Throk's chair in the main office.

Gloria was the last employee who chose to stick around and was on paid leave till their plans succeeded and everything came together for them.

And now, she reported to Kahn instead of the old dwarf.

And instead of starting with a grand opening... the first day of the relaunch started off in a quiet way that nobody saw coming.

At the end of the day... Kahn and Blackwall stood in front of Throk as the former spoke.

"Everything is settled up perfectly. Now it's time." spoke Kahn.

To his words, Throk nodded in response and spoke in an insidious tone...

"Let's start your blacksmithing apprenticeship."

Chapter 556 - First Lesson

Kahn and Blackwall now stood in front of the old saint blacksmith as they officially began his lessons after setting up and relaunching the whole company and taking care of everything.

It had been more than a month since Kahn's plan regarding Rogis, Throk and using Hector and Venessa started. And now... everything had finally come in place and he was free to prioritize things that were going to benefit him in the long run.

"Wait, what's he doing here?" asked Throk as he looked at Blackwall, the 3 meter tall humanoid hybrid who had the two black horns coming out from the sides of his head.

"He will be learning with me too." said Kahn.

"What?! Is this a joke? Do you think anyone can become a blacksmith these days?

Plus he's a Knight warrior. The last class of people with the ability to invoke blacksmith skills.

Hell, a swordsman like you being able to learn the skills of another class or profession shouldn't be possible in the first place!

Feel lucky that I'm using the secret dwarven technique to teach you these skills. But this guy... he will never succeed!" proclaimed Throk.

"Just try us." said Kahn with a confident smile.

With a scornful gaze, Throk took both the tall figures compared to him to a forge.

"Turn on the forge." ordered Throk.

To his command, Kahn started rubbing the body of the forge here and there with his palm...

"You like that, don't you? You little who..."

"Stop it! What the hell are you doing?!" shouted Throk.

"I said to start the forge! Not seduce it!" he exclaimed Throk with an exasperated voice.

"You don't even know the basic stuff. Let me walk through it before you mess things up because of your lack of knowledge." he said and carried on.

"The first things you need to be familiar with when it comes to blacksmithing are the tools and their various applications.

Here is a list of some of the most common knowledge you need to know." said Throk and listed off important terms of basic knowledge of their craft.

"Alloy : Alloy is a metal that contains one or more additional elements in its makeup. Materials may be combined like so to achieve different physical characteristics, such as increased strength, flexibility, and melting point.

Anvil : A blacksmithing anvil is a large block of iron or steel with a flattened top surface. A blacksmith places the metal they are working with on top of the block to be hammered and formed. The anvil is made up of several different working areas, including the horn, the face, the hardie, the pritchel, the neck, and the feet. All these areas can be used to work the metal into different shapes, such as a curve with the neck.

Chisel : A chisel is used to chip, nick, or split away at delicate portions of a piece of metal or other material." explained the old dwarf in one go.

"Crucible : The crucible is the pot or container typically made of ceramic or metal to withstand high temperatures used by blacksmiths to melt down metals and other materials.

Forge : The forge is fueled by strong flames to heat metal and other materials. A blacksmith places metal into the forge to make it more malleable and shapeable later on the anvil. Forges can come in several varieties, including coal, gas, wood-burning, and charcoal.

Hammer : A hammer is one of the most prominent tools used by a blacksmith to repeatedly hit materials in order to give them shape. There are several different types of blacksmithing hammers, including a cross peen, straight peen, rounding, flatters, set hammers, and more.

Punch : A punch is a metal tool that is used with a hammer to punch holes in metal or to drive rivets. A punch also comes in an automated machine variety, though this is more often seen in metalworking than blacksmithing.

Slag : Slag is the name for the unwanted material left over after the smelting process." spoke the saint blacksmith.

"Phew! Too much information. I need to rest." said Kahn.

"Shut up and listen, dimwit!"

"Tongs : Tongs are what the blacksmith uses to hold and transport extremely hot materials from the furnace to the anvil and elsewhere around the working space.

Vices and Clamps : Vices and clamps are what a blacksmith uses to hold a piece of metal or other material while hammering, chiseling, or generally working on it." he finished the introduction of tools.

"Now... let me teach you the important procedures we will be using." he said in a somber tone.

