

This wasn't all either' | Because now, the people of Camelot were considered to be people of Earth. As the world evolved, the people of Camelot, too, began to awaken to their own abilities.

This was all to say that the King Arthur of now was by far and away stronger than the version of himself Leonel would have already struggled mightily to defeat. So, despite the fact that Leonel had grown since then as well, he was unlikely to last a few exchanges with the current King Arthur even now'!

So, it made sense that no one had come to communicate with Aina and Leonel. In their minds, what difference could these two children possibly make?

The only person who knew that it was inadvisable to underestimate Leonel was Mordred and this was because she knew everything about him, even secrets he had never exposed to another before.

But, there was one interesting thing about that trial that Mordred hadn't told Leonel about' | panda NOVEL

Back then, the first part of the trial was a test of sifting through information. It took some time for Leonel to realize that the 'main character' of his trial was actually Mordred and not someone else.

Mordred, of course, had to deal with this same issue. But, compared to Leonel, she had a much harder time deciphering the truth.

This wasn't only because Leonel had an ability conducive to such analysis while she did not, but it was because it almost felt as though Leonel's life had not one'; but two main characters to it.

And the other character? It was exactly this young girl before her.

When Mordred laid eyes on Aina, a welling of almost motherly sympathy burst out from her heart.

"You poor girl, you have to treat yourself better. Your scars have flared up again."

Aina flinched when she heard these words and involuntarily took a step back. p??d?????

Unlike Leonel who had been there, she wasn't aware why Mordred would somehow know so much about her.

Saying that her scars had flared up would be a simple observation for anyone. But, to say 'again' so familiarly' why did it feel like Mordred knew this wasn't the first time this had happened?

Aina's scars had, indeed, been inflamed once again. In fact, they had a raging violet redness to them that was even more severe than when Leonel had seen them at their worst.

After using the cleansing waters, they had calmed and appeared like normal scars. Though they were still ever present, they looked like normal knife wounds. But now, they looked like they had been infested by a nasty infection once again.

Having seen almost as much of Aina's life as she had seen of Leonel's, Mordred knew well that Aina's scars only flared up like this when she used them to facilitate her training.

Mordred sighed seeing Aina's reaction. She too felt that she was a bit too rash with her words. Aina had no idea that she had seen most of her life as well.

" '| May I come in?" Mordred asked.

By now, Mordred was certain that Leonel wasn't present.

'Damned boy, how can you be so bad with women? She's clearly in a distressed state yet you've gone off and disappeared.'

As much as Mordred knew about Aina's life, she knew even more about Leonel's. She knew how easily he detached himself. Whether it came to his mother or James, she didn't think that anything would change when it came to Aina either.

Unfortunately, Leonel might have high emotional intelligence, but even he couldn't be perfect. He still had some things to learn, it seemed.

"Mm." Aina nodded.
Mordred sighed. "Come, come. Let's get you an ice pack, I'm sure that this can't feel very good."
Aina wasn't sure why she allowed Mordred to enter, truthfully. Despite Mordred's talks of an ice pack, Aina never mentioned the fact Leonel's cleansing waters could likely heal her back to her previous state.
"Em, I want to fight." Aina suddenly said.
"Fight?" Mordred was stunned.
"Yes, I want to join the battlefield. But, I wasn't sure who to talk to, so I've been waiting here."
"This'¦"
Mordred hesitated. She was hoping to help Aina out a bit, maybe spend some time with the young girl. After all, if there was anyone who understood what it felt like to be alone, it was Mordred.
But, something about it made her realize that it was almost too difficult to say no to this girl. It looked as though if she said no, Aina would go off on her own to find her own battles.
Thinking back to the scenes Mordred had seen of Aina's life, Mordred could only grit her teeth and agree.
"   The last time that monster came out of her, she and Leonel were in that 'French' Zone. I need to be there if it happens again'

Chapter 462

Though it might seem isolated, news of the war between Earth and Terrain spread like a wildfire throughout the universe.

It could be said that a world wasn't truly considered to be a part of the Dimensional Verse until it entered the Fourth Dimension. But, Earth in specific was wildly eyed by powerful entities due to its potential.

It was exactly because of this that war between two mere Fourth Dimensional worlds had suddenly become such a hot topic.

The truth was that though Earth was favored, it was the world itself that was, not its people. Who cared which citizens populated it as long as the world existed? In fact, many other Fourth Dimensional worlds were quite jealous of Terrain.

The truth was that Terrain was the only Fourth Dimensional world close enough to execute such a war plan. It wasn't by coincidence that Leonel and Aina could reach with a single talisman.

These words peeled back the requirements for such an invasion to succeed.

Firstly, two worlds had to exist on the same plane. It would be almost impossible for a Fifth Dimensional world or above to accomplish such a thing. Or, more accurately, the price they would need to pay to do this wouldn't be worth it. This was also why Terrain needed to wait until Earth evolved.panda-nOvel.com

The second requirement was closeness. The universe was too vast, it would be impossible for another Fourth Dimensional world from a wildly different quadrant to even dream of attacking Earth.

Terrain happened to meet both of these requirements and now its actions were a hotly discussed topic.

But, while most of the universe was just observing curiously, there was a group of people that was infuriated: the Powers of Terrain.

If there was one group of people that was completely caught off guard by this, even more than the people of Earth, it was these Powers. In one moment, they were negotiating terms to sell themselves to a higher power, and in the next moment, half the value of their world was plundered and taken.

"Who's going to explain to me how this happened?!"

A thunderous roar shook Cliff's Edge Terrace. panda NOVEL

"Stop all your yelling, is that going to get us anywhere."

"What did you say to me? Don't forget this is my territory, woman."

"Call me 'woman' one more time and I'll peel your tongue out from your lips. Care to try me?"

"Alright, alright. This isn't getting us anywhere. You're only wasting more time."

"Tsk, we should have known they were planning something like this."

"It was obvious that they were planning something, but attacking Earth takes some balls. I didn't think that they'd have the guts to do it." p220/222222

Three individuals gathered. The male with a booming voice was the Head of Cliff's Edge Terrace, Head Solar. The woman was the Head of Mirage Pavilion, Head Mirage. And, the mediator of the two was the Head of World's End Falls, Head Falls.

