

Earths GMagus 411

Chapter 411: The Queen

Somewhere in Egypt.

Tang! Tang! Tang!

Loud repeated sounds of metal colliding against something were heard in the air as a group of slave workers could be seen diligently hammering the tool in their hand at a stone wall.

These people had been working on this seemingly meaningless task for so many days that one could even wonder what their intention was to do such a thing.

Suddenly, their attention was distracted and attracted by a loud sound, a sound that was different than the one their tools made.

CRACK!!

A loud shout of someone resounded through the air. "It's open!! It's finally open! Quick! Someone go and tell the queen about this!!"

...

Hours later, a convoy was seen moving through Egypt's well-known yellow desert at high speed. The piercing ray of light that the sun radiated above and the scorching hot weather that existed in the area seemed unable to slow them down, as the convoy swiftly made their way toward a certain direction.

In the middle of the convoy was a strikingly grand chariot that gave off a majestic appearance. It was escorted by dozens of fully armored horse guards, who positioned themselves in all directions, ready to block any possible dangers that might come its way.

Soon, the chariot, as well as its escorts, stopped in front of one of the 138 Egypt's mega structures - the Pyramids.

A young girl dressed in gold slowly made her way down the chariot; hundreds of people who already waited in front of the pyramid immediately went to their knees. These people bowed to her, their faces directly touching the sand, ignoring the searing heat of the desert on their faces.

The girl maintained her neutral expression, as she walked toward the imposing structure. Then, suddenly, a figure dressed in black appeared in her path, stopping her from advancing.

"I apologize, My Queen. This place is restricted and forbidden to enter." The black figure said firmly.

Even though she was clearly barred from entering by the unknown figure, the girl only smiled faintly, as she slowly raised her hand in the air. In an instant, a faint luster flew from her fingertip and landed at the figure dressed in black.

Following it was a faint whisper of a word.

[Enchantment]

As the light seeped into the figure's body, the young girl then said, "It's fine for me, the queen, to enter. Step aside and let me pass."

Surprisingly, the figure appeared to change his mind as he answered, "Yes, Your Majesty. As the queen, you are allowed to enter."

The young girl chuckled as she watched the figure's changing behavior.

Ignoring the black figure, who already knelt down, the girl continued onwards, followed by her loyal guards. She and the others slowly but surely made their way through a long tunnel that went deep into the pyramid, until they arrived at what appeared to be their destination.

The group reached inside a secret chamber where numerous hieroglyphics, symbols and scriptures were engraved on its walls. Furthermore, the girl could see myriad kinds of artifacts lying in the corners of the chamber.

"Is this the place?" The girl asked her aides, as her eyes scanned over the entire room.

"Yes, My Queen. This is one of the oldest pyramids that was built. This place is definitely Khufu's secret chamber - the place where he kept his collections."

"Alright, thank you."

The young girl, the one these people revered as the queen, was none other than Cleopatra the Seventh. The new coronated pharaoh of Egypt.

However, her Magus Academy's friend knew her as Klea.

When Klea, who at that time was the new queen of Egypt, abruptly went missing - courtesy to the Magus Academy, her father quickly assumed she was running away from her duty. Thus, he ordered a thorough search in order to find her.

Unfortunately, they didn't manage to find Klea even though they already scoured the entirety of Egypt for her. Therefore, at that time, her father had already surrendered to fate.

Hence, Klea was harshly reprimanded and scolded the moment she returned from Magus Academy. Naturally, she also received a punishment because of her 'running away'.

The punishment was for her to be locked inside the Great Alexandria Library, the biggest library that contained the most comprehensive and numerous knowledge in Egypt, and probably in the whole world.

In all honesty, Klea felt the punishment was such a wonderful reward. After all, she never cared about ruling the nation while, on the other hand, was very fond of learning and studying new things.

In addition, being locked and isolated made her able to focus on her cultivation better, freeing her from having to explain what she was doing.

When she was bored of cultivating, Klea would return to the embrace of knowledge. During her time 'locked' in the Great Alexandria Library, she was very much invested in exploring more information

regarding Egypt's past. Especially after she knew the information about the Nephilim faction, who was said to rule Earth thousand of years ago.

Today, after months of searching, Klea finally found the secret chamber of the greatest Egyptian architect ever born, a man named Khufu.

At the moment, Klea was perusing through the chamber, paying special attention to its walls, which were entirely engraved with numerous hieroglyphics, Egypt's ancient language. In the end, she spent hours scouring around, as she tried to find all the scripts Khufu possibly hid in the chamber.

Thankfully, the symbol on her hand helped Klea tremendously, as it conveniently translated each and every word on the scriptures and the artifacts she found in the chamber.

The findings eventually led Klea to an even larger and older civilization, one that existed before Egypt. The once world-renowned Babylonian civilization of the east.

The Babylonian seemed to be the origin of the Egyptian civilization in the current era. However, it seemed the great flood of 2000 years ago had erased copious amounts of information about the past, burying Earth's true history.

Klea involuntarily let out a smile when she read a passage about a certain king of the old in one of the scriptures. That certain king was said to be the king of kings, a man called Gilgamesh. He was known as the hero of the people and also for defying the gods.

It was said Gilgamesh had 4 companions with him - people who were no less famous than him. These people were: a Great Sage from the East, a Shaman from the North, the Beast king from the West, and lastly his best friend Eridu.

Klea was still curious about what happened to them, but unfortunately, the information collected by Khufu was also limited. Therefore, it automatically meant she would have to look up the information herself, if she wanted to know more.

Shifting her attention away from the scripture regarding Gilgamesh, Klea was about to read the next scripture when her eyes were attracted to something that lay in a corner of the chamber.

She swiftly walked toward it, surprised to find such an interesting object, a gold-colored bracelet. The moment her eyes landed on it, thanks to her readings, Klea knew right away this bracelet had some kind of power hidden within it.

Thus, without further ado, Klea asked the symbol to scan the bracelet.

[Bracelet of Anu]

[Artifacts - Tier ???]

"What an amazing find!" exclaimed Klea softly, as to not attract others' attention.

From the first look, she knew this was not a normal artifact at all. Klea swiftly took the artifact and put it on her arm, while secretly vowing to not let it go no matter what happened.

While Klea was still drowning in excitement due to the unexpected but pleasant discovery, a group of people suddenly barged into the chamber.

Normally, no one would and could interfere with the royalty. However, this particular group that had just arrived was a little bit different. These people were all wearing similar black clothes, while conspicuous tattoos were visible on their faces. They were known as the Medjai warriors.

This group were the descendants of the ancient warrior lines, that were assigned the sacred duty of protecting the royal family's legacy.

The person who led the group to the secret chamber was the elder of the Medjai warriors and also the High Priest of Egypt.

"My Queen, some history is meant to be buried forever. Moreover, if you have any question, you can always depend on us, the Medjai, to seek it for you."

Upon hearing the elder's words, Klea only smiled.

"You are no fun, Imhotep."

The man in front of her was, in Klea's opinion, the hardest to deal with. Not only did he have many devout followers working outside the royalty, Imhotep also had a high resistance to her enchantment spells.

Klea understood it was time for her to leave the place the moment this man appeared here.

"Thank you and please continue your wonderful job." Klea said, as she walked past Imhotep.

As she exited the pyramid, Klea noticed the sun had submerged half of its body on the horizon, painting the expanse with crimson color.

Then, in the distance, Klea spotted a group of riders rushing toward her direction.

It was a group of royal guards.

Immediately, one of them jumped down the horse and knelt in front of her.

"My queen, your father has just passed away."

Chapter 412: The Goddess

Around this period of time, the political atmosphere and situation in Egypt wasn't exactly the best, rather, it was in extreme turmoil.

