

Earths GMagus 711

Chapter 711 - Questions

"I am sorry senior, has my friend here somehow caused you trouble?" The red-haired girl asked with a polite smile to the half-blood magus.

Due to that, Magus Nimeria, who was about to go for another round of interrogation on the disguised Emery, held back from what she planned to do and turned her head around to see who it was.

There, she finally saw it - the arrival of what appeared to be Emery's friend, as the latter mentioned earlier. This naturally took out the suspicion Magus Nimeria felt.

Immediately, she knew she was wrong. In a situation like this, it was only natural to apologize. Alas, she was anything but normal.

The female half-blood magus only looked at Emery again, her expression disgruntled, before walking away towards where Magus Leon and the others had gathered.

On the other hand, Emery knew his problems were far from over. One problem had been solved, but a bigger one arrived as quickly, when he saw Annara taking a seat in front of him with her signature wicked smile.

'What is she doing here? What does she want? Why is she helping? Does she even know who I am?'

Those were some of the questions that floated in Emery's mind, as his eyes fell on the beautiful figure sitting before him.

Then, when Emery prepared himself to face what was about to come, the girl suddenly said something that completely threw him off the table.

"I am a bit tired though. Let's get the room first!"

The girl stood up, but not before slipping a small note to him. As he threw a confused look at her, Emery took it off the table and quickly read it. There were just three words: "Follow me now".

Afterwards, she walked towards the bartender, spoke with him for a moment, and looked towards Emery's direction briefly, before turning around and walking up the stairs - presumably to the room she mentioned earlier.

Seeing how confident she behaved, Emery guessed it was most likely that his cover was already blown. Hence, if he wanted to continue his plan, he had to see what she wanted. Otherwise, the consequences won't be good.

Emery stood up from his seat and walked towards the stairs leading to the second floor.

After climbing the stairs, he was welcomed by the sight of Annara waiting in front of the door. She smiled at him and entered the open door, of course not before teasing him to enter with a provocative gesture.

As he walked into the room, Emery's vigilance was raised to the max, preparing himself for any surprise, only to see the red-haired girl already sitting on the bed facing him. The girl's posture was very thought-provoking, especially the part where her legs were folded showing lots of her pale skin.

"Come in," said Annara with a faint smile.

"Don't worry, I won't bite," she added, when she saw the hesitant look on Emery's face.

Emery looked left and right, wary of any kind of trouble, as he entered the room. The girl, on the other hand, looked really annoyed when she saw this. Then, she took out a small object from her storage ring. This action of hers successfully caught Emery's attention and his eyes immediately fixed on the object.

It looked similar to a small-sized table lamp and it suddenly began to emit a soft glow, followed by the appearance of intricate runes on its surface.

Emery's apparent confusion immediately told Annara he did not know what it was she was doing.

"Huh! You lower realm peasants are really just too pitiful," She sneered. "This is a voice dampener. With this, we can talk freely without fear of someone eavesdropping on our conversation."

It appeared not only did Annara know who he was, she also knew what was going on. Hence, the reason for that object called voice dampener. She didn't want the magus downstairs to hear their conversation.

Emery was silent. He tried to reassess the situation and think of what he should do. Moments later, he stared at Annara and said in a calm voice.

"Tell me. What is it that you want?"

Annara showed a smile before saying, "Well, let's say that I am on a similar mission as yours, so I think we should help each other. What do you think of my suggestion?"

Not planning to be fooled, as there was a chance she tried to bluff him, Emery proceeded to say, "Mission? ...What mission?"

Emery's reaction did nothing but annoy her. The sneer on her face grew increasingly apparent as she said,

"Unfortunately we don't have much time for pretense. I am gonna tell you what I know and you can add whatever after. However, I need us both not to get discovered by the people downstairs."

Without waiting for Emery's approval or disapproval, Annara immediately began to say everything she knew. The dubious mission involved a meeting with the White Fang Clan's chief, the objective of the mission, and Emery's task within the mission.

It was at this moment, when he heard the girl in front of him say one thing after another, Emery realized that if Klea had a way of finding out about the mission, then it was no wonder this girl had one as well.

With this, Emery started to think this mission was going to end badly, looking at the situation, where so many people already knew about this supposed 'secret mission'.

Even so, the fact Annara knew about the mission was far from enough for Emery to agree with her idea of cooperating. Not mentioning about trust, which was basically nonexistent due to the nature of their

past contacts with each other, the girl was Zenonia's disciple - the person who wanted to kidnap him ever since he returned to the academy.

There were also a few other things Emery needed to know from her, before he even considered the idea of collaborating.

"I want you to answer some of my questions first," said Emery with a serious look.

The girl showed an amused look, before gesturing with her hand.

Emery immediately said, "Tell me... how do you know it was me?"

As if she had already expected the question all along, Annara showed a proud smile. She instantly opened her palm and held it out towards Emery.

Immediately after, a tiny moth-like creature flew from the back of his clothes into her open palm. She let it circle around her hand for a while, before it eventually dissipated into specks of light.

"I have been attaching this cute little thing to you since we met at Zodiac City. She has been my ears ever since."

Hearing this naturally made Emery angry. How could he not? He quickly wondered what she had learned since.

Seeing Emery's reaction, the smile on her face turned to a grin as she said,

"Don't worry, I don't particularly enjoy listening to the part with your girlfriend..."

Alas, Emery was in no mood to play around with her. He took a deep breath to calm himself and asked.

"Tell me. What's your objective?"

Noticing the look on Emery's face, Annara knew she couldn't tease the other party again. Hence, she rose from her sitting position and looked him straight in the eye.

"Well... First of all, unlike what the general populace believes, we, the Bat Bloodline, don't really like to be in the dark if you know what I mean," said Annara in a calm voice, the grin on her face was gone.

"Secondly, would you believe me if I said my goal was also to make sure you were safe?"

Emery narrowed his eyes when he heard that for a moment.. It was such an absurd thing to claim, of course Emery would never believe such a reason.

Chapter 712 - Annara

Annara Vermont, a girl that would be willing to do anything to reach her goal. That's what she has been doing her entire life in order to survive. Having a half-blood father and human mother caused her circumstances to be very complex since birth, as the situation made it hard for her to completely belong on either side of the world.

This became increasingly apparent when her innate talent started to shine among the others of the same bloodline.

[Privilege acolytes member ID: 83139840]

[Battle Power 142]

[Spirit Force: 850]

[Acolyte Rank: 9]

[Element proficiency: fire - darkness - wind]

[Spirit Aptitude - S]

[Bloodline Gene - Spectre Bat]

[Gene Classification - Legendary Bloodline]

[Bloodline Limit: Rank 6]

[Current Rank - Rank 5]

After dealing with hundreds of obstacles and challenges presented in her life, she finally managed to enter the privileged class and even was accepted as one of the grand magus', Grand Magus Zenonia, disciple.

Since then, her progress has been nothing short but impressive. It was as if she grew a pair of wings and soared to the air. She had improved so much that when she returned to her homeworld, she was able to prove her worth and started to get the recognition she deserved.

Hence, when she returned to the Magus Academy for her third year, she asked no question when being tasked to babysit a certain elite acolyte. Even though she personally thought of the task as something that was entirely beneath what she was capable of, she still accepted it and would carry it out properly.

The task also naturally made her curious about what was so important about this elite acolyte that they were able to receive such preferential treatment. Hence, she started to look into and scour through her target's profile and history.

To her surprise, they managed to be in the same group for the upcoming Magus Game, and what she read on the file about the party was nothing but surprising. One of the traits emphasized in the target's file was that the other party was soft.

"The kind who value friends over power?!" the girl muttered as she read the file. She sneered, "Huh, this kid would not last long in the academy!"

Alas, her surprise was fated to not end there as she proceeded to witness firsthand how the boy managed to defy predictions and expectations and scored a noteworthy achievement on the Magus Game.

"It was indeed quite a feat, but why do you look so happy? It's just a game and you just happened to have a lucky strike; it was such an idiot move to charge recklessly like that."