"That's exactly what doesn't make any sense. Who gave them the guts? Do they have any idea how many hidden allies Earth has? Do they have any idea how many other powers are eyeing Earth? Do they have a death wish?"

"It seems like you're still the same idiot." Head Mirage sneered, her cherry lips parting in disdain.

"What	did vo	u sav t	to me?!	"
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"Just think for a minute, blockhead. You think those people care about the people of Earth? Do you think there's such kindness in this world?"

"The talents of Earth only come from those born on Earth. And, even then, it isn't as though one can just go to a powerful world to birth a child and manifest a talent, or else everyone would do it!

Obviously, the people of Earth are worth more than the people of our world even if we started popping out babies over there right this second!"

"You idiot, do you think you're the only one that knows that? Since you're still not getting it, I'll try to speak extra slowly."

Head Falls rubbed his temples and shook his head. But in the end, he couldn't be bothered to stop their bickering again.

"A first generation child is a baby which doesn't have a single parent from the world. They will gain at most a 20% blessing from the world and won't be gifted with all of its potential. The remaining 80% will come from where the baby's parents originated.

"If the baby has at least one first generation parent, they will receive 50% of the world's blessing and will be considered a second-generation child. This will be the same even if both parents are first generation, the percentages will not change.

"If the baby has at least one second generation parent, they will receive 80% of the world's blessing. Once again, this will be the same even if both parents are second generation.

"If the baby has at least one third generation parent, they will receive 90%. At fourth generation, it will be 95%. And, with a parent at the fifth generation, the baby will finally be considered a full blown native.

"It's at fourth generation where things change. At that stage, if both parents are fourth generation, then their baby will receive 100% of the world's blessing and also be considered a full native.

"Do you	understand	now?'

By this point, Head Solar wanted to explode. Did he look like a child? How could he not know these things? In fact, one of the most important things for a world to grasp after entering the Fourth Dimension and truly becoming a part of the Dimensional Verse was how to differentiate between immigrants and natives.

There was no small number of people who wanted to take advantage of more talented worlds. In fact, even Terrain had to deal with this, let alone Earth.

"Do you really think I don't understand any of this?!"

"Clearly you don't!" Head Mirage snapped. "Our world is the only one in position to launch attacks from Earth for the foreseeable future. By the time any other worlds can come in and taste a piece of the pie, do you really think five generations wouldn't have passed by then?!

"That's not even to mention the fact that there are plenty of fifth generation people on Earth right now! What's stopping them from being used like studs and sows?!"

Head Solar froze.

It seemed that this situation was far different from what he had imagined.

Chapter 463

Head Solar calmed his rage and took a deep breath.

"So they're just taking a risk for a chance at survival? Fifth Dimensional worlds are much more common than Fourth Dimensional worlds. The number that would be in position to attack them is far more. Who's to say that with Earth's talent they'd even be able to establish themselves before they suffered the same fate?"

Though it was somewhat counter intuitive, after some thought it made more sense.

It was best to consider the universe like a bell curve. It wasn't necessarily so that weaker worlds were more common.

With the age of the Dimensional Verse, many worlds had had time to reach their potential. Due to the structure of things, the average talent of worlds was the Fifth Dimension. As such, the vast majority of worlds in the Dimensional Verse were within the Fifth Dimension.

Likewise, the number of worlds within the Fifth Dimension that could attack Earth were likewise much more.

If the Cities won this war, how long would they get to enjoy it? A few decades at most? With Earth's potential, they likely wouldn't even need a century to cross yet another Dimensional barrier.

"In fact, their situation is even worse than that." Head Solar sneered, suddenly thinking of something. "Even if they really used Earth's people like sows and studs, it would take years for those children to mature. In the meantime, would they have the talent necessary to ensure that Earth wasn't swallowed by spacetime?" panda-n0vel.com

Talent was a double-edged sword. Though better talents would be born in such a world, their Zones were likewise more difficult and appeared more frequently as well. If those Cities failed to clear the Zones, Earth could very well be swallowed up.

Head Falls sighed.

"Your words aren't wrong, but only partially. I'm sure you remember what happened in Brave City this time, right?"

Head Solar froze again.

"The Heir of the Kaefir family was accepted as a disciple of Valiant Heart Mountain. It's with this added layer of protection that they dare to do this."

Head Solar frowned. "But doesn't Earth have that Leonel child?"

He heard from his son that there was a Leonel character who was accepted without even having to go through the trials. Wasn't Leonel's standing even higher than Anared's? How could this even count as protection. panda NOVEL

"Yes, I've heard this as well. But, this protection is only useful if two conditions are met. The first is that they have to be worlds that Valiant Heart Mountain can directly act against.

"Secondly, they have to have officially joined and have to have high standing.

"Not only has this Leonel child not officially joined, but Earth's attackers are members of the Fourth Dimension. This is not something Valiant Heart Mountain can interfere in."

Head Solar sighed, slumping into his chair. Higher dimensional worlds couldn't interfere even if they wanted to. Not only would the price be high, but there were unspoken rules to think of. Wars between lower level worlds were usually observed with one eye closed and another open by these behemoths.

Only when the threats were of the Fifth Dimension would Valiant Heart Mountain begin to have some deterrence.

"They're banking on the Keafir family Heir joining in a few years and climbing up the disciple ranks?"

"'| If only it were so simple." Head Falls sighed once again. "I have reason to believe that the Keafir family Heir's success has little to do with what benefits Valiant Heart Mountain can provide and much more about what his fiancée's family can'|" p220/2222222

At this point, even Head Mirage who had long since grasped everything sat up.

"What do you know?" She asked straight forwardly.

"It's only my speculation'   "
"Just speak, stop beating about the bush." Head Solar pressed.
They both knew about Head Falls' ability. If there were any deductions he could make, they would likely be very close to the truth.
In reality, it was mostly because of this that they were caught off guard by things. They were so used to Head Falls seeing through everything in advance that they never even suspected what might happen. Now, they had been caught with their pants down.
Head Falls took a deep breath.
"The appearance of Young Miss Heira is too mysterious. No one knows where she comes from, what strength she possesses, or what her goals are. All we know is that she is the fiancée to the Keafir family Heir, nothing more, nothing less.
"I contacted Shield Cross Stars to hopefully find out some information about her, but my contacts weren't able to get anything back to me."
The expression of the two Heads changed.
This realization didn't mean that Heira's standing was above Shield Cross Stars. This was almost impossible. After all, Shield Cross Stars was considered to be the police of the universe. There were few if any Powers that could ignore their influence.
What this truly meant was that Head Falls' contacts weren't able to get him the information he needed. Simply put, their clearance wasn't high enough.

