

Darkness 711

Chapter 711 The Opening Ceremony

3 DAYS LATER.

In the eastern section of Alfheim at the time of night, an estate spanning 2 kilometers in radius which consisted of several buildings with multiple floors and wide open grounds in some sections came into sight.

The atmosphere was filled with loud noises and a crowd of more than 600 individuals of different species chatting and singing loudly was revealed inside the largest building of them all.

The scenario was of the feasting and celebration and the main cause of this joyous occasion being the...

Official opening ceremony of the Mithios Mercenary Guild.

The current place of this event was actually the new main headquarters of the Mithios guild that Kahn and the group bought a few days ago.

This 2 kilometers wide estate had multiple buildings and even living rooms allocated for all the members of the guild with every facility available to them.

This was one of the requirements for a guild. That every new guild had to have a base headquarters and their mercenaries should be living in it.

There were also a few buildings dedicated to departments such as medical care, food halls and armory in this establishment.

On the left end, was an open training ground for the members where they could train and fight together as a team because it was the most important part of the trade.

Whether one had to guard an envoy or kill an enemy force... both types of battles demanded teamwork and understanding of each other as fighters and as a person. So this was a part that couldn't be skipped no matter what.

Kahn and the group had officially received the approval to set up the guild after all the documentation and necessary formalities were verified.

Because in the meanwhile after Kahn had successfully performed a heist and made half a billion in a single day...

Logan had gotten into an advantageous position after the high elf COO was kicked out of his post and the matter was still being investigated.

Logan was now the interim senior executive temporarily and received the authority to approve a guild based on his judgment.

Although this position was most likely to be taken away until the association found another capable person... or more likely another 'elf' for the job, Logan would hold the reign.

Kahn as Legolas had already instructed the brown wolfkin on what to do in the small time frame where he had access to the sensitive matters of the top brass.

And soon, they'd start the real work without anyone ever finding out that the leader of the Mithios guild was the main culprit all along.

With this, Kahn created a strong ally in the association and also solved their current financial problems in a single shot.

The merry celebration and the feast continued in the hall as everyone ate to their heart's content. Although this was a members-only party, the way these people wolfed down the meat and delicious food made Kahn question his previous conceptions of this civilization instead.

"I hope this doesn't turn out like the Red Wedding."

At the end of the grand hall that was to be their main assembly hall where all the important announcements regarding the guild would be made from now on; was a long and wide table where Legolas and the other commanders of the guild were seated and exchanging conversations with the members who came to make a small chat.

As for the structure of the guild itself...

Kahn divided the members based on ranks.

Each group was made based on classes and abilities that aided them in a battle.

Currently, the members had the order from F Rank to S Rank.

Some groups have their team Captains who were given that position based on their rank as fighters and experience in the trade.

As the celebration was coming to an end at the midnight, a group of 5 people, all of whom were at Peak Grandmaster rank signaled each other through eye contact and then walked towards the sitting arrangement where Kahn in his Legolas appearance was enjoying an aromatic wine as he reveled in the sweet and sour taste.

As these people came forward and stopped in front of the long and wide table, all the attendees suddenly stopped

"What is it?" asked Legolas in a carefree tone.

"Leader Ragnarsson... now that every member of the guild is present here, we'd like to talk to you about something." spoke a stone-skinned swordsman whose head looked like a chameleon but had a wider mouth with sharp teeth akin to a crocodile.

"Speak." said Legolas and munched on a big piece of succulent meat placed on his golden plate on the table.

"We feel that we need to alter a few terms of the contract in good faith. It will also help us bring in more people to the guild and spread its fame." said an elven mage donning yellow robes.

"Oh really? What do you propose?" queried Legolas with an anticipating gaze.

Soon, the 5 members started talking about how to create different groups and hand them particular areas to live in based on their prior connections, areas of expertise and knowledge of different parts of Alfheim.

They also talked about expanding the guild's reputation and some incentive for members if they brought in new people and had them join the guild.

Legolas and the saint commanders listened to this suggestion. However... their expression wasn't that of joy or approval.

Rather, all of them revealed a slightly gloomy countenance.

"Do you represent the will of everyone else present here?" asked Legolas in a soft voice.

All 5 representatives nodded together.

It didn't take a genius to guess that all of them had banded together and then making these 'suggestions' wasn't out of coincidence. There was some sort of hidden motive going on here.

However, in the following moments, the elf ironborn's eyes turned red, fuming with anger.

Someone had orchestrated this whole thing from outside and was just using these people as an excuse.

So this was a time to react instantly.

"Ah... this is so exhausting." frowned Legolas and the very next moment...

BOOM!!

Legolas used War Dominance aura and instantly put unbearable and leaden pressure on all the members who were previously enjoying the feast; the 5 representatives on the other hand also received the edge of his immense killing intent.

Legolas' black and dark red aura was so terrifying and chaotic that no one could even breathe properly.

Shing!

Shing!

Shing!

Right in front of everyone.... More than 800 elemental greatswords appeared out of nowhere and floated above their heads as if one blink of an eye and they'd slash them apart in two.

Kahn was currently a 2nd stage saint now.

His limit was 1000 swords using the Sword Emperor skill which was a saint rank version of Sword King. And he was forced to use it on not his enemies but his allies instead.

His gaze then turned grim and infuriated as he looked at all the people around the hall.

"I gave you fuckwits a helping hand when you were struggling to make a living.

I already gave you lot a signing bonus and offered terms favorable to you and your families in case you die on the job.

But now you fucking ingrates are already demanding more than what I offered?" refuted Legolas in an angered voice as he jeered all the members.

"The guild hasn't even received our first commission and you're already talking a big game.

Or are you still under the impression that we need you?" he asked, his stern and domineering voice reaching all their ears.

"Didn't I make this clear?

We will deliver on promised terms as long as you do what you're told to do.

Who the fuck said you have a say in the decision-making of this guild?!" bellowed Legolas as he stood up and gave a death stare to all the members.

"You're bound by the contract. You can't abandon the guild for the next 6 months.

I don't care what arrangements or relationships you people had before this.

But this isn't a place you play family.

Follow the protocols we set and your life will be easier.

Make unnecessary trouble and you're easily replaceable!" he declared in an overbearing and authoritative voice.

Legolas then retracted his saint pressure and let everyone breathe again.

This action of his turned the whole environment of joy into a scary scenario.

But the elf felt no regret in doing so.

Kahn had no plans to become a righteous leader or cared about these people.

This was a give-and-take relationship for both sides.

They needed the numbers to form a guild while these people needed strong leaders to make a living.

If anyone started voicing their opinions or forming factions in their group, the guild would fall apart later... like how Democrats and Republicans divided the country.

A monarchy was often what maintained order and law more than the free will and voice of the people in the world of Vantrea.

Thus Kahn had to set a hierarchy from the very beginning.

[Ronin, change of plans. Create new teams and put everyone in different groups as well as replace their living quarters.

Nobody should be in a group with any of their former friends and allies from their previous teams before they joined.] ordered Kahn.

To his command, Ronin spoke his own opinion.

[But master... It will bring instability to the guild.]

[It's worth the wait. Reformation takes time but it's better if we get rid of the problem before it causes any trouble.

These lots will get accustomed to working with each other in time and we won't have to worry about them creating factions in the guild later.

I don't have time to deal with these petty mind games, dramas and quarrels inside the house.

Our goals are beyond their understanding.] ordered Kahn.

[I will arrange it so.] responded Ronin.

The next day, a secret letter arrived at Kahn's new mansion where he and the subordinates lived for now.

Ronin came and handed him a letter.

"I guess today is going to be our official debut." spoke Kahn after he read the contents of the letter.

Because this was the most crucial part for any mercenary guild that was formed.

Their First Client.

Chapter 712 First Client

At the time of the sunset, Legolas was sitting in his new office in the main headquarters while the newly hired staff for official paperwork and management was arranging things in order, a woman dressed in black and velvet attire similar to that of a flight attendant walked in and informed about the arrival of an important individual.