The next thing the girl knew, the news about the boy successfully entering the privileged class circulated around, which only brought more hate to her.

"Being able to enter this late into the year is certainly a special privilege indeed," she commented with clear contempt.

Believing what she had witnessed herself, the girl closed the report and marked the elite-now-privileged acolyte named Emery as a fortunate boy with ordinary talent, leverage by the unique bloodline. With that, she waited for her master to exit her seclusion for more tasks.

At this point, the girl did not know that this opinionated perspective of hers was about to change; It was during the arena battle, Annara started to see something different about the boy.

"No way! It's not possible to win against Atlas as a rank 8 acolyte. What is his secret?!" exclaimed Annara as her gaze was completely fixed on the figure of Emery who was being carried away by the medics.

After the arena challenge concluded, Annara once again opened up the report she had closed and started to follow the boy to find the truth about him.

[Innate talent - Summon Familiar]

Thanks to her extraordinary aptitude, Annara was able to summon few types of familiars - bat and moth. One of them was excellent for trailing and tracking down someone, while the other was really suitable for spying and eavesdropping; both of them were able to convey clearly whatever they caught through one of her innate talents, [Sonic Echoes].

It was not easy to follow the boy the first time, as her familiar couldn't enter the half-blood palace due to the powerful restrictions set around it.

But later that day, she found the boy sneaking into a tavern to meet with his friends and to her surprise, she unexpectedly learnt a secret about a classified mission. With her master still in closed-door training, she contacted the Bat Clan to ask for directions.

As a result, she was quickly assigned a new secret mission by the Bat Clan which was surprising to her.

With another chance to prove her worth, she readily received the mission.

"Yes! I accept the mission."

That's also when she learnt Emery's plan of refusing to directly join the mission in order to secretly follow the group after changing his entire appearance into a new identity altogether. For a moment, Annara was impressed by the resourcefulness the boy showed for this matter.

"It seems you are not as foolish as I thought," was her thought as she watched everything unfolding from behind the scene. Well, at least that's what her thoughts were until the time she saw the boy's cover was about to get blown.

After considering pros and cons as well as thinking of some backup plan in her mind, Annara decided to jump in and help the other party from his predicament.

"Like I said, I came with a similar mission from the Bat Clan. We want to make our contribution and help to ensure that the current atmosphere of unrest can be defused as soon as possible. As for the other

reason, I can honestly tell you that the Grand Magus really cares about you, hence she wants me to look after you."

Emery simply couldn't believe what he just heard. Especially when he saw her saying it with such a cheeky smile. That couldn't help but make him feel like she had another agenda in doing this.

The truth was he was no longer interested to join the mission. The risk had just risen to another level because of the girl in front of him. It was simply already out of his hand.

Therefore he said, "Please tell the grand magus that I am grateful for her concern. You can also say that she no longer needs to worry about me as I decide not to participate in the mission."

This was the most logical solution for the current situation. After saying that, Emery turned his body around. However, as he was about to step out of the room, Annara opened her mouth.

"Is that so? It's too bad then. It appears that you don't care about the White Fang as much as I thought, but I'm sure you want to hear another fact about the mission. I'll share it with you if you stay and hear me out."

Emery stop his step and turned toward her again, there was no harm in listening, after all.

"Good," said the red-haired girl as she once again had that amused smile on her face.

"Tell me what fact? What's the information?"

"Alright then... Do you know what it is that the White Fang have as proof of their innocence?"

At this question, Emery's attention was completely caught. Noticing his reaction, the girl held her words and smiled, apparently creating suspense. She only spoke again moments later when she saw Emery starting to lose his temper.

"You do know that the snake clan ran a day before the incident right? Apparently, The White Fang has captured a certain snake girl who knows why the reptiles ran... and I believe you know her pretty well?"

A name immediately came into Emery's mind before Annara managed to say it.

"Silva Oroboros."

Chapter 713 - Cooperation

The faint smile on Annara's face widened a bit, but Emery didn't seem to notice, his thoughts were fully ensnared by the name he just said.

"I am sure you know her... pretty well in fact. I have checked the records: you two were helping each other during the second Magus Game. You two were also involved in the same incident during our first year in the Academy."

Even though Annara's words of Silva being held captive by the White Fang Clan caused no small amounts of anxiety, Emery still tried to maintain his calm. After all, he couldn't afford to lose his edge and let the other party take control of the situation.

"What do you mean by being held captive? Tell me what you know?" Emery said in a stern tone.

Although Annara really wanted to tease the boy in front of her, she knew important business had to be solved first. Therefore, she began to speak.

"Alright, this is the information I got."

The Wolf Clan, being branded as traitors, went and sought the Snake Bloodline's clans for help. Alas, none of the snakes were willing to talk to them. However, in the midst of chaos, the White Fang somehow managed to kidnap the young female acolyte.

This happened a month ago, just days before the academy's new school academic year started. Since then, the academy was in contact to meet. In response, the Wolf Clan only returned the message by replying with how they now had proof both them and Snake Bloodline were innocent on the matter.

Hearing this made Emery recall the time when Headmaster Delbrand told him the reason he was chosen for the mission was because of his relation with both the Wolf and Snake Bloodline. Therefore, he could safely infer this information was related.

Based on his thinking on this information, Headmaster Delbrand must have wanted him to not only speak on behalf of the Magus Alliance, but also to mediate between the Wolf and Snake Bloodline.

For a moment, a deep frown appeared on Emery's face. He couldn't imagine how it would be if Silva was hurt, or even worse, dead in the White Fang Clan's hands, when he could actually do something about it.

Annara's wicked smile graced her face once again, realizing Emery had a change of thought.

"Good. Now, before they leave and we lose any more intel because of our pointless argument here, we should work together."

At that, Emery only stared at the girl in silence. He might have had a change of heart and committed himself to the decision of poking his nose into the mission, but he was still far from trusting the girl - let alone work together. After all, this mission had the possibility of bringing himself to ruin, if he wasn't careful enough.

So, he added, "I will not bother your mission if you do not bother mine. And no, I would rather not work together with you. Anyway, thank you for the intel. Let's just hope I don't find out if you are lying about it."

Contrary to expectation, Annara was not angry at Emery's second refusal. Instead, she had her usual amused expression on her face. With an increasingly growing smirk, she said in an effort to tip him off.

"Hahaha, how can you be so silly, Emery. What makes you think I will not intentionally mess up your plan if you chose to not help me?"

Emery was actually relieved when he heard those words. He would rather the girl show her true cunning self than pretending to be friendly to him.

The girl then added, "Listen, I am telling you just to trust me. I wasn't lying when I said my master will kill me if anything happens to you." Annara looked helplessly at Emery, wondering why she had to go through this.

"... Either way, I can see your skill helped you not get recognized among the crowds, but what's your plan when they start to enter the woods? They will definitely not let some suspicious rank 8 human 'conveniently' follow them within the same direction? I know you don't have the proper spell required for the job!"

Annara could see Emery was about to say something, but she quickly interrupted him.

"And don't get me started with your darkness skill tier 1 [Hide in Shadow]." She sneered. "Pfft... that puny spell won't work even on me. Do you really think a magus would suddenly become so lulled they won't notice you?! Bah! And your space magic won't help you either!"

What Annara said was true, even though she said it too bluntly. Emery's [Blink] and [Spatial Gate] might be the best movement spells to use for escaping, but certainly not the best for sneakily following a target.

Emery was about to explain, but decided to hold that off and instead ask a question.

"What about you? What's your plan? I don't believe that your moth can spy all the way from such a distance without being discovered."

Instead of answering, Annara laughed cheerfully. She looked at him and said with a smile, "Does this mean you agree? If you are, then I will tell you my plan. If we work together, I am confident we can successfully tail them without getting caught in the process."

With the current situation, Emery could only follow the girl's plan or go home and forget about the mission, but then he suddenly thought of another way. So he just nodded, making the smile on Annara's face grow even wider.

"All right, i agree let's work together!"

Apparently, Magus Leon and the others would only begin to move when the veil of darkness fell and the surrounding area came into a state of stillness. The two people, Annara and Emery, waited as they looked for the perfect window to make a move.