This meant at least one thing for sure: Heira wasn't from a world weaker than the Fifth Dimension.

"However, they did let slip one thing. According to them, a notice for fugitives was put out. Suspicious entities in all Fourth Dimensional worlds within this Star Alignment were all marked with monitoring brands. But, most importantly' | This order was requested by Young Miss Heira herself.

"As for what this means in totality, I'm not sure. But' | It for certain means that this young lady has the influence or, at the very least, the net worth necessary to accomplish such a thing."

Head Solar's brows furrowed. "What are you trying to get at? I feel you mean something more by telling us how potentially powerful she is, correct?"

"Yes' | Don't you think it's odd that not to mention the fact the two haven't gotten married, but they haven't even set a date for their wedding yet? Almost like' | Almost like the Kaefir family Heir still hasn't proved himself yet?

"So, what kind of status would he gain once he did gain such acknowledgement? What if this acknowledgement is more important than any backing Valiant Heart Mountain could ever provide?"

The two Heads sucked in a cold breath before a deathly silence fell over the room.

"Then' | What should we do?" Head Mirage was the one to finally break the silence.

Head Falls didn't answer for a long while. For a moment, the two thought that he might never respond at all. But, when he finally did speak, they felt a swirl of complex emotions were surging within them.

- " '| As things stand now, Earth still has a chance to defend itself. Though they're feeling the pressure, it isn't to the point their loss is guaranteed'|
- " '| As the saying goes, delivering coal in the winter is better than delivering water to an already smothered flame. What chance would Earth stand if instead of half our world's strength, it faced the entire brunt?"

Head Falls left the meeting of Powers with a smirk on his face, a sharp glint lighting his eye.
Chapter 464
Royal Blue Fort.
The atmosphere was heated. The amount of pressure placed on the Fort itself wasn't as great as one would have expected. At the very least, the colonists of Earth's two moons and the citizens of the Capital were under far greater stress.
The reason for this was obvious, but also placed the members of the Fort in a terrible situation all the same.
Unlike the Capital which had been revitalized and truly looked like a Province once again, Royal Blue Province was still mostly in shambles. The only location of proper society was the Fort'   So why would the people of Terrain bother to attack right away?
For different situations, different tactics were required. Camelot was a small terrain and mostly inhabited. As such, White City launched a full assault from the very beginning.
[Author's Note: From now on, whenever Camelot is mentioned, assume it's in reference to Earth's second moon unless the context says otherwise]
However, Royal Blue Province was now mostly untouched territory. Other than the Fort itself, the rest was just collapsed buildings, Invalids, beasts, and the occasional outcast gang that overestimated themselves.
Leonel had met such an outcast gang in the moments before he entered the Joan Zone. But, he had dealt with them quite easily in his rage due to their grotesque remarks about Aina.panda-nOvel.com

These outcasts were fools who thought they would be able to avoid the hand of The Empire when things finally settled down, when in reality they would likely be among the first killed when things truly reached that point.

But now, to the people of Terrain, these outcasts had become a hot commodity.

Since Earth was such a new world, most of its original citizens, by default, were within the Fifth Generation and beyond. This made every Earthener the people of Terrain ran across a hotly contested item'!

Yes, item. Not person.

This situation left the people of Earth in an odd limbo.

The Capital was under a full blown assault and unable to lend out help, while the rest of Earth's land was being rapidly colonized.

The only way to stop this would be to send out armies from the Forts to slow them down. But, how could these nobles that had just turtled themselves up dare to make a move so easily? They continued to cower within their walls, waiting for someone else to take action. panda NOVEL

After all, with the death of Miles, they could just pretend that they didn't have proper direction. Then, everything would fall on the shoulders of the Governor Duke or the Secretary Marquisette. They wouldn't have to take any responsibility whatsoever.

This was the harsh reality that peace could bring about. The sharpness The Empire that once swept through Earth had, had dulled considerably.

While there were no pushovers amongst nobles, it was also because of this that none of them wanted to rashly make a move.

What if their sacrifice benefited another? How could they guarantee that their credit would be their own and not that of someone else's?

This situation led to the Fort closing its dome once again. As for the commoners on the outside' did they need to care for them?

But, it was in exactly this situation that the large oak doors to the gathering of nobles opened.

A deathly silence fell. The number of people who dared to do such a thing were simply too few. And, since it was unlikely to be a person of The Capital, it was pretty clear to them all who this person was.

As expected, the clicking of heels reverberated through the quiet congressional hall.

A beauty strolled in, her hips swinging like a hypnotic pendulum. It didn't seem like she had done it on purpose, but rather that innate charm exuded from her very pores.

Despite the fact they all knew she had been an old hag just a year prior, the men within the room couldn't help but feel their loins light on fire.

Who else could this person be if not Secretary Marquisette Maia? After another long disappearance, she had finally come back once again.

As though nothing had changed, she easily sat at the helm of the hall, not feeling as though there was anything wrong in the slightest.

One of the nobles frowned.

"Secretary Marquisette, this isn't appropriate."

As a Chief Earl, the chief law officer of Royal Blue Province, there were few who knew the law better than Chief Earl Fiel. The position of one's seating was highly important to setting precedential hierarchy.

But, Maia now sat in a position reserved for the Governor Duke. Even Miles hadn't been allowed to do this. In fact, Miles couldn't sit at any one of the leadership positions.

Maia didn't respond directly. She only dug into her bosom and pulled out a noble crest.

With a single look, any one of them could recognize it. Those rushing waters, the strong shield that blocked them from the lush grounds to its back.

There was no doubt, this was the Leum family's crest.

Chief Earl Fiel sat back down silently. There was already nothing more to say.

" '| In my absence, it seems that you all have had quite a bit of fun to yourselves, hm?" Maia said lightly.

