

## Darkness 791

### Chapter 791 The Decisive Memory

Kahn faced Elric who was not even half his height at this point as the latter finally decided to make a change in his life, embedding a spark of striving for betterment in his mind.

"You just saw that even if you're weak... you can still fight back and protect yourself, didn't you?" he asked while exuding a charismatic aura.

Elric nodded in response, feeling elated for the first time.

"I'm not always going to be around. So in the end, it will be you who has to take a stand for yourself.

I can teach you. But the important thing is..." he spoke in a serious tone.

"What is the purpose of you becoming stronger?

Will you run away while facing hopelessly intense training?

Or do you want to face discomfort and pain for now to become strong in the future?" he questioned solemnly.

"Do you want to be someone who can not only protect himself but also others who are suffering just like you... Or do you want to keep staying just the way you are now for the rest of your life?" he questioned in a firm tone.

Why was Kahn asking this question and letting the young Elric make a decision instead of leading the charge by himself to pass the trial?

Because he had figured out what the young and frightened him from the past needed the most.

In the end, the 12 year old Elric was but a child who was lost and all by himself.

Having no one to guide him or teach him the ways of life.

When a child falls and let's say they hurt themselves.

In their perception, when you say 'you're okay' and they know they're not because they are scared or they are hurt... It is very confusing to a child's mind.

To know that they're not okay but the person who's supposed to tell them 'what's what', is telling them that they're 'fine' despite knowing they're not.

It will always create a state of dilemma in the psyche of a growing child.

And it's true for both physically and emotionally etched traumatic experiences or abuses which often end up shaping the entire personality of that child as they grow up.

So even if all of this was just some trial or some illusion...

Kahn wanted to be that person for the young Elric.

The Guardian Angel and the Mentor he never had in the previous life.

And finally, after thinking for a long time... Elric made a decision and spoke.

"Teach me... how to become strong."

Kahn nodded in affirmation and shook hands with Elric now that they could corroborate at will.

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2 Months Later.

A familiar scene appeared in front of Kahn.

This time, 8 kids were lying on the ground, completely unconscious while their faces were filled with bruises.

However, this time... it wasn't Kahn who did the beating to these kids who suddenly ambushed him while ganging up due to resentment in their hearts.

Elric was panting heavily while barely having the strength to stand on his feet.

In the past 2 months, Kahn had been training him like some remnant soul of an ancient master and teaching him self-defense as well as making his body through intense training which eventually raised Elric's stamina and endurance while giving him instincts to survive multiple enemies style combat.

And finally... when this opportunity came, he managed to make a firm stance for himself. His expression was that of containment and relief instead of feeling exhausted or acting like he was victorious.

For the first time in his life... Elric felt like he wasn't just some pathetic loser who couldn't even protect himself.

"You have done well, my disciple." spoke Kahn as he brushed off his imaginary long white beard with his palm.

But the very next moment...

Suddenly, the world around Kahn started cascading into transparent layers of glass as hundreds of golden threads emitted from Elric's body as he himself started glowing like a miniature sun.

His compassionate eyes and bright smile gleamed in front of Kahn as the feeling of fulfillment arose in his heart and mind.

"Thank you... for staying by my side.

From now on... I will never give up on myself." he spoke in a tone filled with gratitude.

The golden light aura in the surroundings and Kahn closed his eyes because of this blinding light.

With a peaceful and joyous expression... Elric had dispersed into the divine light and shot towards the sky.

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Swoosh!

In the following moments, Kahn opened his eyes and looked around as the dazzling light finally subsided.

"Is this it? Is this the end of the trial?" wondered Kahn.

Soon, he felt changes happening to his body and now, Kahn had a solid body instead of some ghost form.

"I see. Him making the decision was the key to growing a different and firm mindset." he spoke with a sense of accomplishment.

But then... Kahn looked around the surroundings he was currently in.

Winds howled along with the passing cold breeze. At the time of midnight, in the glitter of lights from skyscrapers and malls along with multiple vibrant neon signs; the city life kept running as usual.

Amongst these sky-touching buildings and millions of people going about their lives, stood a man at the edge of the highest roof in one of such office buildings. He heaved a sigh, looked towards the bright moon and closed his eyes. Thinking and contemplating how and why his life came to be this way.

Kahn, who saw this brown-haired man with glasses while wearing a blue office coat who now stood close to the ledge of the parapet; shuddered in fear instantly.

"Man, why am I the only one living so miserably? Will anything for once, go the right way for me?

Why am I the only one always getting the short end of the stick?

It's as if the world itself is trying to tell me that I really don't matter at all." spoke this man with a tone filled with grief and desperation.

Kahn was terrified at this moment because how could he forget the most decisive day of his previous life?

The one in front of him was the person whose single decision changed Kahn's destiny.

This place, this environment and this scene were etched in his mind vividly since it was the memory...

Of the night he committed suicide.

#### Chapter 792 Lingerin Regrets

Strong gusts of wind hit his body as Elric was partially in a trance while affirming his resolve to jump down from the edge. The worst day of his life had broken his will to live and give up on everything as a living human being.

Step!

And finally, with a loud step, he stood over the ledge and looked down below at the street and the bustling crowd.

He took a deep breath and closed his eyes as a cold breeze trickled on his face, speaking in a depressed voice...

"Man, what a pathetic life it was".

However, unlike the last time in his story... an anomaly occurred.

"It's not worth it." spoke a man in black and blue longcoat attire of nobility and a warrior mixed together.

"She wasn't worth it." he spoke in a solemn voice.

"Your family wasn't worth it." he walked forth and stood behind Elric who was still on the ledge.

"You... Who are you?" asked the stifled Elric who had a pale expression as he was crying from the past 7 hours.

But with that question alone, Kahn understood that this grown-up Elric and the younger Elric were from separate memories and had no connection between them.

"I'm you, but stronger." responded Kahn while revealing a mysterious aura.

"But who is 'I'm you, but stronger'?" asked the confused Elric.

Kahn rolled his eyes in response and leaned towards the parapet beside Elric.

"Don't! If you come close, I'll jump for real!" exclaimed Elric.

"Yeah, I know you will." responded Kahn as he gave a lifeless expression.

"Because you already did."

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Soon, Kahn started a casual and random small talk instead of trying to deter Elric from jumping down.

Because at this moment in his mind... at this moment, he had come to understand why things transpired that day the way they did.

This was the truth Kahn hadn't figured out back when he committed suicide.

But now from a 3rd person's view and his old memories... there was much more story behind why he decided to commit suicide that night.

It wasn't just loneliness, heartbreak or depression but a culmination of too many emotions and failures in his life that pushed the old him aka Elric to the edge.

And finally, Kahn decided to address the important topic.

"I know of your suffering. I know you have been desperate and yearning for love and companionship all your life.

And yet, you chose to run away from reality because you were afraid of being hurt again. You were scared that you would be abandoned in the end just like your parents did.

Since childhood, you were all alone by yourself." he spoke in a crestfallen voice.

"Who are you?! How do you know so much about me?" asked Elric in bewilderment.

"Come down and I will tell you everything." replied Kahn nonchalantly as if he didn't really care if Elric jumped or not.

This made even Elric feel like something was happening behind the curtain.

But in reality... Kahn was just fooling his oversuspicious old him. Naturally, he knew his own personality back then so he tricked Elric into overthinking his approach.

However... Elric didn't move even with the risk of falling with a single strong breeze.

Watching his conduct, Kahn sighed and spoke.

"Reading those mangas, novels and watching those anime, movies and tv shows were just a distraction to the core problem.

You were suffocating inside. And you used them to escape reality temporarily.

