

Earths GMagus 701

Chapter 701 - Bloodline

Day 37 of the Magus Academy's third year.

The warm brilliance emanated by the sun had been shifted away by time, and darkness took over the azure expanse as night draped down its veil.

At this point, Emery has spent the last 48 hours immersed in training, which were supervised by the privileged class' staff as well as Cedric, who has been asked to keep a close eye on his condition and prevent any possible complications from occurring.

These people were also tasked to find out exactly about his bloodline limitation and how effective the treatment registered to him would be.

While those people paced back and forth as they went about their duties, Emery was completely submerged in what he was currently doing. At the moment, he was using one of the indoor practice rooms available and fighting against multiple golems at the same time.

A construct made of metals prepared as a facility for the privilege class.

As if that wasn't impressive and bad enough for his current condition, those golems were designed to have the ability of a saint level warrior - a rank 9 combat acolyte.

Facing these golems, Emery naturally couldn't afford to pull his punches, and hence he was in his most optimal peak strength with his [Immortal Gate] activated to its maximum. Thanks to it, he was able to fight on par with five of these humanoid golems.

Sweat started to drench his body, causing his clothes to stick on his skin. At this moment, the five combat golems retreated a few steps back, seemingly in preparation of countering the next move he was about to throw.

Realizing this opportunity, Emery retreated a distance away as well for what he was about to do needed time to take effect.

"Now is the time!"

Aargggghhh!!

[Fey Transformation]

Following the command words that echoed in his mind, silvery furs started to emerge on his two hands and feet. A distinct familiar tattoo appeared on his body while his nails rapidly turning into sharp claws.

Immediately after, when Emery was done stabilizing his transformation, a notification popped into his mind.

[Battle power increased by 10 points]

[Battle power 148 (190)]

Emery's grand total of 190 battle power stemmed from the additional 32 points coming from [Immortal Gate] and 10 points from his [Fey Transformation] ability. With this setup, his figure immediately shot forward and restarted the battle between the five combat golems, fighting them in wild ferocious manner.

Currently, Emery was fighting the golems without wielding any weapon. However, instead of being overwhelmed as expected, he managed to handle and overpowered them instead.

Thinking that the current situation was not enough, Emery slowed down his attacks for a moment as he focused his attention onto his spirit core. Urging the spirit energy residing within, he channeled it into his throat and used [Battle Howl].

HOWL!!

[Battle power increased by 10 points]

[Battle power? 148 (200)]

As the skill took effect and boosted Emery's strength even further, the fate of the combat golems were already established. If 190 battle power allowed Emery to have the upper hand throughout the fight, 200 battle power granted him the ability to basically steamroll over his opponents, as evidenced by the sight of him battering the golems one by one.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Loud dull sounds resounded in the air continuously as Emery gave the lifeless combat golems the beating of their existences. His figure could be seen flickering back and forth as he fought against 5 opponents equivalent to saint level warriors - figures with similar strength to the captain knight of Lord Izta's army.

It didn't take long before all the noises ceased to exist and silence returned to the room. Emery stood there with his back completely drenched with sweat, while the combat golems were all lying on the ground in critical condition.

Now that his body was fully warmed up, Emery turned his gaze toward the group of people that had been watching him and nodded his head, giving them the sign they had been waiting for.

Immediately after, two doors in front of him opened. From inside, 10 combat golems walked out and proceeded to surround him. It was clear that this was a one against ten situation, but Emery didn't even frown. Instead, a faint excited smile could be seen on his face.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The moment he made his move, the combat golems also did the same, causing explosive sounds to be heard throughout the room.

Soon, Emery found himself overwhelmed by his opponents. He had a hard time weaving through and countering the attacks the golems threw at him, while they continuously dealt blow after blow to his body.

From the sides, the staff and Cedric were watching anxiously as Emery struggled against the 10 combat golems. They were anxious wasn't because of how difficult the fight was, but because of what might happen after.

After 11 minutes of persistent struggling and one-sided beatdown, Emery suddenly let out a beastly scream. Once again, he could feel the corruption lodged within him churning and boiling into his blood.

"Here it comes!" Cedric shouted as he quickly asked the staff to start operating the set up and displayed a holographic screen in front of them.

While the staff were busy with their tasks, Emery's silvery furs began turning into pitch black color rapidly. His expression became twisted with rage, and a notification appeared in his mind.

[Battle power increase by 40 points]

[Battle power? 148 (240)]

The additional boost of 40 battle power points literally turned Emery into a personification of unstoppable as each of the attacks he threw would send parts of the golems flying away. The feeling of being overwhelmed was gone as he easily dodged any attack his opponents sent.

The group of observers also saw there was some kind of sudden, swift movement that was almost not be noticed by them if it wasn't for the devices operating in the background, recording and analyzing everything Emery did.

Within three short minutes, the precarious situation Emery was in had been overturned and all the golems were already broken down, dismantled into pieces by force.

With nothing else to fight, Emery who was standing alone in the room turned his eyes at where the group was. Noticing that, Cedric started trying to bring him back.

"Emery, take control of yourself!"

Three times Cedric tried to call him, but Emery didn't seem to awaken and decided to charge in his direction instead.

It was at this moment that two of the staff raised something they had prepared for a situation like this. A gun that could shoot a syringe contained certain substances, two such projectiles were fired and landed right at Emery's chest.

The effect took effect almost immediately as Emery's feet staggered backwards and stopped in its tracks. The wild expression on his face began to subside as he calmed down, and a minute later, he returned to his human form.

Cedric together with some of the staff quickly approached Emery to check his condition. As he got closer, he could see that Emery was trembling and murmuring something.

"I still failed.. again..."

Cedric put his hands onto the trembling shoulders and said, "It's alright, Emery. You managed to hold on past the 10 minute mark now, that's a great improvement already."

Emery turned to Cedric and could see the sincerity in his eyes. He nodded his head and vowed to be better at the next test.

While Cedric and the staff calculated and compared the data they got, Emery took an hour to rest before he went and saw the result he achieved. He subconsciously let out a sigh as he read his bloodline data.

[Bloodline Gene - Fey Wolf]

[Gene Classification - Legendary Bloodline]

[Bloodline Limit: Rank 6]

[Current Rank - Rank 4 - The Fey Shaman]

[Fey wolf gene essence - 32%]

[Night wolf gene essence - 4%]

The added data of the night wolf gene was emerging slowly for the last 48 hours until it fully stopped a few hours ago.

It can be safe to say that this new gene was the reason for his bloodline trouble, and after multiple treatments, Emery only managed to remain in his first transformation form for 10 minutes before the Night Wolf gene emerged and eventually took over.

This result was already with the help of wearing his [Beast Pendant]; if not, Emery was only able to stay half of that duration.

Fortunately, Master Grom's team has prepared the cure that is able to suppress the bloodline whenever it resurfaces and he lost his sense of self again.

It was unfortunate that Emery wouldn't be able to use his shaman form until he had somehow solved this dilemma of his. But on the other hand, he could only be grateful that he could still use his transformation ability, even if it was just the stage one.

At this moment, the symbol on his palm suddenly brightened and a message appeared in his mind. Emery's eyes turned serious as he read it.

[Come to the academy at this designated time]

It was a short message that came from Kadek, the Magus Alliance's Magistrate.

It seems his mission will start really soon.

Chapter 702 - Debts

With everything that had been happening to Emery, he couldn't even feel it when one month of his time in privileged class had passed - he feel it was just yesterday that he arrived at the yellow planet and was brought into a tour around the place by Magus Ramora.

Just before he left the place for the mission, Master Grom and Master Dulin visited the facility.

Emery was quite taken aback when the two masters appeared and began to act more friendly than he expected. They even came bringing a gift.

He felt that there was something amiss about their behaviours, but quickly dispersed it away as he was thinking too much.

Turning his attention to the gift he just received, Emery quickly opened it and saw what it was. It was a box containing five vials of red liquid.

"This is what we used to suppress your Night Wolf gene. We called these the [Wolf Gene Supressor]. Each of them took a great amount of rare and expensive ingredients to be made."