Annara did not dare to put her moth familiar to overhear the magus' group. She knew the moment she did so, the magus would discover it right away. Hence, the two of them have no idea why the group just went out now at night after a few hours of waiting.

"I think the wolves are trying to be extra careful on their side. Even though visibility was not really an issue anymore for a magus, who sensed using spirit reading more than their actual sense of sight, meeting at night would still give them a better chance to escape, if things somehow go wrong."

While waiting for night to fall, Emery took the time to study the planet once again.? He found out one of the reasons why this planet was chosen as the meeting place. This planet was one of the mid-rank savage planets that had half a dozen portal gates scattered around.

The multiple options of entry and exit points would allow them a chance to escape if things went south. Furthermore, the kobolds were experts in making tunnels when they went for a hunt. Hence a

rendezvous in a deep forest, in the middle of the night, where many tunnels lead in all directions existed, on a planet where exit points were plenty, it was a fairly well thought decision.

As soon as he detected the magus leaving the settlement, Emery was ready to move, but Annara quickly stopped him.

"Wait!. Don't be hasty. We will go as planned."

Just looking at the wicked smile on her face once again made Emery turn anxious. For a moment, he couldn't help but think that maybe he should have brought Klea with him. She would definitely know how to deal with this girl.

Chapter 714 - Tailing

With Emery's current spirit force and spirit reading's capability, he could clearly get a clear picture of the surrounding area as far as 50 miles away. Furthermore, this benchmark of distance was also the range of which his spatial date could be freely employed.

From the information that he took from the academy database, Emery found out that planet Kultrumak where he was currently at has a radius about 4000 miles, a number that is surprisingly similar to Earth.

This meant that Emery would need roughly 800 spatial gates in order to port his way around the planet.

Things would turn for the better if Emery could prepare the stone formation, which would then allow him to cover five times the range his [Spatial Gate] capable of. Unfortunately, he did not have that many stones to allow him to accomplish such a feat; he only had enough for a few.

Considering how the distance his [Spatial Gate] could cover was a crucial aspect for the success of the plan, Emery share this information to Annara

A look of surprise appeared on Annara's face when Emery told her about this capability of his. She didn't expect the latter to be able to cover such a distance; 50 miles was actually a startling range for someone like Emery who is a rank 8 acolyte. After all, she as a high stage rank 9 acolyte could only sense about the same range.

However, this was still not enough as even the lowest of the rung magus could sense as far as 100 miles. Hence to be on the safe side, Annara needed the two of them to maintain at least a 200 miles distance when they went on their tailing act.

With that distance, even if one of the magus in the group was still able to sense them, Annara was sure that nothing would happen as they would have the same signature as most of the mid-level creatures lurking and roaming in the forest.

Hence, the gist of the plan was as soon as the magus group left the settlement, Annara would immediately release her bat familiars to the wild. Each bat could easily cover dozens of miles distance, and with her innate [Sonic Echoes], the school of bats would send out information from one another to their location just like a relay.

Emery watched Annara as she closed her eyes, probably connecting with her familiars. A few moments later, she opened them again and said, "Alright, they're already 200 miles away. Let's go."

The two, who had prepared themselves since the magus group made their move, immediately walked out of the settlement. And before Emery cast the [Spatial Gate], the crimson-haired girl cast a powerful tier 5 spell.

[Void Barrier]

This is a spell that would allow anything in the radius of several meters around her to basically go under detection, from the eyes, and from any senses. While continuing to channel the spell, Annara and Emery swiftly entered the gate the latter had cast and appeared 50 miles away from the settlement.

The reason Annara needed Emery's help was that she was unable to use this spell indefinitely as it drained too much spirit energy and was too taxing for her spirit pool to handle in a long period of time.

Thankfully, now that Emery was here, she only had to use it with every jump they did with [Spatial Gate], in order to make sure they weren't detected when they inadvertently crossed the 200 miles distance limit they agreed upon before.

With the speed at which the magus group was moving, the two had to use the combination of their spells every 10 to 15 minutes to make sure they were not left in the dust. The plan seemed to be working as intended as they managed to follow the former without being detected.

However, fate seemed to prepare something for the two, not allowing them to have a smooth process.

After a few jumps, this time while the two were hiding within the thickets and waiting for the magus group to move again, a creature suddenly emerged from the ground several feet from their location.

[Graboid]

[Level 60 magic beast]

[Battle power 120]

It was a roughly 6 meter long worm-like creature with solid stone-like skin. Having emerged from the moist ground in the deep forest, it stood on its two short feet while its face that has four jaws, one on the top and the remaining three positioned linearly below it, turned to and fro.

The creature did not seem to have anything that resembled that of arms, hence Emery concluded that its jaws were its main weapon.

The two watched as the creature swept the surrounding area, hoping that it would not notice them because they couldn't afford to be entangled by it. Unfortunately, the creature sense not with eyes, but with a slight tremble of the ground by Emery's step, it turned its head in direction to him.

The next second, the creature shot toward the thickets where they were hiding. It actually came in at such speed that Emery was forced to use [Blink] to dodge away; it also literally emerged several feet away from them.

Two immediately got into action because they knew they had to end things quickly if they still wanted to tail Magus Leon and the others. Unexpectedly, Annara had to exert her full strength to restrain the creature with her whip, while Emery's sword was unable to pierce its skin and only made a few scratches.

Seeing that the skin was a no-go, Emery decided to attack the only weak point he could see - inside its mouth. However, when his sword was about to land and pierce through its jaw, multiple long tentacle-like tongues suddenly came out.

Even though Emery knew they didn't have much time, he didn't want to act recklessly either. Therefore, instead of forcing his attack and risk being injured by this queer group of tongues, he directed his sword at the latter and even employed a skill.

[Heroic Strike]

Splat!! A flash of light appeared momentarily, which was quickly followed by a fountain of blood.

After its tongues were cut into pieces, the creature fell to the ground as it shrieked in pain. Emery quickly put out its misery by sending a [Dark Matter], obliterating it from inside out.

Seeing how Emery looked satisfied with killing the monster, Annara flashed a smile as she said, "You just killed a baby Graboid, so make sure not to portal near the mother next."

The two immediately returned to what they were here for because Annara's familiar told her that Magus Leon and the others had gotten far from them.

After two dozen more jumps through the [Spatial Gate], Annara finally opened her mouth again.

"They have stopped! It's time for us to get closer to them."

Like what she had been doing previously, Annara pointed her finger at one o'clock direction and said, "It's about 230 miles in this direction. Remember to do it slowly, 50 miles at a time."

Emery nodded as a response and quickly opened up another [Spatial Gate] for the day. Annara also cast [Void Barrier] again, and both of them quickly stood in front of the portal. Just as they were about to enter, Emery suddenly said something that made Annara stop in her steps.

"Thank you Annara, and I am sorry."

The girl did not even have a chance to say a word as Emery already pushed her into the open gate and closed it in the next second.

Emery had just sent her 50 miles in the direction opposite of where Magus Leon and the others were. This would take her at least 10 minutes to reach where he is, and more than an hour to the location.

With this, Emery was confident he would have enough time to prepare. Making sure there was any hostile through spirit reading, he took out an item and swiftly put it on his wrist.

This was something that he had specifically prepared for the mission - the only way that could make Klea agree to let him go on this.

[Bracelet of Anu]

[Artifact - tier 5]

[Enchantment boost]

It was the bracelet that Klea found in the Egypt pyramid, which she had forced Emery to borrow and learn throughout the night before his departure.

Stroking the bracelet with a gentle look on his face, Emery proceeded to focus his concentration on the bracelet and started employing his spirit reading ability to create some kind of mental block around him, blurring his presence to the lowest possible level and making himself overall more difficult to perceive.

It took him a few minutes to make sure the mental block was working as intended, and when he felt he was ready, he immediately created a portal and entered inside.

Emery made his way towards where Magus Leon and the others were, and just like Annara's suggest, 50 miles at a time.