The nobles remained silent. They couldn't understand how this woman who so rarely appeared still wielded so much power. Just how did she do it?

"It seems that you all have forgotten what it means to be the nobles of the Ascension Empire. You all have felt too comfortable for too long.

"His Majesty, Emperor Fawkes, has ordered a Code Black Martial Law state, effective immediately."

At that moment, the nobles who had managed to maintain their cool shot out from their seats, shock coloring their features.

A Code Black state? Wasn't that too rash? Such a state could only be called upon when The Empire was in danger of falling, but they were still very far from this future. What the hell was going on?

Of course, this was only a very small part of why they were all so shocked.

Code Black Martial Law had the fewest laws and restrictions of any state. But, it had one very important clause that shook the nobles to their core.

In such a state, everything was earned by merits. When it concluded and everything returned to normal, even their very own noble positions would be up for grabs and exchangeable for merits'

Even the title of Grand Prime Minister or even Prince could be exchanged for!

As for those who didn't have enough merits....? They would lose the noble seats they spent so much of their time protecting.

Chapter 465

"From now on I will be in charge."

Secretary Marquisette Maia's demeanor completely shifted. From a coquettish, seductive air, the atmosphere around her became oppressive and heavy. It felt as though she had become a completely different person. No'; It was like she had gone back to being that old hag of over a year ago';

"First, the scouting missions will be ramping up. I want anyone with speed, concealment and sensory abilities to be inserted in a reconnaissance unit effective immediately. The only exceptions I will allow are those in commanding roles.

"All Tier 5 Admirals will be responsible for securing a ten kilometer coastal buffer. The ocean has been ruled by beasts for too long, how useless are you all for allowing this to continue?

"All Tier 5 Generals will be in rotating vanguard positions. I don't want there to be a single moment in any single day where there is not any pressure being applied on these jumping monkeys of Terrain. How long do you intend to allow them to gallivant on our turf? Is this what being a noble means to you?

"General Umbred, General Sater, General Tudo. Consider yourselves demoted. Your replacements will be the new General Milan, General Raj and General Joel."

"What?!"
General Umbred stood in a rage, his mustache furiously blowing in all his anger.panda-n0vel.com
"Sit down."
Umbred felt a cold shiver course through his veins. He met Maia's cold gaze, completely unable to stop his body from trembling.

"While you were holing yourself up in the safety of this dome, those three led a vanguard against the Invalid tide. Yet, you still dare to call yourself a general and even raise your voice toward me? Who do you think you are?

"I sentence you to three years in Dark Cloud prison. Take him away."

Umbred froze in shock, he couldn't believe what he was hearing.

Dark Cloud prison wasn't a death sentence for himself, but it was most definitely one for his career.

He couldn't believe what was happening. He didn't even know who this Milan person replacing him was, nor did he know a Joel or Raj. All he knew was they had to be commoners because the only ones who would have led a vanguard against that Invalid tide were those with no standing. Panda NOVEL

All he had done was follow the lead of everyone else, yet he was suffering the most. Even worse, because he couldn't control his temper, he ended up in an even worse position than the other two.

Seeing such a scene, former General Sater and Tudo didn't even dare to breathe too heavily. They could only watch with sunken expressions as Umbred was escorted out of the hall, his expression dark as could be.

No one who had a criminal record was allowed to hold a government position above Tier 3. Umbred was finished and the legacy his family had built to now had all come crumbling down just with a few words.

"Do you all really think I don't know what's been happening in my absence? This sort of dereliction of duty will not be tolerated. Every offender will receive a more damning sentence than the last. The next person to step out of line will receive five years, the next ten. Don't try my patience."

Maia continued as though nothing had happened, listing off her commands.

The more the nobles listened, the more they realized that Maia had ears everywhere. Every one of her new laws of order was pointed at a very particular problem that was almost impossible to notice on a whim.

The more she spoke, the more the nobles felt their hearts tighten. They sat up straighter, their demeanor becoming several levels more respectful. p220222222

At the same time, they began to look toward one another with wary gazes. The only way Maia could have managed this was if she had informants. But, it was impossible to tell who they were, it left them all on the edge of their seats. They had no idea who had been secretly observing them all.

As clever men and women used to the world of politics, they tried to pay attention to who Maia put in positions of power, trying to see if they could deduce who to be wary of in the future. But, the more they tried to deduce, the more frustrated they became.

The only obvious promotion Maia handed out was to those three commoners. The rest were either inconsequential or didn't change much at all. It left them all in a state of limbo, as though they were suspended above an abyss they could fall to the bottom of at any time.

If they didn't know Maia was doing this on purpose by now, they wouldn't be worth the noble titles they had.

With this kind of perpetual pressure, which of them would dare to step out of line?

" '| Finally, reorganize the inner city and make room for the commoners to enter. Level the outer city and repurpose the steel walls for some more practical defenses."

The nobles felt like cleaning out their ears. What did Maia say just now? Allow the commoners in? Maia's words were final. She didn't even bother to explain herself from start to finish. She never gave a reason for anything, but deep inside, the nobles knew exactly why she made every decision. This was the only one they couldn't quite wrap their minds around. But, Maia didn't give some heartfelt speech about the importance of the people to convince them. She simply left her words behind and swayed her hips to leave. Internally, Maia giggled. 'Consider this a repayment of your favor, Leonel. You helped me gain the foothold I wanted in the Slayer Legion and now I've reformed Royal Blue Fort to your ideals. Be sure to put in a good word for me to your gramps.' Maia smiled lightly, her mind spinning at speeds that could rival even Leonel's. As for what her plans and goals were, maybe only Maia herself knew this. 'Ah!' Maia suddenly sped up her steps. 'Don't worry, mommy's coming.' Maia happily sashayed away. She really didn't like being away from her child. Even though the doctors swore the incubator was top of the line, she still preferred to oversee it all personally. \*\* On Camelot. "Oh, Khaled is dead?"

## Chapter 466

One would think that such a report would have landed on City Lord White's desk a long time ago. However, the City Lord wasn't the type of woman who enjoyed listening to reports on what she deemed as useless points. All she cared about was the result.

Not only had the Lin Barony fallen, but it had fallen within the time frame she had set. The number of soldiers she had lost were less important to her than the tasks they managed to complete.