"Now that you have a basic understanding of the tools blacksmiths work with, let's next examine the actual smithing processes. These are the ways that a blacksmith uses their tools to shape metal and other materials.

During your daily business or training as a blacksmith, these are also the tasks you will encounter daily.

Bending : Bending is the process of forming a curve or a bend in a piece of metal. This is done by heating the piece of metal and hammering it over the horn of the anvil.

Casting : Casting is the process of pouring metal that has been heated to a liquid into a mold to form a shape or bar.

Drawing Out : Drawing out a piece of material means making it longer. The blacksmith could also make it thinner or wider, depending on the desired results.

Finishing : Finishing is the process of working a metal or other material into its final shape. Finishing includes polishing and putting all the final touches on the product.

Forging : Forging is the entire process that a blacksmith deals with to work heated metal into the desired shape.

Hammering : Just like it sounds, hammering is the process of a blacksmith striking a piece of material with any various kinds of hammers repeatedly to form the desired shape.

Quenching : Quenching requires a blacksmith to rapidly cool a piece of heated material by means of exposing it to water, air, or oil. Quenching is typically done to harden metals like steel.

Shaping : Shaping is the process of hammering, bending, and otherwise working with a piece of metal or other material to change its form.

Smelting : Smelting involves extracting metal from ore. This requires the material to be heated in order to melt and separate the metal from the ore.

Soldering : Soldering is the process of connecting two pieces of metal or other material at a joint. These pieces are connected by a melted filler metal with a lower melting point than the connecting pieces.

Tempering : Tempering is the process of hardening a metal by reheating and quickly cooling it. This process helps increase the toughness of a metal.

Upsetting : The opposite of drawing and drawing out, upsetting is a technique used to make the working metal shorter, thicker, or narrower.

Welding : Welding is the process of joining two pieces of metal by heating them near the melting point and hammering them together. These metals, unlike soldering are heated and connected themselves rather than using a filler metal to connect them." informed Throk.

Unlike Kahn, Blackwall was listening to all this information eagerly like a top student of the class.

After the whole information session continued for half an hour... Kahn realized that watching those weapon crafting videos online was different than actually forging them.

"Buckle up brats, I'll teach you from basics and that too without using any magic, formations, runes or use of world energy.

You will be no different than rookies. And I'll make you prepare the materials yourself. Whether creating your own equipment or the metal ingots you will be using to forge.

There are no shortcuts here. And I won't teach you the next steps unless you master these things first." announced Throk with a tyrannical grin that sent goosebumps to both Kahn and Blackwall.

The old dwarf was in his element now and his zealous voice was more than enough to give them a glimpse of the hardships and pain that were coming their way.

"Both of you have to master control over your strength first in each hit and understand the composition of metals and other properties.

Iron, silver, gold, titanium, adamantine, orichalcum... all of them are completely different from each other. Even their melting points are different.



Mess one thing and the whole product is ruined. So you better be prepared to memorize every single detail, no matter how small it is." he said in an insidious tone as if Kahn and Blackwall were his defenseless prey.

"Arrh, great... now I'm back in school again.

You know what... I'll leave this to him. Just teach him and think that our deal is done." said Kahn as he didn't want to go through his school days again.

He turned and walked towards the door.

BOOM!!

"You keep forgetting one thing... the business thing might be your schtick... but inside my forge..." spoke Throk with his eyes on fire, full of battle intent.

"I decide when you come or leave."

Chapter 557 - Thirst for Knowledge

The next week, Kahn and Blackwall stood in Throk's forge room again. After the old dwarf ate his ear for the whole day during the first class... he and Blackwall were instructed by the old blacksmith to do their research first and were handed out over 30 massive books related to the blacksmithing craft.

And Throk warned them that he wouldn't start the practical sessions unless they memorized all the knowledge in them perfectly to the point where they could answer his questions even after he suddenly woke them from sleep.

But he estimated it would take over a month for both of his new disciples... took a lot shorter than he imagined.

As for Blackwall... the reason why he suddenly showed interest in Blacksmithing itself was because he was now a primordial titan and had a natural affinity with earth element as well as metal and minerals ever since Kahn merged him with the mountain titan.