However... it never solved the deep psychological trauma and issues you had even after all these years.

And tonight... it became unbearable." he spoke with a gloomy voice as he directly gazed into Elric's eyes.

The dazzling moon in the sky and the cold breeze in this tranquil atmosphere fluttered both of their clothes but at this moment, both Elric and Kahn felt an indescribable form of connection between them.

"Before you make that decision to jump down... Let me tell you a story." said Kahn, his tall figure standing firmly and revealing an enigmatic aura.

He iterated again...

"Let me tell you... 'OUR' story."

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3 Hours Later.

Kahn told him the truth and everything that happened after he committed suicide as Elric.

His reincarnation by God of Darkness, his entry in Vantrea, the subordinates, close friends and allies he made in his new life as well as his gradual journey to the present moment when he took the trial.

Kahn did not hide a single thing from Elric learning from his experience with the young Elric from before.

The brown-haired, blue-eyed and spectacles-wearing Elric was overwhelmed after hearing all of this information.

"So you mean I'm not real? And this is just a test from your... from 'our' memory?" he asked in a skeptical tone.

And all Kahn could do was nod.

"Ha ha ha!

It sounds messed up." suddenly, Elric laughed as if this was some kind of joke.

"So you're telling me that you reincarnated into a different world like those novels and still didn't make it big despite being some sort of 'Protagonist' halo around you?

Which kind of a noob and pretentious moron of an author wrote this novel then?

You're not following any standard story pattern I've ever read or could imagine." he laughed off, attempting to provoke Kahn in a way to check his claims.

"It is true. Unexpectedly, I'm not following any standard isekai story trope.

I don't even have half the important and necessary information about the world I'm in even till this point." spoke Kahn truthfully.

"Tell me something... what do you expect from this 'new' life?" asked Elric in a somber tone.

Kahn chuckled and gazed at the bright moon in the sky.

"Even I don't know.

I'm just trying relentlessly to survive and hide until I no longer have to.

I just do not want to live the same way 'we' did in the past.

I have many things I wanted to do differently. Both on Earth and Vantrea.

But things such as Fate and Destiny are mysterious things that cannot be fathomed by anyone.

No matter how smart I act or plan for everything... I cannot control what's happening outside in the world.

I'm not an omnipotent or omniscient god, you know." he replied with a sorrowful gaze.

"So I will eventually seek to become more than what I am today.

And I don't wish to stop till I no longer need to hide or fear anyone.

As for what higher purpose or goal there is to life...

I will search for it once I have everything else." he replied and a light smile appeared on Kahn's face.

"I see. In other words..." spoke Elric as he too found this situation ironic.

"We're still confused in another life as well."

Unlike the young him, Elric had seen more of the world and was mature at this point.

Thanks to Kahn, he had come out of his depressed state completely after hearing about his adventures in the 'new' life and could finally let go of his anger and hatred at himself and his 'current' life.

"If what you've told me is indeed the real truth; for your sake and mine..." said Elric as he revealed a resolute and confident expression after hearing Kahn's and his own 'future' story. And finally, he made a life-changing decision.

"I won't make the same mistake again." he declared.

"And I hope you don't ruin your second chance as well." spoke Elric, his countenance showing that he was convinced as he came down from the ledge and looked at Kahn who was taller than him.

He then shook Kahn's hand and spoke in an appreciative tone.

"Thank you... for being the person who came for me in the lowest moment of my life.

The one I needed the most at this point.

And I want to ask you to do something for both of our sake." he said with an amicable smile.

"Do what?" questioned Kahn with a suspicious gaze.

"It's okay... You can let it go now."

Those were Elric's last words as he turned into a gray fog and entered Kahn's palm where they had been shaking hands.

Elric's figure faded into nothingness as Kahn was bamboozled.

"What did he mean by those words?" he wondered.

Hum!

Hum!

In the very next moment, a surge of heavy and indescribable feelings hit Kahn's mind as a tsunami of emotions appeared in his consciousness.

For the next couple of minutes, Kahn was speechless and frozen on the spot with his eyes closed.

Hatred, anger, self-doubt, pity, helplessness, the feeling of never being good enough as well as regret of never making necessary changes to achieve happiness in life... All those emotions hit Kahn's consciousness.

And finally, when he opened his eyes, he intently gazed at the sky filled with bright stars and moon and spoke in a crestfallen voice...

"Man, I hate these kinds of trials. Who the hell wants to do soul searching at this point." he said like he detested this scenario created by this trial.

But soon... two drops of tears appeared in his eyes, slowly coming down towards his jaw while Kahn himself clenched his fists tightly.

After so many years since being summoned in Vantrea... Kahn genuinely cried for the first time from the depth of his heart.

What did Elric mean by his last words? What emotions did he convey to Kahn after he was absorbed by the latter?

"I'm still so pathetic. Even after dying and reincarnating... Even after getting a 2nd chance at life..."

I still can't let go of my past life's lingering regrets." he spoke in a heavy tone.

"Elric was right. What's the point of living a new life if I am still shackled by the regrets and mistakes of my past?" he spoke in a somber tone.

As the moments passed, his pitiful countenance started changing.

"It's time I let go. It's time..." said Kahn.

He wiped off his tears and revealed a content expression as he spoke with a resolute mind with a feeling as if he was reborn.

"To move on."

Chapter 793 Second Part Of Trial

After finally embracing his past and letting go of his lingering regrets completely... Kahn was left with a gloomy and dejected expression.

Swoom!

Soon, the surge of blinding white light flashed before him and the next moment he opened his eyes, he was back inside the final floor where he previously stood.

However, Kahn did not speak anything or revealed an elated expression after passing the first part of the trial, rather he was as solemn as one could be.

At this moment... It felt like a mountainous burden was lifted from Kahn's heart and he had finally found peace within himself. His countenance was that of a man who had just been reborn again and moved on in life.

Finally, after absorbing all the happenings during the trial and letting go of his past life regrets in the next couple of minutes, Kahn spoke again...

"How much time has passed?"

Omega among the group responded in a somber voice.

"Master, it has been more than 2 hours since you went inside that door."

Kahn nodded as this was something he already expected. He then queried again after gazing at Aragorn, the Prince of the Elven Empire who hid himself perfectly till this point as Edmund Thandruil.

"When did he come out?"

But this time... all of Kahn's subordinates had a terrified expressions.

"Only after 10 minutes." responded Blackwall in a heavy and rustic voice.

At this revelation, even Kahn was taken aback and his eyes widened in surprise.

[This bastard... He definitely knows more about the trial even than Vildred.

Well, since he is the prince... then he had access to critical information about the trials and how to pass them.] he lamented while running down a few possible reasons about why Aragorn was so quick in his mind.

[The main question is... why didn't the High Elf imperial family come here before and control Vildred in the past thousand years?

Is there a reason why they sent only previous Heroes of Life including Ervalen?

Dammit, I hate lacking key information.] he thought and fixed his gaze on the Elven Prince.

In the present scenario, Kahn could conclude the cause of their predicament only on one anomaly.

The main reason why Aragorn was able to enter the final floor... It was themselves.

Kahn and his crew had cleared the way for Aragorn till now and killed all the floor bosses for him so the latter never needed to fight them by himself.

[As for the Hero's Party... Why didn't Aragorn come with them instead?

Could it be that he is here for his own reasons, has different motives and he didn't enter on the orders of the imperial clan?

There is definitely something fishy going on.] hypothesized Kahn again.

[Dammit! All these many abilities but I still don't have a single mind-reading skill.

I need to find out something that we can use to our advantage.

Otherwise... I'm as good as dead.]

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Now that the mood was set, Vildred spoke in a thunderous voice while exuding a terrifying aura.