For dozens of years, Egypt had gone through numerous revolts and infightings among its own citizens, which in return caused the instability in its society.

The main problem was the social inequality that was happening in the society. The Egyptians at that time were divided into different castes; from top to bottom were the nobles, the artisans, the soldiers, the farmers and the lowest of all, the servants.

While the people of a high caste were spending their lives in extravagance, the lower castes generally lived in constant hunger and poverty.

This phenomenon became increasingly apparent with the emergence of a grave problem with the Nile River and the weather, in general, being very unreliable. These two factors led to constant crop failure, which no doubt added to the suffering experienced by people from the lower castes.

Despite all these problems, Egypt was very rich in resources, hence always being pressured by the neighboring kingdoms. These led the previous pharaoh to make certain allies.

Within years Egypt became dependent on the country across the ocean to support them against their many foes. Said country, their main supporter, was none other than the Roman Republic.

Klea's father, the previous pharaoh, had made a severe mistake by being too dependent on outsiders. He had brought the outsiders in, letting all those people involve themselves in Egypt's policies for mere convenience, such as support against Egypt's enemies.

His other mistake was fighting for power against his own family, killing his eldest daughter and coronate the young Klea as the new queen of Egypt and force her to marry her own brother to receive the blessing of the people.

Now that Klea's father, the king, had suddenly died, the Romans had decided to send one of their generals to overlook the matters in Egypt once again. The giant supporter needs to ensure Egypt's stability and also their future investment.

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Today, the royal palace of Egypt was visited by an important guest, a leading Roman general and statesman, a middle-aged man named Pompei Magnus.

The main objective of this Roman general was to see if the two young rulers to be capable leading their biggest investment.

This would lead to putting their card into one of them whether it was Ptolemy, the 12 years old boy, or his sister, Cleopatra the Seventh.

Although Klea never likes her brother, she doesn't wish to be put against each other. Even more, being in favor would also mean being controlled by the general just like it was with her father.

Klea never liked the fact her father crowned her as the new queen, as she disliked those responsibilities that came with the position. She felt they were just unnecessary burdens and definitely weren't things she wanted to fight over with her brother.

In doubt, she remembered the advice of someone who held dear to her.

An encouragement to do whatever she wanted to do and to not let other people decide things for her. Therefore, Klea thought of the arrival of this Roman general as an opportunity. An opportunity to resolve things, once and for all.

The moment the Roman general had an audience with her, Klea swiftly used her [Enchantment] spell to make the former be favorable of her brother, approving Ptolemy to be the ruler of Egypt, despite his young age.

She also made sure all the Egyptian advisers showed their unprecedented support for the decision to make her brother the ruler of Egypt.

As for her, to make sure Egypt remained undivided, Klea gave herself the identity of an outcast and let her other sister Arsinoe become the queen of Egypt.

Therefore, at the end of all things, Klea had successfully freed herself, and completely broke the restraint her father placed upon her.

Before leaving, Klea decided to use her newfound power and prepared a special ceremony, as a gesture of present to her former subjects.

...

Near the river of Nile,

Klea brought her hand up to the air. She concentrated her mind, focusing on the three different colors of her elements that flowed throughout her body and into her spirit core.

[Storm Haze]

Klea slowly opened both her clenched palms. Swirls of water were dancing on her left hand, looking like raging streams and torrents. While erratic sparks of blue-colored lightning appeared just above her right hand. The extraordinary energy that came with the activation of her spell caused Klea's body to slowly levitate, furthering away from the ground.

Up above the sky, numerous clouds could be seen gathering, before congregating together into a massive thundercloud. When the storm reached its peak build-up, Klea added an extra layer of water element. In the next instant, the sky was covered by drops of water that gushed down like crazy.

[Rain]

Klea continued to cast the spell for a few moments every day for the next 10 days and, in the end, the nearly dried Nile River magically flooded with water again.

With it, the long period of drought the Egyptians experienced had finally come to an end.

Klea might not be the queen of Egypt, but she was afterward known as the Goddess of Egypt, the daughter of Iris, due to her godlike actions.

During these ten days, Constantly using her spells to the maximum, she finally felt a new understanding of her spirit core. After a few days of close door meditation, finally, a notification abruptly popped into Klea's mind, bringing unexpected surprise.

[Congratulations! You have reached a breakthrough in the Water Element]

[Congratulations! You have reached a breakthrough in the Wind Element]

[Congratulations! You have reached a breakthrough in the Lightning Element]

[Congratulation! You have reached rank 8]

[Battle power 44 (35)]

[Spirit force 251 (176)]

[Wind spirit - high foundation]

[Water spirit - high foundation]

[Lightning spirit - high foundation]

[Acolyte rank 8]

All three elements breakthrough simultaneously and pushed her to the next acolyte rank. Seeing the information on her hand, all her previous worries were gone instantly. It was now filled with a wish to show her progress to her friends.

Now that she already did everything she planned to in Egypt, Klea chose a dozen royal guards and took one of the best ships to facilitate her upcoming journey.

Just like a bird out of the cage, she was finally free.

"Time to visit the others. I wonder how they are..." Klea murmured, as her eyes gazed into the vast ocean.

Chapter 413: The Serpent

Millions of light-years away from Earth,

[Ouroboros]

[L class planet - High Realm]

A huge space cruiser could be seen tentatively approaching the green planet.

After entering its atmosphere, multiple small, spherical objects guided the cruiser to fly right above the surface of the planet, which was full of trees and swamps. It kept edging forward, casting large, looming shadows on the ground, until it landed on a clearing near a modern city.

"Phantom Class 3542 has landed."

"Welcome home, Phantom 3542"

Hundreds of people gathered outside the cruiser, as its huge steel door opened and hundreds more poured out onto the pavement. Among them was a pale looking girl with long, white hair.

"Silva! Here!"

Silva was one of the half-bloods who had been appointed as an academy acolyte and was accepted in the privilege class; she had just returned to her home from the Magus Academy.

As she left unannounced, she never received the recall spell that would send her back home, hence the reason why she returned manually using the space cruiser.

As she walked towards the man calling out her name, she couldn't help but smile warmly to herself. The one who picked her up was her uncle. Once they were reunited, the two walked towards a vehicle hovering gently in the air.

"Your mother, the queen, will be happy to see you return."

She, on the other hand, just stayed quiet, not saying anything.

"I heard you managed to enter the privilege class. That's amazing, Silva!"

"I am sorry uncle, but I don't really want to talk about it."

"I see. I am sure the current condition does ruin everything for you."

Silva could only smile wryly at her uncle in response. She stared out the window, looking downwards at the sprawling expanse of Ouroboros city, hand propped under her chin. The city was a collage of spiraling roads wended dizzily around tall, looming buildings. The golden afternoon light reflecting on the windows seemed to make the entire city glimmer.

That was when she saw something in the city center, almost like a big crack running through the middle of the metropolis, a slew of ruins had laid waste to some artifacts, and a huge chunk had been broken off them.

"So, we even had to destroy the teleportation portal."

"Yes, the patriarch ordered it. For our safety, of course."

"Yes... For our safety." Silva repeated, still looking towards the broken portal.

At the moment, she was extremely annoyed. She had worked so hard to gain entry into the privilege class and now this war that had been declared without warning made her lose everything she put so much effort into achieving.

After an hour-long journey, she finally arrived home: a vast palace surrounded by forests and swamps.

The flying vehicle landed on the palace balcony, dozens of silver armored guards raised their spears up high to welcome their arrival.

Silva casually walked past them and headed straight towards the throne, where a huge white scaled snake was curled up in the seat.