Emery definitely needed these vials to stop the Night Wolf gene from taking over his body and subsequently his mind again, for this he really grateful. He accepts it reluctantly knowing how valuable this must be.

"Thank you, master. I don't know if I can ever repay everything that I owe," said Emery as he recalled the things and conveniences Master Grom had provided to him.

Hearing such words, the red bearded dwarf swiftly put his hand forward, interrupting Emery who was about to say more.

"Yes, for the body tempering treatment and gene suppression making cost, plus these 5 vials; that will be 882,000 contribution points." Noticing the look of shock on Emery's face, Master Dulin coughed and continued, "This is just the ingredient cost, really. The usual labor fee is specially exempted for you. We are basically doing this for the goodness of our heart."

The color on Emery's face continued to drain as he heard the other party speak. He quickly checked the amount of contribution points he still had.

[355,550 contribution points]

A bitter smile appeared on his lips when Emery saw the insufficient balance. He hesitantly turned to Master Dulin and said, "Master, I don't really have that many contribution points at the moment."

He was about to propose what he had in mind when the red bearded dwarf cut him off again.

"You don't?! I thought you're a champion at the game"

When he heard that, Emery couldn't help but roll his eyes.

Doesn't the master know how many points the champion gets when they win?

"Yes, I am a champion, Master. Anyway, please be rest assured. I will definitely find a way to pay you back after I return from the mission."

Master Dulin looked like he wanted to speak again, but at this moment, Emery saw Master Grom interrupted the latter from doing so. Then, he turned to him and began to speak in an awkward manner - something that he did not normally do.

"Emery, you don't have to worry about the cost. You are my disciple, so naturally I also have some responsibility over you and your situation."

While Emery was surprised by his apothecary master's words, the red bearded dwarf standing beside the latter looked even more shocked. In fact, he was so shocked that his head snapped at his brother and said in a rather high tone.

"You are?!" Master Dulin carefully looked at his brother's face. "Really??"

Master Grom ignored his brother's antics and said to Emery.

"Yes. However, there is just something that I need you to do."

Emery was about to think what his master meant when the latter suddenly took out a document and handed it to him. After opening and carefully reading its content, a strange expression could not help but appear on his face.

It was a formal statement, saying that he was in a completely perfect and healthy condition when he left the facility today, there was even a specific word saying that he would not ask responsibility from the body tempering facility for any fault happening next.

"If you can be a good kid and give your sign on this, you don't have to worry about the payment."

"...."

Emery was stunned for a moment, as he realized what Master Grom was trying to accomplish. He just realize that his apothecary master was trying to absolve himself of responsibility for what had happened to him.

The truth was, Emery didn't even once think that his master was responsible at all. In his opinion, it was the corrupted liquid that he consumed on Earth the culprit, hence he had to refuse the offer.

"I am sorry, master. I can't do this."

Master Grom was caught off guard by Emery's reply. When he was about to persuade him some more, Emery turned to Master Dulin, bowed his head and said, "Please give me time to pay for all those cost."

All of a sudden, a strange discussion took place between the three. Two dwarves master and one youth disciple.

The latter was ready to give all of his contribution points so that he would be given enough time to pay the remaining. On the other hand, the former rejected the offer and was even willing to give the latter the valuable recipe of the Gene Suppressor for free as long as he signed the document.

To be honest, the deal proposed by Master Grom was an extremely good deal for Emery. In fact, he wouldn't have to forfeit anything but his signature. However, he really couldn't accept it.

In the end, Emery suggests an idea that leads to a compromise -? Emery was willing to assist Master Dulin during his precious privileged time when he returned, to pay for the ingredients spent on the body tempering and gene suppressor.

This proposal was something Emery could agree with, as he get to be responsible for what happened. Master Grom heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Emery finally write his signature over the document.

At the end of the day, everyone was satisfied.

When Emery gave another thought to the deal he was very much happy. He got to keep his contribution points, got the gene suppression recipe, he even got an opportunity to learn under the tutelage of a body tempering master.

Emery thought that as much as he wanted to learn about something else in the privilege class, apothecary would still be his passion. Still, he naturally would not miss this chance of studying under Master Dulin; learning about body tempering would definitely bring many benefits for him, and even maybe for his friends later down the line.

Seeing how happy Emery was when he left, the two dwarves couldn't help but be stunned and think if they had just done something terribly wrong.

Emery went on and saw Magus Ramora before he left for the mission, and unexpectedly the female magus also gave him a box.

"This is your second month's package from the academy." She said with a smile. "You definitely earned it, Ambrose."

When he heard that, Emery quickly opened the box and checked its content. Inside, there was a total of 25 white crystal-like pills.

25 Spirit Foundation Pill; this month's reward for being in the top 40 in privileged class ranking.

Seeing the rows of pills that lay quietly on a fabric of silk cloth, Emery couldn't help but hum a tune. Today is definitely a good day for him.

Looking at the beautiful blue hair magus, Emery remembered to buy her recommendation [Soul Tempering Meditation Book 2] which cost a staggering 100,000 contribution points.

With that at hand, he was now ready to leave.

Emery made his way to where the weird-looking capsules were, entered one of them, and headed toward the sky, leaving Hyperion Planet.

Chapter 703 - Returned

As soon as he arrived at the hub station floating in outer space, Emery quickly made his way through the long massive corridors, entered the transport portal, and returned to the Magus Academy hub.

The moment he stepped off the portal, his field of vision was immediately greeted by a place crowded with many people walking here and there as they went about to do their business.

Upon seeing this, Emery realized that the outer world travel ban seemed to have been lifted, hence the reason for such a crowded hub.

While there were a few academy staff seen walking and rushing around, the crowd of course consisted of mostly the academy students or rather acolytes. From their uniform which Emery could recognize, he knew those people were first year and second year students, although some appeared bigger than him.

As he walked through the hub floor, Emery started to notice that people were looking at him in a peculiar gaze. It took him a few good minutes to realize the reason; the uniform he was currently wearing.

Thanks to the fact that he was now a privileged class acolyte, Emery was no longer wearing the elite class black uniform but the eye-catching white privileged uniform that spoke loud of his current status instead.

As much as he was uncomfortable being the center of attention when he literally did nothing but walk, it would also be a lie if Emery said that he wasn't intrigued by this new kind of treatment he received from other people.

Especially when he realized that many of those looks were coming from girls who were attractive.

This lecherous thought that suddenly surfaced out of nowhere immediately made Emery slap his cheek with his hands.

"Concentrate, Emery!!"

Fearing that there would be more of those thoughts and things distracting him, Emery quickly increased his pace and rushed towards the headmaster's office, which was mentioned as the meeting place in the message.

A few minutes later, he finally arrived in front of the headmaster's office, and the magus who stood guard in front immediately opened his mouth when he saw him.

"Emery Ambrose, you may enter."

After giving a salute to the magus, Emery quickly pushed the door open and entered. Inside, he could see the two people who had been waiting for his presence, Headmaster Delbrand and Magistrate Kadek.

However, there was another person present. A magus wearing the black enforcer uniform. Upon closer look, Emery recognized this new person to be the enforcer who interrogated him before.

"Emery, this is Magus Leon. Magus Alliance has mobilized him to be the one to lead the mission," said Headmaster Delbrand while gesturing to the enforcer.

Hearing that, Emery couldn't help but inwardly sigh. Knowing that the man would be the one he would go on a mission with wasn't exactly a pleasant revelation, especially considering what the other party had done to him.

And apparently, the man who was introduced as Magus Leon didn't look that excited about this either. Alas, he has no way of complaining to the alliance and could only accept the task he was given.

Magister Kadek added, "With the severity of the mission, I would hope you to follow Leon every word, or we really cannot guarantee you life, you understand?"

Emery saw the grey hair female magus and nodded obediently

After this short round of introduction, Headmaster Delbrand then told the two to leave the office, leaving Emery alone with him. He then casually took out a small tube-like object, lit its end with fire, put the other end of the object in his mouth, and smoke began to come out of it.