"Now that both of you are here... It's time for the 2nd part of the trial.

The Trial of Mind was the first part.

And now..." he spoke in a ghastly tone.

"It's the trial of Endurance." he declared in a majestic voice.

"What do you mean?" asked Kahn.

Vildred then spoke to elaborate the rules of the 2nd part of the trial.

"You have to withstand 5 strikes from me.

First will be done at 10% of my power. And every other will be increased with the increment of 10% again.

Means the last strike will be 50% of my overall strength." he explained.

However, Kahn was left speechless.

[Boy... this is not good. Although Vildred is only at 6th stage saint power level now... he is a Royal Dragon in the end.

His strength is no different than a peak 7th stage saint even if he is using only half his strength.] warned Rathnaar in a somber voice.

Kahn had an ashen expression after hearing this information.

"The purpose of the trial is to test your physical body's endurance.

You can use armor, magical artifacts, magic formations or any other means to survive this trial.

As long as you don't die during the 5 strikes from me... you will pass the test." he iterated.

Soon, the melancholic atmosphere of this floor started bustling with sparks and lightning bolts in the dark sky.

"Since I completed the trial first, it should be given that I get to face it first." suddenly, Aragorn spoke with a haughty expression.

"As you wish. Stand there." said Vildred and soon, a 5 kilometers radius disk-like platform appeared a dozen kilometers away in the sky, made of an unknown metal even to Kahn and Blackwall.

Aragorn flew and landed in the middle. And without waiting for long, the lightning dragon emperor charged his attack.

But the very next moment...

Aragorn used a particular artifact to create an ancient rank formation, just similar to the glowing formations ones surrounding this entire floor of 60 kilometers that has trapped Vildred.

"This conniving bastard!" raged Kahn as soon as he saw the artifact.

Because the elven prince was using the imperial clan's bloodline token.

Bang!

BOOM!!

A blinding and destructive lightning strike hit from the sky. However, only the surrounding area was damaged.

As for Aragorn... he just stood inside the protection barrier as not a single hair on his head was touched.

"He's cheating!" shouted Kahn.

To his claim, Aragorn only smirked and spoke in a shameless tone.

"The trial rules didn't mention that I was prohibited from using it.

Why do you think my great-grandfather created this token in the first place?" he questioned with a smirk.

Because of the Maskaanxavir formation... the user of the imperial clan's token who carried the blood of the creator, cannot be killed by Vildred and his attacks can't harm the user even if it was done in the name of the trial.

This was a big loophole Aragorn was exploiting at this moment.

Even Vildred was thoroughly infuriated but had to follow the rules of the trial and keep attacking Aragorn.

As an aftermath... the nearby 10 kilometers of the area was turned into smithereens. Most of it was either obliterated or turned into small sand grains because of his lightning attacks.

Yet to no avail... the Elven Prince was completely scratch-free.

Now, even Kahn felt a chill in his bones as Aragorn easily passed this part of the trial.

"It was good knowing you, Ragnarsson." mocked Aragorn with a smug smile.

And now... it was Kahn's turn to face those horrifying and lethal attacks.

When Kahn was brought on the same platform, he made up his mind.

"Well, since he is cheating and using loopholes in the rules..." Kahn spoke and revealed a devilish smirk.

"I'll show him who's a better Cheater."

#### Chapter 794 The Hackerman

After Aragorn Travion Saar Insalor aka the prince of the Zivot Empire shamelessly cheated and passed the 2nd part of the trial of Commandment of Fellowship... Kahn, Rathnaar and all the subordinates had fuming expressions as they helplessly watched the elven prince treating this matter as if it was an expected result.

But what could they even do? Because Aragorn was basically untouchable even by Vildred inside the Immortal Dungeon.

Just then... Kahn also revealed a resolute expression as a plan hatched in his mind on the spot.

"The trial prohibits you or anyone from interfering in any way, right?" he gazed and asked Vildred whose titanic body was 5 kilometers away but still appeared humongous.

"Yes. Neither I nor anyone can interfere. Otherwise, you will pass the trial by default.

But do mind it, you can't bend the rules and use your allies to obstruct it. It is still seen as breaking the rules." iterated the dragon emperor with an aghast voice.

"I see. So if I'm using some sort of skill and you later figure out its weakness, you can't stop me from using it again, right?" Kahn questioned again with a curious gaze.

Vildred only nodded in affirmation.

"Good thing. Now I'm ready." said Kahn as he gave his space ring and clothes to Omega while preparing to face the trial completely naked.

In the end, he didn't want his Legendary rank gear to get destroyed during the trial.

Rumble!

Rumble!

Hundreds of lightning bolts rumbled in the sky and their thunderous noises resounded on the entire floor as Vildred decided to use 10% of his strength to make the first strike.

BANG!!

The first lightning bolt, which was 10 meters in width alone hit Kahn's body who hadn't put up any resistance or activated any of his defensive abilities.

BOOM!!

An ear-deafening explosion occurred as right in front of everyone's eyes... Kahn's entire body was pulverized, turning into ash.

His flesh, bones and organs were instantly incinerated, leaving nothing behind.

Even Vildred was taken aback because in the very first strike...

Kahn died.

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"Hah! This generation's Hero of Darkness was so disappointing." spoke Vildred with an obvious look of conceit.

Facepalm!

Even Aragorn also facepalmed himself.

"Did I guess wrong? Was he not actually a chosen Hero?"

How could he not have a single life-saving skill?" he wondered because he too was unable to accept this fact.

However... none of Kahn's subordinates revealed any sorrowful expressions or showed surprise.

Thump!

Thump!

And just then... on the sizzling metallic platform, the smoke finally dispersed as Kahn's head and his beating heart was revealed.

Thump!

Thump!

"Wait... why are his head and heart still intact?" asked Aragorn in a baffled tone.

In the following moments... Both Kahn's head and heart started levitating in the air and floated close to each other.

Soon, hundreds of fleshy veins and cells started coming out of his heart and head which still had his face untouched, connecting and forming a nervous system.

Bones came from his head and formed a spinal cord, then rib cage and internal organs one by one while precisely connecting the organ tissues and positioning themselves in a predetermined order.

This phenomenon was so fast that the entire process only took 1 minute until Kahn's fully developed naked body was formed in front of everyone, completely as good as new.

"What is this?!" exclaimed Aragorn in bewilderment.

"What kind of abilities are those?!" clamored Vildred with a flabbergasted countenance.

"I don't need to explain them to you, do I?" Kahn smirked, paying them no attention.

Obviously, he wouldn't let out this secret in front of the elven prince and the royal dragon, both of whom were their enemies.

In truth... At this moment, Kahn was using the Dimensional Shift skill from the Dimensional Law divine ability to put his heart and head inside the true dimension.

And then used Psychokinesis/Telekinesis to lift them high in the air.

And finally, he used the Legendary Rank Instant Regeneration skill which he got from Cthulhu just 10 days ago to regenerate his entire body from scratch.

This was the best combination of skills he could use to stay alive.

Also, the trial rules clearly stated that he had to survive the trial and not die in the meantime. It didn't mean he had to physically defend himself against Vildred's attacks at all.

And although 95% of his body was destroyed in the process as Kahn felt unbearably excruciating pain... it still didn't break the rules since he hadn't died for real.

[Good idea, boy. I'm sure Vildred must be associating it with your divine abilities.

But even he isn't aware of your dimensional law divine ability skill. Since no other hero chose it before.] commended Rathnaar.

[Let's not give him a chance to guess the reason.] said Kahn.

"Again!" shouted Kahn with a confident gaze in front of the dragon emperor.