Chapter 715 - The Meeting

As soon as Emery's feet stepped out of the gate, he opened up his spatial space and took out a dozen familiar blue-colored rocks before starting to create a stone formation in this place.

This was a safety measure Emery decided to set up after thoughtful consideration. The stone formation would serve as an anchor point to instantly whisk 200 miles away from his location at the time in case he needed to retreat.

After making sure the stone formation would work fine, Emery continued his journey in the direction which Annara pointed at before. Two more trips through the [Spatial Gate], and he should only be about 80 miles from where Magus Leon and the others stopped.

Knowing that another travel with [Spatial Gate] would become a risk, Emery started to run toward the destination while channeling his spirit force into the bracelet that cloaked his presence with its ability. After all, he couldn't afford to fail at the last leg of the race because of a seemingly inconsequential mistake.

In the end, after a few minutes of treading through the deep forest in fast yet careful manner, Emery's spirit reading perceived two signatures of saint level warriors among other different signatures, possibly Graboids or other hostile creatures of the forest currently battling the group.

The closer he got, the more Emery was sure that the two signatures he detected were the half-blood warriors of the group.

"They must be separated into groups of two and tasked with guarding the perimeter," Emery thought as he considered the possible reasons for their presence here.

Confident with what he just deduced, a faint smile appeared on Emery's face. This is actually a perfect situation for him, as this is a good chance for an assessment to check if his current proficiency of utilizing Klea's bracelet would be enough to hide his presence from saint level individuals.

Another token of assurance that his stealth was working as intended would certainly boost Emery's confidence, as he was about to tail after a group of much more perceptive magus.

Visibility was lowered to a minimum at night, and this was especially the case in the forest where Emery was at the moment thanks to the presence of towering trees and dense foliage that obscured most of

the dim moonlight. Therefore, Emery also proceeded to use his [Hide in Shadow] as his figure dashed toward the destination, steadily approaching near the location where the two half-blood warriors were.

20 miles

10 miles

5 miles

Eventually, Emery's figure passed through the area where the half-blood warriors were just a few kilometers away. But he didn't stop, he still went and continued until he reached several miles away from the two.

Afterwards, Emery stopped to take a deep breath while waiting to see if those saint level warriors were actually leaving their area and moving toward him. A minute passed by and there was still no sign of the two coming. They didn't even look in the direction he went.

It was clear that he was successful, or rather his proficiency didn't fail him. After taking a glance at the bracelet and being grateful to Klea again, Emery continued as his destination was near.

This time, he proceeded at a much slower pace, especially after Magus Leon and the others had already been spotted within a 50 mile radius of his spirit reading. In order to be sure again, Emery concentrated on his spirit once again, increasing the shroud effect imposed upon him before moving forward.

Slowly but surely, Emery approached Magus Leon's group until he finally sensed another group - a dozen of them - coming from the opposite direction and closing in on the former.

There were still dozens of miles between them. Understanding that he might miss the meeting and would arrive too late to do anything, Emery started to hasten his pace.

As his figure flickered through the dense flock of trees, not only was he increasing the mental block enveloping his body and strengthening the [Hide in Shadow] spell, Emery also tried his best to not break any twigs or shift anything in his way that could potentially create a sound that would get him caught.

Gradually, the presence of the two groups became clearer in Emery's mind.

The group of dozen people had a minimum of saint level aura while three of them emanated magus level presence. One particular signature stood out for Emery as it was one of the strongest magus levels he could sense in the area.

As soon as Emery reached the 5 miles distance to the group, he started to hear glimpses of their conversation. He stopped for a moment, contemplating whether he should go further or stay here. Eventually, he decided to take another 2 mile which allowed them to see their figure and stopped there.

Emery couldn't help but feel a little nostalgic as he saw the dozen familiar figures. They were definitely the White Fang Clan, led by the one and only Chief Beowulf.

Through the gaps of the woods, Emery could see the chief was accompanied by two female pack leaders and their teams, and he recognized both people. The one with short black hair was Beatrice, while the one with red flaming hair was Anna; he had met them before and they even extended an invitation to join their squad to him during the Rave.

Making sure that his mental block was working in full capacity, Emery slowly and carefully laid his body on a tree and started to pay his utmost attention to the other party's conversation.

"I specifically asked for Headmaster Delbrand or King Aduin himself to come," Chief Beowulf echoed in the air, backed by apparent dissatisfaction. The man then suddenly roared, "So where are they?!"

Magus Leon, the victim of sudden roar, calmly responded. "The headmaster is occupied right now, hence I was sent here instead. Let me introduce myself, I am Leon, the captain of the 6th Division Magus Alliance enforcer"

It was obvious that the answer Magus Leon provided wasn't able to pacify Chief Beowulf.

"I don't care who you are, don't speak unless you have a higher position than Delbrand!"

The man then turned to the large, dark-fur half-blood goat magus and said, "Jigow! We both are the members of the Twelve Flag Bearers of Zodiac City, so tell me, why did the king not come himself? Is he really unavailable or has another agenda?"

Emery have heard about this title before, The twelve flag bearers are the 12 bloodlines that was assigned as the 12 protectors of the Zodiac city; just under the 4 guardians and Lord Esbern the overseer.

Jigow was apparently one of them, just as Chief Bewolf was.

The dark-fur half-blood who was being asked just kept his silence. Instead, it was Magus Nameria who responded with a shout of her own

"The king has no time for your wolves quarrel. Stop making trouble and follow us for your punishment!"

For a moment, Chief Beowulf looked hesitant. However, it quickly went away as he said, "No! As I said before, I will only talk to Headmaster Delbrand or the king himself, if none are here i will take my leave now!"

Seeing this spectacle, Emery thought that this was his cue to enter and help Magus Leon convince the chief. He considered his decision for a few more seconds before he made up his mind.

He was about to come out of his hiding and say a word when a powerful energy came flying in his direction, or rather, the group's direction. Thanks to that, his steps were stalled and he slowly crept back to the position he was at before.

A grand magus figure had arrived, and surprisingly Emery know the figure well.

Chapter 716 - Trust

The figure flew at terrifying speed, quickly alarming everyone around. Their heads instantly snapped in the direction where the new arrival was coming. Those from the White Fang Clan stared at it with intensity, their body tense and ready for combat.

Amidst the panic, Magus Leon shouted.

"Don't be alarmed!"

Despite the reassurance, all of them, especially the wolves, were still anxious. Even from afar, they could sense the faint pressure radiating from the figure, who was a Grand Magus level figure.

Emery looked up while making sure he made minimal movements as he did so, trying to identify who the figure that was still hovering in the air was. A few moments later, he realized that person's true identity.

It was a middle-aged looking woman with white hair and a blank yet terrifying expression on her face. Of course, almost everyone in the academy would know who that was. She was Kadek, the Grand Magus enforcer tasked with maintaining the Magus Academy's safety.

The woman was floating in the air, blueish light completely blanketing her body. While everyone fixed their gazes at her, her eyes darted around them, as if trying to look for something.

As Emery stared at her, the Grand Magus surprised him for half a second by taking a quick glance at him.

Within less than a second, Emery could feel his heart thumping in a chaotic manner, like it was about to hammer its way out from his chest. The Grand Magus had made him feel nothing short of pure fear.

He felt like within that split second, everything that made him was laid bare to the open. Fortunately for him, the Grand Magus seemed to have decided to ignore him for the time being. She only glanced and didn't maintain her gaze on him.

Emery wasn't sure of the reason. Was it because she knew his identity, or was it because he was just not a threat at his current strength?

Magus Leon quickly explained to the restless White Fang Clan the Grand Magus was actually the representative sent to talk on behalf of Headmaster Delbrand. After all, it was a matter related to the Magus Alliance, not the academy itself. If anyone else served as the representative, it would create unneeded rumors about the stance of the academy.

The explanation seemed convincing enough. However, Chief Beowolf did not seem satisfied by it.

"This is not about jurisdiction, this is about trust and integrity! I cannot trust anyone with what I found except Delbrand himself or King Alduin!" The chief of White Fangs shouted.