Step!

Step!

A set of footsteps echoed in the hallway as a group of people steadily walked in through the door.

Legolas got up and welcomed his new guests.

This was their first client, and on top of it, they belonged to a particular species.

Qebika.

A species native to the Elven empire that was unlike anything Kahn had seen in Vantrea so far.

Because the members of these species were nothing but humanoid figures made completely out of white and translucent mist.

Kahn had learned about this species during his time when he was conducting extensive research on the Zivot Empire.

Qebikas were one of the very few species in Vantrea that did not have a core inside their bodies.

Due to their physical state, they could not form a core, had eyes or any facial features. Every member of this species was akin to a walking talking miniature tornado. Just that the intensity of the mist in their body was negligible.

As for the way they reproduced... when 1 Qebika died, their body would be split into 4 parts and 4 new orbs of mist would form.

These newborns needed intense care and suitable situations to grow up otherwise they'd die soon. Thus, the Qebika were a united species, always looking after each other and working by joining hands to preserve their species.

In front of Legolas, stood 3 Qebika, all adorning white robes with golden outlines and a hood over them.

"Pleasure to meet you. I am Legolas Ragnarsson, the leader of the Misthios guild." spoke Legolas and raised his hand, making a gesture of creating an imaginary wave of water.

The Qebikas on the other end were taken aback. Although no one could guess their expressions, it was evident that they were moved.

All 3 of them greeted Legolas in the same way. In reality, this was how their species greeted each other.

Not many people cared to follow this custom so Legolas taking the liberty to follow their customs left a good impression.

All 4 of them then sat on the luxurious sofas at the meeting section of the room and the one in the middle spoke.

"My name is Ruben Landograv. This is Hariv Mastograv and Zipon Tervigrav." the client introduced himself and the others.

Even their voices carried an aftersound of gales of wind.

"So tell me, Mr. Landograv... what can I do for you?" asked the elf in a nonchalant voice.

Soon, the group started telling Legolas about their situation and what kind of help they needed.

The 3 Qebika were part of the same clan and were the owners of 3 different companies who worked together and did the import and export business from different ends of the Zivot Empire and brought their collective goods to trade in the capital.

However, in the past 5 months, their envoys were attacked by a group of armed pirates along the way many times and all their belongings were stolen.

During a few incidents of retaliation by their side, the pirates killed thousands of their guards and workers who were only doing their jobs.

"This has happened 4 times already. And now, close to two thousand of your workers have died at the hands of those pirates.

During the last attack, we learned that the other side has a 2nd stage saint as bandit group leader." spoke Ruben in an exasperated tone.

"Every time, our travel route is leaked and the flying ships carrying out goods are besieged and stolen." said Zipon, the 3rd Qebika.

Legolas heaved a sigh and queried a few things.

"Why didn't you hire other mercenary guilds with saints then? Even if the imperial authorities take long to respond, the guilds would've done the job for a fair price."

"We did, 2 of such guilds with saints did take up the job to protect our envoys... However, both lost their saints stationed on the job.

After that... no one tried to accept our offer." said Hariv, the 2nd Qebika.

"There are obviously stronger guilds with even more saints. What did they say?" questioned Legolas with a curious gaze.

There was no shortage of capable mercenary guilds who had stronger saints as well. So the client not hiring them raised suspicion in his mind.

"The truth is, Mr. Ragnarsson... They charge too much.

Given the losses we've incurred recently along with the compensation we had to provide to the families of the deceased employees... We don't even have even half the amount left they're asking for the commission." spoke Ruben, his defeated voice signifying their precarious situation.

"Mr. Logan Vargr said you'd be 'understanding' of our situation." suddenly, Zipon spoke in a hurried tone as if he was agitated.

Legolas then nodded in response.

By 'understanding' these Qebikas meant doing a favor to them and cutting a cheap price for the job.

This was like making a desperate plea and Legolas knowingly cutting off his profits.

But these Qebikas were their first client and he needed to make some sacrifices to establish themselves as a capable guild for now.

"Normally, that's no way to do business but since Mr. Vargr sent you in good faith... I'll make a preposition." said Legolas with a playful smirk.

"Half payment in Itikar & half in SS Rank cores. What do you say?" he asked.

"How many?" queried Hariv

Legolas then showed them 5 fingers of his palm.

"5 million? That much?" Zipon asked in a worried tone.

"Don't be so surprised... People like you need hard cash more than materials to barter with someone.

The more cash you save, the more transaction money you will have for future deals.

Doesn't that appeal more to you than just cores that are used in machinery, day-to-day life & appliances?" asked Legolas carefreely.

"But SS Rank cores are a commodity for the rich. Especially for people of high standing and powerful forces.

What use do you have for them?" asked Zipon again.

"That's my part to worry about. So tell me... what is your decision?" asked Legolas.

"We agree." spoke all 3 Qebikas in unison.

Theirs was a desperate situation and no one was willing to help them for half the price. In many ways, they were hanging by a cliff at this moment. So this deal seemed more suitable even if it came with a high number of mana cores and ores.

"Good. Then I'll send two of my experts." said the elven leader of the guild.

Clap!

Clap!

Legolas clapped his hands twice and two figures instantly appeared in the room, standing behind him.

"Meet two of my reliable commanders." spoke Legolas in a merry voice as he introduced the two generals who were to handle their first job.

"Dante & Loki"

Chapter 713 On the Job

Legolas introduced Dante & Loki, who were actually Jugram and Ceril in their new personas. Both generals stood proudly behind the chair Legolas was sitting on, revealing domineering nature through their gazes.

Jugram as Dante now had crimson red hair falling to his shoulder and red iris in his eyes while Ceril as Loki had long white hair, falling close to his chest as his blue eyes also came into sight.

Both these commanders of the guild were donning their respective armors and gears made by Albestros back in Rakos Empire.

"These two will do the job." said Legolas as he introduced the two saints behind him.

However, Ruben spoke in a concerned voice.

"How? Both of them are only 1st stage saints. The enemy leader is a 2nd stage saint.

Are you just taking it too casually because we're paying less?" asked the Qebika leader in a straightforward tone.

But in response...

"You don't need to worry about that.

Although they may seem weaker than that said pirate group leader...

Believe me, they're very capable fighters." chuckled Legolas.

"But if we want to get rid of the enemy... we need to lure them out first without risking your goods and the lives of your employees." he proposed.

All 3 Qebikas nodded. Too many lives had already been lost because of these pirate attacks.

Legolas then told them his plan.

"But what if the plan fails? We're also putting our lives at risk here." spoke Zopin in a discontent tone.

"Then I won't ask you for a single note of Itakar.

You also won't have to compensate me for any of my losses either." responded Legolas with a confident and charming smile.

The three Qebikas didn't know that although Dante & Loki were only 1st stage saints...

They were already close to a breakthrough in levels. And on top of it... both of them were fairly capable of fighting a 3rd stage saint on their own.

Thus, a secret arrangement was made between the Misthios guild and the Qebika clients.

The Following Day.

Hundreds of massive flying helicarrier made with elven technology and craftsmanship were carrying loads of merchandise in crates and boxes through a common traveling route. This massive envoy carrying close to a thousand personnel was heading towards Eletnall, the capital of the Zivot Empire.

This was a common and widely popular route towards the capital used by people coming from Alfheim. Thus, the security provided by the imperial authorities was tight.

However, the captain ship which was leading the envoy suddenly changed direction and headed left, the rest following behind it.

The crew on this main ship was actually the new mercenary members of Misthios guild dressed as normal staff and workers while Ruben, Hariv and Zipon were in the main cockpit, waiting along with Dante and Loki.

The merchandise crates were empty, just for display under Legolas' devices and apart from the pilot crew, only selective individuals were the normal employees.

After half an hour, their flying envoy finally appeared through a desolate forested region that they never used before.

But suddenly...

Swoom!!