Now that Kahn was entering this field of study, Blackwall also wanted to learn and hone these skills as he was the only free subordinate compared to others who had various responsibilities on their shoulders while managing the company.

So he wasn't going to miss this opportunity while doing nothing and hence asked the old dwarf to make him his disciple as well. And after a lot of nagging, the old dwarf agreed but warned that he would not show any mercy to either of them.

And this morning, both of them appeared in front of Throk to give their end-of-semester viva.

"What kind of nonsense is this? It usually takes more than 3 to 4 weeks just to go through all the details of materials, knowledge of forging techniques and properties of the metals and alloys.

Are you telling me that you two are more talented than the elves of this empire?" berated the old blacksmith as he couldn't accept the fact that both of his new students managed to finish the whole syllabus in just one week.

"No, it's just that they're not as eager as us." said Kahn shamelessly.

"Tch! If it's some half-ass knowledge, I'll make you both carry my toolkit over your head for an entire day." scoffed Throk as he felt that both of the pupils were just bluffing.

"Normally, it would take even a dwarf more than a month just to remember all these details, memorize the properties of the metals, their melting points and how best to smelt them properly while increasing the quality of the extracted metal." spoke Throk and finally started the questionnaire.

Soon, he started questioning them about how to form various shapes using different types of alloys and metals. What kind of casting mold was used and what part of the anvil to use for giving a particular shape to the hot metal rods and bars based on the design of the weapon or armor.

What kind of catalyst is needed to quickly harden them or cool them down in a quenching procedure or whether they used water or oil to do the job.

Later, he asked the duo about how best to hammer the metals to get the desired shape and how to solder different parts together perfectly without sacrificing the build or overall strength of the sample in the forging process.

"What kind of tools do you use for tampering and how to refine the ore to get the purest metal based on the sample involved.

Give me the entire list of all of them." said Throk with ruthless eyes.

However, both Kahn and Blackwall recited everything they learned from the books and catalogs without a problem one by one and even when Throk asked them trick questions.

The old dwarf was completely shocked and frozen on the spot. Because all the answers were absolutely correct and there was not a single flaw in any of the details they mentioned about the procedures.

But little did he know... Kahn already had an eidetic memory and Blackwall also inherited his intellect. Even though it wasn't similar to Ceril who also had the eidetic memory, Blackwall was still many times smarter than normal people since he took after Kahn.

Plus both of them were saints, their minds worked many times faster than normal inhabitants of the world so they had no problem with memorizing everything to little details.

What took others a month only took Kahn and Blackwall a week to perfect compared to someone of the same rank and levels. And thus, the saint blacksmith himself found this revelation unbelievable and hard to digest.

"Fine then. You both pass." spoke Throk with a sense of defeat after there was nothing he could do to discredit both of the pupils since their knowledge was pitch-perfect at this point.

"I will start with the basic forging techniques and teach you how to use the tools and manage the forge from tomorrow." said the old dwarf.

"What kind of basic techniques?" asked Kahn.

"For starters, it will be smelting the ores and taking out the slag.

Then casting ingots based on the quantity needed. After that, I will teach you how to perform hammering without wasting unnecessary force or hitting too hard.

Plus there are different types of hammers based on the type of materials and product we want to create. So you will need to experience how to use them properly without messing up as well." spoke Throk in an authoritative tone.

After reading through all the journals, records and crafting techniques... Kahn had found a lot of mind-boggling information already. That even the hammers had too many different types and based on the metal or alloy at hand or the shape you wanted for different types... you needed to master every aspect of crafting.

It wasn't anything like the novels he read where the protagonist mindlessly hammers a metal without managing force or used only a flat surface hammer to create all types of weapons and armors.

And it clearly wasn't like a certain MMORPG novel where the MC who regressed 10 years back with knowledge of the future; picked up a random material, hammered it down and voila... a Legendary Rank armor was created.

Even the metals and alloys had too many different characteristics to the point that he even had to be careful about not overheating them after a certain temperature or spending an extra minute in the forge otherwise the quality would be compromised.

Then there was the issue with tampering them again and again while reheating and giving them shapes. Like before, their properties affected this procedure as well.

The more he read, the more he realized that knowledge was one thing... but actual experience required in this field couldn't be skipped or shortened anyway just like how people spent decades mastering weapons, combat techniques and studying magic.