Vildred attacked again, this time using 20% of his total strength.

And just like before, Kahn was cremated on the spot again but still returned to his former state after some time.

Unlike Aragorn, he wasn't relying on external sources such as the bloodline token to protect himself.

Rather suffering immense pain as his entire body was exploding and turned to ash and repeating the process akin to Resurrection.

What Kahn didn't know was that although he didn't have any resurrection-type divine ability like Axel or Ervalen... he had just as an amazing alternative combo.

Although he didn't have extra lives... he was fully capable of surviving like an undying cockroach at this point.

Soon, one after another... the Vildred's devastating attacks that were more than enough to level an entire city with a single strike, destroyed the 30 kilometers of perimeter as the dragon emperor was enraged and revealed his battle strength, easily demolishing half of the floor which was basically devastated more than it already was.

However... Kahn still survived and regenerated himself again and again albeit at the cost of suffering from excruciating and agonizing pain.

But the current Kahn was someone with the mental fortitude of a Sage who had lived for thousands of years. Even this unbearable and horrifying form of death did not break his resolve and willpower.

After watching this predicament, even the elven prince was left speechless.

Aragorn was exploiting the rules to pass the trial, but Kahn... he went 10 steps ahead and used an out-of-the-box method.

Aragorn passed the trial using the loopholes in the terms and conditions.

But Kahn... He was hacking the entire game.

#### Chapter 795 The Final Trial

Kahn recovered after the final strike and summoned his clothes as well as the space ring back again as he royally passed the 2nd part of the trial like a boss.

Even Vildred couldn't link this method to him using the Space Force to survive and resurrect himself again and again.

Because Dimensional Shift didn't exude a single trace of space force to the outside world when he shifted his body parts or organs to the true dimension and the instant regeneration skill in itself was a big distraction as it made an extremely quick recovery of the entire physique in matter of minutes.

[Divine Ability! He definitely has some sort of resurrection related divine ability.

Means I couldn't kill him in the first place.] thought Vildred, oblivious to the fact that all he needed to do was seal the space around this floor to kill Kahn.

Aragorn on the other end had a visibly irritated expression.

"You sure have some tricks, Ragnarsson.

But fret not, it won't make any difference." he spoke haughtily. But unlike pretentious upstuck morons, his confidence was warranted.

Clearly, he already knew what was going to be the 3rd and final part of the trial and prepared for it beforehand.

"Vildred, let's start it." he spoke.

The Dragon Emperor then nodded and soon, he started chanting something in the previously spoken unknown language.

Swoom!

Swoom!

Soon, hundreds of round ancient archaic formations, each one being 5 meters in height, having elven runes and patterns running across them came into sight and parted into two sides.

Kahn and Aragorn had a long queue of magical formations, identical to each other and floating in front of them with their respective positions a few kilometers away.

Two hundred of them glowed brightly in front of him and the elven prince.

"This... is the trial of Wisdom." declared the dragon emperor.

"The one to find the flaws and fix these formations in the successive order would win the trial and also invoke the Commandment of Fellowship." he spoke, his voice sounding dejected and indignant.

However... Kahn was stupefied after hearing the format of this trial.

"What nonsense is this?!"

Isn't this trial basically saying only Mages and Enchanters, who have knowledge of magic formations and runes will win the trial?

How is this even a fair trial?!" clamored Kahn, his voice filled with aggravation.

"Hey, I didn't set the terms of the trial.

I'm the victim and the prisoner of this trial here, remember?" rebuked Vildred.

Alas, Kahn was simply exasperated and did not hide the knot of disdain in his brows.

Why?

Because he was still an Intermediate Magician with limited knowledge of magic formations.

Although one of his doppelgangers was studying magic and had Solomon's books to study from... the fact always remained that Kahn had no teacher or an experienced mentor when it came to magic.

Thus, his rank was still stagnant even after 2 years ever since he started studying magic.

Even the blessings from the war deity such as Weapon Mastery and Combat Techniques Mastery could only help him progress and perfect his skills to a degree. The progression in the rank would come only after receiving enlightenment that came naturally.

And to understand and decipher these formations made in ancient elven runes... he would need to be at least a Saint Rank mage and need deep study and access to books in this field regarding archaic formation magic.

Hence, Kahn was in a completely disadvantageous situation.

Shing!

Shing!

But while he was lost in thoughts...

Aragorn confidently started on his side and quickly deciphered the first 2 layers of formations, fixing them using his mana and world energy within just 10 seconds.

[Fuck! We're as good as dead!] cursed Kahn with a hateful countenance.

Just then, a voice resounded in his mind.

[Master... let me guide you.]

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At this moment, the one to speak in Kahn's mind was none other than Ceril, their magic expert among his generals.

So far in Zivot Empire since they started the Misthios mercenary guild, Ceril was mostly busy working for high-end jobs and didn't get enough resources to experiment his Necromancy skills on various subjects as he was always surrounded by people working under him.

However, he didn't spend his time sitting idly and spent most of his free time studying the elven magic that was practiced particularly in this empire.

He often practiced high-tier and Saint Rank spells, studied magic formations, enchanting skills and even learned many old and terrifying spells, all on his own.

Although he didn't have access to ancient elven grimoires since they were well-guarded secrets of the High Elves, his attainment was still incredible compared to Kahn.

And now that the situation arose... he decided to help Kahn through their innate mental connection.

[How confident are you?] asked Kahn.

[I will be able to guide you to complete at least 159 of them.

The rest are beyond my current capabilities.] spoke Ceril truthfully.

"Dammit! This is going wrong in every possible way." spoke Kahn loudly.

Hearing his words from afar, even Aragorn couldn't help but chuckle.

However, after contemplating for a few minutes... Kahn started the trial on his own accord for some reason.

With Ceril's guidelines, he was also slowly finding the flaws in magic formations that floated in front of him and using his world energy, he was completing them in succession.

But unlike him... Aragorn was just too fast and incredibly quick to fix them.

Meanwhile, Vildred had an incredulous expression.

Because in the end, whether it was Kahn or Aragorn... he would be bound to either of them.

Kahn was a chosen Hero of God, the kind he deeply hated; while Aragorn was a High Elf, a blood descendant of the very person who partook in the ambush and sealed him here for a thousand years, someone he had long rivalry towards.

For Kahn, it meant survival.

For Aragorn... controlling Vildred was a desperate measure he needed for his own unknown reasons which none had any hint of even now.

But for Vildred... it was like someone putting a leash on his neck like a slave.

The fate he would not accept as a prideful member of the Dragon species.

A Royal Dragon like him would rather choose death than be turned into someone's servant who mindlessly followed orders.

[Should I... destroy my core and die?] he wondered himself.

In the passing few minutes, Vildred resolved to kill himself as this seemed to be the old way out.

2 Hours Later.

With the passage of time, Aragorn just completed the 195th formation while Kahn could only do the 150th. The difference between their knowledge and skill was clearly speaking for itself.

As the order of formations increased, the complexity of the formation, their flaws and patterns also arose by manyfolds. Thus it took longer for both sides.

If not for Ceril guiding Kahn, he wouldn't have managed to even clear the first 20 formations.

However, unlike Kahn... Aragorn was deeply entranced and highly focused as it was a critical situation for him.

At this moment, Aragorn was in a state where he couldn't afford to make the slightest mistake, otherwise the formation would be destroyed and it would blow up to the point that even he, a 5th stage saint, could be gravely injured from the backlash.

Although he had the advantage, he still didn't want to take any risks or be ignorant.

For him... it was a matter of his life and death if he failed to win the trial.

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10 Minutes Later.

Aragorn finally finished the formation and was fixated on the next one, having the victory within his reach.