An eerie silence fell in the room as Emery watched the headmaster continue to inhale that object, while the latter seemed to have forgotten that he existed. He felt really uncomfortable with the atmosphere but did not dare to open his mouth.

A minute later, Headmaster Delbrand put the object down and finally opened his mouth.

"I heard about what happened in the arena last week... you manage to achieve top 40 in a month time.. It was very impressive indeed."

Emery really had nothing to say about the headmaster's remark, so he kept his silence and waited for the latter to speak again. It seemed Headmaster Delbrand didn't expect him to answer either as he immediately continued.

"I also read the report about your bloodline trouble.." He glanced at Emery. "Tell me, Emery. Will this affect the mission?"

Emery took a moment to think the question over. "No, I'm sure it will not."

"Good," said Headmaster Delbrand while nodding. He then continued, this time he stared at his eyes as he spoke.

"This is a very important mission, Emery. So if you are not up for it, tell me and I will pull you out from the mission."

When Emery heard this, the confidence in him wavered a bit as he felt uncertain. The logical thing was naturally to not join the mission, but he at the moment felt as if this was something he had to do.

"No, I am ready."

Headmaster Delbrand picked the tube-like object again and blew up another smoke before turning his head to the window.

"Altus will never agree to let a student in such a mission; he will be angry indeed."

While Emery was confused as to why the headmaster spoke those words, the latter had turned his attention back to him and said, "We are in a unique situation indeed."

He put down the object again, then took out something from his spatial ring. Afterward, Emery saw as an item slowly floated from the headmaster's hand and hovering in front of him. It was a glowing emblem.

"I know you can do spatial magic, you can keep this inside."

The glowing emblem slowly made its way towards Emery as Headmaster Delbrand spoke those words.

"It's a life saving item that will keep you safe. If you find yourself in a very precarious situation where you could potentially die, use this item. It will help you tremendously."

After giving Emery the emblem, Headmaster Delbrand proceeded to speak some appreciative words, for him helping the mission and promised that he would look at the petition about Earth caretaker situation. Those words quickly made Emery feel at ease, and after once again reminding him to be careful during the mission, he allowed Emery to leave the room.

Walking out of the office, Emery was immediately greeted by Magus Leon's figure, who apparently was waiting outside all this time. The cold expression on his face still remained as he opened his mouth.

"Let's go, we don't have that much time. Follow me."

Emery had a look of surprise on his face because he didn't expect that the mission would start right away. He was actually hoping that he would be able to visit his friends first, but it seemed the matter was more urgent than he previously thought.

Magus Leon quickly led him to the nearest portal, and the place they were heading to gave him quite a bit of surprise.

After passing through a portal, the two of them arrived in a huge city like no other. Geographically situated on a hill near the sea gave the city an overall very beautiful and peaceful atmosphere.

However what made the city famous was not the allure of the natural scenery in the surrounding area, but the people. Hundreds of figures could be seen bustling and hustling on the streets, but half of them were not completely human.

Seeing the sight, Emery couldn't help but have a nostalgic feeling about this.

After 3 years, he has finally returned to this place.

Zodiac City.

Chapter 704 - Nostalgic

"Wait for me in the palace!" Magus Leon said

The sudden order that came as soon as the two of them arrived in the city naturally caught Emery off guard. The confused look on Emery's face quickly made Magus Leon let out a sigh when he saw it.

"You are a privilege acolyte. Of course you will be fine going to the palace by yourself, right?" The man spoke again, this time with a softer tone.

"Yes.. Of course," replied Emery quickly. A thought later, he added, "The Bloodline Institute, right?"

"That's not the palace!" Magus Leon let out a deep sigh.

He then pointed his finger at a building located on the hill that stood majestically next to the Bloodline Institute.

"That's the place. Do you see that?"

Turning his gaze to where the other party pointed at, Emery replied.

"Ahh, yes.. Of course."

Magus Leon didn't say anything more and immediately took his leave, leaving the former alone on the bustling streets of Zodiac City.

When the magus left, Emery started to casually walk his way through the busy street. His eyes swept around as they took in everything he could see, while deep down he was still impressed by the different types of people around him.

Among these peculiar-looking people, there were some that fully caught his attention. For example: a young woman who has black spots all around her body, a boy who has three horns on his head. There was even someone who looked even more like a rat than a human.

Emery recalled how this place used to be full of people chattering with each other while smiles could be seen on their faces. This time, however, not so much.

For a moment, he wondered if it was because of his uniform, because he was sure people seemed to look at him differently. To be precise, he noticed how the expressions of the people who saw him changed.

Among this crowd of people, Emery suddenly saw a figure with long white hair. In an instant, his mind recalled of a certain girl that he remembered meeting on this street too before.

Without him realizing it, his body moved as he chased after the figure he just seen, only to find the other party was not her. After apologizing to the random passerby, Emery turned around and continued his walk to the palace.

As he walked through the street, he heaved a deep sigh and thought how silly he was.

Still, he couldn't forget how the last encounter they had was - it was pretty intense.

Deep down, he hoped that nothing bad happened to her.

It was at this moment that suddenly Emery heard a female voice calling his name.

"Emery? How surprising, I didn't expect to see you here."

Turning his body, when Emery saw the person approaching him, he couldn't help but be surprised.

A beautiful young girl with long crimson hair. The other party looked at him with a wicked smile hung on her lips. She was Annara Vermont, a privileged acolyte like him and one of the personal disciples of Grand Magus Zenoia.

"What are you doing here?" She asked with a curious look.

Of course, due to the obvious reason of not divulging the classified mission, Emery decided not to tell the truth. Alas, he didn't really have much time to think of a plausible excuse.

"Erm... shopping." Noticing the suspicious look on her face, he added his reasoning. "I have something I need to buy in this city, that's why I'm here."

A dubious expression appeared on her face. She took a step closer to him and said, "You should learn to lie better, Ambrose."

She then did a circle around him and opened her mouth again.

"I asked you again.. What are you doing here?"

Undeterred by her words, Emery looked at her with a confident look and said, "Shopping."

"..."

Knowing that she wouldn't be able to glean anything, the female privileged acolyte was annoyed and eventually left him alone on the street.

Emery stared at her gradually disappearing figure in the bustling streets and suddenly remembered something about her. He recalled how Annara showed a transformation that was similar, but at the same time different, to that of the Bat Bloodline.

Now that he saw her here in Zodiac City, Emery could safely conclude that his previous guess was correct - that she was a half-blood.

Not wanting to waste his time thinking more about her, Emery shook his head and continued his journey to the palace. However, he took a little detour to drop by a certain place.

He walked through an alley and saw the place where Bob the Frog's bloodline shop was. The place still looked the same as the last time he visited - desolate, without any sign of being visited for years.

Emery couldn't help but let out a long sigh. After taking one last glance at the barren shop, he continued towards the palace.

If he didn't remember it wrong, the palace was where King Alduin, the Protector of the half bloods, lived.

When he arrived, Emery was immediately stopped by several formidable-looking guards clad in armor. These guards have scaly skin that Emery could see on the parts of the body that the armor couldn't cover, which meant they were definitely half-blood warriors. He just wasn't sure if it was Snake Bloodline or Dragon Bloodline.

Either way, Emery couldn't get into the palace as apparently no one knew nor notified about his arrival. Hence, he was forced to wait before Magus Leon arrived.

Magus Leon came with four other people, all magus-level figures from what Emery could perceive. All of them, however, were wearing normal clothes - including Magus Leon who had changed his black enforcer uniform.

Magus Leon gave one look at Emery and said, "You shouldn't have come wearing the academy uniform, especially your white uniform. This is, after all, a secret mission. I wish you were smarter than this, but I seem to be expecting too much."

Irritation sprouted within Emery when he perceived the contempt within the other party's words. Still, he held up his emotions and just nodded his head. While Magus Leon was talking to the guards, one of his companions approached Emery. A female magus with short brown hair.

"You must be Emery. Nice to meet you." She said with a smile. "Don't worry too much about what he just said. Leon is always strict, but he's a nice guy when you get used to his character."