Despite the enraged chief's demands, Grand Magus Kadek did not budge. She looked at the former calmly and said, "Your request cannot be approved. I will give you some time to give me a short explanation about what happened, or you will be taken into custody without further question."

Considering how the chief insisted on seeing the headmaster or King Alduin and the way Grand Magus Kadek responded, it appeared there was no point for Emery to even try mediating between them. After all, under magus standards he was still young, and merely a rank 8 acolyte.

As the 'discussion' that sounded more and more like a shouting match went on, Chief Beowolf became increasingly more irritated. In the end, with an angry glare directed at his debate opponent, he turned to look at his subordinates and barked.

"Bring her here!"

Knowing their chief was as angry as he could be, one of the subordinates immediately moved as he walked deep into the forest. Within a minute, another man could be seen accompanying him, while dragging another person. Emery could recognize the other man who just appeared as Brutus, his senior in the Magus Academy and the one Tatjana inquired about.

Seeing the man seemed fine, Emery made a note in his mind to tell Tatjana about this, when they meet in the future. Then, he turned his gaze towards the other person, who came with the two. After he got a good look at the figure, he was shocked along with everyone else there. There was no way he could forget the distinctive appearance.

It was a girl with long white hair, bound with a magical rope. Her eyes were blindfolded, and a crude gag covered her mouth.

"Silva! It's really her!" thought Emery inwardly.

It wasn't just Emery who was expecting the girl. Considering how mild the reactions they showed, it seemed Magus Kadek, Leon and the others in this meeting already knew about this all along.

"What's with the binding? Let the girl go!" Leon said.

In that second, the situation seemed to escalate for the worse. Even Emery became tense due to that.

While everyone was glaring at each other, Emery looked left and right, desperately thinking for a way to help Silva, but idea after idea that crossed in his mind was immediately discarded, as everyone in his general vicinity seemed too much stronger than him.

In the end, he gave up, because he knew his strength was insignificant in the grand scale of things. All he could do was hope that Magister Kadek could handle this situation properly and save her in the process.

Chief Beowolf decided to explain what this was all about.

"The girl just cannot be silenced, but don't worry, we don't need her anymore. She has given us everything she has."

Emery saw the chief take out a golden parchment wrapped together with a gleaming silver metal ring. He could see a certain marking engraved on the silver ring, but from where he was standing, Emery could not make out what it was.

After reading the scroll for a while, the chief once again said,

"This is the scroll given to us by the Oroboros clan. This scroll doesn't just contain the proof of our innocence, but it also contains proof of who the real traitor among the 12 clans really is."

The real traitor? Emery realized the situation had become even more complicated. From this, he started to understand why the Wolf Clan was being so sneaky about this. However, he noticed the metal engraving on the scroll seemed to hide some meaning, From her gaze, Magus Kadek seemed to realize the same thing as well.

"Then, you will give me the scroll and put yourself in custody. I can promise that I will keep you safe."

The offer made Chief Beowulf hesitant. In that moment, Emery remembered what Tatjana told him. The headmaster was behind the deadly mission that slaughtered many of those from the Wolf Clan, so of course, the chief would be wary of accepting an offer like that.

While he was busy thinking, his train of thought was interrupted when he saw Chief Beowulf suddenly look up to the sky and let out a loud howl.

"What... is he doing!"

A sudden explosion of bright light ensued, as the howl echoed in the air, blinding all the magus who stood on the ground. From the cascade of footsteps, which was heard afterwards, it was clear the White Fang wolves were trying to escape to two different directions.

Moments later, the group of magus as well as Emery regained their visibility and saw what was going on. Chief Beowulf, who held the scroll, went to one side with pack leader Anna, while the other pack leader, Beatrice, dragged their white-haired captive to another different direction.

"You cannot escape!" Kadek warned.

True to her words, the ground started to shake and crack after the escaping clan members took a few steps, creating a doorway for multiple creatures to rise up from beneath. The Graboids proceeded to do their job and stood in front of them.. It was as if they had been sleeping underneath all along, waiting for the perfect time.

Chapter 717 - Split Up

Emery watched as a school of Graboids emerged from the ground and began their assault. The horde of creatures that unexpectedly bursted from the earth were way bigger than the one Emery and Annara fought before, but the fate that awaited them in the face of this group of magus was complete annihilation. They were only able to last a few mere seconds.

However, it was evident those few seconds were all the wolves needed to gain them some distance from the other party, who were now hell-bent on chasing them.

As the wolves split into two groups at lightning speed and fled into the dense forest, Magus Leon quickly shouted in concern they might be able to escape if they didn't take action soon.

"Are we chasing them?!"

The half-blood Magus Nimeria was the one responded to his somewhat idiotic and rhetoric question.

"Of course, you moron!"

Even though his shout was rebuked harshly by Magus Nimeria, Magus Leon didn't act out. Instead, he calmly turned towards his superior Magister Kadek, his gaze telling the latter he was waiting for her instruction.

"I need that parchment, so I will take it myself in order to be sure. You go and try to help the girl, Leon, while I chase after Beowulf."

Hearing that, Magus Leon quickly nodded his head. He turned to the side and was about to ask the half-blood to come with him, when he realized both of them had already taken action, sprinting in the direction of the group who brought the snake girl away.

With the enthusiastic approval of the half-blood group in taking the initiative, Magus Leon in the end decided to just take Garnet with him. The muscular magus with many scars visible all over his body nodded readily, while the rest of the group helped Grand Magus Kadek apprehend Chief Beowulf.

Thanks to this arrangement, the group was successfully split in two with about the same strength.

The two half-blood magus were as strong as Magus Leon, who was a Full-Moon magus, while even though the other group consisted of less powerful magus they had Magister Kadek, who was a Grand Magus. All in all, this was an excellent and balanced grouping.

As for Emery, he naturally chose to follow Magus Leon's group, as the main reason he was still around was because he was worried about Silva.

With this matter out of the way, the chase began swiftly.

The White Fang wolves, despite being mostly saint level warriors, led by Beatrice, who was the only rank 5 Wolf with Half-Moon magus cultivation, managed to run at such a great speed through the dense forest, giving the group of chasers led by Magus Leon quite a difficult time in track and chase them.

The revelation honestly surprised Emery, until he recalled how Beatrice was the pack leader of the wind wolves, who excelled in speed. This, added a dense forest into the equation, allowed the pack she led to run faster than their usual performance.

The homeground advantage the other party had and the fact the terrain in the dense forest was quite challenging to conquer made the supposedly faster group of magus unable to chase after the wolves.

Luckily, Emery had his [Spatial Gate], which allowed him to keep his eyes on them. Even though that was the case, he knew he shouldn't take it easy, because the group of magus went ahead and moved at twice their initial speed as they gave chase. If he didn't pay enough attention to them, he would definitely be left in the dust without him noticing.

Emery, however, did not move immediately, when the group moved as expected. In order to stay on the safe side, he decided to wait until they were at the edge of the radius that spirit reading could perceive. When they did, he quietly cast a [Spatial Gate] and opened it 30 miles from his current location. This would ensure that Emery would not lose track of them, while also minimizing the chances of him being discovered by the other party.

He decided to adopt a reactive approach. As long as the two sides didn't fight, Emery was sure Silva would overall still be safe under the White Fang care. At the moment, he just needed to follow them and then meet the wolves alone after they managed to escape. This was his new plan.

This time, the group ran at a speed that could cover 30 miles in less than 3 minutes, leaving Emery less time to cast [Spatial Gate] in between. Just after he cast the first spell, however, Emery's ears immediately perked up, as they could faintly hear the sound of commotion in the opposite distance - a battle seemed to have begun on that side.

After contemplating it for a while, Emery thought this development was to be expected. After all, that other side who had a Grand Magus leading the chase. Naturally, they wouldn't have much luck escaping.

Emery quickly woke up from his reverie, as he needed to focus on what was happening on his side. It took a lot of concentration on his part to pay attention to the rapidly moving targets as far as 50 miles from him, while still maintaining his cloaking. He couldn't afford to split his focus at this juncture.