Swoom!!

SHRILL!!

Humming sounds rose intensely and soon, a couple of enormous white and black patterned warships suddenly rose high in the sky, revealing themselves on the other side of mountains just 5 kilometers away.

"Just as we expected... There was a mole in your enterprise who leaked the secret route we were taking this time.

That's why these pirates were waiting here so leisurely." said Loki in a soft yet creepy tone.

"We'll handle things from here." said Dante and both saints disappeared from the spot.

They both appeared at the wide and long deck and gazed at the warships tagged along by a dozen flying ships that were heading towards their envoy.

"You know what to do." said Dante and prepared himself.

"Man... I want to kill some people. This isn't fair." complained Loki as if he was bored to death.

"Just do what you're told to do.

Master sent us both to cover both defense and offense at the same time." spoke Dante, paying no heed to his fellow commander's complaints.

"I can do both of that." rebuked Loki.

"Not without revealing your identity as an Undead Necromancer or your Darkness elemental skills." scoffed Dante.

"You sure you don't need my help?" asked Loki again, this time... not having the slightest worry in his eyes.

To his question, Dante only chuckled lightly.

"Since when have I ever needed someone's help in fighting against an army?" he spoke and lunged high in the air.

"Alright then. Do as you wish. Just remember what master ordered us to do...

Leave none alive." he said in a mischievous tone.

A few seconds later, Dante's figure appeared in the middle of both groups.

"Now!" he commended.

Loki who stood on the deck quickly stomped the bottom of his scepter and in just 10 seconds, he cast a thick red barrier that rose high in the sky and quickly encompassed all the flying envoy like a round dome in a 2 kilometers radius.

But due to this protection barrier he made, no one could see what was happening outside.

"What the hell are you doing? Your ally is fighting them alone outside!

How are you going to defend us?!" clamored Ruben from the cockpit, his voice reverberating inside the entire barrier.

"Don't worry... it's not us you should be worried about. It's them." responded Loki with an insidious grin.

At this point, even the members of the guild who hid their identities as employees were curious because they had never seen any of their commanders fight before.

But right when everyone was lost in thoughts...

BOOM!!

A massive crimson-red aura exploded outside the protective dome, sending most of the pirate flying ships a few meters backwards.

And at the center of this massive and chaotic eruption filled with hellfire, Dante's transformed figure was revealed to everyone.

Suddenly, his hair turned shoulder-length white.

Two long and pointy horns came out of his forehead and formed a band. These horns were full of blistering red fire and looked like hot magma was running under them.

Shing!!

A massive red giantsword appeared in Dante's hand while an armor comprised of black, red and yellow appeared over his body.

Just now, Dante aka Jugram had replaced the old armor that they wore for normal work and day-to-day lives.

And after more than a month, he summoned them again. These were his new biggest trump cards in a battle.

Balrog and Ares.

Chapter 714 The Pirates

Jugram floated in the sky, giving an indomitable and fierce gaze towards the approaching army of warships and flying ships of the pirate crew whilst equipping Balrog armor and Ares giantsword. And now, he was free to use his most powerful skills without turning into his true Diablos legendary rank form.

On the enemy side, one of the 100 meter tall warships was the main captain ship where the leader of this group, who was a 2nd stage saint was seated in. He carefully observed Jugram's aura with a skeptical countenance.

"He's a 1st stage saint but that armor and giantsword gives off a very dreadful feeling.

Let's not waste time here.

Charge all our cannons and kill him in a single shot!" analyzed and commanded a broad figure in the main cockpit.

Tung!

Tung!

The metallic cannons on the sideways of the warships and small artillery guns at the front of the small flying ships started charging different elemental beams and shots as they targeted the Hellblazer general.

"Bringing guns in a fight against me... so primitive." spoke Jugram in a jarring voice.

He raised Ares high in the air and released the Sword Emperor skill.

Shing!

Clang!

Clink!

Before the warships even managed to charge themselves fully, over 400 massive crimson red giantswords, each being 10 meters long suddenly appeared above his head, almost forming a small hurricane as they floated clockwise.

"Attack!!" ordered the leader of this pirate group.

BOOM!!

BANG!!

All the guns and cannons shot their bullets and elemental beams, attacking Jugram with all their force.

A massive red cloud burst and spread in the surrounding 1 kilometer region, sending dozens of shockwaves as the sky and the ground was covered in red light.

The trees on the ground were uprooted and trembled just from the aftershocks as the entirety of the 2 kilometers region was devastated after the explosion.

Many among the pirate crew sighed in relief as a rush of victorious feeling swept over their minds while the people inside the dome, who couldn't see what was happening outside, were becoming afraid with each passing moment.

Sizzle!

Sizzle!

Finally, the cloud of fire subsided and a grim voice echoed.

"Is that all?"

A tall 20 meter wall made of 400 aura giantswords appeared and behind it was Jugram, completely unscathed.

"What the..." the saint leader of the pirate group had his eyes wide open in shock.

"Alright then... my turn!" exclaimed Jugram and the very next moment...

Another burst of crimson red aura spread in the surrounding 3 kilometers, completely encompassing their battlefield while leaving the envoy behind him untouched.

Massive and fervent waves of hellfire spread and covered both the ground and the sky.

Crackle!

Crackle!

The temperature inside this battlefield suddenly rose to 500-degree celsius and all the trees instantly caught fire as wide pillars of hellfire erupted from the ground from hundreds of places, some even directly hitting the hundred or so flying ships.

Hell Domain!

Jugram had activated his Hell Domain.

"Arrghh!!" shouted a human among the pirate crew as his skin started drying at a rapid pace and then the clothes were getting overheated, making the vast majority sweat profusely in just a dozen seconds.

Soon, most of the fighters started feeling the scalding heat in the atmosphere.

Anyone without good quality armor and ice elemental class was getting roasted alive while the flying ships started malfunctioning because of the instant rise in temperature.

Jugram had crucially overturned the situation just by activating his domain. But the next moment, all of his aura giantswords pointed their pointy edges towards the enemy group and started attacking.

In the meantime, half of the summoned weapons encircled the flying ships, leaving no room for escape as Jugram himself lunged at the main warship.

He quickly activated Blood storm and like a rainstorm, the blood from the dying enemies flew towards his body.

With each passing second, his body was absorbing the blood and his Strength Stat was rising rapidly.

Slash!!

Jugram made a horizontal slash and a massive and wide elliptical wave of hellfire struck a flying ship and burned the entire crew alive as well as destroying the ship.

Jugram was a variant True Demon with Chaos Element. The more people died in a battle against him, the stronger he became.

In just 5 minutes, his Strength Stat doubled and then he used the Blood Sacrifice skill.

This time, it was Ares who started sucking in the blood from the enemies and the dense deathly aura around the giantsword rose by a huge margin.

Soon, the Limit Breaker skill took effect and all of his stats rose by 2.5 times, making him reach his peak strength while hundreds of people were dying just by being present inside the hell domain.

In the meantime, the stronger opponents started attacking him but failed to land any injuries because Balrog armor had an in-built defense of a dragon's body. Even a powerful attack from a fellow saint wouldn't be able to kill him in a single strike.

"Run!!"

"Retreat!!"

Dozens of people of different species clamored in fear as the madman saint fiercely attacked their ships and wantonly massacred their fellow pirates, opposite of what one would expect when surrounded by thousands of enemies.

Wails and screams of helpless people resounded in the surroundings as both Jugram and his summoned swords absolutely slashed apart and destroyed dozens of ships in just a few minutes.

It had only been 5 minutes and more than 400 people from the enemy side were dead. However, these were the weakest among the bunch who had subpar skills and armors. Yet they accomplished their job... that was making Jugram strong enough to face the real enemy.

Just then, a 100 meter tall ginormous black and white colored fist appeared in the sky, descending with unfathomable might as it targeted Jugram with extreme killing intent.

BOOM!!