And for the first time, Kahn had genuine and wholehearted respect for the Blacksmithing profession that was often neglected or not properly explained in the novels, manhwas, mangas and animes.

Nobody ever bothered to do research and explain these things to their readers and fans and just showed the protagonist banging the hammer on the materials at hand without explaining the basic forging process and directly created an entire armor set after some time out of the blue.

Blackwall on the other hand, was more curious than him and started asking questions to the old saint blacksmith which even Kahn didn't think of.

Because unlike him, who was a jack of all trades... Blackwall had a sense of inkling to this profession because of his affinity and control over metals, alloys, minerals and ores.

The more he asked, the more excited Throk became as he thought that Blackwall was the only one who had genuine curiosity and thirst for knowledge for the Blacksmithing profession.

Kahn on the other hand felt like a spoiled brat who only perfected what was asked of him and did not have the drive to master the skills on his own unlike Blackwall.

"Good. Very good. I'm impressed." said Throk as he nodded in approval after answering Blackwall's questions.

He then looked at Kahn and spoke...

"I take my words back. He will become my best student. As for you..." he said and continued in a discontent voice.

"At least lose gracefully in the competition if you can't win it."

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Kahn and the group now returned to their current living accommodations set inside the main company building that was situated at the very end of this 3 kilometers long and 1 kilometer wide property.

Just then, not only he but all the other subordinates sensed an intruder coming towards the company building.

[Be careful. It's a semi-saint assassin. Nobody reveals their strength.] ordered Kahn to his subordinates.

Soon, a yellow foxkin suddenly appeared in his room and was donned in pitch-black attire.

Kahn acted all shocked to make the new arrival think that he couldn't sense him.

"This is a letter from the princess. Burn it after you're done reading." spoke the foxkin and handed out a blue-colored envelope.

Kahn took out the letter inside the envelope after the messenger left and as he started reading it... he was rooted on the spot.

Because the very first line of Venessa's letter to Kahn started with the three unexpected words...

"I want you."

Chapter 558 Confession Letter

Kahn read the letter that was delivered to him with a shocked expression because the first three letters were kind of... misleading.

But then, he carried on reading the rest of its context but still was left with too many questions of his own as soon as he finished.

"But why?" asked Kahn to himself.

Just then, Throk contacted him through a communication artifact which was a cube and not an elliptical object unlike the Rakos empire.

"Who was it?" he asked in a serious tone.

Throk was a second-stage saint himself so he sensed the spy coming from 10 kilometers away. But since the others weren't reacting to it, he didn't bother interfering either.

"A messenger by Venessa." replied Kahn in a stern tone.

"What does she want?" asked the old dwarf through the artifact.

Kahn then told him the matter mentioned in the letter.

"Damn it! You can't avoid it. That's the biggest disadvantage of having the imperial family as your sponsors... you become basically like slaves to them." spoke Throk in an enraged tone.

"Yeah... I'll have to meet her tomorrow." said Kahn with a worried tone.

"What do you plan to do? Declining her won't be easy." said Throk.

"I have my ways. But first, I need to find out why she wants me.

If I can't make her listen to reason... I know of a way that she won't force me to accept." he said in a calm tone.

"Good luck then. But don't get dragged into their affairs. We have our things to worry about." reprimanded Throk and decided to take a nap out of routine.

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The next day, at the time of the evening...

A group of people suddenly appeared on their company grounds. This group also included the semi-saint foxkin who delivered the message and they escorted Kahn to a flying ship that had landed a few kilometers away from the company building.

After a few hours of travel, Kahn was led to a luxurious castle outside of the capital Arkensan that was situated near a natural waterfall.

This pristine white-colored castle was filled with greenery and the surrounding area was filled with natural beauty, a perfect vacation spot to relax your mind and body.

After he was escorted to the top floor of this 5 story tall castle that was comparable to his own in Aesir, the capital of Verlassen... he finally met the host.

"I'm honored to meet your imperial highness again." spoke Kahn respectfully as he bowed and greeted Venessa, the third princess in the Vulcan empire tradition.

Venessa wasn't donned in armor for the first time and was currently wearing a blue dress that highlighted her immense beauty, befitting of a princess.