One jump,

Two jump,

Half a dozen jumps through [Spatial Gates] later, Emery became more and more surprised. Magus Leon and the others were, unexpectedly, still unable to catch up to Beatrice. Or rather, it would be a miracle if they could, with the number of obstacles that continually rose during the pursuit.

Along the way, he witnessed firsthand the various kinds of traps and stumbling blocks the wolves had prepared that involved the natural surroundings and even wild creatures like Graboids. He couldn't help but think that escape was their plan all along, seeing how numerous and extensive traps Magus Leon and the others had to eat in order to catch up to them.

However, slowly but surely, he was able to tell Magus Leon's group would catch up to Beatrice's group.

The chase went on and Emery continued to jump from location to location using his [Spatial Gate] spell, giving his best to follow them. Finally, after another 10 jumps, his spirit reading sensed the two sides had met and a battle broke out between them.

Knowing there was no time to hesitate, Emery cast another [Spatial Gate] and teleported 50 miles forward, arriving just a few miles away from them before he started to dash through the terrain.

There, through the dense grove of trees, he saw with his own eyes, Magus Nimeria was fighting Beatrice. The battle was nothing less than fierce.

Unexpectedly, Magus Leon and the others were just watching on the side. The same could be said for Beatrice's subordinates, as Brutus and the four others stood and guarded their captive.

Clank!

The full moon magus Nimeria managed to overpower the wind wolf Beatrice, who was thrown back and threw out blood after a few clashes.

Now the group has managed to reach and stop them, Magus Leon told the tiger bloodline magus to stop attacking.

"You can no longer escape! Release the girl. There's no need for anyone to get hurt," said Leon in a calm voice to Beatrice.

Much to Emery's surprise, Beatrice quickly agreed with the suggestion.

"Alright."

Beatrice was in her complete wolf transformation, as she looked at Magus Leon and said, "Magus Leon, please heed my words. We, the White Fang, now know for sure that neither the Magus Alliance nor Headmaster Delbrand have betrayed us."

The words coming out from Beatrice sounded totally like people who said silly excuses to create an opening to escape, but contrary to the expectation, she continued with a serious expression on her face.

"Beware of the people next to you, enforcer. I am telling you, the golden parchment we showed earlier was a fake and only the real traitor knows about this fact. So only they would chase after the girl instead of the parchment."

Beatrice's words sent a wave of shock through everyone.. Magus Leon subconsciously turned his head to the two bloodline magus standing next to him.

Chapter 718 - Accusation

"Hahaha! What sort of bullshit is this?!" Magus Nimeria shouted once again, cursing the blatant accusation Beatrice threw at them.

Emery, who was still hiding himself with the bracelet's ability and his mental block, was also surprised when he heard this. He finally realized what the main objective of this meeting was. It was a trap prepared to lure the real traitor hidden within the alliance.

If what Beatrice said just now was true, then the traitor would be between the two bloodline Magus, Nimeria or Jigow.

Noticing the look given in their direction, Magus Nimeria scoffed and glared at Beatrice as she spoke, "Huh! We choose to chase you because our main priority is to save the half-blood girl. As for whatever secret goal you just said, let the Magister deal with it."

The explanation Magus Nimeria gave was a plausible answer. But when she saw Magus Leon kept his silence, she exploded into another bout of anger.

"Rrrr.. Seriously?! Are you seriously taking that woman's words! You enforcers dare to accuse me, the Tiger Bloodline, as a traitor?! As for my partner here, he even has a better reputation than me: how dare you! We do not and will never betray the alliance!"

It was evident that Magus Nimeria was fed up by the accusations and the following suspicion directed at her and her colleague. Realizing no one really responded to her words, the anger within her grew exponentially and she roared loudly.

In the next moment, everyone saw her body starting to change. Apparently, she used her transformation ability. Her skin began to turn pale, light blue fur started to emerge all over her body. Her nails and teeth were greatly lengthened and sharpened, turning into sharp claws and fangs.

Magus Nimeria seemed to have a Tiger Bloodline proficient in the ice element. To Emery's complete surprise, he could feel the temperature of the surrounding area starting to drop even from his current location a mile away.

"Wake up, Leon! Now that she was already cornered, she is only trying to buy time and make us fight each other! Don't let them fool you!!"

Magus Nimeria glared at the bunch of Wolf Bloodline as she said those words. She was about to stomp the ground and attack the other party, when Beatrice once again opened her mouth and spoke to Magus Leon.

"I don't ask you to believe my words now. Our objective was only to prove this matter. I am sure my chief is currently giving the real proof to Magister Kadek."

Even though she suggested the idea to just wait until the Magister returned with Chief Beowulf in tow, Beatrice seemed to know it wouldn't happen looking at the expression seen on their faces. Strong gust of wind started to blow and shook the grove of trees in the area, so she beckoned her subordinates and prepared herself for another clash.

Beatrice and her subordinates were ready, but she didn't take the initiative to ring the bell of the second round. Seeing the situation was still in a stalemate, she looked at Magus Leon again and said, "Enforcer! I swear to you! I will not attack or run unless threatened!? I am just asking you to make sure those two people do not go anywhere until the grand magus returns!"

And as it turned out, this was a proposal Magus Leon could accept.

He turned to the transformed half-blood tiger and said, "Magus Nimeria, cease your aggression. I have decided to accept the proposal. If you really have nothing to hide, you shall return to your normal state and wait for the Magister's return."

Alas, the thing Magus Leon received as a reply was a loud roar.

ROAR!!

Magus Nimeria, in her tiger form, had taken her stance. Her gait told everyone she was ready to attack at any moment.

"Leon, you fool! She was just trying to buy time! Don't believe her!"

Magus Leon's gaze turned stern. "Magus Nimeria, I repeat: stand down! Or I will take you down by force."

ROAR! "Arrghh! Stupid humans!"

From the brief interactions he had with her, Emery knew Magus Nimeria was a temperamental person. But at this moment, he could see that she tried her best to restrain herself.

Looking at the tense situation, Emery was anxious. A clash between magus was just on a completely different level, especially peak magus figures such as them. Both sides stared at each other in tension, but thankfully no one took the first step.

Because of that, the tense situation gradually receded. Emery was starting to feel relief as it appeared the fight would not break out after all.

It was at that moment a huge figure suddenly appeared behind Magus Leon's colleague, Magus Garnet, and quickly restrained the latter with a surprise attack.

"Argh!"

The muscular magus with many scars on his body was immediately restrained by two huge black furry arms. Their eyes immediately shot toward the culprit. Everyone was stunned silly as they did not expect someone to take action at this moment.

It was the other bloodline magus and supposedly one of the 12 Flag Bearers, Magus Jigow, took action and attacked Magus Garnet without warning.

"Magus Jigow!" shouted Magus Leon. "What are you doing?! Stop right this instant!"

Unfortunately, Magus Jigow didn't heed his words. The muscular Magus Garnet was unable to move an inch under the pressure the former exerted. The next instant, the sound of bones cracking was heard in the air, followed by a splatter of blood dying the grassy ground in red as a contest of strength unfolded between them.

Magus Nimeria's reaction to this finally broke all of the confusion.

"Jigow, you fool! We still haven't been found out yet!"

This quickly shocked Magus Leon, as he stared numbly at the female half-blood magus. A second later, the enforcer quickly took out a sword that shone brightly, brandishing it towards Magus Jigow.

"Let him go!"

However, the huge, black fur, bear-form Jigow only spoke a total of five words in a heavy tone "Kill them all, no witnesses." The words were short, simple, succinct and to the point, but the intent behind them was vile.

Right at this moment, Magus Nimeria swiftly darted towards, where Beatrice and her subordinates were and cast a powerful spell

A powerful force was instantly gathered at both of the magus palm.

[Sub Zero - tier 7 ice element]

In an instant, everything within a mile in front of Magus Nimeria turned into a frozen plain: trees, thickets, grasses, stones, nothing was spared.

Fortunately, Beatrice was prepared for Magus Nimeria's action. She had taken out a similarly powerful tier 6 wind spell to mitigate the destruction the latter's spell brought, but unfortunately it wasn't strong enough to block such a powerful spell, making two of her subordinates instantly turned into frozen sculptures and couldn't be saved.