A dreary and loud clash echoed on the battlefield, the aftershocks vibrating the ships and the ground equally.

But the enemies were simply flabbergasted as they saw the aftermath.

The massive fist was stopped midair by Jugram...

With his bare hand.

And right then...

"Who the hell are you?!" a begrudging and loud voice echoed as a middle-aged man with ripped build and long brown beard appeared in the sky.

"Dante Surtsson of the Mithios mercenary guild.

Who am I talking to?" responded Jugram and waved his left hand, sending the massive fist crashing on the ground below.

"I'm Stephen. Leader of the Panda Raiders pirate group."

The 2nd stage brawler saint who had two epic rank gauntlets equipped announced his identity as well as the name of the pirate readers... raiders.

"For some reason... I do not like those two names in a single sentence." spoke Dante and gave a deathly stare.

[Who is this guy...] wondered Stephen but just then...

[Dammit! He has a legendary rank armor and weapon. Who the hell did we mess with?!] he quickly asked himself.

Legendary rank armors and weapons were extremely rare even among the Imperial clan of the empire. But Dante using them during the battle meant he was someone with deep background and high standing.

Well... that was nothing but a deduction made by the pirate group leader.

"You killed my men and damaged my ships... there's no way you're living out of here alive!" clamored Stephen in rage.

To his declaration... Dante replied only with a smirk.

"Let's dance."

30 Minutes Later.

The scene of the battlefield had completely changed.

Almost all of the battlefield was charred and filled with smoke, many ships and both warships were destroyed beyond recognition.

Slash!

Snip!

One of the aura giantsword slashed a group of 5 in half instantly, spreading their entrails and half-torn bodies on the floor of a ship.

Similar scenarios occurred where Jugram's giantswords were cutting the pirates in half, chopping them vertically from the head and having their brain-matter splattered on the floor.

Some Demi-Humans had their fur burnt first till they were roasted alive due to the scorching hellfire while many magic class fighters had their barriers and skills broken into smithereens, killing them effortlessly.

Their cries for mercy resounded loudly to the point that even the people inside the protective barrier made by Loki could hear their agonizing screams.

At this point, all their weapons and armors were melted into liquid form and as for their leader...

"Blergh!!"

Stephen retched a chunk of blood as his lower half and little friend was turned into squashed tomato under Jugram's foot.

And finally... All the Panda Raiders were brutally massacred.

Thanks to his own abilities, Jugram was now comparable to a 3rd stage saint after killing more than 2 thousand pirates and because of Hell Domain and Wrath of Vajra being in effect, his enemy was no different than a 1st stage saint in front of him.

Jugram had shattered his leg bones, both of his arms and then pulled his gauntlets out of his hands.

"Man... I fucking hate pirates." said Jugram in a ghastly tone as he revealed his peak bloodlust.

He turned over the wailing Stephen who was screaming in agonizing pain and begging for mercy...

"Arrgggghhhh!!!"

A terrifying scream echoed, sending shivers to everyone who heard it as Jugram shoved that gauntlet inside Stephen's ass.

This time... the pain was so unbearable that Stephen fainted on the spot.

"Tch! So weak. He couldn't even last for 3 minutes." said Jugram in a disappointed tone.

Step!

The following moment, Jugram stomped on Stephen's head and crushed it to paste, coloring the ground red as the brain matter spread like crushed watermelon.

"Alright... let's do the thing." he said and started using his saint pressure to gather all the bodies.

5 minutes later... Loki removed the protective barrier around the envoy.

But as soon as he did so... all 3 Qebika clients along with the members of the Mithios guild were shocked to their core.

A burning black battlefield with charred trees and white smoke was revealed to everyone.

And in the center of this destroyed area... there was a black throne mended out of burnt bodies, bones and ashes.

A man with crimson red hair was seated on it like a king.

At his moment... Everyone realized something. This wasn't a fair battle.

But a Death Sentence.

Chapter 715 Corporate Espionage

The Following Day.

Legolas was seated in his new mansion as he met Ruben, Hariv and Zipon again in his office after yesterday's brutal massacre of enemies.

Due to the group of enemies being pirates, no law held them accountable for defending their own lives and thus, the first commission as hired bodyguards was a clean success.

Legolas gazed at the three Qebika clients who had come to visit in his main office.

"Thank you for your help, Mr. Ragnarsson.

Your warriors have indeed helped us greatly. Now, we will be able to go back to our previous lives without worries." spoke Ruben, his voice revealing a satisfied and confident feeling.

The next moment, all 3 of them took out a small box filled with elven space rings and handed them to Legolas.

"Half in Itikar and half in SS Rank mana cores and ores as per our agreement." spoke Zipon.

Legolas nodded and Scorpion, who stood behind him took the boxes.

"Well, we did only what were supposed to do in the first place. It was a pleasure doing business with you." responded the elf guild leader dressed in a black and blue longcoat.

"However... I don't think this whole thing is over.

There is still a mole in your organization." he iterated in a stern voice.

"But now they can't do anything to us, can they?

I mean... the pirate group targeting us is already finished. So there won't be any harm from now." said Hariv in a curious tone.

Step!

Step!

Just then... the man of the hour who saved the day walked in.

"I wouldn't say that, esteemed sirs.

Those pirates were extremely well-gearred and equipped. Their leader had Epic rank weapons as well.

Those things can't be acquired easily." spoke Dante in a stoic voice.

Legolas then chimed in and continued in a grim voice.

"I'm afraid they weren't pirates.

But hired goons by your enemies." he iterated out of nowhere.

Gasp!

"What do you mean?" asked Ruben.

"They had Warships and hundreds of flying ships.

And think about their leader himself.

Which saint in this empire would be so stupid as to lower himself to be a pirate group leader when he could be in a position of authority because he was a 2nd stage saint and a Human at that.

He could easily work for high nobles or join the military. His life would've been full of prestige and luxury. Yet he went as far as specifically targeting your envoys and merchandise for the past 5 months.

What does this tell you?" asked Legolas after revealing some hard facts about the situation.

"You mean?..."

"Yes. You're being targeted by a powerful enemy.

A business rival or corporation I presume." stated Legolas confidently.

Soon, he started stating some more facts about the attack and how the people from the authorities didn't help their respective organizations, making the 3 clients even more afraid for their lives and the future of their business organizations.

"Please, Mr. Legolas. You have to help us!" pleaded Ruben, the other 2 nodding with him.

"I will... if we can carry on with our previous arrangement.

From now on, I will send Dante and Loki with your envoys whenever you make such big transactions or travel to the capital." assured the elven ironborn.

Few more details were discussed and the clients left with a sense of relief.

The Misthios guild didn't just become a mercenary guild but a Savior in their eyes who helped them in times of peril when others didn't even bother them to give a glance because of their economical problems.

Finally, it was only Kahn and Ronin in their alternate personas left in the office.

"So how do we find the mole and the people targeting them?" asked Ronin in a curious voice.

But to his question... Kahn let out a devious smile and chuckled as he responded.

"That's the neat part. We don't."

Ronin reacted with a curious expression.

"Why do you think I told Jugram and Ceril to not leave anybody alive?" asked Kahn with a grin.

"So they won't have anyone left to investigate.

And after we revealed this fact about someone intentionally targeting their business...

The clients will be reliant on our guild for protection." he revealed his true intentions.

"And since this arrangement of half payment with Itikar and half with SS Rank cores benefits them... they will keep doing business with Misthios guild for a long time." spoke Kahn as he started laughing.

In a way, Kahn made their First Client as their long-term customer just by working for them once.

"I see. Then what do we do from now on?" asked Ronin again.

"Spread the word about our arrangement with the 3 Qebikas and their business organizations.

And how one of the 1st stage saint commanders of our Misthios guild single-handedly killed 2 thousand enemies, destroyed 2 warships, hundreds of flying ships and killed a 2nd stage saint by himself.

Use people from information organizations or criminal groups of Alfheim to spread this matter to the population and big corporations." ordered Kahn.