If there was any other man present here, he'd instantly fall for her just given her looks. But Kahn already had someone in his heart so even the alluring and kingdom-toppling beauty like Venessa couldn't make his heart flutter.

Venessa too was surprised by his calm demeanor and to see that he wasn't completely transfixed on her at the very first sight.

Venessa then signaled him to sit on a sofa across her while being escorted by two saints herself. One of which was a second-stage elven saint while the latter was a third-stage fireborne saint.

"So did you think about it?" she asked as soon as Kahn sat comfortably on the sofa.

"I apologize, your highness... but I have to decline." replied Kahn from the get-go with no concern or fear in his eyes.

"Why? If you want, I'll pay you ten trillion annually. That amount of wealth... you'll be the richest human in the empire." she implored Kahn.

"You see... Everyone around me is here for either the sake of joining my side or because they didn't have better options.

Not everyone follows me because of my achievements, rather my claim to the throne.

Even in my allies, there aren't many that I can trust fully or they truly want me to become the empress." spoke Venessa without holding back.

[Good. She doesn't like beating around the bush or needs someone to tell her the truth.] thought Kahn.

"You see... I need loyal retainers who truly want me to become my vassals and help me become empress." she explained the reason.

This was exactly what she mentioned in the letter. That she wanted Kahn to join her side and officially pledge his loyalty to her.

"But I'm a human. We're the hated kind in the empire and even with the new imperial decree, things are going to be the same.

Even if this is a great opportunity for someone with no power or social standing like me... I can't understand your reasoning, your highness." said Kahn.

"You're part human too, princess. You should already be aware of how it's going to affect your claim to the throne even if you're of the imperial blood." he continued with a serious tone.

"I'm certain that imperial prince Hector will definitely use that in the future when the time is right." he said.

**BOOM!!**

The 3rd stage saint behind Venessa released his saint pressure with killing intent. Because Kahn just spoke casually about a grave matter of Venessa's claim to the throne.

But before it could go on longer, Venessa signaled him to stop.

"I'm aware. But there's one thing you should know...

Although I'm part human... the Fireborne bloodline in me is far purer compared to my brothers." she said with a smirk.

"How's that even possible?" asked Kahn with a baffled expression.

"I don't know either. But I can use it many times better than them.

Firebornes are actually descendants of an ancient species that once roamed the planet. We could access the bloodline to transform into a particular fire elemental monster at will.

Although now... even my father can hardly do it for a day... among the three scions, I'm the only one who has managed to achieve the transformation to the full extent and can use it for one full hour.

If Hector and I were to fight to death... I can easily overpower him despite being a first-stage saint while he's a second-stage saint." said Venessa pridefully.

"Although I'm only a first-stage saint at this point..."

Venessa spoke but then her eyes turned serious as she continued...

"I'm fully capable of killing a 3rd stage saint myself."

### **Chapter 559 Right To Choose**

Kahn was surprised as soon as Venessa revealed a very important fact about herself. That while being a first stage saint, she had the ability to kill a third stage saint.

Although Kahn himself could do the same while using all of his buff skills that would enable him to fight a third stage saint on equal footing and then his dimensional law divine ability giving him an advantage in an open battle... He was a chosen Hero was Venessa was only a descendant of a rare bloodline.

[Just how powerful is this bloodline that could allow her to fight above two ranks directly?] wondered Kahn.

Because even someone like him needed the War Deity Body and Chamber of Exaltation to become physically as strong as a second stage and then rely on his plethora of skills to fight two ranks above him.

[Boy... the Firebornes aren't the kind you can mess with easily. Even back in my time... their small numbers were enough to overpower forces that were three times more than them.

On top of it, she's an imperial princess. The bloodline purity in the imperial family is supposed to be the highest.] informed Rathnaar.

[Only if I could shake hands with her... the system would've been able to scan her body and tell me how much bloodline purity she has.] thought Kahn in just a couple of seconds and came back to the present moment.

"But why are you telling me this, your highness?"

Isn't this supposed to be some big secret even among the imperial clan?" asked Kahn curiously.

"Because I want you to understand that I have a better chance at becoming the empress when the time comes." spoke Venessa as she drank a glass of samsara wine.