"Sssss... You return, my daughter..."

The snake transformed into a beautiful, white skinned woman. The Ouroboros queen.

The queen quickly realized Silva was not in a good mood, hence the reason why she decided to send everyone away from the room, leaving only her brother and daughter remaining.

"Tell me the truth, mother. Did we really do it?"

The queen answered with a smile.

"Hmm... I wonder what this academy is really teaching you, you were never this temperamental before.

"Ugh, mother, please. Did we or did we not betray the humans?"

"Well dear, if you must know... We didn't."

Silva had suspected the same, the queen then called her forward.

"My amazing daughter... The privilege class, you have made me proud. Because of this, let me tell you the story."

The queen told her that the snake half-bloods have never betrayed the humans. Unfortunately, the accusation thrust towards them forced them to actually pick a side.

"You know our history, daughter... How those humans treated us, tens of thousands of them. Being treated like this was simply the last straw from a myriad of problems. We have a long, arduous history between us that has always been full of tension."

"Mother, does this mean that it's all just a misunderstanding? And that we can make peace with the humans again?"

"It's already too late, dear. The war has escalated and the patriarch has given his command, we will sit on the sideline for this war "

"Still, we need to find a way to clear this up... They need to know the truth!"

The queen turned to the side, still smiling, and chuckled.

"Haha, what do you mean "they"? You never cared about these things before."

"Umm... Just... No one..."

"Don't you worry about these things, daughter. As long as you have not reached the Magus level, none of this is of your concern... Besides..." The queen paused abruptly, her stare turning stony and serious. She looked her daughter straight in the eyes.

"What is it, mother?! Tell me!"

"New information just came up and yet another bloodline got accused. I am sure sooner or later the truth of our innocence will come out, although it won't do much good now."

Silva knitted her brow, evidently worried. Her thoughts began to race rapidly in her head, racking her brain. She knew that one among the 9 bloodlines actually did betray the humans.

"It must have been those bloodsuckers, wasn't it?"

The queen shook her head. The next words that came from her mouth surprised Silva even more.

"It was the wolf, dear..."

Silva gasped, her hand unconsciously flew to cover her mouth. "No! It can't be!"

"Unfortunately, those wolves were not clever enough to quickly get away from all these messes, well again it's not our problem now."

Silva nodded curtly, but deep in her heart she was troubled, thinking about a certain stupid wolf.

Chapter 414: The Princess

Lioness Kingdom, Lioness Castle.

Birds were chirping their melodious tune as the sun gradually peeked from beyond the blue horizon. In the meantime, the dark sky was slowly overtaken by crimson layers, until it was completely shrouded in azure.

Today, the Lioness Kingdom appeared to have a visitor coming from afar. An emissary hailed from the neighboring Cantiaci Kingdom was seen standing in the middle of the hall at the Lioness Castle, while the figure of Lioness Kingdom's absolute ruler was sitting on the throne before him.

"King Lioness, I, representing the Cantiaci Kingdom, have come again to offer our deepest regret for the incident that happened 6 months ago. As the consequence of his actions, Your Majesty has punished Prince Edward by holding him captive in the Lioness Kingdom all this time. Even so, we sincerely ask for your renowned benevolence to forgive the young prince for his foolishness."

The Lioness King sat on his throne in a firm posture. However, one could see that his face was pale and his overall figure was much thinner than before.

"Esteemed Magister, this is already the third time you have come here, and for the same reason. Please return and tell your king to not waste his and my time anymore. I promise I will definitely return your prince in 5 years. *Cough* After all, that's a fair punishment for him for trying to hurt our princess."

The Cantiaci Kingdom's emissary once again bowed to the Lioness King. Then, suddenly, a figure who came together with the former carried a large chest, put it on the ground and opened it. Inside the chest, hundreds of gold coins and numerous jewels could be seen, blinding those who laid their eyes on them.

The sight of such astonishing wealth was enough to astonish the ministers of the Lioness Kingdom, who were also present in the hall, in particular one figure – Fantumar.

"Please, Your Majesty. This is a small token of our regret for the incident, as well as gratitude for releasing our prince."

At this exact moment, Fantumar decided to give his advice to the king.

"My king, we have to consider the future. We can't afford to be in a bad relationship with our closest neighbour for a long time. At the moment, as we cut off all trade with them because of the incident, many of our own people have suffered."

Upon hearing such words, the Lioness King seemed to be swayed.

Noticing that, Fantumar swiftly followed his advance. "Think about it, my king. What is the difference between 6 months and a few years? I am sure the young prince has already suffered enough and has regretted his wrongdoing."

The emissary obviously realized Fantumar was trying to persuade the Lioness King, therefore he quickly added, "Please, Your Majesty. I came with the will of the Queen of Cantiaci herself. She missed her son so much she had a hard time falling asleep ever since... Please forgive our young prince's misconduct and we will forever be grateful!" the Cantiaci Kingdom's emissary said, while doing a 90 degree bow.

As he heard the two people, the Lioness King seemed in doubt and fell into contemplation. But then, just as he was about to once again give his decision, a loud voice suddenly sounded from outside the hall.

A group of people were seen walking through the main door and entered the hall. These people were a dozen of Lioness knights, which were led by a beautiful golden-haired young girl wearing shiny knights' armor.

"My king, please allow me to have my say"

The young girl was none other than the Lioness Kingdom's princess herself. She walked forward with a confident gait and stopped right next to the emissary.

Seeing his daughter was here, the Lioness King nodded his head. "Yes, Gwen. You may speak."

"My king, what Minister Fantumar said about our people suffering because of this isn't completely true. Our port Lioness port was still our people's main source of trades and income; also I have talked to those traders, who normally trade with the Cantiacis, and we have helped them open new trade opportunities with the other kingdoms and countries across the sea to solve this problem"

Upon hearing Gwen's words, both Fantumar and the Cantiaci Kingdom's emissary evidently became irritated.

Alas, she wasn't finished yet, as Gwen once again opened her mouth and spoke with a stern tone.

"What our kingdom desperately needed at the moment is being proud of their own kingdom! We need to display to our people and others our integrity and strength! We need to show that no prince or king can attack our kingdom and not get punished for their actions!"

The words Gwen spoke were unexpected, but they also inspired everyone in the hall. Among them were the young knights who were under her command. One could even see that they were currently looking at her with admiration.

On the other hand, the Lioness King also smiled seeing how these past few months, his daughter has increasingly become more wonder to his eyes.

Fantumar was trying to say another word, but the King stopped the former by raising his hand. He then looked at the emissary and said,

"You have heard what the princess has said and I agree with her. I genuinely apologize, Magister, but Prince Edward will have to extend his stay at our kingdom for a few more years. Please tell the queen he would certainly be treated well here and that she doesn't have to worry."

The Cantiaci Kingdom's emissary looked at the Lioness King and realized the latter was determined with his decision, especially after the addition of the presence of the Lioness Princess. Therefore, he gave up and decided to leave with anger on his face.

After the emissary was gone, the Lioness King swiftly told everyone except Gwen to leave the hall. He then called his daughter and went on a walk with her.

Gwen swiftly took a hold of her father's arm and helped him, as they walked toward the palace balcony.

Looking at the view of the capital city from where they stood, the Lioness King exhaled a sigh that contained complex emotions. He slowly turned around and looked at the face of his dear daughter. "Gwen, you just came to rescue me from the wolves... again..." Another deep sigh was heard following the last part of the sentence.

Gwen turned to her father and looked at the latter with a concerned yet conflicted gaze. "Like I said father... Why are you still keeping that... poisonous human by your side. He never had the kingdom's best interest in him."