And Kahn on the other end, was still stuck on the one he was solving.

Yet the very next moment...

Kahn let go of his own formation and the formation before him dispersed into thin air.

Kahn... lost the trial.

[Yes! Now I have only 4 more to go and I will win the trial without a doubt!] thought Aragorn with a victorious feeling emanating from his body.

HUM!

"Nevaldka Sor Buia Hdali Jivskal!"

Vildred suddenly spoke loudly.

"Nevaldka Sor Buia Hdali Jivskal!"

And this time, it was Kahn who repeated the same words.

Soon, Vildred started chanting words in his ancient Draconian dialect and Kahn kept repeating those exact words after him.

[What's happening? What are they doing?] thought Aragorn with an alarmed expression, his focus almost dwindling and he nearly lost control over the formation.

However, he couldn't afford to take a step back or the consequences would be dire for him because of the backlash.

Hum!

Hum!

Humming sounds echoed in the surroundings and a wisp of Kahn's soul that had a sky blue hue around it emerged from his heart aka the core while a bright and dark blue wisp, many times bigger than Kahn's suddenly came out of Vildred's chest.

These two wisps instantly shot towards each other and quickly started mixing together.

And right when Aragorn was done finishing the last formation and officially winning the trial...

Bang!

The bloodline token in his hand was destroyed, turning into dust.

Clang!

Clatter!

Crumble!

The thousands of ancient and unbreakable chains that tied the dragon emperor suddenly became visible again and started corroding and crumbling from the inside.

Crack!

Shatter!

And right before Aragorn could even get a grasp of the happenings...

Vildred roared and declared in an elated and tyrannical voice.

"Finally... I'm free!!"

Chapter 796 The Negotiator

1 HOUR AGO

While both human saints were contending the final part of the trial of Commandment of Fellowship, many things were happening behind the scene that were unknown to the elven prince.

With each passing moment, Vildred was pushed over the edge as both Kahn and Aragorn were solving and fixing the flaws of each magic formation in the final test because the way things looked... he was going to be turned into a slave no matter who won.

On top of it... Aragorn was in lead and clearly prepared beforehand as he could easily solve most of the archaic formations.

A feeling of dread welled up in his kind.

Because if things went as they guessed... Aragorn, a blood descendant of the person who sealed him here, was sure to win.

However, right at this moment when Vildred was anxious and on tip of his toes... a secret transmission resounded in his head.

[Listen, you old fool! Let go of your stubbornness and help us out!

Otherwise, we will be dead and you will be enslaved by the High Elves till your last moment.] the peak saint aka Rathnaar's voice resounded in the dragon emperor's mind.

Because although there were no Good or Right sides, there was one thing in common for both Vildred and Kahn. That Aragorn was an enemy whom both of them detested and had to get rid of.

[I can't interfere with the trial in any way. And I can't hurt him either because of the restrictions placed on my body and soul.

Besides, it's not like this Hero of Darkness is an ally to me either.] resounded Vildred in a ghastly tone.

[Then I have an idea. But you will have to make a small sacrifice on your end.] spoke Rathnaar and revealed in a stoic voice.

[The Maskaanxavir formation has bound your Soul inside this dungeon, right?

And even the archaic formations and runes can only restrict your body if you attack the high elf.

So what if we changed the root of the problem itself?] he proposed in an insidious and cunning tone.

[What are you suggesting?] asked Vildred while hiding his expression from the outside world.

[Let's cut iron with iron and neutralize poison with another poison.] he iterated.

[At the end of the day, the Commandment of Fellowship placed with Maskaanxavir formation was made by the Deity of Subjugation.

And the only way to overpower it is by using another spell of the same level. And in the current situation... you know which spells or contracts would work the best without you or us suffering any loss.] said Rathnaar with an evil grin.

[Like hell I'll go with any of those! The only choice we have now is that contract!] raged the dragon emperor in an indignant voice.

[You think I want this?! If the prince wins, he'll be your master and have you kill us all to maintain secrecy. This is not favorable for us in any way either.

But at least this way... both of us will get out of here alive rather than being at the mercy of that high elf brat.] rebuked Rathnaar and spoke again in a commending tone.

[As I said before, we are not associated with any Gods and although Kahn is a chosen Hero... he is not engaged in their war or worships the God of Darkness.

So choose the Lesser Evil.] said Rathnaar, putting the royal dragon in a dilemma.

What Vildred didn't know was that Rathnaar had been waiting for this moment as soon as Kahn started the trial.

He didn't even bother telling Kahn about this because of the risk of Kahn losing his focus and failing the trial at the very start.

And now that Aragorn was progressing at an astounding speed, even Vildred's mind was in turmoil, making him unable to think straight due to nervousness.

However, as time passed and Aragorn finally reached the 190th magic formation without any trouble in just 1 and a half hours, the dragon emperor finally lost his patience.

He could no longer afford to wait it out in the hopes of the high elf prince failing the trial.

Through Rathnaar, he conveyed his message.

[Boy... I have a plan. But know that it won't be favorable to us either.] said Rathnaar as he revealed the results of the negotiations with Vildred.

[What the hell! Something like that could be done?

But the terms... I'm not getting out any major benefit from it.

Let's renegotiate.] he spoke while hiding his surprise lest Aragorn sensed something was amiss.

[You stupid brat! Do you think it was easy to make Vildred agree to this?

Do you not want to stay alive?!] berated the first emperor.

[Although we're both in a sinking boat... at least our side has the means to survive for longer.

At this speed... Aragorn will finish the trial within half an hour.

So place my terms in front of him.] replied Kahn and gave a new set of terms.

[You shameless bastard! Your appetite is too big!] even Rathnaar was amazed by Kahn's terms.

Even in the time of crisis, Kahn was still a hardcore businessman.

And as soon as Rathnaar relayed his message... Vildred almost threw up blood.

[Preposterous! Does this child not know what he is asking?!

Does he want to die by my own hands?!] he flared up in rage but still contending his killing aura at Kahn.

But as soon as Aragorn completed the 197th formation, his expression paled, feeling even more anxious.

[Fine! I'll do it.]

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Since time was of the essence and Aragorn was stuck with the last set of formations... Vildred suddenly started chanting in ancient Draconian that was known only to Royal Dragons as he prepared a spell for a Soul-Oath between him and Kahn.

However, this soul oath was nothing similar to the one between Kahn and Rathnaar. Rather... it had good as well as restrictive terms and conditions set for both sides.

And finally, as soon as they established a soul contract by merging the wisps of their souls, forming a new bond... Vildred's entire Soul Signature changed.

[It's working!] exclaimed Rathnaar, the main Negotiator of this deal as he saw Vildred being freed from the Maskaanxavir Formation.

At this moment, the Elven prince was perplexed after this sudden turn of events, unable to understand what the hell just happened right now.

What he didn't know was that unbeknownst to him, Kahn and Vildred played an underhanded move instead of waiting for the trial to end and used an ancient spell made by the Deity of Subjugation. Also called as...

The Contract of Familiarity.

Chapter 797 Deity's Contract

Now that the Dragon Emperor was freed from the bindings of the ancient Maskaanxavir formation and was no longer at the mercy of the trial of Commandment of Fellowship, the situation had overturned in

their favor while the Elven Prince aka Aragorn's mind was discombobulated because of this sudden turn of events.

Although it looked like Vildred suddenly performed an ancient spell out of nowhere... only Rathnaar here knew that Vildred had a unique class that Kahn or Aragorn had no idea about.

Rumble!

Rumble!

Vildred's ginormous figure which was no smaller than a few of the tallest mountains on earth, stood on his hind legs and widely spread his 6 wings while revealing a majestic aura.