This might sound like a maddening philosophy to have, even to the point where it dehumanized one's own subordinates, and even worse, could be seen as foolish, but it was clear that City Lord White didn't care about the optics of such things.

In the end, the result was an odd situation where City Lord White only learned about the passing of one of her White Knights over a week later.

Niya nodded. "Yes, City Lord. He died along with 511 Predator Ravens. During the siege of the Lin and Pervaux Baronies, we lost 37 of our 1022 men before managing to claim their territory.

"Soldier Kopp took over White Knight Diore's position and has been taking control of the law and order of the troops."

City Lord White waved a hand. "Why are you telling me all of this?" panda-n0vel.com

Niya didn't seem surprised the City Lord White didn't care about all these details. In truth, she wanted to be out on the battlefield herself, but this was a war where White City was just a single gear in a working system. She couldn't do as she pleased. She had to follow the plans laid out by the Keafir family.

This left her feeling quite antsy and irritable. She only managed to keep things together since it was Niya who was speaking. If it was anyone else, they likely would have tasted 'Clara' by now.

And, the only reason Niya had such a pass wasn't because City Lord White allowed nonsense from her. Rather, it was because the City Lord was aware that Niya knew better than to waste her time. So, if Niya was bringing this up, it meant she had a very good reason to do so.

There was a reason Niya was the only one allowed to be so near the City Lord so consistently.

"According to a report sent by acting commander Kopp, White Knight Diore lost in single combat at the hands of a child by the name of Leonel Morales."

City Lord White's annoyed expression faded and she looked up at Niya. panda NOVEL

Niya nodded once again despite the fact City Lord White hadn't actually spoken any words.

"There are three things that we have to pay great attention to during this war. The first is the interference of the hidden families. The second is the interference of Higher Dimensional worlds. And lastly, we have to pay particular attention to the wielders of the World Spirit.

"According to what is known, the second, third and fourth completers have well known identities. However, the first completer has yet to be found.

"According to our intelligence and deductions, there are three individuals who have the potential to be the first completer. One of these individuals is expressly this Leonel Morales."

City Lord White slowly stood.

The World Spirit, even in comparison to the interference of Higher Dimensional worlds, was the greatest potential variable of this world. p220222222

The good news was that the World Spirit should have been split into four parts. When in such a parsed situation, the abilities of the World Spirit were significantly nerfed to the point of practically having no use. This in addition to the fact the abilities of World Spirits were quite infantile at the early stages of such a world and it wouldn't be a large problem even if it was whole.

However, the World Spirit is what truly decided sovereignty over a world. Terrain had to ensure to grasp at least one of these four portions. Only by doing so would they be able to truly lay claim to this world.

"Also, though she is not among the most likely three I just mentioned, there is intelligence that Aina Brazinger is currently present on the battlefields. From our intelligence, she has a very close relationship with Leonel Morales. So, although she's unlikely to have been the first completer, getting to her would be valuable, regardless."

"Why'd you wait so long to bring such information to me?! I finally get to set out!"

"City Lord, wait!" Niya raised her voice slightly so that City Lord White didn't just storm off. If this short-haired woman caught a head of steam, it would be almost impossible to stop her.

"What is it?"

"It isn't appropriate to make a move just yet. Our original plan didn't account for The Empire already having a presence on this moon already. But, it seems that before we appeared, The Empire had already sent Prince Noah Fawkes here to lead an army to assimilate Camelot and the Demon Empire."

"Noah Fawkes, isn't that?"

"Yes, the third completer, Prince Noah Fawkes."

"Isn't that even better. That means there are two potential World Spirit pieces here."

"While this is true, it also means that we have to be careful. Prince Fawkes has already begun to lead a counterattack and we've already lost half of the territory we initially snatched due to poor foundations."

"Isn't that just more reason for me to go? Why are you wasting my time?"

City Lord White's expression darkened.

"Yes, it is important that you go, but not so that you can target Leonel Morales. We need to prepare a proper counterattack and sweep through Camelot in a single sweep.
"I suggest that you wait for us to turn Lin and Pervaux Baronies into proper launch points.
"Both are important resources. Lin Barony is a choke point that separates the Kingdom from the wilderness. This doesn't seem like a big deal, but it's perfect for starving them of natural resources whether that be wood or fresh water.
"Pervaux Barony forms the final point of a triangle between Lin Barony and Camelot and is a final barrier to the no-man's land that separates Camelot and the Demon Empire. It's a perfect launch poin to attack both the Demon Empire and the Kingdom.
"We will secure the supply lines, cut off Camelot's resources, and create a perfect foundation for attack. Then you can move out, City Lord."
City Lord White stared at Niya deeply for a moment before sitting back down.
"How much time?"
"Two months at the fastest, three at the latest."
"Fine I'll let them live for a little longer, then."

The people of Terrain had no idea that the World Spirit hadn't been separated into four like it would on other worlds. In Earth's case, a rare instance to be sure, the World Spirit chose its host before the Metamorphosis began.

Chapter 467

But, somehow, this news was kept as a complete secret. Even after years of preparation, Terrain was completely unaware.

That said, could they be blamed? A Fourth Dimensional world with limited talent and scope like Terrain wasn't even aware that a World Spirit could make such autonomous decisions at such an early stage.

Due to the fact they weren't aware, they weren't even looking for it before Earth's Metamorphosis began. As the saying went' you didn't know what you didn't know. How could Terrain be aware of something they weren't even aware they should be aware about in the first place?

After the Metamorphosis began, Terrain used special channels to learn about who the four completers were. Through their investigations, they managed to learn about three of them, the third completer of which was Prince Noah Fawkes'!

Of course, no one was aware of the fact that due to him waking up so much earlier than everyone else, Leonel was by far the first to complete a Zone. In fact, the time difference was a staggering several month gap.

If it wasn't for the fact Leonel was injured to the point of falling into a coma and having to be nursed back to health by Uncle Montez, he would have exited long before anyone else and his status as the first completer would have been more obvious to all.

But, for now' | others could only speculate about his identity.panda-n0vel.com

Still, even then, Leonel's performance was so dazzling that he had become a prime suspect regardless.

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Prince Noah Fawkes stood tall on a battlefield, his breathing almost too even. It was difficult to tell that he had just been in a battle to begin with.