The Lioness King laughed as he heard his daughter's words. Gwen doesn't know if he laughed because of her utter contempt for Fantumar, or because of something else.

"Hahaha..." He laughed dryly, coughing in the middle of it. "Both you and I know it's not that easy. If I just recklessly throw him out, the kingdom would be in jeopardy with his absence."

Gwen naturally frowned at the harsh reality that presented itself to her.

"Even so, I don't agree with your decision to keep him, father. In order to save the kingdom, we MUST remove all the thorn that is inside, no matter how difficult the process will be."

The Lioness King smiled when he heard his daughter say such words. Even so, Gwen could see there was apparent trace of concern on her father's face when he looked at her.

"Hear me carefully, my dear daughter. I know you want to get rid of him, but you must be very careful in your endeavor. Remember I taught you to only fight wars that you can win. That Fantumar is very strong, my dear... And that's before we put the Cantiacis in the equation."

Hearing her father's care for her, Gwen's gaze turned even more firm. "I am not afraid, father. I have prepared and groomed a sizable number of knights that I can trust to protect our kingdom in the last few months.. This is also the reason why we should never free the Cantiaci Prince, that bastard Edward."

"Trust in this prediction of mine, father. The moment we release him, I'm one hundred percent sure the Cantiaci will immediately launch their attack again on us, just give me more time"

"Yes... yes... I can clearly see that those knights of yours really have grown..."

The king Suddenly realize something and ask

"But Gwen, I still wonder where was that knight who won the Tournament? The champion... Lanzo... I still wonder why is he not joining your group? ...Did he go to another kingdom?"

Gwen was startled by her father's question. She swiftly recovered her bearing and said, "He... Just forget about him, father. He's not interested in becoming a knight." At the end of her words, a helpless sigh escaped unconsciously.

The Lioness King was taken aback by the unexpected development. "Wow... that boy seems to be more interesting than I thought to make my daughter like this. Hahaha..."

He then stared straight at Gwen and said, "I can't almost recognize you anymore, my dear daughter. You are so... amazing. Are you really my sweet baby girl?"

When the king put his hands on her shoulder, Gwen quickly put both her hand around him and hug her father. There was a moment of silence for both of them.

"Tell me, daughter. Truthfully." Gwen nodded her head at her father's words. "Are you happy?"

The unanticipated question caught Gwen off guard. She really didn't know what to say for a moment. These days she could easily speak about policy and politics but surprisingly this question seemed to be the hardest one to answer. Much to her surprise, suddenly what resurfaced on her mind was an argument she has with a particular person 6 months ago.

She quickly shook her head, trying not to think about it. Unbeknownst to her, Gwen's reaction caused the Lioness King to become interested in what she was thinking about. But she quickly answers her best not to make her father worried.

"Of course, I am happy, father. You are here in my arms, what else could I ask for?" Gwen answered with a smile.

The Lioness King chuckled as he looked at his daughter. "Hahaha... Gwen, that's not what I meant and you know it."

The King put both hand on her shoulder and stare her in the eyes and sid in a serious tone.

"Dear daughter you know... I can't always be here for you... I'm afraid..."

"Don't say that, father,." said Gwen slowly, while sadness gradually appeared on her face.

The Lioness King thought about something and said.

"Gwen... I worry for you... you know there's another way to make the kingdom safer"

It was apparent that what her father said has shaken Gwen, as the Lioness King could clearly see her daughter lose her composure. Gwen herself seemed to have guessed what her father was trying to say.

"It's been an announce officially that King Uther will step down from his throne and give the reins to his son, Prince Arthur. And for that, the Logress Kingdom has officially sent their intention to ask your hand for marriage"

The Lioness King took out a letter with a Logress Kingdom stamp from his sleeve and gave it to Gwen as he said, "I will not force you, my daughter. You can choose your own path. Whatever it is... I will support you."

Chapter 415: Greed

Within one of the small houses near the dock of Lioness port, four figures seem to have met secretly.

"Lord Fantumar, my king demands to know your standing on this matter."

Right after an audience with the king, the Cantiaci emissary secretly met up with the second most powerful person in Lioness, the wealthy Lord Fantumar.

It was a secret meeting that was attended by only four people, the two of them and Sir Breunor the Dread knight and Fantumar's son, Abe.

Abe was quite surprised to see that his father was more silent than usual, as he was disrespected by the Cantiaci family. He had expected a more visceral reaction.

"So, how will it be, Lord Fantumar? It has been 6 months and the Queen will not accept it! If this goes on any longer, she will not hesitate to break the agreement!"

Abe had always followed his father along on business related meetings since he was a boy, but for the last two years he had been accompanying his father more frequently. He needed all the training he could get, in terms of communicating and negotiating with powerful figures.

Lately, his father had increasingly been involving himself in politics. Each day, his father revealed a side of him Abe never knew existed. Recently, every meeting he joined was more surprising than the last.

For one, his father never wished for the throne. He thought it was merely a flippant display of power that only came with a horde of problems. His exact words were, "The throne is nothing but a big chunk of metal, a burden."

To Fantumar, the title of "king" was merely that: a title. One that evoked power and respect, but actually held none. For him, the real power came from money. With money he could buy loyalty. He had already bought the Dread knight and half of the kingdom's knights were similarly sitting in his pocket.

The only loyalty he really believed in was a loyalty to wealth. After all, even those allegedly honorable knights could be bought, and it was only easier to buy the corrupt ministers. Having pieces of land here and there would also buy the nobles, keeping them under his control as well.

In the past dozen years, he had managed to expand his power, even using the help of the marauders, clearing out some useless nobles and redistributing the land to those who supported him. This gives him a lot of pressure from the knight of the Divine order. But again with enough money, he could pay off for the order to look the other way.

Unfortunately, as of right now, he wasn't able to buy off more powerful figures without creating more tension between him and the current reigning nobles, and this tension would only mean less money.

His greed didn't stop him from becoming the richest man in Lioness, so his next target would be to become the richest man in the south of Briton.

Therefore, after years of planning it was finally the time to execute his plan. Having the two sides, Fantumar, and the Cantiaci to share the Lioness power.

With the Lioness having no male heir, it's apparent that whoever marries the princess would be the future ruler of the Lioness.

Prince Edward, the third prince of the Cantiaci. He was smart, good-looking, and quite successful being a champion silver knight of the divine order. The young prince has been friends with the princess for quite some time as well.

Matchmaking the two of them would be the best scenario for the Cantiaci and Fantumar. With this Fantumar wouldn't just keep his power in Lioness, he could even expand with all the land and business prepared by the Cantiaci.

This would be the fastest way to reach his dream. Having controlled the two biggest southern ports that were a gateway to the world would make him the richest man in the whole Briton.

At least that was the plan until the young prince of Cantiaci suddenly attacked the princess convoy after the tournament.

"If your stupid prince had just listened to my orders and follow the plan, then none of this would have happened!"

Fantumar's previously repressed anger suddenly boiled to the surface, infuriated as he thought about how that stupid prince ruined his plan.

At that time, The Cantiaci prince was supposed to wait until the Dread knight came, but he was far too emotional after the utter shame he faced at the tournament.

"The Lioness king should be willingly giving up his throne by now. But no! He just had to be the one showing off his ego!... even if he had to, why does he need to show himself personally! Moron! He ruined everything!"

This time Fantumar was not concerned about showing his temper with the Cantiaci Emissary.

The rage was clearly evident in his face because the emissary unconsciously took a step back. The room was immediately charged with anxious energy.

"Lord Fantumar, please give us your advice, I am afraid the king will not wait. We, the Cantiaci, Might have to start preparing for war!"