The female magus introduced herself as Michela, and she with the other three people were all Magus Enforcers assigned for this mission. An elite five man team consisted of magus-level individuals, definitely a force to be reckoned with.

With Spirit Reading, Emery could tell that all of them were at least Half Moon magus, while Magus Leon who was chosen as the leader was a Full Moon magus.

It took Magus Leon a few minutes before the guards allowed them all to enter the palace.

Entering the open gate, Emery saw firsthand how magnificent the palace was where King Alduin lived. It was a building made of light stone which gave off a warm feeling throughout the palace.

The group walked through the long corridors of the palace and finally arrived at the throne room where a group of people seemed to have been waiting.

When Emery saw the figure seated on the throne, he was in shock; it was as if his life force was being forcibly drained out of him.

That figure was the strongest and most overwhelming person he had ever met.

"You are in the presence of the Dragon King, Alduin, Lord of Zodiac city, keeper of the creed."

Chapter 705 - Mission

At a glance, the Zodiac City's palace was at least five times bigger than Lord Izta's, but proportionately, its hall was no different. A massive hall with a grandiose interior and exquisite arrangement, with hundreds of guards clad in full armor standing on the sides. All of them were strong half-blood warriors with formidable bloodlines of their own respectively.

However, there was something extremely conspicuous among all these impressive displays - one person that immediately caught Emery's attention and wouldn't let it go no matter what he did. It was the figure of a man sitting on the throne that exerted a formless, yet impactful pressure, as Emery's eyes fell on him - the renowned protector of Zodiac City, the dragon blood, King Alduin.

The man's long white hair cascaded onto his majestic black armor, creating a striking and beautiful contrast of each other. There were also the two small horns on his forehead that distinguished him from the rest, but a slight glance from his pair of red eyes was enough to cause Emery's knees to go weak.

It was apparent from the aura he emanated that the man had a level of strength even higher than a grand magus. He might be someone at the level of a supreme magus. As if that wasn't impressive enough, the three other people standing next to the man were also powerful individuals.

Two of them were at least peak magus level, from what Emery's Spirit Reading could garner. The last person was an old man Emery recognized, because he had seen the other party in the past.

Lord Esbern, the head of Bloodline Institute, the elderly Goat Bloodline, who introduced the institute to Emery last year.

When the group arrived, Magus Leon led the others by bowing in respect to the king and introducing himself as the team leader chosen by the Magus Alliance. Contrary to the expectation, King Alduin didn't say anything nor showed visible changes on his expression. He was just observing.

It was Lord Esbern who spoke on his behalf.

"The king is displeased. He wonders why the headmaster hasn't come himself."

Magus Leon didn't seem flustered by those words. He was still very calm when he answered the question. "The headmaster was unable to leave the academy at such turbulent times, hence it was us who were sent on his behalf."

Emery noticed how Lord Esbern briefly glanced at King Alduin, before he responded. It appeared there was a telepathic communication involved, before Lord Esbern continued.

"That is too bad, but at the same time understandable. However, we were hoping for at least a better, stronger team."

Emery was surprised when he heard that, because it meant a team consisting of 5 magus-level individuals and even a peak Full Moon such as Magus Leon was considered inadequate for the mission.

Thanks to this realization, his mind started to wonder how dangerous this mission would be.

On the other hand, Magus Leon still displayed his calm look as he answered, "A grand magus will come and join us at the designated time."

It seemed what Magus Leon had said this time satisfied the other party, as the frown seen on Lord Esbern's face eased slightly.

"Good, very good," he responded. He then looked towards the two people that stood next to him and said to Magus Leon, "These two will also join the mission on our part."

The two bloodline warriors who appeared to have a magus level strength were a man and woman. The former named Jigow seemed to have the Goat Bloodline, seeing how his skin was all pitch black, while the Tiger Bloodline woman with a medium-length hair tied up was named Nameria.

It was at this moment Lord Esbern finally noticed Emery's presence.

"What about that young acolyte?" He asked, while gesturing to Emery. "Who is he? Why is he here with you?"

Emery was about to open his mouth and answer the question himself, when Magus Leon stopped him with his hand.

"This is an academy acolyte, who is also a member of the White Fang Clan. The alliance decided to let him tag along in hopes his presence would make the mission go smoother."

Hearing that, Lord Esbern cast his gaze at Emery again and finally recalled who he was.

"Aah, yes... I remember you, young wolf of the legendary bloodline."

A slight surprise couldn't help but appear on Emery's face. He didn't expect the other party to remember him. However, the man still wasn't done with his words.

"Magus Leon, we are not thrilled about inviting a young acolyte in this mission." Lord Esbern's gaze turned cold, as he reached the end of those words, then he sharply said, "Perhaps it's because of his lineage that he was chosen?"

Lord Esbern's words were sharp. Emery himself understood that he mean, Emery's involvement was discrimination to the half-blood.

Surprisingly, Magus Leon still maintained his calm demeanor, as he answered the question eloquently.

"I assure you Lord Esbern, King Alduin, we would not invite the young acolyte if the Magus Alliance thought it was not necessary. Furthermore, the acolyte was not forced and decided to participate in the mission of his own will."

It was clear Lord Esbern was unconvinced by Magus Leon's words. He seemed to be about to say more when King Alduin raised his hand, causing him to stop in his tracks. However, he still spoke one more sentence.

"Magus Leon, I want you to explain the upcoming mission as clearly and detailed as possible to the young acolyte, or else I won't allow him to participate. Are we clear here?"

"Yes, my Lord."

The group was then excused. As they walked through the same corridors they passed before, Magus Leon suddenly brought out a pipe-looking tool. Emery was inwardly wondering what it was when he saw the magus walking behind him and suddenly, he felt a stabbing pain in the back of his neck.

"I was authorized to take out the recording chip. Now I will explain one more time. If you don't come to tomorrow's designated time and location, you shall head back to the academy and asked to be installed with another chip, do you understand?"

Emery finally realized what the other party did when he heard that. He nodded his head outwardly, however, the degree of secrecy imposed on this upcoming mission made him even more anxious about it.

"What I am about to say is confidential, divulging it out to anyone else will lead to extremely grave consequences, do you understand?"

Emery nodded, but he still was surprised by what he heard next.

"Actually the situation with the wolf and serpent clan is more alarming than it seems.. If the mission goes well we might be able to solve this bloodline tension once and for all."

Chapter 706 - Innocence

Ever since the elves launched the coordinated attack on the headquarter of the Magus Alliance, the atmosphere of the ongoing war has been escalated to a whole new definition of tension. Every day, dozens of magus died on the frontline fighting against the elves.

However, problems that the Magus Alliance had to worry about were not just about the ongoing war on the horizon itself, but also the enemies that hid and lurked within the shadows. The one making those people of the Magus Alliance nervous were the half-blood people, whose loyalties were brought into question after the incident.

Being a big part of the Magus Alliance's force, the half-blood could tip the fragile balance between the two factions if they ever decided to abandon the humans and join the elves.

It was a perfectly normal action in the eyes of the Magus Alliance, when they immediately launched an in-depth, bordering intrusive, investigation on the half-blood party.

However, the alliance knew this process couldn't take too long, or else it would be the spark leading to the eventual defection of the half-blood instead. After all, no one wanted to be suspected by their ally.

After 3 years, the tension was not just between the two wolf and serpent clans, but it also affected the whole 12 clans, which each day grew more dissatisfied with the human alliance.

Hence, the truth about their loyalty needed to be quickly settled, before things reached a point of no return.

The mission Emery would be joining hopefully would bring the truth of the matter into light. Bring peace between the human alliance with the 12 bloodline clan. It might even lead to humans winning the war.

"The Wolf Bloodline clan, to be specific the White Fang Clan led by Beowlf sent a letter to the alliance, saying he had proof about theirs and the Serpent Bloodline's innocence in the incident. Therefore, they wanted to hold a face-to-face meeting to show the evidence and attest their integrity."

"That is good news!" said Emery quickly. However, his sudden excitement only made Magus Leon irritated.