"But what exactly do you want me to do? I still don't understand why you even approached me." said Kahn as he was clueless about what kind of redeeming qualities did Venessa see in him.

"Manage all my businesses and everything that's under my name." replied Venessa in a commanding voice.

"Heh?"

Kahn was taken aback by this revelation because it was truly unexpected.

Neither was Venessa suspicious about him nor did she care what kind of background he had. But the proposition he was offered was regarding a completely different manner.

"My brother won't acknowledge it because you're a human. But that day... When you were explaining the business strategy and basically solved a big hurdle for me... I felt like I found a diamond in the rough." explained Venessa.

"It hasn't even been 2 days since we received the first batch of weapons and armors from master Oakenshield... yet, we have already received a favorable response from many of the people.

And too many people are under the impression that I am the only sponsor of the company.

With time, I'm certain things will go just as you elaborated that day." she iterated with a happy smile.

"And I think it'd be a waste to let go of someone talented and farsighted like you.

That's why I want you to join my side." said Venessa as she gave Kahn a clear picture.

[Phew! Good thing that she's after my brain and not my handsome looks or my body.] thought Kahn as he let out a sigh of relief.

[What looks? You look like an ape, just with less hair.] taunted Rudra.

He had been silent for quite a while after Kahn gave him the body of the jatvuarym to eat and imparted the bloodline to Omega a month ago.

"In other words... make me more money." she finished her pitch.

"You do realize that I have a big competition coming, right? [↪c`o`m](#)

If I lose, Master Oakenshield will lose the company. The one you've invested in." spoke Kahn in a serious tone.

, c`o`m "That's not a big matter. We already know that you'll lose.

We'll just have to pull out all our funds and separate all the branches and warehouses that are in the



company's name.

Although the dwarf will lose some reputation... we will just open another company for him and rebrand it.

But I'm sure you already thought about that, am I right?" asked Venessa in a coy tone.

Kahn sighed in defeat.

"Yes. But I'll be honest with you, your highness.

I'm but a humble and weak man.

I have no aspirations to make it big or get into the center of attention for anybody... let alone the top figures of the empire while I'm dragged into a race for the title of the crown prince or princess.

Even with the situation for the human race changed... it will take a decade for the normal citizens of the empire to finally accept it and treat humans equally." he explained one of his reasons to refuse.

"And given your situation... if a human is one of your followers... it will also lead to misgivings by many of your supporters.

My presence in your group alone will bring more harm to you than what I'm bringing to the table." iterated Kahn as he already knew what was to happen if he got entangled in this matter of the imperial family.

Kahn then looked at the 3rd stage saint fireborne who stood behind Venessa.

"Sir, don't you feel the same? That it's not worth the trouble."

The Fireborne saint on the other end nodded in affirmation and spoke.

"I was also against this decision. But her highness does not wish to take my advice."

To the words of one of her loyal retainers, Venessa was thoroughly annoyed.

"What is this? Are we in some kind of romantic relationship that you're rejecting me for my own sake?" she asked with no sense of fear.

"I want you to work for me as everyone else... you also know that you're more fitted to be a business advisor than a blacksmith.

Plus you're too weak compared to that Helsi guy. Even with the resources given by master Oakenshield...

I doubt that you'll be able to even become a peak grandmaster in a year and a half." she revealed her honest thoughts.

"So stop wasting time and just join my side. I promise you'll find it worth the trouble." she said in an intimidating voice.

Kahn then gave the issue some more time and took ten minutes and finally declared his honest decision as if he was tired and could no longer refuse the princess...

"My answer is still no."

### **Chapter 560 Hidden Face**

Kahn openly declared his intentions after running pros and cons to the proposition made by the third princess, Venessa Hos Sigfreed.

And although it had many merits... his current situation and the control he had over the Oakenshield company was hundred times more advantageous. Thus, he ended up rejecting the offer despite the consistent imploring by Venessa.

A heavy silence ensued in the room after Kahn said no to the princess... something that no one would dare to do in the whole Vulcan empire.

Just then, the first stage saint behind Venessa spoke with a grim tone. ...

"Aren't you acting way above your paygrade, human?"

The imperial princess is ordering you to join her side. Just accept it and think of yourself as a lucky person.