Fantumar never wishes for war, he never really cares about the lives of the knights and the people. Mainly because war was always bad for business.

War would only make the trading stop and lead to less money, hence the reason why he had been preventing it from happening.

At least, that was what he always said to his son. But at this time, Abe looked on with concern as his father's expression was more calculative than usual.

Fantumar give a long sigh before saying

"Unfortunately, it seems war is the only option now."

This sentence shocked everyone in the room into complete silence. The emissary's eyes shifted around nervously.

Fantumar then began to explain.

"The problem was that princess, she has been slowly gaining support from the people and nobles alike. She also has encircled herself with her trusted knights."

At this time Fantumar stares at his son.

"How many are now under her direct command, son?"

"...ermm.. thirty father.. maybe more..."

"Huh.. you can't even get your number right Abe! Please don't keep disappointing me!"

Fantumar then asked the Dreadknight and he gives the full report. The princess has close to 50 knights that she recruited slowly, added with sir Yvain own knight, total there were about 200 knights plus around two thousand guards. That's from Lioness city alone. He starts counting the number of all knights and the militia the Lioness king could gather from all over the cities.

This line of discussion somehow worries Abe.

"Are you really considering war father?"

"Yes, you know I wouldn't resort to this unless there was another way. The problem is we are running out of time"

"What do you mean father?"

Fantumar took out a letter, it appears to come from one of his spies.

"A new piece of information had just come to light... King Uther of the Logress who will be stepping down from his throne has finally sent over his proposal to marry princess Gwenneth to the future King Arthur."

This time the Emissary was surprised

"How... How accurate is this?"

"Very accurate. And I am telling you right now that the princess will accept. She's very smart and she will not let this chance go."

"This... This is very bad news for us..."

"Yes! If this marriage actually does go through, then you can forget about Lioness, its territories will merge with Logress by then."

"Then what should we do...? What advice can you give, Lord Fantumar? Should we announce war now? Won't the Logress interfere?"

"No... Not that kind of war... to ensure the stability of the kingdom I disagree with a long open war, we should make a swift and decisive move!"

Fantumar was suddenly drawn to his own thought before he said

"Emissary, I will write a letter to your king. I will prepare everything. This needs to be done covertly and swiftly... We cannot let this information leak."

The emissary was elated after Fantumar write down something he said

"I need an answer from your King immediately"

He accepted the letter Fantumar handed him. He then hastily left the secret meeting place.

Fantumar turned around, and absentmindedly he rubbed his temple. He then faced the Dread knight and his son.

"This will be a great and vital turning point for the Fantumar family. Sir Breunor, prepare your knights and go wait for my instructions."

The black knight nodded and left the place promptly.

As for Abe, he appears to be hesitant, which was quickly sensed by his father.

"Son, this is a very necessary step for your learning. Some things need to be done this way, you must get used to the gruesomeness of it. Don't disappoint me, son!"

Abe nodded to his father but he himself can't help but feel worried.

Chapter 416: The Pack

Deep within the Forbidden Forest, several figures could be seen running at an amazing speed.

Wsshh!!

The figures were all furry, looming large and ominous, with bodies twice the size of normal humans, armed with sharp claws and fangs. They were the Fey wolf forms, and they were dashing through the dense forest in a single formation, twigs and branches snapping violently past them.

All five of the hulking figures had been running around, hunting together in a pack as was common for their species. The leader of the pack, situated at the front of the group, had red and black fur. The other three directly behind him had brown coats, while the one tailing the group was stark white.

They had been chasing prey around the dense forest, not stopping until their target had been hunted down. They had reached a small clearing when, suddenly, they all heard it.

"Awoooooo!!!"

The sound of howling reverberated throughout the forest. It was a call for all five of them to immediately stop what they were doing and follow the sound.

They turned back, beginning to sprint yet again. The five wolves finally arrived at a small hut not far from the Feleanion Forest.

Slowly, all five of them transfigured back to their human forms. They took some clothes that were hanging outside of the hut, before opening its creaky wooden door, making their way inside.

"Brother Emery, has it been an hour already? That was fast."

Emery, who was standing in front of a huge table, turned around to greet them.

"Don't worry, that should be enough. Please take a seat, all of you... Glita, Tyra, Lelith, Lilith and you too, Morgana."

All five of the Fey sisters sat on the chairs lined throughout the table before Emery pulled out a small knife.

"I am sorry, this will sting a bit."

Emery made cuts on each of their hands, drawing blood from their palms, just a little bit each. He squeezed the blood into small vials and started to mark them.

"How is it brother?! Is it working?!"

"Just a moment, Glita, please be patient."

Emery put a drop of liquid into each of the vials of blood, watching them slowly meld with one another. Afterwards, he used his special apothecary skills.

[Fragmentation]

The liquid coagulated, floating gently into the air. They were suspended there for a moment, hovering slowly into a singular mass, before suddenly separating into three different colours: a huge red orb, a sparkling white one and one tiny droplet, which had a shimmering crimson hue.

He then used [Analyze] on the red colored liquid; information instantly started to materialize in his head.

"This one is Glita's."

[Human - Female]

[Battle Power - 20]

[Spirit Force - 22]

[Element Affinity - Ice and Plant]

[Spirit Aptitude B]

This was the information that Emery had received. He was able to glean information regarding any individual using the blood of the subject, filtered with a special liquid thought by Gaious. He managed to use this technique after learning human anatomy from the old magician.

Emery was extremely satisfied with the results. It was such a success to be able to check the stats of any subject, this made things so much more convenient for him.

"Okay, Glita. In a week you have increased two more spirit forces, very good. Now, next."

Emery moved on to the next orb of filtered blood, still hovering languidly in the air. "This one is Tyra, the eldest."

[Human - Female]

[Battle power - 21]

[Spiritt force - 22]

[Element Affinity - Earth and Plant]

[Spirit Aptitude C]

"And these two are the twins, Lilith and Leylith."

[Human - Female]

[Battle power - 20]

[Spirit force - 17]

[Element Affinity - Wind and Plant]

[Spirit Aptitude C]

[Human - Female]

[Battle power - 21]

[Spirit force - 16]

[Element Affinity - Wind and Plant]

[Spirit Aptitude C]

"Finally, let me see yours, Morgana."

[Human - Female]

[Battle power - 25]

[Spirit force - 38]

[Element Affinity - Fire, Plant and Darkness]

[Spirit Aptitude A]

"Now you, on the other hand, have had a spirit force increase of 4 within a week. These are great results, Morgana."

Emery's words made all the other sisters glower at her in jealousy. The usually cold Morgana couldn't help but let a soft, satisfied smile spread on her face.

"Oh, Brother Emery! You really have broken our sister... What did you do to her?!"

"What?! What did I do?" Emery frowned, slightly confused at the accusation.

"Our sister Morgana has turned more beautiful with her smile because of you! You must take responsibility!"

Emery smiled awkwardly in response, while Morgana turned around violently, instantly throwing a murderous glance in the direction of Glita, the youngest of the siblings.

"Haha, I don't think I understand what you mean. She's always been beautiful since I've known her."

Upon saying this, Emery suddenly realized Morgana was blushing, directly avoiding eye contact with him, as her gaze was glued on the floor. He quickly added, "All of you are beautiful... Haha."

The situation in the hut suddenly turned rowdy, the sisters talking excitedly amongst themselves, all while teasing Morgana and playfully poking at her cheeks. They went on like this for a bit until Tyra finally cut in.

"We do somehow feel stronger though... I feel like I am closer and more aware of the things around me."

Glita added, "Yes, Brother. I could've sworn that I was able to talk to a flower yesterday."

"..."

Emery simply stared at her, not sure that was possible...