This was just one of the main steps he had planned a long time ago.

"Once people confirm this from the 3 Qebika clients and their organizations...

People will give more thought about us instead of giving preference to other guilds since they'd save half the money and only spend extra cores they have access to." Kahn explained his reasons.

SS Rank cores were rare in Vantrea no matter which empire.

But powerful clans, noble houses and top leading business organizations in goods and manufacturing sectors had no lack of them.

1 SS Core was 10 times more potent than S rank core. But absorbing them depended on a person's capability who had invoked magic and fighting classes.

For other Saints, 1 million SS Rank cores would be enough for 2 to 3 years for them to completely absorb.

But for Kahn and his subordinates who had Chamber of Exaltation along with Energy Plunderer skill... the same amount wouldn't even last for a month if they seriously cultivated.

The current resource Kahn and the gang had would last them only for a year and provide a rise in ranks and levels only by one.

Thus, they needed money only for the management of the guild but their main goal was always the SS Rank cores and ores.

Even hunting inside Dungeons would give them mostly low-quality cores and ores at best. This was more waste of time and resources instead of gaining anything significant.

This was also one of the main reasons why Kahn decided to open a Mercenary guild instead of becoming an adventurer this time.

"So tell me... what have you found about the people who targeted us before we even made our debut?" asked Kahn curiously.

Ronin handed Kahn a report and all the details.

"Master... How do we deal with this? They too have Saints."

"Isn't it obvious? We'll send a message." stated Kahn as he revealed his next step.

"The one that will set an example."

Chapter 716 Setting An Example

In the evening of the same day.

On the opposite side of the Alfheim was another guild headquarters mostly filled with red and green colored buildings while thousands of mercenaries and normal people who were customers, roamed the perimeter of this 5 kilometer wide settlement.

LNP

That was the name of this Mercenary Guild which was also currently the 2nd strongest guild in Alfheim because of its rich history and the large number of 25 thousand mercenaries in the guild.

From low-level commissions for local merchants to high-end customers such as business corporations of different sectors... This guild had its claws stuck in all places.

This guild was the 2nd biggest and strongest guild in Alfheim for one big reason. And that was the number of their saints.

7 Saints.

LNP guild had seven powerful saints as their main leaders in management. Before the debut of the Misthios guild, they had the 2nd highest number of saints in a guild.

Even so, the current Misthios guild was nowhere close to their level despite the lineup of saints.

As the two suns set in the sky, a massive building with 5 floors was revealed. And at the end of it, was the President's main office.

"So it didn't go as we planned, huh?"

Looks like their guild leader is a very cautious individual." spoke an Elf adorning red and blue attire and his aura revealed his rank of a 4th stage saint.

"We can keep trying with other methods, President." responded a human with a scholar-like appearance who himself was a 3rd stage summoner class saint.

"Our people contacted the new guild members of the Misthios guild even before it was approved.

If not for our connection in the Mercenary Association suddenly getting abdicated from his position and the C.O.O., we would've stalled their debut for months before getting rid of the group entirely.

I had our members tell the guild members of the Misthios guild about how many top-notch guilds offered extra money for bringing new mercenaries as part of the incentive.

But I guess their leader didn't fall for that." revealed this human summoner.

With an indignant expression, the president responded in a hoarse tone.

"Vice-president Ranobes..."

That Legolas Ragnarsson seems like a smart person.

He saw this thing coming from a mile away when his own guild members demanded this rule to be added to their contracts.

I don't think we are dealing with someone new in the business.

Rather... that Iroborn seems very experienced in this trade." he iterated with a dissatisfied expression.

The duo inside this office were the main culprit behind the incident caused during the opening ceremony of the Misthios Guild.

They had goaded most of the members of the newly formed guild into presenting the incentive to the main management.

On paper, this seemed like a good opportunity for guild members to gain extra cash and also help a newly found mercenary guild quickly acquire more members and gain more firepower in the meantime.

But the experts in this profession knew the real truth.

Carelessly adding too many people to the guild in the long run... it'd reduce the quality of members as the guild grew in size.

This would make the entire guild's foundation hollow from the inside right from the beginning.

Many starting guilds and envoys used this 'Incentive' method to increase their numbers and gain fame but they had no idea of the aftereffects that would show up a lot later.

This had affected many guilds in the past and then... Most of them had no way to deal with it unless they cleared the majority of the guild members from within or disbanded the guild itself.

The already-established guilds also used this method to get rid of the competition and newcomers quite often.

It was like leaving a Trojan horse to destroy Troy.

Inside the main headquarters of the Misthios guild, Kahn was facing Omega and Ronin, his right-hand man and left-hand man respectively.

Although it looked like Ronin found out the real truth about who was targeting them... but it was Kahn who laid down the trap himself.

On the night of the celebration, Kahn as Legolas let out an outburst of anger to subdue the voice of new members who proposed the incentive idea to be added in their contracts.

During that time, he also exuded his dense black and red aura that filled the entire assembly hall.

But unbeknownst to all the guild members who felt like they'd die any moment under this insurmountable saint pressure...

Kahn used the blanket of darkness to send his Assassins from the Legion force who directly worked under Ronin inside the shadows of every member present during the celebration.

They were ordered to report who contacted their members if they met again.

Soon, the people of the Misthios guild met other people who talked about the incentive and how great their own guilds were, trying to persuade them again to propose this idea to top management.

Through these meetings, the assassins then hid in the shadows of those people and found it was the members of the LNP guild who orchestrated these encounters and told them the setting.

Misthios guild members were innocent of this and had no idea. This setting also didn't breach their contract because they weren't harming the guild with malicious intent knowingly.

The LNP guild was just trying to poison the roots of Misthios guild since the very beginning.

"Alright... it's time." said Kahn and all 3 of them disappeared from the spot.

The Next Morning.

The Elf President of the LNP guild suddenly received an Emergency Transmission.

"No!" he exclaimed in disbelief and quickly left the building, appearing at the front gates of the guild headquarters.

A crowd of thousands of mercenaries and customers alike was gathered at the front gate, mostly baffled and murmuring among themselves.

Because at this moment, there was a pike stabbed in the ground. And above this pike, was a detached head.

"Ranobes!"

The president shouted in grief as he looked at the terrified expression of their Vice-president whose head was hung like a beacon and declaration.

Below this head was a stone slate and a warning written in blood that even made the 4th stage saint feel a chill in his spine.

"Next time... it will be your head, Mr. President."

Chapter 717 The Guildmaster

Two Days Later.

The word about the murder of the vice president of LNP guild had spread like a wildfire in the entirety of Alfheim.

Whether it was normal people, law authorities, adventurers associations or even small mercenary teams; everyone heard the news of the 3rd stage summoner saint being killed and his head put on a pike while making a public display in front of the guild's main entrance.

But even the imperial authorities and law enforcement officials who came to investigate, couldn't find a single clue about who and how they killed Ranobes.

Plus the declaration targeting the President of the guild himself aroused even more suspicions and changed the direction of the investigation.

The motive behind the murder appearing to be an act of deep hatred and vengeance to many.

Even those who had nothing to do with this matter or got affected by this incident remotely started making assumptions and theories of their own.

Like who was so brazen and courageous enough to declare a war on the 2nd strongest guild in the entire city?

What did the President do for someone to kill their vice-president out of rage and without fearing the consequences?

And there wasn't even a big battle. How could a 3rd stage saint die so easily?

On the other hand... This news itself shook the entire community of mercenaries guilds, envoys and teams.

Even other top guilds became wary of this and tightened their own security as a precaution.

Although the Elf couldn't talk about the truth to anyone and had many enemies... he already knew whose deed this was. However, he could do nothing else than play the part of an oblivious fool.

Because he'd have to explain exactly what they did and how they targeted Misthios guild just because they felt insecure about an emerging competitor.

This sort of practice was already deemed unethical and if the truth got out... it would greatly damage their reputation in the whole Alfheim.