"Brutus!" shouted Beatrice loudly, while keeping her gaze at Magus Nimeria. "Take the girl away! Now!"

Hearing that, Brutus and the other two, who survived the [Sub Zero] spell, immediately dashed and rushed into the woods.

"No one will escape!" Nimeria shouted, as she once again channeled her spell and was ready to kill everyone around.

Emery, who watched everything from a distance, was stunned by the unexpected development. The two who were working together before were now attacking each other with intent to kill. The situation

turned into an embodiment of chaos in a matter of seconds, for a second there he felt fortunate he wasn't in the middle of it or he could be one of those crystal statues.

However, now that the mystery unfold, what should Emery do? What could a rank 8 acolyte like him do in a battle where a single spell could kill multiple saint warriors.

Chapter 719 - Out Of His League

It would be a complete lie if Emery said his body was not trembling in fear when he saw the fierce battle happening in the distance. The horror in his eyes grew exponentially when he saw the normal expressions in the two Wind Wolf warriors, who had turned into frozen sculptures, proving they didn't even realize they had died until the very last moment of their life.

"That's a tier 7 spell. That must be it. There's no other explanation otherwise," said Emery to himself, eyes still fixed on the scene of magnificent destruction in front of him.

The fear Emery experienced was justified though, as he was currently only able to cast up to tier 4 spells. Even if he managed to make a breakthrough to rank 9 right at this instant, it would only allow him to cast tier 5 spells. He clearly saw how Beatrice didn't leave unscathed when she tried to counteract it with her tier 6 spell.

This matter was clearly out of his league, just like what Klea had told him before.

Right now, Emery could only try his best to resist the fear budding and growing in his heart. He soon discovered he couldn't move his body, much less come out of his hiding place and help Magus Leon's group as planned.

In the end, he only watched the ongoing battle from afar and hoped that Magister Kadek would arrive soon. Otherwise, what would greet her would be the sight of all her subordinates being killed.

The possessor of Tiger Bloodline Magus Nimeria looked like she was about to deliver a ferocious, relentless attack to Beatrice's subordinates, who were trying to get away. Magus Leon immediately got into action when he saw this.

Unexpectedly, he decided to stop Magus Nimeria in her tracks, instead of helping his fellow enforcer, who was still struggling with the black goat magus Jigow.

[Sun Blade - Tier 6 light spell]

It was an advanced-level enhancement spell, just like Emery's [Dark Infusion] spell, but obviously better.

An eye-piercing glow was cast on his blade, making it thrum with power as Magus Leon brandished it and shot towards Magus Nimeria, who was also running toward the escaping group led by Brutus.

Magus Nimeria realized she would suffer dire consequences if she persisted with her assault, so she quickly changed her trajectory and took a defensive stance to welcome magus Leon, instead of continuing to attack the Wind Wolf pack.

Clank! BAM!

A loud metallic sound followed by an explosive one resounded in the air as, the two magus figures clashed into each other. Magus Nimeria blocked Magus Leon's deadly slash with her high tier gloves artifact. Before Emery could see whether the two sustained injury or not, they immediately started a round of exchanging attacks.

"WHY?! Tell me why would you do this?!" shouted Magus Leon, as he sent a horizontal slash. "From whom did you receive the order?! Is it the king himself?!" A glint flashed in his eyes as Magus Leon spoke those words.

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

Unexpectedly, the usually temperamental Magus Nimeria didn't say anything, as if she had turned mute. She just kept deflecting and evading the attacks Magus Leon threw at her, while also squeezing a few attacks of her own.

Seeing there was no reaction, the scowl on Magus Leon's face deepened and the man shouted loudly.

"TELL ME THE TRUTH!"

Splat!

Blood splattered in the air. This time Magus Leon managed to land his attack and wound Magus Nimeria's right shoulder, causing the latter to instinctively take a step back. A hateful look appeared on her face as Magus Nimeria stared at her opponent.

The expression on her face visibly distorted as she angrily said, "You slaves of the human alliance! you don't deserve the truth!"

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

While the battle between two magus level figures continued and grew fiercer as time went on, Emery shifted his gaze towards Brutus and the others. After Magus Nimeria was blocked by Magus Leon, they immediately grabbed the bound serpent girl and continued their escape as their figures shot towards the dense forest. Meanwhile, Beatrice quickly made her way to the two frozen sculptures, to see and check if they could still be saved.

On the other hand, Emery clearly saw how Magus Garnet shouted loudly, before his body started to emit a bright light. For a moment, he thought the other party was using some kind of enhancement spell, but his guess was proven wrong when Magus Garnet's body rapidly grew and finally allowed him to break free from Magus Jigow's grip.

Twice.

Thrice.

Nearly four times the size of a normal human back on Earth.

Magus Garnet finally broke away from Magus Jigow and the moment they faced each other again, the former had grown into a 8 meter tall figure. As if that wasn't enough, his entire body was also completely covered in metallic sheen as his spell took effect.

A metal element Half-Moon magus would certainly not die easily even against someone at the peak Full-Moon stage. The living proof was Magus Garnet standing right before Emery's very eyes.

ARGH! A loud scream filled with hatred echoed in the air. Magus Garnet shot towards the transformed Magus Jigow at breakneck speed.

Blood could be seen trickling out from his mouth as he raged ferociously and attacked his opponent relentlessly. The latter, however, was able to block each and every attack perfectly; he even managed to throw a punch or two amidst the onslaught of the storm of blows he received.

Bam! Bam! Bam! A series of dull sounds continuously reverberated in the air as the two battled, each strike they unleashed was capable of making the earth tremble.

What shocked Emery was the fact the smaller-size, dark-fur magus managed to hold his ground and even gradually take the flow of the battle. In just a dozen exchanges, he could see cracks had appeared everywhere on the metallic body of Magus Garnet, while his opponent Magus Jigow didn't seem to have sustained any major injuries.

Then all of a sudden, a pair of horns grew on Magus Jigow's head. Following that was the appearance of multiple sharp-looking bones protruding out of the latter's arms. Using those newly-arrived bones, Magus Jigow launched a series of attacks that crushed Garnet's cracked body apart.

CRACK!

The next thing Emery saw was the sight of a long horn piercing through Magus Garnet's body. The massive figure gradually returned to his original human appearance. It was clear Magus Garnet had lost and was at Magus Jigow's mercy, as the black goat splintered the former's arms and threw his body to the ground like garbage.

"No!" shouted Magus Leon from the other side.

He had noticed how Magus Garnet couldn't handle the bloodline magus, but he couldn't go and help because he still had Magus Nimeria on his plate.

Emery, on the other hand, was stunned speechless. What he had just seen was nothing, but terrifying. Such a powerful Half-Moon magus enforcer was defeated in a matter of minutes and would probably be crippled for life even if he didn't die.

The sight only served to fuel the terror in Emery's heart. He considered the option of running away at this very moment. It was also at this time Emery could sense multiple figures approaching.

Seeing how the situation at a distance was unfolding, Emery sincerely wished this group of arrivals were friendly. Unfortunately, he was once again reminded reality was cruel, because he couldn't be more wrong.

Four, six, before eventually stopping at ten. Emery recognized these people's signatures, as he had met them before. They were the 10 bloodline saint level warriors that Magus Jigow and Magus Nimeria had brought for this mission. Apparently, they had been running from the beginning and only catching up to the group now.

The few who ran the fastest arrived in front of the transformed Magus Jigow, and the latter calmly said, while glancing at a certain direction. "Chase the wolves. Kill them all."

Once again, Emery was rendered speechless by this revelation. He couldn't believe the whole bloodline warriors were in this too, could it be true that King Alduin was the mastermind behind all of this? If so, what could this possibly mean? A declaration of war of the whole bloodlines?

As the ten warriors started moving to chase after Brutus and the others, Beatrice immediately took action and tried to stop them, but was unable to stop them all due to their numbers. When she was about to chase after those who slipped away, the large black-fur figure already arrived before her.