He took out another 5 vials that were sparkling gold in color and gave one to each of them.

"Okay, this is for another week. We can check again next week."

"Yes Brother Emery," all of them said in unison, save for Morgana, who stayed back in the room as the rest of them left.

"You too, Morgana. I will be here for a while, there are still many things I have to check." Emery's voice was rather curt and, at this, Morgana nodded and walked out of the hut, trailing silently after her sisters.

With the sisters now gone, Emery then took out two vials and placed them side by side on the table. One was a golden vial similar to the ones he just gave to the girls, the other was a crimson vial he had been collecting all these weeks.

Emery checked all the other ingredients ready on the table and said.

"It's finally time to try making it."

Chapter 417: New Potions

The shimmering golden vial was his newest concoction, a recipe made by using the [Gaia Essence] he received from the high priestess.

The golden liquid contained pure energy, just like a spirit stone. After several instances of trial and error, alongside various controlled tests, Emery finally came up with this new potion.

[Gaia Serum - Tier 1]

Its effects were similar to the green potion he received from Master Grom, but its quality was still far from reaching the level needed to pass into the spirit serum level.

After going through his numerous tests, he concluded the potion ultimately did not give any benefits to his spirit force at all. He assumed it would only be useful for low rank acolytes.

However, he still had to be really careful with this. From the knowledge he gained from the academy, spirit energy potions such as these were varied. There were many similar products made from different energy sources and they tended to be unstable, possessing the ability to ruin a person's cultivation if not careful.

Therefore, Emery has been testing it out weekly in small doses, utilizing the Fey sisters as his subjects. With all of them having different aptitudes, it would provide him with a better understanding of the serum's specifications and ways to increase its effectiveness in the future.

Now that he was more confident with the serum, he planned to start giving several dosages to Arthur as well, hence keeping his promise in aiding him to pull the sword.

Aside from that, there was actually another reason he tested it on the Fey sisters in particular. The reason was the shiny crimson vial he was grasping in his other hand.

Emery accessed the recipe given to him by Silva and scanned the list of ingredients again. In order to create a successful serum he needed three main components.

[Fey Gene Blood] [Reagents] [Acid]

Emery had been experimenting with various methods to separate the Fey genes from the blood. These were all came from the note given by Silva. The potion he made before doing the [fragmentation] was created to do the separation

He also tried having them transform into the Fey state, having them stay that way for several hours and, shortly after returning to their human forms, he would collect fresh blood from them.

He had been collecting tiny amounts of the Fey gene essence every week and today he finally had enough to experiment on.

In terms of the reagents, Emery managed one with 100% potency by perfecting his blue powder recipe. [Reagent - Tier 2]

As for the acid, fortunately, his one-seeded caracas flower had shown its effects. The caves he chose to plant the flower in was starting to become completely infested with the red flower, covering the cave floors and creeping up their walls. Despite the results, they were somehow still in an early stage of growth. Emery carefully twisted a few of the flowers off their stems for his experiments.

With half of the ingredients he required being unavailable on Earth, he could only settle with what he currently had. This meant creating another new acid recipe, with his experience in this area Emery managed to barely create a tier 2 acid with the ingredients he had.

[Acid potion - Tier 2]

This was the result he ended up with. The two acid potions and reagents were now ready to be combined with the silvery crimson blood vial he collected from the girls. Finally, he began concocting the [Fey Gene Booster].

Emery threw himself into his work, pouring himself into his experiments day in and day out. After a few days of being completely undisturbed, he was finally able to make a product that was ready for use. With shaky hands, he lifted the vial.

[Fey Gene Booster Tier 1]

[Potency Strength 32% - Failure]

Emery cast [Fragmentation] on it, and started to work again in order to make a perfected version of the potion. He made dozens of prototypes, so he could select the best out of all of them for actual use.

[Fey Gene Booster Tier 1]

[Potency Strength 48% - Failure]

Unfortunately, it was still a failure. He rubbed his fingers on his temple absentmindedly. Emery could see the third item, the blood, as it was continuously being dominated by the other pair of Tier 2 ingredients.

He was just about to give up, his hand resting on his forehead exasperatedly, when he had an idea. His expression suddenly brightened as he grabbed his small knife and quickly cut his hand, drawing his own blood.

When he combined it with the liquid and use [fragmentation] to his own blood he realizes he has more amount of silvery crimson blood on him. He hopes fey gene essence inside him will be the answer to it all, at least he hoped so.

As soon as he put it in, the concoction immediately started to clot. The blood, the acid and the reagents all worked harmoniously together, balancing each other out to create the final product.

[Fey Gene Booster Tier 1]

[Potency Strength 92%]

Emery was desperate to give the booster a try, but he suddenly thought of another way to make it stronger.

He took a walk towards the shrine in order to meet the high priestess lady of the lake. She greeted him with a delicate smile.

"High priestess, forgive me if this seems strange, but I am wondering if it is possible to give me some of your... Blood?"

It was an awkward request but the high priestess was kind enough to accept. Not waiting any longer, after another day of concoction, he finally succeeded.

[Fey Gene Booster Tier 2]

[Potency Strength 70%]

Knowing the potion was limited and only made with what he had right now, Emery quickly consumed it. As he drank it, new information immediately started to emerge in his mind.

[Your bloodline just went through purifying process]

[Genes purified]

[Fey Wolf gene essence percentage increased to 23%]

[All wolf bloodline abilities increased]

[Sense sharpness increased]

[Stamina increased]

[Regenerative abilities increased]

An increase of two percent? This new information delighted Emery. Even the booster given by Bob only gave him a one percent increase. These new recipes combining with the other fey genes do seem very effective. He excitedly clasped his hands together, grateful for finally achieved making the gene booster potion.

Now all he had to do was make more for him and the sisters. Hopefully, this recipe would be enough to push him towards a breakthrough to Rank 4. Once he reached it, he would be able to start using the item given by the wolf patriarch.

Chapter 418: Purification

After spending several days collecting more ingredients and blood genes for the Fey sisters as well as High Priestess Nimue, Emery had managed to create more [Gene Booster] potions.

Thus, at the moment, Emery could be seen downing those potions one by one.

[Your bloodline just went through purifying process]

[Genes purified]

[Fey Wolf gene essence percentage increased to 24%]

Emery smiled wryly at the notification appearing in his mind, showing he received an increase of one percent. It seemed his luck was running out, but he certainly would not stop there. After all, he still had more potions he could consume.

Emery took another one and devoured it in one gulp. The next second, he could clearly feel a burning sensation happening throughout his body. The sensation was apparent, but wasn't so painful that he wanted shout his lungs out. After a while, a familiar sequence of notifications appeared in his mind.

[Your bloodline went through a purifying process]

[Genes purified]

[Sense sharpness increased]

[Stamina increased]

[Regenerative abilities increased]

Emery received all these messages that told him all the strengthening he got, but there wasn't a notification that stated an increase in his Gene Essence percentage.

It took him another potion, which was also the last of this batch, before Emery could finally get the notification he was looking for.

[Genes purified]

[Fey Wolf gene essence percentage increased to 25%]

Unfortunately, Emery had no more potions to drink.

He can't keep asking for more blood from the Fey sisters and the High Priestess for the potions. Not only would he feel uncomfortable from doing so, he also had a lack of the potion's main ingredient, the Caracas Flower.

Hence, he wouldn't be able to make any number of said potions for quite some time. It would probably take a few more months for the Caracas Flower to bloom and be ready to harvest.

Emery also believed the current Tier 2 Gene Booster potion with 70% potency had already reached its limit. He would have to find a solution to increase the quality of the potion.