Sometimes... Glory and Fame could also become your Chains and Weakness.

The 4th stage Elven President was shaken and full of grief after the death of the Vice-president.

He and the Ranobes built this Mercenary Guild from scratch when they were young and rookies in this trade.

Both were outcasts of their respective clans a few decades ago. But fate brought them together and they became lifelong friends.

At this moment, the president of the guild swore to himself...

"Misthios guild... You shall know my vengeance."

Among the regions surrounded by the sky-touching and ginormous trees placed in Alfheim, there was a 10 kilometer wide region filled with naval boats, trading outposts for sea products and bartering facilities for merchants and customers coming from different regions of the empire.

Additionally, this region wasn't under the domain of imperial authorities or any large business corporations who handled the economy of this settlement... rather, it was actually the main headquarters of a mercenary guild.

A wide building colored in blue and yellow that was surrounded by dozens of 3 story buildings and lush greenery incorporated with the architecture came into sight.

This was the main building of the top management of this mercenary guilds. And in the main office of their leader... was a 6 feet tall figure with long brown hair and multiple blue tattoos on the face, arms and legs, was working quietly.

Behind the main desk, there was a big black battleaxe carefully placed in a rack while the owner was busy going through a lot of paperwork.

Swoosh!!

A gentle gust of wind shook some of the papers on the desk as a lithe figure covered in black and brown attire while having their face hidden behind a dark yellow mask arrived on the other side of the desk.

This figure quickly knelt in front of the leader, not even breathing loudly.

"So what is the intel?" asked a feminine voice as the spy appeared hastily.

"Not good, Guildmaster. Even our spies placed in LNP guild couldn't find anything.

However... there's even a bigger threat." spoke the spy, giving a hint of his old age.

The one he knelt before was a 4th stage saint.

Lagertha Skjoldottir.

The Guildmaster of this Mercenary Guild who was also a direct descendant of the 4th Hero of Life aka Bjorn Ironside.

Nobody dared to look down on this woman who was a battleaxe warrior.

Because not only was she one of the strongest saints, but also the leader of the strongest guild in the entire Alfheim.

The 12 Valkyries.

The 12 Valkyries, the number one mercenary guild of Alfheim which was established only 5 years ago but took the number one position under their leader's ironclad command.

This was a guild with the highest number of saints. And based on the name, it was a peculiar one.

Because all the saints in this guild... were Females.

Whether one was human or an Elf... regardless of their species, only female saints were allowed in this guild gained the moniker of a Valkyrie. This peculiarity also made them gain attention way too quickly, especially in the females of the mercenary profession.

"So what happened? Are we in trouble too?"

To kill a 3rd stage saint without even leaving a trace...

It can only be done by someone with more saints and powerful abilities." iterated Lagertha in black and brown armor which was made with custom viking designs and had wolf fur on shoulders.

The spy then replied in an obedient tone...

"We don't know about that. But there's news spreading about a new guild named Mithios." he iterated.

In the following moments, he explained the news of this new guild that formed only 5 days ago but became a hot topic soon.

He also informed about Dante's accomplishments during their first ever job and how he instantly gained fame in the community.

"All of them are Saints. We don't know about their ranks either.

But they're all ironborns just like you, leader." spoke the spy and continued in a gloomy voice.

"The leader is an Elf with Iroborn descent." he declared.

"What's the name of their guild leader?" asked Lagertha in a dominant and authoritative tone.

A vertical battle scar on her left eye and cheek giving her fierce appearance despite her gorgeous face.

"Legolas Ragnarsson." informed the spy.

"Someone has the audacity to have the same surname as our great ancestor Bjorn Ragnarsson?

I guess I'll have to meet this Legolas soon." spoke Lagertha as she looked out of the wide window of her office, gazing down at thousands of people under her domain.

"Are you going to make an enemy out of him?" asked the spy with an uncertain voice.

"Why the hell would I do that? I'm just curious.

8 Saints, all Iroborn and making a mercenary guild at that instead of joining the military or serving High Elves of the empire.

This doesn't seem like some random people making a guild. Rather... A super force settling their roots in Alfheim." she spoke in a firm tone, her face revealing curiosity and concern of mind at the same time.

"Relay my orders... keep a close eye on the Mithios guild.

And do not intentionally provoke them or their saints unless necessary.

We need to tread these matters carefully and see if they will become a friend." commanded Lagertha, planning her future steps at the moment.

"Or become our biggest Rivals."

Chapter 718 The Second Client

Kahn as Legolas sat quietly inside his office while reminiscing the events of the death of the vice president of the 2nd strongest guild of Alfheim.

After learning through their hidden assassins of Legion, Ronin reported that both the top 2 main guys of the guild were behind the ploy.

Thus Kahn and the group decided to send a loud and clear message from the very beginning.

It didn't matter if the President tried to throw a tantrum later. As long as one wasn't a 5th stage saint, their crew was capable enough to easily get rid of anyone who came in their way.

As for the death of Ranobes, the old human 3rd stage summoner saint...

The members of the legion acted as a beacon of his location and Kahn traveled using True Dimension to his location.

However, he didn't use Dimensional Cut to kill the saint.

Dimensional Void didn't leave a trace behind because all it did was connect both world of the living and true dimension as a gateway.

However, Dimensional Cut was a condensed attack made out of Space Force. Thus, it left a signature of Space Magic when used.

Kahn didn't want to create a trail that could link it to them so he quietly traveled to Ranobes' bedroom and Omega, as well as Ronin jumped out of his shadow.

Ronin quickly used Phase Shift and Invisibility to disappear and erase his existence.

Kahn activated Dimensional Domain, and Omega activated Gravity Domain, making the 3rd stage incapable of using 75% of his strength.

Kahn's Dimensional Domain was a completely different space so no one even sensed their saint pressures or auras, leaving no room for alarming anyone.

And when the saint awoke from his sleep, Kahn then used Lucid Reality.

Although it didn't take full effect since it didn't work on targets who were stronger than Kahn, the saint was under an illusion for just 1 second.

In that very second, Ronin appeared behind the saint and using the curved Erebus daggers, he cut off Ranobes' head without a problem.

The trio robbed all the space rings he had while Ronin stole the soul of the saint using the Soul Collector skill.

When the suns had yet to appear in the sky as the morning came, Kahn and the group hung the head and wrote a message with the saint's blood to declare their clear intentions targeted specifically at the president.

This was a message to the 2nd strongest guild, showing their stance that no one could mess with them just because they were a new force in the business.

And soon, if they willed it... Kahn could reveal it to others through rumors if any other guild tried to make an enemy out of them.

While Kahn was lost in thought, a human female feline-kin, the one with ears and tail of a cat while dressing in Misthios guild's uniform walked in.

The female with a slim build was Kahn's official attendant.

"Guild Leader, there's someone here to see you." she spoke in a meek and humble tone.

"Send them in." replied Legolas.

A human noble in yellow and black outfit similar to Victorian-era clothing walked in through the door and humbly bowed against him.

Legolas Ragnarsson was an Elf even if he was an Iroborn. So it was a precedent for humans to show respect towards the Elves in Zivot Empire.

"It is my honor to meet you, Sir Ragnarsson." said the human with a short mustache.

"And who might you be?"

"I'm but a humble messenger. I brought an invitation sent by my lord." spoke the man and respectfully handed Kahn an invitation envelope.

Legolas then read through the invitation and nodded.

"There's a flying ship waiting for you." said the human.

5 Hours Later.

Legolas and two of his commanders traveled outside Alfheim and reached a city surrounded by a mountainous region and waterfalls.

The flying ship then landed in an open landing zone and the Trio was escorted to meet their soon-to-be client if things went smoothly.

Finally, they reached the main hall of the owner of this region who was an Exalted Noble.

Exalted Nobles were just Human Nobles who earned a region to rule and manage by the Imperial rule after making great contributions to the empire through military or economical contributions. The one who sent Legolas the invite was one of such people.