Despite the fact the corpses of his enemies laid before him, their blood dripping from the blade of his saber, he didn't seem happy in the slightest.

"They're stalling."

Noah spoke to no one in particular.

This White City was exceptionally cruel. Without thought for casualties, they threw army after army of troops at them. It was as though they wanted them to waste time cutting them all down like they were weeds to be disgusted by rather than people. panda NOVEL

In truth, Noah was indifferent to it all. He just didn't like what it could possibly mean. Since they were stalling, there had to be a purpose for it. So, what was that purpose, exactly?

At that moment, an agile black wolf of over three meters tall shot to Noah's side. In one instant, it was as swift as the wind and in the next it came to a grinding halt without warning. It was as though it had never been running to begin with.

A petite young woman with short hair swooped down from the top of the wolf.

"Your Highness, it may be time to begin to coordinate with Camelot and the Demon Empire. It's clear that they've prepared for a long time and know more about us than we do them. Though we've won all of our battles, they're hollow victories."

Jessica spoke as plainly as she always did.

It had already been a month since Noah had a conversation with his grandfather. In that time, he had managed to reclaim over half the territory White City had taken from Camelot, but there were a few problems with this.

For one, technology wasn't functioning as it once had. Without it, it wasn't possible to erect Forts like they had on Earth with any sort of speed. So, though they had 'reclaimed' the land, it was more like they had pushed out White City's presence. p??? ①????????

Secondly, White City had managed to keep a strict hold of two strategic points even to now.

Though they lost battles without a care, they always managed to keep control over what was truly important. Thirdly, they hadn't originally come here for such a long, drawn-out war. Thanks to their skills, food and water wasn't a problem, but there was more than this one needed for war. They needed a steady supply of weapons and weapon maintenance options, which they didn't have. They needed healers and doctors, but they were in short supply of them. And, they needed numbers in order to keep control and scout out the areas they had taken hold of. But, they had none of these things. Due to this, Noah had hoped to make a strong push and place White City on its backfoot as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, though he succeeded, the issue was that their success wasn't great enough to warrant any sort of happiness. It was essentially hollow. Noah nodded. "I agree. I believe we've displayed enough of our strength." With a shake of his wrist, a strong vibration shot through Noah's blue bladed saber. His strength caused the metal to bend and groan, whipping the blood on its away. In an instant, the blade was once again spotless.

"Should we arrange a meeting?"

"Understood."

"No. We will meet on the battlefield." Noah said plainly.

While Noah was leading attacks toward Pervaux Barony, heading a charge from the direction of noman's land, Camelot and the Demon Empire was heading a charge toward Lin Barony.

Yet, despite this pincer attack from both sides, White City continued to fend off their attempts.

The dauntless approach of the soldiers of White City shook the knights and mages of Camelot to the core. To be so fearless in death, even after so many battles, wore on the souls of their enemies, making them feel as though this was a battle they would never win.

As a result, despite the fact King Arthur had been experiencing maybe the most peaceful time of his life, it was overshadowed by a perpetual fog that hung over Camelot.

What didn't help was the fact Camelot lacked the same level of organization White City's armies did. And, as their knights and mages awakened to their new abilities, it made the battlefield even more chaotic than they should have been.

Without proper guidance on how to use these suddenly newfound powers, Camelot's victories were even more pyrrhic than Noah's had been';

It was on this day, on yet another battlefield, that Aina could be found, her lips tightly sealed as she swung her great sword toward another enemy.

## Chapter 468

Aina felt her arms trembling on impact. She could see the indifferent eyes of the White City soldier through their crossed blades. However, despite the dull pain in her arms and the trembling of her knees, her gaze too remained unmoved.

Somewhere deep inside, she quite appreciated these soldiers of White City. Their emotionless, unquestionable resolve toward battle, as though they could forget about everything else other than the opponents before them' | She too could resonate with this feeling.

While Leonel felt an excitement when he laid eyes on a battlefield, Aina felt a soothing calm. However, the raging blood in her veins told a completely different story.

Unfortunately, this battlefield was completely unlike the battles Aina had experienced in the Joan Zone or even against the Invalids and Braziner family members she faced alongside Leonel.

Whereas in those battles, she reaped lives as though they were weeds, on this battlefield she felt as though it was her own life that was constantly in danger. Even finding an opponent like this whom she was evenly matched with was a problem.

This wasn't because Aina was too weak, but rather because the soldiers of White City were simply too strong. Aina needed to exchange several moves to take down just a single one. And, since this was a battlefield and not a sanctioned duel, how could it possibly be that she would always be allowed a one on one battle?

Aina dug deep, a light shout parting her lips as she pressed her great sword forward.panda-n0vel.com

An audible snap rang out. But, on such a large battlefield, the only two who likely heard it were Aina and the soldier before her.

Other than a light flash in his gaze, the soldier didn't show any other reaction to Aina's blade piercing through his shoulder and cutting down through his hip.

Aina took deep breath, her amber eyes shooting forward as though already looking for a new opponent. But, she quickly found that there were already none left.

At that moment, an irrational rage welled up in her heart as she pulled her sword out from the corpse before her. Unfortunately, ust this small action caused her legs to tremble beneath the weight she carried.

Aina stabbed her sword into the ground, her body almost unable to continue standing.

'Heal' | ' panda n0vel

Aina urged through her own thoughts, forcing her body to rapidly repair itself. The strain caused her scars to become even more inflamed.

If others were paying attention, it would become very obvious that the restrictions Aina was under didn't leave even her ability be'

Just as Aina's vision was swimming, she suddenly felt an arm wrap around her shoulders. She looked up to find Mordred looking toward her with a worried expression.

Mordred was quite tall for a woman, almost a head taller than Aina. Even so, her visage was quite clear.

"Are you alright?"

Aina nodded faintly. p??d???????

Mordred wanted to say more but her expression suddenly changed.

"It can't be' another one?" Mordred's brow furrowed.

" '! Is there a problem?"

Aina looked around the battlefield, but from what she could see, it was another victory. Though they had lost quite a number of knights and mages, it was still a victory nonetheless. Those that hadn't died had already long since retreated, so it was hard to tell what reason there could possibly be to have such a reaction.