One of the ways to do so was to have the gene blood sample of that witch, Meave. Thus, Emery just got more reason and motivation to catch the witch.

In the end, Emery set aside those thoughts for the future and went ahead to check the status of his bloodline.

[Bloodline Gene – Fey Wolf]

[Gene Classification – Legendary Bloodline]

[Bloodline Limit : Rank 6]

[Current Rank]

[Rank 3 -The Fey Warden]

[25% Fey Wolf Essence]

It was said that when his bloodline gene essence passed the 30% milestone, Emery would be able to evolve his bloodline to Rank 4, and when that happened, he could finally start using the ritual item given to him by the Wolf Patriarch.

Emery quickly activated his transformation ability and started doing laps around the woods for a while.

He was surprised as he felt his newfound power. It turned out his new purified blood gave a substantial bonus to his physical strength, as Emery could move much faster and feel his body much stronger than before. This deduction was also supported in the increase of battle power in his stats.

Other than that, the upgrade had also, unexpectedly, affected his spirit core. Emery could feel a deeper connection to the Plant element in the surrounding area.

Knowing all the Fey sisters had Plant in their list of elemental affinities, Emery believed this wasn't a mere coincidence. There must be a correlation between the Fey wolf and the Plant element; if he got the chance, he would probably delve into it in the future.

Now, as there was nothing else to do with his apothecary experiments, Emery decided it was time for him to return his attention to cultivation.

Once again, Emery was seen sitting cross-legged deep inside the Forbidden Forest, cultivating with the help of [Nature Grasp]. Faint green-colored light could be seen swirling around his body before being absorbed.

Moments later, a droplet of water suddenly landed on his head, as rain fell on the Forbidden Forest. Despite being drenched by the rainfall, Emery kept cultivating as if he didn't even realize what was happening.

Each water droplet that fell to the trees, branches, leaves, grasses and ground was connected to Emery, to the spirit energy that was linked to his spirit core. This brought a sensation onto him - one that couldn't be described with words.

It had been 6 months since he learnt the [Nature Grasp] spell and, with each passing day, Emery could feel his understanding of nature increasing greatly. Following it, was his cultivation.

Four months ago, Emery had managed to breakthrough into the high foundation stage in his understanding of Plant element. A month later, the other two elements of his, Water and Earth, also followed suit.

With all the remaining three elements he had reached the high foundation stage, it only took Emery a mere several days in the Khaos space to finally breakthrough and step into the next realm, becoming a Rank 8 acolyte.

This had happened 3 months ago.

Since then, Emery had an understanding or rather, a realization that, unless he cultivated his three natural elements, spending 24/7 in the Khaos space would only lead to another bottleneck like before. Therefore, he told Killgragah and tried to make the latter understand his point.

Surprisingly, even though the dragon looked annoyed by it, it had been a while since the former became strict on him. Seeing the dragon didn't change towards him, Emery believed it had hid something from him.

As for the last three months, Emery spent a month worth of time in the Khaos space, as well as in the wilderness, alternating between the two. In between, he also took well-deserved breaks - returning to the estate, tending to his garden, experimenting on his potions, and so on.

Emery smiled looking at the information came to mind when checking the symbol in his palm

Chapter 419: The Progress

Completely ignoring his body which was completely soaked by the rain, Emery once again checked the symbol on his hand.

[Emery Ambrose]

[Battle Power : 60 (45)]

[Spirit Force : 291 (216)]

[Plant Spirit – High-Foundation]

[Water Spirit – High-Foundation]

[Earth Spirit – High-Foundation]

[Spirit Core of Darkness – Stage 4]

[Fey Bloodline – Rank 3]

[Acolyte Rank: 8]

A total of 41 point increase in spirit force, 9 point increase in battle power; these were the culmination of growth Emery attained after 3 months of training and breaking through to Rank 8.

The most obvious improvement, that he could vividly feel, was definitely his battle power. He received a total of 4 points from Fey bloodline purification and the 5 he received came gradually from the spirit force improvements and the breakthroughs to the rank 8 acolytes.

At the moment, Emery was confident he could bulldoze through any of the knights in Briton without using any skill or spell buff. His 45 battle power, despite being restricted, would enable him to do so.

Emery couldn't help but feel satisfied, as he looked at the number. If he could maintain this rate of improvement, he believed he could reach Rank 9 within two years, just in time for the next recall.

Rank 9 was the other big stepping stone for all acolytes. Other than the obvious increase in power, reaching Rank 9 would grant an acolyte the ability to cast Rank 5 spells. The time when an acolyte could finally make a difference in a battle.

This target of Rank 9 was also a task given by his master, Magus Xion, to him. The esteemed magus even specifically told him to reach such rank before he came to the third year at the Magic Academy. It seemed this threshold was a minimal requirement for acolytes to survive in the third year especially with the escalated condition with the elves.

At the moment, Emery was still in his cultivation training, which was supported by [Nature Grasp].

He had been doing this method of cultivation for months and nothing substantial happened. But for the last two weeks, things were certainly different.

Since the improvement in his blood essence, Emery had a much easier time channeling his [Nature Grasp] spell toward his surroundings. It was as if nature itself helped him do the task and thus the reason he was surprised by the phenomenon.

The occurrence that happened during the rain further supported Emery's reasoning. Every drop of water that fell on the Earth seemed able to make rhythms in his spiritual core and, following that, was a gush of spirit force.

There was nothing new in the way he cultivated or cast the spell. The only thing different was the fact he had improved his Fey blood genes.

Therefore, Emery had started to believe there was a correlation between his bloodline and his capability in cultivating the natural elements around him.

Emery gradually had an easier time cultivating. Something in his bloodline was helping him comprehend the natural elements.

Thanks to the [Nature Grasp] spell, Emery's mind and spirit was wholly concentrated on Gaia's spirit, that existed all around him. With each passing second, he went deeper and deeper into Gaia, connecting to the source of spirit energy.

A notification appeared in Emery's mind, but he was unfazed by it, as he was still submerged in cultivation.

[Your spirit force increased]

This time, it wasn't only his spirit force that was enhanced.

Emery could tell and feel his whole body was brimming with strength. A kind of miraculous energy was circulating throughout his entire body and coursing through uncontrollably.

His body also seemed to empower this energy and all the excess of power swiftly receded back to his dark core, before being circulated to his three other elements - Earth, Water and Plant.

The deluge of energy that just pervaded his body and spirit core, caused Emery to become so excited that no amount of rain would remove him from his concentration.

Slowly but surely, bit by bit, Emery could tell his green-colored spirit element was being drawn of energy and his understanding regarding the said element was improving at a breakneck pace.

Then, a notification abruptly popped into his mind.

[Congratulations! You have reached a breakthrough in the Plant Element]

[Plant Spirit – Peak-Foundation]

'Wow' exclaimed Emery in his heart.

This was a progress he never thought he would be able to achieve. After all, it had only been months since he reached the high foundation stage in Plant element. Never in his wildest dreams did Emery imagine he would be able to reach the peak foundation stage this fast.

His [Nature Grasp] spell and the purification of his Fey blood were the only things that could explain this extraordinary achievement.

However, before Emery could further bask in it, he suddenly perceived the green-colored spirit in him starting to move abnormally. It tried to push through and into his dark core, affecting the flow of spirit in his dark core.

As a result, the circulation of spirit energy in Emery's body was interrupted, causing him excruciating pain.

He can feel the green color spirit which were supposed to circulating outside of the dark core has started to engulf its center

The result was more pain that reverted to his whole body. Emery couldn't stop himself from spitting out blood.