"Let's be quick, child. I won't stay free for long. Let's officiate Contract of Familiarity and leave this place." he spoke in a hurried tone as Kahn was also fully prepared.

"Since you're the contractor, my rank and levels will be tied to yours until I regain my original strength of an 8th stage royal dragon.

So I hope you can keep your promise." spoke Vildred.

"Yes. I will honor my oath as long as you honor yours after I have delivered on my promise." responded Kahn with a content expression.

This was the key difference between the Commandment of Fellowship and the Contract of Familiarity, both of which were created by the Deity of Subjugation.

The former made a slave out of the subject while the latter put both parties on an equal level and made them codependent on each other.

Previously, Vildred wouldn't even think of it because everyone who came here before wanted to enslave him just like Hero of Life and Aragorn.

But for the first time, Kahn was an oddity who was in the same crisis as him.

In their case, Kahn was the Contractor since their objective was to change the Soul Signature of Vildred so he could get freed from Maskaanxavir Formation which was imprinted on his soul temporarily.

And now that he was free from it, they were going to make a drastic change in his entire being to nullify the effects of the archaic formation once and for all.

Both of their lives were under an oath which would also affect their future in this world.

The stronger Kahn became, the more strength Vildred would be able to recover in the upcoming future.

And once Kahn himself became a 6th stage saint, Vildred would start raising his own levels to get back to his peak form.

So in a manner, Vildred was now more like a Contracted Familiar for Kahn but who was more of an Ally instead of a tamed beast slave or a slave.

As for the deal Kahn made with Vildred which was conveyed by Rathnaar before they even made their move...

That was a matter left to discuss after they left this place alive.

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Soon, hundreds of spiraling and erratic blue-colored magic formations appeared around Kahn and Vildred as thousands of threads made of world energy emerged and connected from both ends.

"We need a source to use for the contract to become active.

It will drop both our ranks and world energy reserves though. So you better be prepared." spoke Vildred in a commanding voice.

"How about using something as a medium?" asked Kahn.

"Do you have something which can be used for it?" queried Vildred with a curious gaze.

"How about this?" asked Kahn and quickly pulled out a small golden wooden box.

And as he opened the small box, a white and glowing orb was revealed inside it.

This orb was a core... A peak 4th stage saint's core.

Instead of losing another rank and dropping his levels for the contract to be established...

Kahn decided to use the Elf president of the LNP guild aka Sedaris' core as a medium for this contract.

"Ha ha! This is much better." even Vildred chuckled and nodded in approval.

Bang!!

However, the very next second... a turquoise-colored aura beam made of condensed world energy launched at Kahn, carrying the full strength of a peak 5th stage saint.

BOOM!

The nearby 5 kilometers of space was devastated by the ripples of the impact.

But as soon as the smoke settled... a tall figure of a man with a giant shield and battleaxe on his back revealed himself.

Aragorn, the attacker, was taken aback as Blackwall perfectly defended against the sneak attack with his bare hand protecting Kahn.

"You overestimate yourself, elf." he spoke in a grim voice while revealing his surging killing intent towards the elven prince.

"Now shut the fuck up and stay right there like an obedient brat.

Try to attack them again and you'll not live for another minute." he openly threatened Aragorn in an overbearing and tyrannical demeanor.

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Soon, both Omega and Rudra also appeared behind him, revealing their murderous auras as well.

Although Aragorn was a Peak 5th stage saint himself while Blackwall was only a Beginner 5th stage saint at the present moment, due to his primordial titan bloodline and newly acquired skills from Cthulhu as well as his evolution to the mythical rank... he alone was more than enough to deal with the Elven prince by himself as it was possible for him to even kill an Intermediate 6th stage saint on his own if he activated the Gaia Domain.

And with Omega and Rudra behind him, they also had an advantage in numbers.

Like a Guardian Knight, Blackwall stood like an unmoving and indestructible mountain in front of the elven prince to protect his master.

Vildred on the other side had already started the ritual to commemorate the Contract of Familiarity.

Sedaris' core was hovering in the air and being absorbed by both Kahn and Vildred's cores and also left archaic rune-like imprints on their souls, binding their fates and lives together.

**BOOM!!**

A tremendous surge of energy erupted as a mix of blue aura filled with erratic lightning bolts spread in the 20 kilometer region while another explosion of black and red aura spread to 20 kilometers radius after some sort of world calamity had struck this entire floor, parting the sky and ground alike.

With this, Kahn and Vildred had officially become Partners in Crime.

Moreover, this procedure to officiate the contract also brought a great and pleasant surprise for Kahn, making changes in his body.

Because at this moment, the system gave him a notification.

[Congratulations to the host for becoming a 4th stage saint!]

Chapter 798 At Standstill

Finally after more than a year, Kahn became a 4th stage saint after stagnating for a long time. And this time as well, his rank-up came with a surprise because of the Contract of Familiarity.

Due to Sedaris's core being used as a medium to officiate the contract between Kahn and Vildred, his body absorbed the excessive world energy and instantly raised Kahn's level to the point he achieved another breakthrough.

Kahn on the other side felt his body becoming 5 times stronger than before and even the range of his skills such as Survival Instinct and Hunter's Domain to expand as far as 40 kilometers radius.

And naturally, he could estimate that all of his skills received a boost by multiple times as well.

This pleasant surprise also gave Kahn some confidence to a degree.

And now, Kahn could feel that if he went all out, he could at least face at least an intermediate 5th stage saint as equals in his peak strength.

As for Aragorn, Kahn could at least survive in a long-drawn battle even if he couldn't kill the Elven Prince with strength alone.

With Blackwall's upgrade, Vildred becoming their ally and now his own rise in ranks, the once unfavorable and ghastly situation was completely overturned in their favor.

On the other end, Vildred was also completely freed as soon as his soul connection with Kahn was established and the Maskaanxavir formation could no longer control him because the royal Dragon's soul itself was changed by a considerable margin than the original one. Hence, changing the fundamental foundation of this ancient formation and its effect on Vildred.

[Child... Since I, the captured entity itself is gone, the Maskaanxavir formation detects us as outsiders.

I no longer have any control over this floor. At the present moment, I can only get us all out of this dungeon.] spoke Vildred in Kahn's mind.

[I see. But the main problem is what do we do about him?

The current situation doesn't mean I have to let this bastard go for backstabbing and trying to kill me.] responded Kahn and gazed at Aragorn with vengeful eyes.

All of this happened only because Edmund Thandruil aka Aragorn lured them inside the supreme dungeon under the pretense of future profits, just to use Kahn and his mercenary guild as his personal pawns to progress the floors of this dungeon smoothly without having to fight and risk his life.

[It's not a good idea to fight inside this place anymore. Otherwise, the formation will treat us as hostile entities and we will be attacked with all of its might.

And I definitely do not want to be caged inside again. I assume you share the same notion?] said the Dragon Emperor.

[But he doesn't know that, right?] Kahn spoke while revealing his angered countenance at the high elf.

"You bastards! You ruined everything!

Why couldn't you just play your part and leave the dungeon after some time?

Why did you have to come to the final floor, you mongers!" cursed Aragorn while floating 3 kilometers away from their group.

For the next couple of minutes, he kept cursing incessantly because all of his plans had failed and he was frustrated to his core.

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Suddenly, everyone including Vildred surrounded Aragorn in a group of 2 in. five directions.

With his Imperial Bloodline Token gone... Aragorn also didn't have any way to leave on his own unless he had some sort of spare dungeon token.

"Give us one reason why we shouldn't kill you?" asked Kahn with a devilish smirk as he summoned Lucifer in his hands and equipped Drakos Armor again.