That said, Aina was also very much aware that her sensory abilities weren't very good. So, she deferred to the most talented mage of Camelot. Aside from maybe Leonel, it was doubtful that there was anyone else on this moon with stronger Internal Sight in comparison to the Demon Empress.

Mordred's brows furrowed tighter.

"It's another army' | I thought it was more men from White City, but it seems like this isn't the case. If it's not them, then it's more likely that it's' | The Empire?"

According to what Mordred knew, the Empire had been attacking from the direction of Perveaux Barony. Though it hadn't been expressly stated, their actions most definitely took a lot of pressure off of Camelot and allowed the Demon Empire to focus all their thoughts on support.

What Mordred expected the least, though, was that they'd leave their pincer position and come here. What purpose did they have for doing this? It can't be that they wanted to attack Camelot now' | right?

At the moment, this battlefield was under Mordred's command and the large majority of the troops were demons. As for King Arthur's armies, they were on the more northern wing of the battlefield.

This was for the best. Though they now had an alliance, one couldn't just magically forget the past enmities between humans and demons. So, trying to fuse them into one fighting force would be like asking for problems to break out.

This was all to say that in order for The Empire to make it to them, they would most definitely have to go through Mordred and her men first.

"It doesn't look like they came to battle, but it doesn't look like they came on friendly terms either."

After a while passed, The Empire's armies finally entered Aina's sensory ranges.

She was exceptionally sensitive to matters related to battle and could read the air quite well. The Empire definitely wasn't here for peace, but they didn't seem to be here to battle either. One might want to say that they came here as a neutral party, but it wasn't quite that either.

At the helm of the army, Prince Noah Fawkes stood on the back of a black wolf. Despite its swaying body, he didn't seem to be impacted in the slightest.

To his back, a group of nearly a thousand followed along. Many were also riding such wolves, but others rode various other beasts.

Though the army wasn't completely uniform due to this, they still carried an oddly structured and strict air to them. Even their mismatching beasts couldn't detract from this.

It didn't take Mordred much to realize that these beasts were actually the demonic beasts of no-man's land. Somehow, The Empire had subjugated and domesticated these wild beasts even to the point of taking them to war.

Noah had no idea that this action alone left Mordred in more awe than any of their other combined other actions had. Only she, who had been trying to reel in and reign over these beasts for decades, knew exactly how difficult it was.

What was their goal here, exactly?

Chapter 469

The slow approach of The Empire's warriors eventually put Mordred at ease. It seemed that Aina's words had been correct.

If their goal was to attack, they would have long since broken out into a charge. But, their current pace was almost like a leisurely stroll. In fact, they even allowed Mordred enough time to reorganize her army and face their entourage head-on.

By now, Arthur's warriors had also noticed the oddity.

"Your Majesty, should we send someone?"

Arthur shook his head. "I' Will go personally. Allow the men some rest and treat the injured. There's no telling when they will choose to attack again."

Noah's troops came to a halt about a hundred meters from Mordred's frontline. Without a word, a small squad of five broke off, riding their black wolves forward swiftly. Though their pace was still a bit faster than the army had been, it still didn't seem like their goal was to attack.

The group of five was led by a young man. The expression on his face was indifferent and lofty, he carried the air of arrogance nobility should have but without allowing it to grow overblown. It was just enough to put many in a state of awe without allowing them to feel any sort of disgust.panda-nOvel.com

It was clear that this young man's air of superiority was ingrained down to his very bones.

When the small squad made it to within five meters of Mordred, they came to a stop, maintaining a healthy distance.

"I am the representative of His Highness, Prince Noah Fawkes, Junior Governor Duke Nile Bryermuthe. Who is your leader?"

Nile's voice boomed over the battlefield. He didn't seem to realize that Mordred was right before him. Whether he did it on purpose or not, it was hard to tell. However, regardless, Mordred maintained her composure. She had been through much more in her life. If there was one thing she was excellent at, it was maintaining her calm.

"I am the leader of the Demon Empire." She said unhurriedly.

"I am the leader of Camelot." panda NOVEL

At that moment, Arthur had made his way to Mordred's side. His expression wasn't as calm as his daughter's. Rather, it still held a lofty air.

Nile looked down from his position atop his wolf, sweeping a glance over the two of them. His gaze happened to catch upon Aina, her appearance causing him to frown. Her face made him inwardly uncomfortable, but he hid it well. There was no need to linger on such things. Though he could be wild at other times, it was unnecessary at this moment.

But, just when he planned to focus on Arthur and Mordred once again, his lips even opening to speak, his gaze sharpened.

He looked back toward Aina, his eyes landed on the hand she used to lean against her great sword with. No, it was more accurate to say that his gaze landed on the wrist of the hand she was using.

Even at this moment, Aina's breathing was still a bit haggard. The only reason she was still at the front of the army was because Mordred had insisted on keeping her by her side because she was worried about Aina's current state.

For the past month and a half or so, Aina had done nothing but battle. It was hard to allow such a petite young girl to bear such a burden on her shoulders constantly, but Aina insisted to the point Mordred couldn't reject. p??? 1272???

"You."

Aina didn't think anyone would be talking to her at this moment, so she was entirely focused on her recovery. She was trying to force her ability to activate again, but it had slowed down considerably.

Her reaction, though, caused Nile's frown to deepen.

As though finally sensing that the atmosphere was oddly silent, Aina looked up, only to find that Nile's gaze was locked onto her.

Of course, Aina was confused by this. She wasn't well known among the nobles. And, even if she was, this definitely wouldn't be the face they recognize.

Beyond that, she didn't share the red hair and eyes of the Brazinger family. Even one of her own 'family' members only managed to recall her due to his perfect recall ability and he had long since been buried beneath dozens of meters of earth. So, it was even less likely that she'd be remembered for this.

"State your name and which Province you come from. Are you planning on defecting from The Empire?"

Nile's gaze sharpened, boring into Aina as though trying to force her into a confession.

Yet, despite looking up toward Nile with tired eyes, Aina didn't seem intimidated in the slightest. What a joke, if Aina could remain calm and unperturbed beneath Leonel's aura, what was a mere Junior Governor Duke worth?

Of course, at this moment, Aina wasn't necessarily thinking of things in such simple terms. She only knew that she was unmoved by it all. In fact, she was even slightly annoyed.