This is many times better than someone of your commoner and human birth can ever get in our empire." he said in a threatening tone as if he wanted to beat Kahn to pulp the next moment.

To this threat however, Kahn replied in a calm voice as if he wasn't bothered at all.

"I still can't do it even if I wanted to." he declared.

"Give me one good reason and I'll stop asking." spoke Venessa as she too was losing her patience with Kahn.

"Because... I have made a commitment.

And once I give my word... then I don't break them no matter how better alternatives I get later." spoke Kahn as he lied with a righteous expression.

But to the charismatic aura that was oozing out of the halo of righteousness behind him... Venessa and the others were taken aback.

"Alright. I won't pester you anymore.

You may leave. Do not reveal anything about our meeting to anyone, not even to Oakenshield." she said and signaled her guards to escort Kahn out.

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After Kahn left like having a walk in the park... Venessa and her retainers had complicated expressions.

They knew that Kahn was lying to them about the whole commitment thing but they weren't that petty to drag on an argument with someone unwilling to join them.

Because forced loyalty was always open to becoming treachery in the future.

"Princess, you take him too high in regards. He's just an ignorant human who thinks too highly of himself.

I wonder if he'd be any help even if you made him in charge of the businesses under your name.

Venessa then asks the third stage saint fireborne.

"What do you think of him?"

"During our conversation... the fact that he noticed how detrimental his involvement would be to your followers and supporters in case he joined... is enough to assure that he's someone who thinks many steps ahead." he said with a thoughtful expression.

"And he outweighs the win and loss very clearly. Currently, your side is lacking in support and the future if he joined you looks bleak.

If I was in a similar situation just like him... I wouldn't want to join our side either." explained the third stage saint.

"Plus he's someone who sticks to his demeanor even under pressure. Anyone else would've agreed to join without resisting. ㄱ`θ`ㅁ

Yet he was calm, focused and did not sway despite the situation." said the fireborne as he praised Kahn in his own way.

However... unlike her previous appearance... Venessa's expression was now completely opposite to her approachable image.

Showing a completely different side compared to before when she was talking with Kahn.

"Arrhhh!! How dare he?! I need something to punch really badly!" exclaimed Venessa as her face turned red while revealing her enraged face.

"That bastard lives like a common employee.

He doesn't even have his own house and lives in the quarters given by the old blacksmith.

He doesn't have any money, social standing or any authority!

He's basically a street beggar compared to me and yet he outright refused my generous offer without any fear in his eyes!" she shouted and cursed Kahn without holding back and releasing all of her killing intent.

"No one had defied me this badly!" she let out a scornful expression as if she'd squash Kahn's head with her bare hands.

This was the real Venessa and not the calm and collected princess who talked with Kahn using proper decorum and elegant words a while ago.

"Maybe because he thinks it's too risky, your highness.

In that company... he will at least stay alive." spoke the 3rd stage saint as he tried to calm her down.

Unlike the first stage saint... he wasn't surprised to see this side of Venessa as if this was not something that happened for the first time.

"And we can't even force anything on Oakenshield such as firing this human either since he's bound to appear for the challenge.

On top of it... if we mess up with Oakenshield company, the saint blacksmith will choose prince Hector as his official sponsor.

After that... just a word from the old dwarf will destroy all our ways to gain a bigger following and supporters." he elaborated on why they shouldn't approach the matter violently.

"Now that the church and dwarven race is also in shambles because of the Imperial Punishment announced by the Emperor... we are also getting a lot of people who want to join our side, the ones that want to secure their future.

You're their number one preference because of the contributions during the imperial trial.

But everything will be ruined if we make out an enemy of these two people.

So I hope you can consider and control your anger for some time, your highness." spoke the fireborne as if trying to console his angry cat.

, c`o`m "Fine... I'll hold back for now; until I'm announced as the crown princess that is. And after he loses the faceoff... I will pay him back for this insult." replied Venessa as she controlled herself and took deep breaths to retract her saint pressure.

"But I have made my decision." she said.

"What is it?" asked the 1st stage saint fireborne.

"No matter what... either by hook or crook...

Even if I have to make him kneel and beg in front of me..." she spoke with a battle intent lit in her eyes...

"I will make him mine!"