His hands were itching to beat the elf in human appearance because one thing Kahn didn't like at this point in his new life was being betrayed or used as a pawn by someone else.

He had suffered a great at the hands of powerful people such as the Vandereich clan and the Pureblood faction in Rakos Empire, making him fake his death and flee the empire despite working so hard to set up his own rule as the Sovereign of Verlassen fiefdom.

And now, Aragorn had rubbed on that very old wound.

"I have none." spoke Aragorn with a carefree voice.

"But you should rethink. Because I'm more useful alive than I'm dead." he said, revealing a completely unafraid demeanor despite being surrounded by enemies from all sides at the moment.

"Besides... You really don't want to kill me for your own good." he revealed a haughty grin.

"And why would that be so?" scoffed Kahn.

But in the following seconds, Aragorn took out a red glowing amulet with ancient runes on it.

[Dammit! Is that what I think it is?!] exclaimed Rathnaar in surprise.

[Well, this elf brat is their prince so it's not surprising that he has it.] said Vildred in a grim tone, barely containing his exasperation.

[What is that amulet? I sense a very strong and mysterious energy from it.] queried Kahn with a somber expression.

[That's the elven imperial clan's Amulet of Annihilation.

It's an ancient artifact used by their imperial clan throughout history ever since their empire was established 8 thousand years ago.

It's passed from one generation of the future ruler to another.] revealed Rathnaar as if he had a bad memory of this amulet.

[If you kill the user, it will activate on the spot and the nearby 50 kilometers of space will be pulverized instantly. Even a peak 7th stage saint can't react or run away from it when it activates.] explained Vildred.

[As for you kid... it also seals all the space in nearby 50 kilometers and no spirit or phase shifting skills would work either.

You'll be dead even before you used that Dimensional Void or Phase Shift skill of yours.

And that's the worst-case scenario. If you even attack him or injure him in any way... the attacks and damage will be amplified by 10 times while the skill or damage itself will be inflicted on you, the source of it.

This is one of the most prized possessions of the high elves who want to protect their heirs and future rulers of the empire.] explained Rathnaar.

[In simple words... there's no escape for anyone.

Plus Vildred will also die.

But because you're bound to him because of Contract of Familiarity... You will also die as a result.] he iterated in a ghastly tone.

[What the fuck?! There was this type of condition?] asked Kahn, completely bamboozled.

[Of course! You can't purposefully leave him to die either just as he can't do that to you.

Why do you think Vildred even agreed to use the Contract of Familiarity?

If you decided to kill this elf brat... you're both as good as dead.] the peak saint revealed the whole truth.

[So this bastard came prepared for every possible scenario, huh...] said Kahn with a dejected expression.

[Now what?

He already knows our identities and also the fact that Vildred is freed from the formation.

And once we are outside this dungeon... he will have absolute freedom and a chance to reveal the truth to the outside world.

No matter which way... we still won't get scot-free.] responded Kahn after analyzing their current situation.

Presently, they were all out of options.

Aragorn on the other side was still furious but he too is helpless because Vildred was no longer bound to the formation and couldn't be controlled in any way.

But just then, the Elven prince spoke in a stern voice.

"Ragnarsson... Let's talk."

Now that their situation was at a standstill... Aragorn decided to make an unexpected move.

"How about we make an agreement?"

Shock!

Everyone who heard those words was shocked.

"The reason why I came here in this dungeon to win the trial set by my ancestors was not because I wanted to control the lightning dragon emperor.

It's because he is the only being in this entire Zivot Empire who can help me achieve an impossible task that I can't do on my own." he spoke in a somber tone.

"So if you make a deal with me... I will go as far as make a soul-oath with you that I will keep everything that transpired here as a secret." he proposed in an amicable tone.

"Oh, how generous.

I have already seen how skilled Enchanter you are. Runes and Formations are your expertise. You could even solve those archaic formations very easily.

So how do I not know you will keep your word and then use some way to nullify your soul-oath?" he questioned in a domineering voice.

"Killing you is more favorable to me than even making a deal with you.

So why would I take unnecessary risks?" spoke Kahn as he declined right off the bat.

Aragorn on the other end had a constricted and irritated expression. But all he could do was simply stand still.

Although he had the Amulet of Annihilation, a prized heirloom of his family... it didn't mean that he could kill anyone here or act like he was an invincible being.

The only use this ancient Ancient Rank artifact had was to protect the user from sudden dangers or attempts on their life.

It couldn't help him if he attacked the other side first.

Thus, even Aragorn was forced to make a proposition to persuade Kahn now that his efforts were already turned useless.

Kahn on the other side did not want to make any arrangements.

But right at this moment, both Rathnaar and Vildred spoke in his mind.

[Let's hear him out first.]

#### Chapter 799 Behind The Story

At this instant, both Rathnaar and Vildred suddenly suggested Kahn hear out Aragorn's proposition for some reason while the latter was adamant on not making any form of agreement with the latter because he was already tricked by him once, causing the former to be dreadful.

The Lightning Dragon Emperor Vildred then decided to explain their reasoning in a solemn tone.

[As much as I want to kill this damn elf, I'm now I am only comparable to a 4th stage saint because of the contract between me and you.

At best, I can take down a beginner 7th stage saint on my own. And I won't be able to fight against anyone of 8th stage saint rank unless you at least become a 6th stage saint yourself.

But if we kill him now, the imperial family will know as the Amulet of Annihilation will send a signal to the imperial clan and then we will be hunted down the moment we leave this dungeon.

I'm pretty sure there are many strong people in this empire who even I can't defeat in my current limited strength.] revealed the royal dragon, his voice full of concern.

[Dammit! You're correct indeed. There are three 7th stag saints in this empire.

Two of them are from the Imperial military while the last one is the current Abbot.

The Abbot of Monastery of Life is a peak 7th stage summoner while the Emperor himself is an intermediate 8th stage magician saint.] spoke Kahn, even he was now put in a dilemma.

At this moment, they were thinking more about the consequences of silencing the prince.

[So let's listen to him first and then we can make our decision later after hearing out his proposition.] said Rathnaar.

"Alright, talk." said Kahn with a stern gaze.

Finally, Aragorn told them his request in a heavy voice.

"I want you to ambush and help me capture my younger sister, the princess." stated the elven prince.

Flabbergasted!!

Everyone who heard those words was rooted on the spot, speechless and flabbergasted.

"Oh, hell no!" exclaimed Kahn, declining the deal from the get-go.

"Do you think we're all stupid?"

How is this no different than killing you?" said Vildred, his domineering voice shaking the nearby 10 kilometers radius.

"That's a risk no sane person would take! And besides, why do you want us to ambush your own sister?" he questioned.

This request itself felt more like a trap set by this dubious High Elf.

"Think about it carefully. Besides, you don't have any other option either.

Do this for me and not only will I keep both of your secrets... I will also help you evade the suspicion of the Imperial Clan.

Nothing will come back to you or this gigantic dragon." he iterated with a voice filled with great hatred for his sister.

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1 Hour Later.

After a long discussion, they were forced to agree with Aragorn without the latter telling them why he wanted to ambush his own younger sister.

And with Vildred's help... Both Kahn and the Dragon Emperor make a pact with Aragorn, one that didn't have any loopholes even if someone found the truth as the other party won't be able to snitch on them.

Even Kahn was curious about Vildred's expertise in ancient formations, and soul pacts such as Contract of Familiarity. However, this was something that could be discussed later.

An agreement that required Kahn and Vildred to actively ambush Elanor, the princess of the Zivot Empire and deliver to Aragorn was made. As for what he did afterward, it was none of their concern.