Compared to others, Aina was actually quite thankful for The Empire. If not for it, she would have likely suffered even more hardship as a child. But, Aina's main priority was still revenge. What The Empire cared about her actions toward reaching this goal meant little to nothing to her.

"My name is Aina Brazinger, I come from Royal Blue Province. No, I have no intention of defecting from The Empire." Aina replied somewhat wearily.

"Then how is it that you are here and not protecting Royal Blue Fort'"." Nile's words froze. "Did you just say Aina Brazinger?"

Niles suddenly remembered that almost a year ago now, they received a report that they would be gaining two more Variants from Royal Blue Fort. One was a certain Leonel Morales and the second was Aina Brazinger.

But, for whatever reason, those two never appeared.

Due to Earth's talents, after over a year of development, the rarity of Variants had plummeted as well. From just a handful, it had blossomed to several thousand. In fact, in their current army, not a single one wasn't a Variant.

Of course, those who were Variants from the very beginning were far more valuable. And, Leonel and Aina were among this very rare few. In fact, considering where they started, they should be among the few who already had abilities within the Fifth Dimension.

However, with this didn't come leniency. Rather, it made Aina's wrongdoings several times more severe.

The action of not properly reporting to The Capital could be considered a direct defiance of the Emperor's will!

After reaching this point in his thoughts, Nile's aura became baleful.

Chapter 470

Seeing that the situation was taking a turn for the worse, Mordred took a step forward and blocked Aina to her back, feeling slightly protective of this young girl.

"Aina is not tied with us, she is only here as a helper." Mordred tried to explain.

Nile's gaze remained locked onto Aina.

Aina felt her vision swimming, her feet feeling somewhat unsteady. From an outsiders perspective, it seemed as though she was feeling pressured by Nile's gaze. But, the reality was that her body seemed to want to shut down at this moment.

After several minutes of trying to force her ability to activate, her situation only got worse. In fact, it seemed as though the repressive effects of her scars was getting fiercer.

Without the energy she needed to fight back against it, the situation she was facing only grew worse.

"The reason she is here is irrelevant. The fact that she is here at all is already a challenge to His Majesty's sovereignty." panda-n0vel.com

The momentum of Nile and the four wolf riders to his back grew.

In the Ascension Empire, there were only a handful of titles without a democratic prefix attached to it. The reason behind this was clear, other than the royal family, others had to constantly scratch and claw for their positions. Any failure to do so would result in the destruction of countless generations of effort.

Due to this structure, The Empire had fostered a sense of complete and unquestionable loyalty. Those who failed to meet such standards could just as easily be ostracized during the next cycle of elections. It was also exactly because of this reason that there were no noble families with useless heirs as useless heirs would only drive the effort of the family into the ground!

If Nile was found to have been aware of a traitor to The Empire yet hadn't taken action, the consequences would be unimaginable.

To begin with the Bryermuthe family didn't hold control over a powerful province. In fact, his Evergreen Province was located in harsh wintery climates year 'round, resulting in an economy that was somewhat crippled. They lacked resources or tourist worthy locations.

To compensate for this, the Evergreen Province was, ironically, a Province filled with factories and was as such ranked eighth amongst the Provinces. And, unfortunately, the only reason they were not ranked ninth was because Dark Cloud Province, the location of Dark Cloud Prison, was considered unranked. Panda NOVEL

It could be considered a blessing to the family that Nile had awakened as a Variant and had had the opportunity to stay by the Prince's side for the past year. But, he was also aware that his standing even compared to some Secretary Marquisette families was lacking.

As such, he couldn't afford to make any mistakes. He had to uphold the justice of The Empire properly.

By this point, though, Aina's mind was far too foggy to consider her surroundings. She stumbled and fell backward, only to be caught by Mordred who realized that something had gone wrong.

But, Nile had yet to finish speaking.

"And, I also hope that as a power soon to be under the jurisdiction of The Empire, that you wouldn't be harboring a criminal... correct?"

Nile's gaze landed on Mordred and Arthur once again, his words far more forceful. p???d??????

In the distance, Noah remained unmoved by it all. The distance was only a hundred meters, so with his newfound strength, he could easily hear the words Nile was speaking. Since he didn't find anything wrong with Nile's approach, he didn't make any moves.

'Aina Brazinger, is it?' Noah's jaw steeled.

He recognized this name. Could she be from that family? But she didn't have the signature hair and eye color...

Though Earth couldn't be considered as large as the universe, obviously, there were still many instances of unrelated people having the same last names. Knowing this, it was no wonder even those who were aware of the Morales name didn't automatically assume Leonel's origins.

But, in a world as small as Earth, especially after the eradication of over 99% of their population, such instances should be much rarer. Was there really such a coincidence?

It was no surprise that Noah was sensitive to the names of these hidden families. His grandfather had said that there were many enemies eyeing their Earth, and these hidden families were no exception.

Noah wasn't quite sure of the origin of these families. But, there were two running theories he had come up with under his own research and a bit of Jessica's help.

The first possibility was that these hidden families were existences that once vied for supremacy over Earth like their Fawkes family had.

Though it was easy to ignore it... but didn't their Fawkes family also all have the same white-gold hair and emerald green eyes?

When Noah realized this on a certain day not that many years ago, he felt as though his whole world had been flipped upside down. Could it really be that their Fawkes family was just another hidden family that happened to claim victory?

It was possible... But there was also a second possibility as well.

This possibility was far more sinister. And, if this was true, Noah would stop at nothing to eradicate these hidden families.

With so many higher Dimensional worlds eyeing them, could it really be possible that none of them took any measures to claim a piece of Earth for themselves?

What if the hidden families were actually branch members of higher Dimensional worlds that sent their people here in order to reach the fifth generation as quickly as possible?

If that was the case... wouldn't that mean that those higher Dimensional worlds weren't as far away as they all thought...?

As for which of these two theories was correct, Noah had no idea. But, what he did know was that he couldn't allow someone with the Brazinger family name to run around freely. And, even if Aina's last name wasn't Brazinger, her crimes alone would have definitely warranted detainment.

"Seize her." Nile said coldly. "We'll take her back to The Capital for trial after all of this is over."

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