"There is nothing to be excited about. This is just one out of the dozens of claims by the bloodline clans. We received similar claims of innocence every month not just from the white fang or the wolves for that matter, hence although the mission was at most importance, it might be just the same false claim of innocence by the clans"

Following what he had just said, Magus Leon then told Emery the reason he did not tell him about the content of the mission previously was that the entire matter could probably be nothing but a false alarm. Subsequently, having him knowing the matter was a security breach by itself, being an academy acolyte, he shouldn't know about these things.

"Honestly, we might not need you at all," Magus Leon said, while looking at Emery. "I still don't understand why Headmaster Delbrand and the Magistrate insisted on you coming with us. Either way, if you decide not to go, don't come tomorrow. If you do, come prepared for anything."

Afterwards, Magus Leon left Emery alone, allowing him to think about what he wanted to do.

In all honesty, if there was anything Emery could do to help clear the Wolf Bloodline's name, he would definitely do it without question. Especially, if it was his clan, the White Fang Clan, involved in the middle of it all. Emery had no reason to reject such a mission.

While Emery was still contemplating in his mind, it was at this moment he noticed a translucent green bird come flying towards him. Knowing what it was, he quickly cheered and extended his hand, letting it land on his arm.

Emery looked at the message that appeared on the symbol on his hand. Surprise gradually appeared on his face, as he read through it.

[You have returned from that privileged planet, and then forgotten about us - the lowly elites - didn't you? We know you are in Zodiac City, so come meet us at the Dancing Cats Tavern when you are done with your business]

The message came from none other than Klea. Even though he didn't expect such a harsh opening sentence, a faint smile still sprouted on Emery's face as he finished reading the message.

It couldn't come at a better time. He really wanted to see them as well, after all.

Without further ado, Emery took off from the palace and roamed the streets. He went around asking about the tavern's whereabouts, because he had absolutely no idea where it was. One kind pedestrian told him it was located on the east side of Zodiac City.

After several good minutes of scouring through the streets on that side of the city, Emery finally found the place. However, there was something odd that he noticed upon arriving in front of it

There were not that many pedestrians around the area. The tavern itself almost looked desolate at first glance. He went to the door to check if the place was correct, and it was. There, right beside and slightly above the door, a plaque with [Dancing Cats] written on it.

Emery entered again and was still greeted by a desolate sight. He was about to get worried, when he finally noticed a familiar face at the other end of the room, hidden from the entrance. At the same time, the other person also saw him and called his name.

"Emery!"

It was Klea's voice, as Emery cast his gaze towards her, he also noticed Chumo sitting at the same table. Seeing that they were really here, he moved his legs and quickly approached the two.

"Hey guys! Glad to see you two," Emery said, as he took a seat. Then, he sneakily shifted his body forward and whispered, "What's with the weird place as our long-awaited meeting location?"

Klea grinned when she heard his words. "Why? So we can have more privacy of course!"

The reason given sounded perfectly logical, but Emery was not fully convinced, especially after seeing the way Klea acted. He was sure ever since what happened on Earth, both of them knew there was still something that needed to be sorted between them, but now she acted like nothing happened.

Then, Emery realized Chumo was using his [Eye of the Raven] on him and their surroundings. He was about to ask his friend what he was doing, when he saw him give a nod to Klea and she let out a sigh.

Emery was still confused by what was going on between his two friends, as he saw Klea suddenly use her special bracelet.

The bracelets gave out a glow and Emery can tell it created a powerful spirit defense around their area. Noticing the look Emery had, Klea finally decided to say something, in a whisper at that.

"We need to be sure no one is following you and no one hears us now, we are not even sure if this is safe enough."

These two sentences that bode some kind of foreboding certainly made Emery anxious.

"What? What do you mean? What is going on, Klea?" Emery asked, confused with a hint of worry. "Tell me."

At this moment, the girl's eyes were looking towards the back door. Seeing that, Emery also looked over and realized with Spirit Reading that someone was there, but they were trying to cover their presence.

"Emery, you need to speak with her." Klea said, "Don't take too long."

Even though he was dubious, Emery still stood up and walked towards the closed back door. Before his hands even opened it, his nose could already sense the scent of the unknown person - it was someone familiar.

A look of surprise appeared on Emery's face. Then, he opened the door and saw a girl with brown hair in a ponytail.

"Tatjana!"

The girl was the senior wolfgirl part of the White Fang Clan, the fox girl who kidnapped him during the magus game with two of her friends.

"Emery... It's... it's really you. You are here..." Tatjana said, looking at his face.

The always cheerful wolf girl appeared to be anxious, which quickly made Emery worried, "Tatjana, what happened to you?" Emery asked in a concerned tone.

The girl's expression turned serious when she asked, "Emery, I heard you were given a mission to find the White Fang Clan. Am I right?"

Hearing that, Emery was stunned, unable to say anything. He was, after all, just being sworn not to reveal anything just an hour ago. Seeing this, the girl suddenly became irritated.

"Urrgghh! You can't even tell me such simple facts! Which side are you really on?!" I am here to warn you to not trust Headmaster Delbrand! He was the reason we, the wolves, went into hiding! You hear me, Emery! The mission will be the death of you!"

Chapter 707 - Foolish

Emery saw how the usually cheerful Tatjana behaved differently. She became so terrified and jittery that her eyes kept glancing towards the back alley as they talked, as if someone would come and get her at any moment.

"Relax, Tatjana. First, let's calm down,"

After seeing her frantic expression ease a little, he then said, "Now, tell me, slowly, what exactly happened? What do you mean by the headmaster responsible for all of these?"

Tatjana looked at Emery and saw the serene look in his eyes. Taking a deep breath, she proceeded to tell him her part of the story. She told him how last year, the new headmaster had given the White Fang Clan and two other Wolf Bloodline's clans a mission, which eventually led to the death of many of the wolves' clans members.

However, when confronted, the headmaster refused and never even admitted he gave the mission to them. As if that wasn't bad enough, he also decided to capture and detain every member of the wolf clan, helping with declaring their so-called betrayal.

As he heard the words coming out of Tatjana's words, Emery honestly found it hard to believe. His mind thought back on how Headmaster Delbrand had been helping him since he returned to the Magus Academy until now.

Noticing the skeptical look on Emery's face, Tatjana turned even more irritated.

"I am telling you, Emery! The new headmaster is hunting us, the wolves! And you being instructed to participate in that mission is most likely the bait prepared for us!"

Even though he was still a little dubious about Tatjana's explanation, Emery of course would not jump to conclusions. He started to think again and analyze all the information he had been given, inspecting and cross-checking to find if there was anything suspicious or out of the ordinary.

The mission was to meet with the Wolf Clan, to see the proof of their innocence. Emery was told to come to identify the White Fang Clan members and also help to set the right atmosphere of trust during the meeting.

But then, he suddenly recalled how Lord Esbern was actually expecting Headmaster Delbrand to be the one to come, not a young acolyte like him. There was possibly some distrust, which made the headmaster not come himself.

"Emery, I suggest you not get yourself involved in this. However, if you still insist on doing it, can I ask you a favor?" Tatjana asked him with a pleading look in her eyes. Seeing that, Emery nodded his head.

"Can you help me look around and find out if Brutus is safe? Please, I beg you."

Brutus was the senior who introduced Emery to the White Fang. Emery remembered how the guy had helped him a few times in the past, so of course, he would find a way to make sure, or at least, find out if he's safe.

Tatjana's expression briefly changed to joy, when she saw Emery agree to her request. "Thank you, Emery. I have to go now, I am under surveillance and can't be seen here talking to you."

She flashed a smile at Emery and turned around. "Goodbye, Emery. Be safe."

With that, Tatjana immediately walked away. Emery watched as her figure gradually went blurry by the dark back alley. It was only when her back completely disappeared that he finally turned around and returned inside the inn, sitting among his two friends again.

They both looked at him with clear concern in their eyes.

Knowing this somewhat gloomy atmosphere could not continue, Emery began to ease the tension on the two by bringing up some casual topics, things they usually talked about when they met.

"Why are only the two of you here? Where are those two, Julian and Thrax?" Emery suddenly had an enlightened expression on his face as he continued, "Ah, they must be very busy with training, aren't they?"