"Now that everything is settled... I think you should tell us why you lured me and my guild here and why you wanted to pass the trial to control Vildred." said Kahn in a grim tone, demanding that they heard the truth.

Sigh!

"Fine, I'll tell you why." said Aragorn and then glanced at Vildred.

"Commandment of Severed Fate." he spoke in a crestfallen voice.

"Ah... So that's the case. It explains everything." spoke the lightning dragon emperor.

"What the hell is a Commandment of Severed fate? Another spell by Deity of Subjugation?" asked Kahn to Vildred.

"Yes. But unlike the Commandment of Fellowship, it is inflicted on a single person.

He is free to roam the world unlike me. But he can never return to his old life." spoke the dragon emperor.

The royal dragon then gazed at Aragorn.

"How come your family has so many ancient spells from the Deity of Subjugation?

Even us Royal Dragons know only a few of them." he asked the first prince.

Just then, Rathnaar spoke in their mind.

[Because the Deity of Subjugation was actually an Arcane Elf. The ones from whom the High Elf species came from.] replied Rathnaar but he didn't explain how he knew this information.

"It has been in my family from the times when the Zivot Empire was formed. I have no idea of the origin." revealed Aragorn truthfully.

Kahn on the other end rolled his eyes.

"What exactly is the problem here then?"

"Listen here, child. This prince... is cursed." revealed Vildred.

Although Vildred wanted to kill Aragorn previously, now he almost pitied him.

"When Commandment of Severed Fate is used...

The target will be forgotten by every other person they knew or had been seen by anyone in their entire life.

Their name and face will be unknown to everyone while thinking that there was indeed such a person but no one would have a proper memory of them other than a fictional appearance which would vary from person to person.

Also, the race of the target would be changed as well as their identity will be forgotten by themselves over time.

In simple words... his fate has been 'severed' from this world." explain the royal dragon who was 2 thousand years old.

From here, Aragorn took the lead.

"And I can't reveal my true identity to anyone related to me or someone who knew me before.

If I try to do so... I will die on the spot." he said with a distraught expression.

Even Kahn was taken aback since it was the first time he heard about something like this.

So in simple words... Aragorn was both cursed and forgotten by the world and he couldn't even reclaim his own identity without dying in the process.

"That is why I want you to capture and deliver me my younger sister." said Aragorn.

"Why? What did she do?" asked Kahn with a curious voice.

"Hmph! What did she do?" scoffed the elven prince and replied in a stern voice.

"She's the one who cast it."

#### Chapter 800 Strongest In The World

Finally, Kahn and the rest found out why Aragorn wanted his own sister to be captured and also why he needed Vildred's help due to the Commandment of Severed Fate.

"Other than the caster of the spell and people completely unrelated to my old identity, I can't confront or reveal the truth to anyone.

And if the person to whom I revealed my identity tries to reveal the truth on my behalf or in any way possible; I would still die a gruesome death as it can be considered a breach of rules set by the spell." he spoke and marched towards their group in the air.

"To preserve my memories, I have been sleeping under a forced comatose spell from the past 100 years so I could lose my rank and become a 5th-stage saint to enter the Immortal Dungeon.

I came here to use the trial to control the former dragon emperor who could lift the spell by doing the most necessary things which I'm unable to do with my current strength.

This... this is the only plan I could come up with to overturn my fate and regain what is rightfully mine." revealed the Elven prince.

This situation explained why Aragorn looked like a human and had to disguise himself as Edmund Thandrui.

It also explained why he lured their mercenary group in order to pass the trial set by his ancestors and not come with the Hero's Party who also had the same ambition.

But suddenly...

"Pfttha ha ha ha!! Ha ha ha!!!

Ha ha ha ha!!" Kahn started laughing hysterically as he gazed at Aragorn.

"So you betrayed me to get here.

To get revenge because you were betrayed by your sister.

To control Vildred who was betrayed by his brothers." stated Kahn as he kept laughing incessantly.

"You got betrayed, I got betrayed, he got betrayed!

Everybody gets betrayed!

Ha ha ha ha!!" he shamelessly and unapologetic laughed while pointing both his forefingers at Vildred and Aragorn.

"Seriously, why is there so much backstabbing and betrayals like Game of Thrones no matter where I go? Ha ha ha!"

Finally after controlling his broken laugh, Kahn spoke again.

"Show me what you have to make sure that nothing will be tracked to us and then I will make a plan.

However, you will have to follow my commands if you want to have your 'revenge'." spoke Kahn adamantly, declaring that he was calling the shots here.

Soon, Aragorn explained the means he had available to execute the plans.

However, both Kahn and Vildred rejected them. Because they were highly circumstantial and if even one thing went differently, their entire plan would backfire on themselves instead.

Here... Rathnaar displayed his experience as an emperor who was also a peak war strategist back in the day. Through Kahn, he conveyed his tactics since the prince wasn't aware of his existence inside Kahn's soul, the information they wanted to keep a secret.

"Still... we need more information and would have to set up backup plans. That can be done only after we leave." spoke Kahn and Aragorn also gave an understanding gaze.

Finally... it was time for their journey inside the Immortal Dungeon to end for good.

"Wait, I can't leave this dungeon in my current form." spoke Vildred.

A 7 kilometers tall terrifying existence of a royal dragon would shake the entire populace of Alfheim.

"I shall get into my humanoid form." he spoke and in the following moments...

Hum!

Hum!

Crackle!

Crackle!

Vildred's entire body was covered in white and blue lightning bolts as his ginormous body started shrinking at a fast pace, almost blinding everyone with intense light during the process.

As the intense light finally dimmed, like a Transcendent being descending from the heavens, a slim and tall figure slowly floated and stopped on the same level as the group flying in the sky.

A short silver-haired person wearing glasses with two noticeable black dragon horns coming from both sides of his head, dressed in a combination of white and blue robes along golden patterns on the border came into sight.

In his hands, was a black and golden scepter that had an ornament shaped like a long blue glowing dragon with yellow wings coiling around it.

Everyone including Kahn and Aragorn were simply astounded after looking at Vildred's humanoid appearance.

Kahn on the other end was almost irritated, cursing his luck.

Because despite being a dragon, Vildred had the appearance of a handsome and sophisticated scholar akin to an Immortal Cultivator who could kill women with just his looks alone.

"Why is everyone around me so good-looking?!"

Everybody keeps stealing my thunder!" he complained in annoyance.

"Wait... he's a Magician? I thought he would be some brawler or melee fighting class given how big he was as a ginormous Royal Dragon." said Kahn.

However, Rathnaar elaborated in his mind the very next moment.

[Vildred wasn't one of the strongest beings in the entire world just because he was a lightning elemental royal dragon.

Even my friend and my closest confidant Lezron Mikealson, who was a 9th-stage saint magician back then didn't dare call himself the strongest magician in the world.

Because he knew how Vildred was superior than him.] revealed Rathnaar in a solemn tone, almost as if he was proud of his once biggest rivals.

[Despite being a Royal Dragon, Vildred had also achieved and invoked an Ancient Rank class that no one has done in the history of the Dragon species in Vantrea.] he said in a calm and collected voice.

[And due to the combination of his own strength and this class... Nobody except me dared to even provoke Vildred or the Dragon Empire.

Although he didn't kill any Heroes, he was feared by all of them in my time regardless of how strong they were or whatever divine abilities they had.] he explained.

[What class is that?] asked Kahn as he gazed at Vildred's overly charming but still very mysterious appearance.

Rathnaar didn't hold back on ceremony and revealed the Ancient Class which made Vildred the strongest mage in the world a thousand years ago.

"The Sage of Preservation."