A meeting was held in the close circle as 3 individuals from Misthios guild as guests were now facing the opposite side of the host.

Each side having only their main leader sitting on a luxurious chair while the 2 handymen standing behind them.

An elderly noble with an extremely long gray beard and mustache appeared on the other side.

His wrinkled skin and round golden glasses gave him an appearance of a well-experienced ruler and a businessman.

"Greetings, Mr. Ragnarsson. This is our father and also Count of this region, Lord Horik." introduced one of the two young men standing behind.

"It is my pleasure to be in your presence, Lord Horik." spoke Legolas and slightly bowed in respect.

The other party was a noble in the end and had a rich territory from what he had seen while coming here. So being respectful towards such a big potential client was already given.

Soon, an exchange of information started between both groups.

"The job... is hunting a group of Legendary rank monsters that are wreaking havoc in our territory.

Too many commoners and city guards have died or have been injured." spoke the old man.

"How many? And exactly in which sectors?" asked Legolas with a curious gaze.

"4 of them. In all 4 directions." replied the exalted noble with an exasperated voice.

Soon, they told Legolas about what exactly happened.

These legendary rank monsters were actually high-level dungeon monsters who escaped their dungeons somehow in other territories owned by other nobles.

But instead of dealing with these monsters by themselves... all those lords who ruled those regions redirected their course and led them towards this territory owned by the human noble.

"This doesn't sound right. It's as if they're targeting your region intentionally." spoke Legolas with a thoughtful expression.

"Ah, you're a smart one. This is indeed the case.

They're from the rival noble factions. I wouldn't go into details for your own good.

Just know that it is our misfortune to be surrounded by people of the rival faction." revealed the old man.

"This has happened for the 3rd year in a row. The last two years took a toll on our treasury and we lost too many soldiers.

That's why we're hiring outsiders for help this time." iterated the old man.

"So will you accept this commission?" asked the nobleman, his hoarse voice resounding in the room.

"Of course. But before that... we need to discuss something very important." responded Legolas.

"What?"

The elf guild leader then revealed a shameless grin and made a demand as this was the best time for haggling.

"The Payment."

Chapter 719 The Haggling

Legolas suddenly decided to discuss the payment for the job in front of the client after accepting it. However, this tone was unclear about what exactly he meant by his previous words.

However, the two sons of the Exalted Noble named Lord Horik revealed a gloomy and hateful expressions. Because they understood that Legolas was going to rip them off because of their precarious situation.

"Are you trying to raise the price?" asked the son who stood on the right of count Horik.

"Hmph! Why am I not surprised... People in your profession always demand more than they deserve based on the situation.

I think we made a mistake calling you here." said the son on the left as he openly revealed his grievance.

"Shhh!! Silence!

Let him speak." spoke count Horik as he raised his right hand in the air and signaled his sons to shut up.

"My, my... please don't be too quick to judge us, young lords.

Based on standard rates and the severity of the job... we should be asking you for 60 million Itikar.

But since we take half payment in SS Rank cores... it should cost you only 30 million.

The rest... you can pay easily in cores given how vast and flourishing your territory is even with lacking funds and damage caused by those monsters.

Isn't that why you came to hire us instead of going to some other guilds?" iterated Kahn confidently.

The expression of all 3 men changed the very next second.

Because this was nothing but the truth.

"Are you implying that we can't pay you?" asked one of the sons.

"No, it's just how I do business.

Let's make some alterations in the payment method instead." he said and looked at the old noble in his eyes.

"Instead of paying us in half with Itikar... we'll take only the SS Rank cores.

As for the other half... I want something else in return." replied Legolas, his gaze firm and his countenance that of someone with upper in this deal.

"Once the monsters are dead... I want all 4 of their cores." he proposed in a loud voice.

"What?! Why do you want that?" asked count Horik in a hoarse tone.

"Even if you sell them in the market, they can fetch you 20 million at best. But I'd let go of the extra 10 in 'good faith' if you give me the cores instead of money." responded the elf leader.

"Think about it. It saves you money... saves the lives of your soldiers and also the ammunition you would need to kill them by your own means.

This is a complete win-win situation for your side." said the elf as he presented the most appealing offer to the clients.

Kahn had Ranobes' core already. They didn't leave it for anything after killing the 3rd stage saint summoner.

Because last time when he had saint cores, he had used all the cores to create new subordinates for Cassandra's safety.

On the other end, his body had yet to absorb Axel's divine key completely and Kahn expected to receive another breakthrough in the upcoming months.

Ranobes's core was something he wanted to boost his levels once he became a 3rd stage saint.

As for Rathnaar's core... Kahn couldn't even absorb it unless he became a 4th stage saint first. Thus, arranging for greater quality resources was the top priority.

As for the other 4 legendary rank cores... why did he desire them and suddenly changed the terms of their deal on the spot?

Because currently, many of his generals were still stuck at their levels.

Only Ronin didn't need cores because he still had the souls of Hero's Party members and Axel's soul too. His abilities allowed him to use them as a source to level up.

But he too would need some time to see tremendous growth.

This time, Kahn decided to not go for the bodies.

Kahn himself already had too many abilities and he only used the most powerful and handful of them. Even looting the corpses to create new subordinates was extremely risky.

So he had no interest in new ones unless the monsters were mythical rank beings who naturally had plenty of legendary rank skills.

Thus he made the proposition of the cores only.

Also... Kahn's subordinates were one of the main reasons why he was able to kill Axel and Hero's Party in the first place.

Thus, investing and making arrangements to rise the rank of his subordinates was also a main priority for Kahn in the long run.

As for the money... Kahn already had half a billion. This was enough to run the guild for many years unless he expanded the guild to greater numbers and territories.

On the surface, he was losing a lot in this sort of transaction. But in reality...

He would be the biggest winner.

After spending a dozen minutes discussing among themselves, the count and his sons came back to Kahn.

"We accept this deal. Let's sign on it first." spoke count Horik.

They had already called an employee of the Mercenary Association to facilitate the contract. This individual was actually an underling of Logan Vargr, Kahn's biggest ally in that department.

Finally, both sides shook hands on the deal.

"Who is going to do the work then?" asked one of the sons.

Just then, a white-haired, bare-chested man with two katanas who stood behind Legolas walked forth.

Without standing at the ceremony, he revealed his aura of a 3rd stage saint being.

"I'd like you to meet my right-hand man." introduced the elf proudly and revealed the person who was going to finish the job by himself.

"Raiden Hrodvitsson."

1 warship arrived at the northern end of this Exalted Noble's territory, a region that was currently devastated as a Legendary Rank monster was inhibiting it.

This was the border between two separate regions and the monster had entered through this side of the territory and already destroyed a few towns and killed thousands of citizens.

As the warships were heading towards the site of the battle, Legolas and Ronin saw too many remains of destroyed ships, troops and corpses that were beyond recognition.

Legolas then turned his head to the right and talked with the count and his sons with a grim voice.

"Leading 4 different legendary monsters isn't easy. Especially not for weak force and thousands of soldiers." he iterated.

"What do you mean?" asked count Horik.

"Leading a legendary rank monster to the direction of your region can't be done just by attacking them.

Because normally, any legendary rank monster would most likely retaliate and kill the armies of their attackers.

Once enraged, they'd go on a rampage and might as well even destroy their territories out of rage." he explained.

"So you mean, this is the work of an external force? Of only one individual at that?" asked one of the sons.

"Yes. If my assumption is correct... then all these 4 nobles surrounding either have at least a 3rd stage saint on their beck and call... or rather...

They hired people like us." spoke Legolas without restraint.

His reasoning was sound because he had hunted plenty of legendary rank monsters himself.

"Don't be so cryptic. Are you saying that it's the same person?" asked count Horik hurriedly.

"Maybe or maybe not.

But one thing is sure. It's an enemy you can't fight on your own."

The warship stopped 15 kilometers away and landed in a grassland.

"From here on... it's all on you.