Unexpectedly, Klea didn't seem to be in the mood to answer his inquiry. Instead, it was Chumo who answered.

"Julian is studying with the Harlight elites, tactics, and politics I heard. While Thrax is really busy competing in the Combat Institute's gladiator matches. He's been raking in glory there; 30 matches in a row without losing is his current record if I remember it correctly."

Emery showed a surprised look when he heard Thrax's extraordinary accomplishment.

"Wow! Is he now?!" He was happy to hear his friends were still kicking and progressing vigorously.

"Emery, we're all preparing for the second game next month," Chumo said. "Will you be back by then?"

Emery smiled and said, "Of course, I will! I'm sure I will just be gone for a few days at most."

Hearing this, Klea suddenly snapped. She stood up and glared at Emery.

"Are you really still going?! After everything you just heard?!"

This sudden burst of anger caught both Emery and Chumo off guard. The two of them instinctively looked at each, the former was at a loss on what to do. Alas, the latter wasn't unscathed either, as Klea quickly turned her attention to him.

"Chumo! Will you please say something and put some sense into him?!"

The Asian friend shifted his gaze towards Emery, his mouth was trying to say something, but it was as if his old disease decided to come back at this important moment. His eyes looked towards her again and stayed silent for a while.

Afterwards, he decided to stand from his seat, bowed in a forgiving manner and slowly took a step back under the other two's gazes, as he left the room without turning back, not wanting to get involved.

"..."

Both were speechless with Chumo's actions, until Klea turned irritated again.

"Huh! I dragged him here to convince you. Now he runs away!"

Before Emery managed to say anything, Klea beat him to it. It was clear her rant had only just begun.

"Emery, seriously!? Do you even know what an A-rank level mission is?"

Even though Emery didn't give a response, she continued on.

"It's a mission that requires the presence of a grand magus! Did you hear me? Grand magus level mission! that's what you are about to jump into!"

Klea was still not finished. She added facts about the low survival rate of such missions, and that even the information itself was created for a magus to read, not for acolytes like them.

The girl seemed to know everything about his mission, as Emery watched her blurting out information after information, but strangely it was not surprising to him. Klea was always the most resourceful among the group.

Still, he needed to try to calm her down. He knew she was worried about him, hence her attitude. Therefore, he decided to tell her about the strong team he would be part of: multiple magus level individuals, powerful bloodlines magus, and a grand magus to boot.

Alas, such news only further proved her points in Klea's mind, making her even more anxious.

There was a little silence, as Klea shut her mouth for a moment, but then she continued, looking straight at Emery.

"Emery, we have known each other for years now. I know how you would easily choose to risk your life for your friends. I am here to remind you that we also need you... The Earth needs you... I... also...Ugghh! Just don't waste your life for others!"

The girl was panting, as she almost lost her breath.

In response, Emery quickly held her arm and it managed to calm her.

"I will be careful, Klea, I really will, you don't need to worry about me" said Emery, when he noticed her looking into his eyes.

The words once again made her angry, as it was not the answer she was looking for. She looked away and shook her hand, freeing it from Emery's grasp. "You are so stubborn, Emery. I can't help you if you can't help yourself!"

Klea stood and suddenly took out a book from her spatial ring, before putting it on the table.

"Don't think I don't know about your injury as well... how in the world would you consider joining the mission under such conditions! If you want to die for others... then so be it! I will also stop worrying about you from now on!"

Emery noticed how her eyes glimmered, tears were about to fall. Alas, his expression only made her ashamed and quickly left the tavern. He stood to chase her, but the girl suddenly used her magic bracelets to stop him.

A deafening sound echoed throughout Emery's mind, as a spirit attack strong enough to stop his tracks hit him.

"Do. Not. Follow. Me! Just go and die! I... don't care anymore!"

Those were the last words Klea said, before she left the tavern in a hurry.

Emery had improved so much the spell only took him a second to recover, but it was enough for him to reconsider chasing after her. His gaze was then attracted to the black hardcover book lying on the table in front of him. It had drawings of two wolves, one was chasing the sun, while another was chasing the moon.

The title of the book was written in weird letters, but the symbol on his hand easily translated it for him.

[The Mythical Wolf Fenrir and its two offsprings: the Night Wolf and the Day Wolf]

Emery's hands reached for the book and opened it. As he skimmed through its hundred pages, he could see there were many notes already highlighted and filled. He could see from the writing style they were all Klea's.

Caressing one of the pages, he took a deep breath and his heart beat fast knowing how much time, thoughts and effort the girl had put into this. Her feelings were in these notes, and once again the image of her crying just now rolled into his mind, bringing him indescribable pain.

Eventually, Emery put the book in his spatial storage, stood up, and ran out of the tavern - looking for her.

Chapter 708 - Truthfully

Emery looked through the bustling streets of Zodiac City. His eyes swept the surrounding area for a glimpse of her figure. Even though he started to gasp for air from his relentless running, he still continued his search.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

His heart was pounding in his chest, but not from running; at the moment, fear came sneaking into his mind, as he recalled what had just happened.

It was not the fear of death that Emery currently experiencing, it was the fear of losing something.

He still did not know what he should say to her, but he knew he must see her one more time, before going on this mission that could land him in countless unknown dangers.

'Where are you?' was Emery's continuous thought. His eyes continued to move around frantically, hoping for a mere shadow of her back.

Emery used his spirit reading to find her location, but one thing he learned about the girl from all the time she was beside him, was that she had always been good at hiding herself, when she didn't want to be found.

He turned his head and looked at every turn, nook and cranny that he encountered in his search for the dark haired girl, but to no avail.

Unknowingly, the sun was already setting. Therefore, Emery decided to quickly head towards the portal instead. In his mind, he predicted she would be there, because he knew she had to return to the elite class island of the Magus Academy.

However, to his surprise, the place was packed and full of people. Countless were gathered in front of the portal. When Emery arrived in front of it after braving through the sea of people, he realized the reason why there was such an uncommon crowd - no one was allowed to use the portal.

The reason for the ban was a curfew time that had been recently created and put into effect. Apparently, when the portal was open for public use once again, the people of Zodiac City became restless, hence the authority deemed the curfew necessary.

The only way to get off the planet was through the other portals, which were located on the other side of the planet.

"The portal will open again in the morning!" Said the guards standing beside the portal to the crowd of people.

Emery swept his gaze across the crowd, hoping to find the glimpse of the girl. But even after waiting for an hour in front of the portal and the crowd of people had dispersed away, he still couldn't find her. She must have passed through the gate.

All this time, the feeling brewing inside Emery didn't recede. Instead, it grew even stronger - it was sickening. He knew what this feeling was. It was the same feeling he got when he was having a fight with the Lioness Princess the night she discovered his identity.

Emery took a deep, long breath, trying to control his emotion and calm down. In the end, after sighing helplessly into the desolate night, he walked away from the portal.

He had to prepare for the mission tomorrow morning. He would need enough rest to deal with whatever was waiting for him tomorrow.

His lone steps echoed through the empty streets as he looked for a place, an inn preferably, to stay through the night. Without him realizing it, he found himself arriving back to the place he met her earlier, Dancing Cats Tavern.

Emery was stunned when he saw the figure in front of him.

It was a dark alley, but he knew right away, it was her. The girl he had been looking for was sitting outside the tavern entrance. Her head was lowered, causing her not to notice he had arrived.

Subconsciously, words began to escape from his mouth.

"Klea... you are here... I..."

Emery could see her body tremble slightly hearing his voice.

Klea lifted her head and showed a stunned look, when she saw him standing in front of her. She slowly got up on her feet, unable to look directly at him. Then her body started to tremble.

Her usual confidence emanating from her was gone, replaced by nervousness. Still, she gathered her courage to look him in the eye.

"I hate myself for coming back here... But my heart told me otherwise... and every time I selfishly follow it...? it seems I only managed to push you away further..."

Klea took a deep breath, before she looked at him again. This time, the confidence had returned to her eyes, but Emery could feel it was different from the usual aloof confidence she exuded to strangers.