"What the hell is happening?!" said Emery in a hoarse voice, while clutching his chest as the pain swiftly grew. He quickly stopped the [Nature Grasp], and thankfully, the pain also gradually subsided following the inactivation.

While Emery was wondering what had just happened, a notification that instantly spelled the confusion away came into his mind.

[Your Dark Core became erratic]

Emery instantly stood up from his cross-legged position due to the shock. He still felt the pain in his chest when Stabilizing his wobbly body.

He felt something bothered him so he immediately tried to cast a few spells in his repertoire.

Then to his complete horror, none of them manifested.

Chapter 420: Severed

The notification that stated his dark core had become erratic brought an untold amount of shock; so much Emery's mind went blank for a moment. In fact, things swiftly moved toward the worst direction after said notification.

Not only did he lose the ability to cast any spell, the notification was also the last thing he saw from the symbol on his hand. He tried to bring up his stats and expected the familiar window to appear on his mind. But, the result was nil - nothing happened.

Bad news. This was definitely a huge, disastrous problem for him.

Without even wasting a mere second, Emery immediately bolted as fast as he could toward the direction where the stone formation was.

His heartbeat grew faster and louder as he ran through the woods, hoping that Killgragah had a solution for this unexpected problem. The dark core, after all, was the dragon piece of work.

A few minutes later, Emery arrived at the stone formation and immediately shouted with all his might. "Killgragah! Open up! Something is wrong with me!" Emery's voice trembled greatly, clearly showing his anxiety over this matter.

Deprived of his ability to cast spells, Emery could only hope that the dragon could listen to his shout. Otherwise, this matter would definitely turn into a mess with dire consequences he certainly couldn't handle.

At the end of the day, this would be the end credit for Emery, if he completely lost the ability to access the symbol on his palm.

Fortunately, his worry was unwarranted as Emery soon saw a black line manifested in the empty air. It gradually grew before spreading out into a standing rectangular shape, opening up the path.

The Khaos space was basically Killgragah's domain, therefore, the latter should be able to directly find out what happened as soon as he entered.

As expected, the moment Emery stepped into the familiar dark space, the voice of Killgragah could be heard resounding through the air. "Huh! I knew this would happen! Come closer!"

Emery became half-assured when he heard the dragon's words. It seemed the latter had an inkling of what was going on with him, which was good news.

With just a glance from its part, Killgragah had caused Emery's body to rise up to the sky. In the next moment, a glowing energy diffused out of the former and went into the latter.

In the blink of an eye, Emery perceived a foreign force going into his body and, with it, an extraordinary sensation overcame him. It was as if he had just been struck by a chain of lightning.

As Emery waited for Killgragah's examination, he noticed the dragon, who normally became emotional about the slightest thing, suddenly looked serious.

"Those three elements will be the downfall of you!" Killgragah muttered, before adding a scoff in the end.

In the meantime, the 'chain of lightning' sensation that Emery felt coursing through his body still didn't stop. Instead, it became even fiercer, as it kept jolting him painfully with each passing moment. Naturally, he gave his all to hold himself together.

Unfortunately, the examination Emery initially assumed would only go on for a dozen minutes or an hour at best continued for several hours, until he no longer had the capability to bear the excruciating pain.

Emery was about to fall unconscious and say hello to the dark abyss when a loud sound jolted him out. "Don't you dare to give up now, kid!!"

Upon hearing the dragon's words, as well as the threat laced on it, Emery quickly brought his consciousness out of its lethargic state and gathered his focus into something - anything to keep him awake and hold on, as he couldn't afford to lose consciousness now!

Suddenly, something he had buried and confined into the deepest crevice of his mind, a matter he had forced himself to neglect for more than 6 months, poured out to him. The face of a girl, her tears and the words - goodbye.

Emery gritted his teeth in exasperation, clenching his fist so hard he didn't realize his fingers had dug into his palm. Then, he screamed his heart out!

"ARGHHHH!!!"

BOOOOMMM!!!

An explosion of energy abruptly materialized in Emery's dark core and bursted out at lightspeed velocity. The energy avalanche swiftly made its way throughout his whole body, spreading out to all its parts.

Killgragah let Emery go of its grasp and the latter swiftly fell to the ground in a half kneeling position on the floor. His breathing was extremely ragged, as if there was no air around him. A moment later, the thing he had awaited, the familiar notification, once again popped into his mind.

[Your dark core had evolved]

[Spirit Core of Darkness – Stage 5]

[Your spirit force had increased tremendously]

Emery's situation at the moment was like he had finally got off from a knot that nearly bound him to death. He once again felt the existence of his dark core and, following it, was the symbol on his hand.

[Emery Ambrose]

[Battle Power : 60 (45)]

[Spirit Force : 312 (236)]

[Spirit Core of Darkness – Stage 5]

[Fey Bloodline – Rank 3]

[Acolyte Rank: 8]

Finally, the dark core upgrade that Emery thought he would get before he breakthrough to Rank 8 acolyte finally came and, with it, was another 20 points boost in spirit force. He closed his eyes and delved into his body. He could certainly feel his dark core was even stronger than before.

Emery was extremely delighted that Killgragah was willing to help him this time. He truly didn't know what he would have done if the latter decided to ignore him.

But then, Emery suddenly realized something was missing, causing his expression to change greatly.

Horror entirely filled Emery's face as he discovered that he couldn't feel the connection to the three other elements he had. He was shocked, confused and terrified by the unforeseen development.

Didn't believe what he was perceiving, Emery once again delved into his body and double checked. He saw that all three were still there, next to his dark core. However, he couldn't channel his energy into them.

Emery groggily turned his head to the dragon and said stutteringly, "Killgragah... What's... happening?"

Unexpectedly, the dragon appeared to be a little annoyed by the question.

With a dark tone, it said, "Kid... do you know how much I spent to help out your problem...?!"

"And you still dare to complain to me?!"

Realizing he had said something wrong, Emery swiftly tried to amend it. "Oh...! I mean. Thank you, supreme being! I am forever grateful for your helping hand... But, please bestow me some of your wisdom in this matter"

Killgragah was silent for a moment before it opened its mouth and spoke in nonchalant manner, "It's simple, actually. I helped enhance your dark core and severed the connection it had with your three elements. This way, your problem is solved."

"Severed..." muttered Emery one more time, as he couldn't believe what he just heard. This word was a very terrifying word for his current situation.

"What do you mean exactly by the word severed, supreme being? Please explain it to me..."

Emery swore he saw Killgragah shrug its shoulders as it said, "Nothing to explain, kid. It's exactly what the word implies." The dragon noticed the look on Emery's face and continued, "It is what it is, kid. Your three elements were fighting against the dark core, to the point that it became unstable. And because of that, I had to invest my months of energy to solve this situation of yours, kid."

Hearing that, Emery became worried once again. He was clearly grateful that Killgragah was willing to help. However, he was also anxious as he didn't know what kind of consequences he would receive from severing the other three elements of his.

Killgragah stared directly at Emery, clearly knowing what the latter was thinking about and said, "Just forget about them, kid. Your poor aptitude made it impossible for you to keep all four of them. Just stick with the darkness element, as it is the best choice for you. Me and Khaos will make you the strongest Dark Magus you could only ever dream of before."

Emery was silent for a moment before he nodded. He was grateful, but his heart also was full of worries. In fact, he still had one very important question.

"Killgragah, you are able to reattach it again, right?"

Noticing the look on Emery's face, Killgragah scoffed and said, "At the way you are now? Very unlikely. Just do like I say and place your focus on being the master of Khaos!"

Emery was grateful for the things Killgragah did to help him. But he couldn't help but think the latter let this all happen on purpose.

Looked like it was time to check this matter with the High Priestess of Gaia.