If your people die or something bad happens. It's not our responsibility." said Horik in an authoritative tone.

"Perks of the job. No need to worry. We won't be asking for any compensation." said Legolas and turned to Raiden.

"Make it quick. We have to return to the guild by night." said the elf.

Raiden's figure flickered and he disappeared from the spot. The noble clients couldn't even see an afterimage or where he went.

In just 5 minutes, Raiden aka Omega appeared a few hundred meters above the ground and sensed a mighty and dreary existence in front of him.

GRRRGRGGG!!

A grunting noise resounded in the surrounding 2 kilometers of the region as a massive 100-meter-tall body woke up from its sleep as soon as it sensed an enemy who suddenly appeared in the sky out of nowhere.

ROARRRR!!

An ear-deafening battle cry resounded in the atmosphere as a massive green body stood up.

This was the first time Raiden and Legolas, who was seeing the scene through the former's eyes had seen it in their lives.

This monstrous creature had no eyes. But every part of its body was filled with vines and yellowish liquid dropped from their ends.

Sizzle!

Sizzle!

Everywhere the liquid dropped, the ground sizzled as if it was some sort of toxic venom that could even melt metal easily.

[System, what monster is this?] queried Kahn.

[The species in front of the subordinate Omega is named Salvikan. A boss-level monster only found in high-tier dungeons.] reported the system calmly.

After the battle cry, Raiden then unsheathed Raijin and took an offensive stance in the air.

Just then, Kahn's command rang in his head.

"Commence the hunt."

Chapter 720 Commence the Hunt

Omega aka Raiden hovered quietly in the air as he faced Salvikan, one of the 4 legendary rank monsters that haunted this territory of their client.

The green and gooey monster that was hundred meters tall and had hundreds of vines that dropped yellow liquid from their pointy edges took an offensive stance as soon as it sensed Omega in its domain.

Sizzle!

Sizzle!

The ground sizzled as the drops of toxin burned everything it touched.

Kahn as Legolas was seeing this monster through Omega's eyes using the Hive Mind skill and then queried its weaknesses to the system.

After the system informed about this legendary rank creature's weaknesses and shortcomings, Kahn relayed the information to Omega.

"I see. I'll do as you say, master." responded Omega.

Till now, he had been hiding his levels from the monster so it wouldn't run away instead of fighting him now that Kahn told him how to get rid of it... Omega decided to reveal his full power.

Shing!!

BOOM!!

A massive pillar of silver aura erupted and Omega quickly equipped the Moonlight Armor.

Crackle!

Crackle!

Blue flashes of lightning ran across Raijin's blade as Omega pointed the pointy edge towards Salvikan.

"This shall be your grave." he announced and released the Bloodlust skill.

RAWWRRR!!

After detecting that Omega was a stronger opponent, the Salvikan bellowed. Its loud war cry trembling the ground and trees in the surrounding alike.

Stab!

Stab!

It stabbed hundreds of its vines in the ground and pulled out a big chunk of soil and debris, covering them in its yellow toxin that could even melt iron instantly.

Swoop!

Swoop!

It rotated its body haphazardly and created momentum in a circular motion, while the toxin-coated debris also gained speed because of it.

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

And quickly, the Salvikan flung hundreds of the toxin debris at Omega who floated in the air like shooting bullets at him.

Dash!

Dash!

Omega's figure started flickering as he activated Quicksilver skill, leaving only afterimages behind as he dodged a volley of hundreds of toxin attacks.

[So that's how it destroyed the armies sent by the count.

The speed and accuracy of those toxin bullets are too terrifying. Even a first stage saint can't dodge them easily without getting hit.

Flying ships and soldiers were easy targets for the Salvikan like turtles facing machine gun turrets in a battle.] thought Kahn who was witnessing it from afar.

Just then, he looked at Scorpion aka Ronin who now had green hair and the yellow attire of assassins.

He gave him a command and the commander disappeared from the spot, heading towards a particular location.

Slash!

Omega activated the Mirage Blades skill and created over 900 elemental katanas, each being 5 meters long.

Soon, these mirage blades started attacking and countering the bullets hurled in his direction, some of them also making a protective shield that was bearing the brunt of all the attacks while defending him.

Then he used Sword Emperor skill to summon even more aura blades made from his saint pressure. But this time, all the blades were of the lightning element.

Crackle!

Crackle!

"Let's try this..." he spoke to himself and started merging all the newly summoned blades made of world energy and soon, a 100-meter-long blue katana which had volatile and shining lightning running amok.

Omega quickly put Raijin back in its sheath and took the iaijutsu stance of a samurai as he half squatted and tightened his grip on the hilt.

His eyes closed and his mind became extremely focused on the opponent ahead. At this moment, his senses discarded all the attacks and barrage of bullets shot at him, his mind trying to sense the existence of the Salvikan as if it was a moving target.

ROAAARRRR!!

The enemy monster ripped out a massive boulder from the ground and threw it at the elemental shield made by Omega.

However, the very next second... the massive boulder stopped midair as Omega quickly activated the Gravity Domain.

Using Repulsion skill, he threw away the boulder to the side while the hundreds of bullets with frozen in the air.

He used Upforce and Downforce skills to clear the way and then activated Attraction to pull the ginormous body of the green monster.

If they were of the same level, Omega wouldn't be able to achieve this feat. Even the temporary shield made from mirage blades would've shattered long ago if he wasn't stronger than the enemy. But the current Omega was at least 200 levels higher than the opponent.

Shing!!

Clatter!!

The surrounding area froze as Omega activated Gravity Imprisonment and the legendary rank monster quickly froze on the spot, unable to move a single vine or its arms.

Crackle!!

Crackle!!

The 100-meter-long lightning Katana behind him shone even brighter than before, releasing a dangerous and malevolent pressure.

Omega's eyes suddenly opened and his blue iris flashed, he instantly activated Quickdraw skill and shouted.

"Kaminari Surrashu!"

Slash!!

In the next nanosecond, the massive and sharp katana followed his movement and slashed through Salvikan's neck.

BOOM!!

Rumble!!

Thunderous noises resounded in 5 kilometers radius as lightning katana cut through and struck the ground below, instantly causing earthquakes and shuddering the entire region as if the sky dropped a massive bolt of lightning as a form of divine punishment.

Crack!

Shatter!

Hundreds of crevices formed on the ground and most of the soil and stones turned into small granules because of the destructive lightning attack.

Swoosh!

Omega appeared behind the massive monster's figure and slowly started sheathing his katana in the scabbard on his waist.

Clink!

The moment he completely sheathed Raijin...

Thud!

The Salvikan had its green glowing eyes wide open in disbelief as it finally realized that its head was cut off while it even failed to move a muscle.

Thud!!

The 10 meter tall massive head lost the light in its eyes while the 20 meter wide massive figure of the legendary rank monster dropped on the ground, completely lifeless.

Omega unsummoned the moonlight armor. The armor greatly rose his speed and coupled with the gravity law skills, he killed this terrifying creature that could kill a hundred thousand soldiers and even destroy warships easily from afar in just 5 minutes.

"Good. I have finally created my own attack skill." spoke Omega, feeling joyous for successfully performing his new skill for the first time in a battle.

"Now then... where is it?"

On the other side, Legolas and the troops of the count were waiting.

Thud!

Suddenly, the head of Salvikan dropped from the sky, it was as big as a mansion so it instantly shook the open grounds of the grasslands, scaring off the exalted noble and his forces.

Raiden then appeared beside Legolas and nodded.

"It's done, guild leader." spoke the dual swords samurai and looked at the noblemen who had their eyes full of disbelief.

The group was bewildered because this battle was finished way too quickly and Omega hadn't even suffered an injury.

"How... how did you not get injured? Our forces had too many casualties facing it." spoke Count Horik with a bewildered expression.

"It cannot hit you if you're too fast.

Now then..." responded Omega with a stern gaze as he asked.

"Where's my next target?"