In the next second, Beatrice's body was slammed hard to the ground and she groaned in pain.

Emery knew it was time for him to make a decision: be it help or retreat, he had to make a decision right now.

He closed his eyes and whispered to no one in particular. He had made his decision.

"I am sorry, Klea."

The next instant, a gate appeared in front of him.

A determined look appeared in Emery's eyes.

It was decided: no more hiding.

Chapter 720 - Shadow

"Run! Keep going!"

A loud shout reverberated through the dense forest. The source was a huge hairy man with defining features, while the recipients were two similarly hairy Wind Wolf warriors. The figures of three of them flickered through the thicket of trees; two scaly skinned lizard bloodline warriors were chasing some distance behind them.

Eventually, the chaser caught up to the pursued, as they began throwing multiple ranged attacks. Dozens of star-shaped projectiles swiftly flew through the air, following right behind them was a cluster of fireballs.

Noticing the attacks thrown at them, the hairy man quickly responded and stopped all the projectiles without any errors. As for the fireballs, he dodged the fireballs, effectively fending off the attacks, as consecutive explosions struck the lush forest.

The man, however, did not leave unscathed. His arms were bleeding profusely from the sharp weapons.

"Urgh!" A groan of pain escaped from the man's lips.

Then, the large hairy man suddenly unleashed a bestial roar that shook the forest. His body started changing and eventually transformed into a Dire Wolf.

Immediately after, he turned around towards the chaser and tackled one of them to the ground. With his blade-like sharp claws, he instantly killed the lizard by making five gruesome holes in its chest, where the heart was.

He glared at the other lizard bloodline warrior, before jumping back with particular speed-based skill to chase after the two Wind Wolf warriors.

"Urrghh! There's more of them!"

The reason the hairy man didn't take out the other lizard bloodline warrior was because he detected that four more were approaching from left and right direction. He was just about to feel relief for dispatching one of their chasers, only to be foiled.

Arriving next to the two Wind Wolf warriors, the man cheered them on because he could see they were exhausted. "We have to keep going. Don't give up, we're almost there!"

But as soon as those words vanished in the air, the group was forced to stop as four other figures were already waiting a mile ahead of them.

"Darn it! We are surrounded," Brutus said in a bitter tone.

One of the Wind Wolf warriors turned to him and said, "Brutus, you are the strongest among us. Take the girl and go. We'll stay here to stall them."

The bitter tone in Brutus' voice deepened as he said, "Urgg... I don't think I can pass through that number of people as well."

The three people were stumped. They didn't know what they should do. The chaser also didn't give the group time to ponder their choices, as the nine of them quickly approached, while maintaining their encirclement from all directions.

They were all saint level warriors, despite the fact they were merely rank 8 cultivators, who chose to sacrifice all their spirit force for the sake of advancing into rank 9. This decision allowed them to possess the strength of a rank 9, but limited their spell prowess to the lowest level of low tier spells and rendered them unable to advance any further in their lifetime.

But unlike other saint level warriors who took this path, half-blood saint warriors had an even higher battle power thanks to their innate advantage since birth, allowing them to reach 130 to 150 points. Some even capable to raise this number even further through their gene transformation, hence they were considered a strong force comparable to a rank 9 acolyte.

For Brutus, who was a peak rank 9 half-blood acolyte, these people were no match for him in one-on-one combat. Unfortunately, his current situation was not a fair one. He might be able to take two or even three of them at once, but definitely not nine.

"Brutus! The girl is unconscious. We might have a chance if we just leave the girl here," said the other Wind Wolf warrior.

Brutus glared at him when he heard that. "Are you crazy?! The chief will definitely not like that!"

"She's just a serpent girl!" the Wind Wolf warrior tried to argue. "Between her and any of you, I know exactly who I would choose without hesitation."

As they talked and argued, the saint bloodline warriors had arrived before them and circled them completely.

"Leave her or not, all of you are still going to die!" said one of the half-bloods, who looked like an ape.

Brutus scoffed when he heard those words. "You want to kill me? Then come on and try!"

He roared once again and his body started to change, transforming into his full Direwolf form. Knowing it would be a battle of which fist was the strongest, the nine bloodline warriors also quickly employed their second transformation and their bodies began to change as well.

One by one they transformed: some turned into humanoid lizard with scaly skin, some turned into what appeared to be hairy monstrosities, one grew a pair of bone wings on their back, one's body was engulfed in blazing flames, while one had spikes protruding all over their body.

Following this mass transformation activity, there was a cacophony of frenzied roar from various kinds of creatures.

HOWL! ROAR! SHRIEK! CHIRP!

This particular area of dense forest suddenly turned into some kind of monster freak show.

With their current situation of three against nine, the group knew they couldn't let their attention be divided, because they were about to participate in what could possibly be their last. Therefore, the two Wind Wolf warriors swiftly put the unconscious girl on the ground, before they gathered closer. Together they created a small circle with their backs on each other.

Tension filled the area, as each of the three pairs of eyes stared at the three pairs of malicious eyes in front of them.

"FIGHT!"

Similar to a bow whose string had been drawn, it exploded. The situation turned into a mayhem of speed and strength, where no one could fully comprehend and understand what was coming to them.

Flesh was cut and split open, bones were broken, screams and groans resounded in the air, but it was clear the wolves were suppressed. It took only one mistake and one opportunity for the nine bloodline warriors to deal a critical hit on one of the Wind Wolf, creating an insolvable gap within the circular formation.

"NO!" shouted Brutus as what followed was one of the lizard warriors dashing in with a saber brandished high in the sky, ready to cut the unconscious girl into two.

"SSssh mission succeeded!" shouted the Lizard warrior, knowing no one could stop him.

But then, a shadowy figure suddenly appeared near the lizard warrior and the next thing Brutus knew both of them had disappeared as if they never existed. This immediately attracted everyone's attention, both the Wind Wolf and bloodline warriors' group.

"There's another one hiding!" shouted the ape-looking warrior who spoke earlier. In an instant, the eight remaining bloodline warriors took a step back their gazes wandered warily, searching for their lizard companion and the unknown assailant.

"Where are they?"

"Who are you?!"

"Are you a coward?!? Come out this instant!"

While they were trying to provoke the unknown assailant, the group's attention was quickly diverted when they heard something coming from the sky and it was coming down fast! In response, they all took another step back.

The darkness of the night coupled with the fact their current location was a deep forest with tall trees and dense leaves, by the time they realized what it was, they were already too late.

BAM!!!

A small crater appeared as it hit the ground hard. The remaining eight bloodline warriors and the wolves quickly turned their gazes to look. Two completely opposite expressions appeared on their faces.

The lizard warrior, who disappeared earlier was there, on the verge of life and death. He was lying on the ground, twitching and squirming weakly with his body broken beyond measure, having fallen from the sky at such a high speed.

"In the air!"

In an instant, all eyes were directed into the air but they still could see nothing but darkness and the faint silhouettes of tree leaves. They only heard the sound of something passing past them. The next thing they knew one of their members had once again disappeared.

It was the ape-looking warrior.

"What is going on?!"

Now that they knew where to look, they finally caught the glimpse of a figure in a shadowy cape blinking through the air, taking the ape warrior into the sky, while delivering a relentless strike to make the warrior unable to fight back.

From their current location, the remaining bloodline warriors could faintly hear dull sounds of their companion being hit repeatedly.

Bam. Bam. Bam. Bam.

After a dozen blink, the shadowy figure disappeared once again, leaving the half-unconscious ape warrior alone in the air, as he quickly descended from the high altitude he found himself with.

"Catch him!!!"

The one who sprouted a pair of wings on their back swiftly took action. They knew he was the best choice to save the ape warrior from suffering the same fate as the lizard warrior. The winged bloodline

warrior quickly shot to the air, but just before the managed to grab the ape warrior, another disaster struck.

In that particular moment, the shadowy figure had reappeared and this time right behind the winged warrior. In his hand, the remaining bloodline warriors could see a swirling dark sphere.

[Dark Matter]

BOOM!!!