It was warm, comforting and full of genuine care. Emery stood there stunned, as Klea said what she came here to say courageously.

"I... I love you, Emery... and I can't imagine living in a world without you. So, please... I beg you... don't go..."

A gentle gust of night breeze blew, while the moon hung high in the sky, showing its luminance to the two people standing in the dark alley.

Hearing the words she uttered, Emery took a step closer to the girl. He looked upon her face. The previous confident look was gone, replaced by nervousness and a hint of expectation. Eventually, he put his hand around the trembling girl and let her head lay on his chest.

At this moment, his memories of her flashes right into his mind.

The first time they met, the time she took him to the Water Institute exposing the clueless him to the marvel of magic. The time when she was drunk and gave him his first kiss. The time they fought together alongside each other. The time she wanted to give herself to him. The time she came to surprise him in Britain. The time they traveled the vast ocean and raved the wonders of the world and, finally, the date that unfortunately turned to a painful memory for both of them.

This time, Emery knew he should not hesitate. He had been a fool in the past to make her cry. Therefore wouldn't let her cry again

Emery slowly put his hands, that embraced her body, on her shoulders and gently pulled her away. He then looked towards her beautiful pair of brown eyes, as he pulled his courage to say.

"No, Klea... You didn't push me away... It was me. I was the fool, who kept running away from you."

Looking deeply into her eyes, as if he wanted to immerse himself forever into them, Emery say what he feel truthfully.

"Klea, I love you too..."

The girl showed a stunned look when she heard it. It was unexpected for her. A rosy red immediately blossomed on her cheeks, especially when Emery slowly moved closer to her and kissed her lips.

Sparks flew right at that instant and no words were needed, when their souls met and connected, feeling right at home with each other, as they were supposed to be.

However, the moment was interrupted by the sound of people approaching from the end of the alley. Klea was about to step aside to make way, but Emery grabbed her hand, not letting her go. He then suddenly cast [Spatial Gate] and opened the portal, taking them both to the hill on the outskirts of Zodiac City.

Looking at the girl, who was still somewhat shocked by what had just happened, Emery once again cast his gaze at her and said, "I am sorry... I hope my previous actions were not inappropriate."

The girl shook her head quickly. Her previous trembles were gone along with the bloom of a beautiful smile on her face.

At the moment, Klea had let go of all her defense as well as inhibitions and just rested her head on Emery's shoulder. They both sat on the hill overlooking Zodiac City, accompanied by the glimmering stars scattered in the sky above them.

It was one of those times when they could enjoy peace, away from everything else and just be happy.

But the peace lasted for just a minute, before the girl once again fell in disbelief, clarity returned to her as she looked at Emery's face and remembered about today's trouble.

She whispered, "You are still going, aren't you?"

The question once again made Emery give the situation another thought. Many people were counting on him right now. But he knew it wasn't all about the mission itself that could help the wolf's clan, nor was it about the reward that could tremendously help Earth's current problem.

No, it's mainly about his decision to not back down, to do what was right, to not be afraid in face of danger.

Emery took a glance at her, slowly nodded his head and said, "I promise I will be fine. Believe me, I will return as soon as possible."

Still feeling uneasy, Klea said, "No... it's not good enough.... Tell me your plan."

Chapter 709 - His Terms

The sun peeked from the horizon and quietly changed shifts with the night, scattering its brilliance to those in need. At the same time, the figure of a young man was seen walking across the stone pavement towards his destination.

An empty building at one secluded corner of Zodiac City.

Emery arrived at the designated place for the meeting. The five magus he saw yesterday had already gathered. Magus Michela, who took initiative to have a conversation with him before, enthusiastically beckoned her hand to him. Alas, the same couldn't be said to the leader of the team, Magus Leon, who acted completely indifferent.

He already came wearing plain, normal clothes that would certainly make him inconspicuous. However, he still received some scolding from Magus Leon. This treatment couldn't help but make him think the other party had some kind of personal grudge with him.

Magus Michela, on the other hand, just had a cheeky smile on her face as she watched the occasion.

Out of the five people, other than Magus Leon and Magus Michela, the other three were Jasper, a long-haired male with a slender build, Garnet, a muscular middle-aged man with many scars all over his body, and Laban, a rather handsome man that had a striking tattoo on his arm.

All of these people were powerful, Half-Moon magus, a level of strength that was probably stronger than his master, Magus Xion. The serious expression on their faces and how earnestly they prepared their weapons successfully made Emery a little nervous.

Not long after, the two bloodline magus King Alduin decided to send in his stead finally arrived. But unexpectedly, the two of them did not come alone. They came bringing 10 half-blood warriors with them, all peak saint level figures.

"What is the meaning of this?" Magus Leon asked in a dissatisfied tone, sweeping his gaze over the uninvited people.

One of the bloodline magus, the female one, calmly answered his inquiry.

"The king insisted on bringing more people. You don't have to worry too much, as they will just help watch the perimeters from a distance, making sure nothing is missed."

Even though Emery saw Magus Leon nod his head, he could clearly see the latter was not happy with the way the half-blood suddenly and unilaterally altered the plan.

Next, Magus Leon took out a map and showed the group of half-bloods the location they were going to and how he wanted the plan to go.

"We are going to wait for more news from the wolves at this coordinate, please make sure none of your warriors dies anything hasty"

After he was done talking, Magus Nameria accepted the instructions.

"Remember, we do not want to make those wolf clans become even more distrustful than they already are," Magus Leon said in a stern tone, as he stored the map again.

The huge, black skin goat half-blood magus named Jugo just stood there without saying a word, it was Magus Nameria who responded and agreed to the terms Magus Leon had set.

Seeing there were no tiresome demands coming in his way, the frown on Magus Leon eased a little. "Alright, if there are no more issues, let's get ready. We are heading toward the gate now."

However, just before the group left, Emery approached the magus.

He took a deep breath and said, "Magus Leon, I actually came to say that..."

Hearing that, Magus Leon turned his head towards him and looked at him intently.

"...I have decided not to join the mission."

Emery's words echoed in the air and were quickly heard by everyone present. Magus Nameria and Magus Michela seemed to be surprised by it, while Magus Leon surprisingly took it much calmer than he thought.

"There's no need for you to come only to tell me that. You should have just returned to the academy, as I told you before."

After saying that, Magus Leon didn't even wait for his reaction, immediately going back to checking his preparations. Emery didn't mind the other party's attitude, it was all as expected.

He also noticed how the female half-blood magus was looking at him with a mocking smile, as if ridiculing him for being a coward. But he paid the other party no heed.

The group quickly left the place after making sure they were ready, leaving Emery behind.

He stayed there until the group disappeared from his sight. Afterwards, he walked out the secluded street the old building was located at and entered the lively streets again. He made his way towards the nearest tavern and sat on a table, where a figure dressed in a cape was already waiting for him.

It was a young woman, who looked at him with a faint smile on her face.

"I really hoped you decided not to go... But I guess it's going as planned, isn't it?"

Emery was silent for a moment, before nodding and saying, "Yes... it is..."

The mysterious figure was none other than Klea. She had been waiting in the nearby tavern, concerned about Emery's decision. As if she had no energy to start another debate of why he shouldn't go, she brought out a bag and pushed it in Emery's direction.

Receiving the bag, Emery looked at her with gratitude, before quickly walking towards the back room. When he returned, he wasn't just wearing different clothes but looked completely different as well.

To be exact, anyone in Briton would recognize him as the famous knight Lanzo.

Klea, realizing her worries were about to happen, sighed deeply again and looked at him.

"Are you sure you have to go? I really have a bad feeling about this."

Emery didn't answer her question. He just grabbed the girl's hands and gave her a tight hug, "Don't worry. When I see the first sign of danger, I will immediately retreat and come back to you."

Klea let out another deep sigh before looking away and muttered, "Just go before I change my mind."

Emery wryly smiled at her reaction. Still, he did as she asked.

This was the plan that was agreed upon by them both. Emery would go to the meeting to learn a little more of the plan. The map Magus Leon showed to the half-blood group before was enough for him to proceed with his personal plan.

As much as he wanted to help the mission to the best of his abilities, with so many suspicious things running around in the back, Emery knew he had to find a different way. Otherwise, he would be just going straight into whatever was prepared for him.

Emery still planned to help, but this time on his own terms.

He used his innate wolf skill [Shapeshifting] in order to follow the group secretly. From then on, he decided what his moves would be. If it was too dangerous, he would naturally retreat, but if it all went as planned, he would observe the situation and determine if his presence would help create trust with the wolves. If that was the case, then he would show himself.

With his [Spatial Gate], [Blink], enhanced battle power, and counting the live-saving item given by Headmaster Delbrand, Emery believed his plan would be successful.

He stood up and walked out towards the tavern entrance. As he reached the door, he turned around to give one more glance at the girl before making his way to the portal gate and to the planet mentioned by Magus Leon.

It was a small settlement in the center of a forest. There were dozens of people around, but little enough to make people's eyes immediately fixed at his figure, who just came out of the gate.

Emery saw one of the bloodline warriors standing near the portal, presumably assigned to watch. Fortunately, with his new face, the other party didn't seem to recognize him.

A faint smile appeared on Emery's face, as he walked past the bloodline warrior.

Time to see where Magus Leon and the others were going.

Chapter 710 - Concealed

[Planet Kurtulmak]

[Class M - savage planet level 3]

Emery glanced at the symbol on his hand that was currently showing the information of the planet he was at the moment. His eyes couldn't help but narrow a little when he saw the savage prefix attached to its title.

The settlement of the planet he teleported has about hundreds small wooden buildings and also hundreds of people. Some were humans, while some were hybrids. Emery could see within the wooden style settlements and among the figures seen, half of them were kobolds.

The kobolds are a hybrid with a humanoid figure, have skin like a lizard and head like a dragon They are mostly one head shorter than humans but all look sturdy and muscular. These kobolds were pack with weapons and armors, a few even brought magic staff as if they were preparing for hunting

Emery had seen the biography as well as some information about these people from the database of Magus Academy. But other than occasionally seeing some of their kind roaming around in Zodiac City, this is the first place he saw many gathered. It was fascinating, to say the least.

Different from the half-blood, the hybrids did not actually classified as human. They were actually the descendants of a powerful creature that had turned sentient and had human qualities.

The kobolds always said themselves to be descended from an ancient dragon itself. They were born with enhanced physical qualities and prowess, allowing them to thrive in savage planets where danger lurks in every corner. Unfortunately, their short stature and mischievous personality make their name considered as part of the serpent bloodline instead.

Either way, Emery was just glad that there were also other human figures among them. Hence when one of the half-blood warriors saw him coming out of the portal, not only was he not recognized by the other party, he was also not being treated suspiciously.

Happy that the first stage of infiltration went without a hitch, Emery calmly walked through the street of the settlement and began using his spirit reading to scour his surroundings.

A few moments later, Emery discovered that there were around a hundred people in this settlement who had similar cultivation with his rank 8. There were even dozens of saint level warriors strolling around. This congregation of figures practically made Emery's existence inconspicuous.

As for the task of finding Magus Leon and the others' whereabouts turned out to be not that difficult. Even though there were a few magus figures perceived around the town, a spot where a bunch of them gathered together was quite easy to find.

Emery continued to walk in a casual manner, as he sneakily made his way to their location while making sure to keep his distance so that he would not appear suspicious to them. Thanks to that same reason, he decided to enter and stop at a few buildings to act as if he was looking around. He also didn't forget to interact with people to make his disguise look more foolproof.

It took Emery just a few minutes of exploring for him to realize that this settlement and the area around it was a common site to find mid level quests and hunt mid level creatures. It was just like Planet 14722 where he hunted for the Caracas flowers with his friends, but instead of danger level 1, this planet was a more dangerous level 3.

Utilizing his spirit reading, Emery got closer to where Magus Leon and co had gathered. His presence was even noticed by the bloodline warriors that secure the perimeter, but thanks to his unfamiliar face, he only got a few scrutinizing looks before being left alone.

He continued to walk until his spirit reading clearly perceived where the group was. Apparently, the magus group was currently inside one of the largest buildings in the settlement and one that he knew very well.

It was the building of the Magus Guild. Its appearance was similar to the one he visited at Golden City in the past, only much smaller and hence looked less grandiose.

[Kurtulmak - Magus Guild]

Realizing that standing outside of the guild would only do nothing but arouse suspicion, Emery decided to enter the building. Of course, he did it carefully to make sure not to give himself away.

Through spirit reading and brief observation of the interior of Magus Guild's building, it seemed Magus Leon's group was gathering in a private room located at the end of the hall, while Emery quickly took a seat on the other end.

Entering the building was a risky move, of course. But Emery had to make sure that he would not be recognized nor discovered by the other side before the mission started, or else everything would be much more troublesome later. This plan of his might even endanger others, hence he needed to be sure.

If Magus Leon or the others had somehow discovered him, then he would confront them and be open about his situation. If the result between them was not satisfactory, then he would immediately leave and not bother himself with the mission again.

If he could get away with the spying he currently did though, he might actually be able to do something significant later from the shadow. Emery had also prepared other things, but now he had to verify that his wolf innate skill would be sufficient for this undercover.

Time passed on, and Emery continued watching the group from afar, sneakily of course. They seemed to be waiting for something. He was eavesdropping their conversation with his senses, but none of them were talking about the mission. Well, this was to be expected; they are a special enforcer team, after all.

At this moment, someone in the group suddenly turned their head towards him. It wasn't Magus Leon nor the other enforcer, but it was the half-blood tiger Magus Nameria. Their eyes stared into each other, and she immediately stood from her seat and walked towards his table.

"What are you doing here?!" She snapped.

Inwardly, Emery was shocked. For a moment, he wondered if his cover was blown so quickly before he quickly shook that speculation away. He tried to calm himself and thought of the best response a stranger would give in this situation.

"Ah.. I... I..."

Stuttering should be the best response when one is suddenly being confronted by such fierceness.

"I-I... just came here for a quest, senior. I apologize if I offended you."

The female half-blood suddenly moved her body closer and started sniffing on him. Inwardly, Emery was nervous. She was, after all, someone who held Tiger Bloodline; her sense of smell should be no less inferior to that of a wolf.

"Huh... you have a familiar scent.." said Magus Nameria as she continued to sniff around. "Huh..."

It was at this moment that Emery was glad that Klea was such a thorough person. The girl did not forget to spray him with some kind of scent before he left, hence the other party should have not recognized him.

However, it seemed Magus Nameria's suspicion hadn't completely disappeared.

"What quest are you here for? A rank 8 like you came to this place for a quest, by yourself?!!"

For a moment, Emery was at a loss for words. This magus was apparently not easy to fool, contrary to her appearance.

"No, senior. Of course not. I'm not alone for the quest. In fact, I am waiting for my friend" said Emery with a smile.

When he thought that this was enough to satisfy the magus and send her away, she kept going against expectation and bringing surprise to the table.

"Is that so? Alright! I have time, let us wait together for your friend!"

The situation became awkward for Emery. His shapeshifting ability and Klea's earlier precaution was enough to fool her, but he was just not eloquent enough to talk his way out of this. Not knowing what he should do and afraid that his cover would be blown, Emery eventually nodded his head in agreement.

It had been half an hour since the tiger half-blood magus confronted Emery, and the two had been sitting together ever since. All this time Emery had been trying to look calm and now he noticed that she finally seemed to have lost her patience.

Just as she was about to stand up and interrogate Emery one more time, suddenly a female voice was heard behind her.

"I'm so sorry! Have you waited long? Let's get the quest now!"

Immediately, Magus Nameria turned around to see who it was. On the other hand, Emery gave his all to suppress the shock that threatened to spill all over his face. He was so shocked because the person who came was someone very unexpected.

A young woman with long red hair that cascades down to her hips; the disciple of Grand Magus Zenonia, Annara Vermont.

"How... why is she here?" He thought