

Warlord 171

Chapter 171 Sun Temple

As long as he could gauge the threat posed by the Sun temple's dangers, a big burden would be lifted off his chest.

In fact, not only Dilan would be able to calm down the moment more information about the Sun temple was found out but everyone else would feel a bit relieved as well.

Dilan felt more comfortable when thinking about the Sun temple as well, which was why he chose it over the mountainside.

Running at a moderate speed without draining too much of his Stamina, Dilan arrived on the Shikan plains not long after he left the hospital.

Many hordes of mutated animals were calmly grazing without feeling bothered by the appearance of Dilan.

This astonished him a little bit as it had been quite a while since he had encountered peaceful animals.

"So not every existence strives to become stronger?"

Dilan only knew that it was necessary to kill other living beings to get his hands on their Essence crystals, which he would then have to absorb to become stronger.

There was no other way to increase one's raw combat prowess than by using Essence crystals.

That was the biggest reason for him to be astonished about the grazing mutated cows, Bisons, antelopes and so on.

None of them was eager to fight him and even they could sense that he was not out to fight them as well..

The moment they would sense killing intent or bloodlust the hordes of beasts would either flee or fight with their life on the line.

Dilan didn't plan on creating a commotion while researching the Sun temple.

He avoided the hordes of mutated animals, made a big detour around them and slowly made his way toward the Sun Temple.

It was much further away from Rian than he had assumed.

An entire hour passed before Dilan appeared in the proximity of the ginormous construction that was the Sun temple.

"It's much bigger than expected. 300 meters? Well, no idea, it might be more or less."

Dilan shrugged his shoulders while taking a last glance to his back.

There were quite a few predators in the Shikan plains and Dilan could tell that many of the said predators were quite strong.

Their predatory instincts had been strengthened after the Primordial Ascension and they had hunted many other mutated animals and monsters to become stronger.

Dilan had to be the most careful while facing the mutated animals as even monsters were less dangerous.

He was not sure why but most monsters he encountered on the Shikan plains seemed less dangerous than the Blue Tiger and other mutated animals he was forced to have a stand-off on the Shikan plains.

Nonetheless, they only glared at him, at most, and Dilan didn't have to fight anyone since he entered the Shikan plains, which was quite advantageous.

His combat prowess was still at its peak and he was ready to go all out if necessary.

Dilan was able to keep his cool in front of the ginormous Sun temple. The brightly glowing ball of fire that hovered above the temple attracted some of his attention but Dilan was more focused on the things that occurred on the ground.

He spent several hours walking around the Sun temple and the small town that had been built around the temple to have a first-hand impression of everything.

"Only the temple is impressive and looks a bit modern, other than that, it feels like we returned to the middle ages. Maybe even that is too much..."

If he were to say that he was fully satisfied with what he saw, Dilan would be lying.

In fact, he was quite disappointed by the state of the town. The entire town was crudely built out of wood, making it seem as if some wooden trunks had been thrown on top of each other.

This was already a culture shock for Dilan, but even more so was the fact that the two foreign races were actually trying to plant some seeds in the farmland they had cultivated within the last few days.

'If you guys want your seeds to germinate...how about you wait until winter is over?? The ground is literally frozen...'

Dilan was wondering if the human-like Lions and the human-like Hawks were stupid but he quickly realized something different.

'They're also shivering while seeking the warmth of the Sun temple...have they never faced cold, snow, or winter?'

On Milarn, some countries never had winter or snow. As such, it was not unlikely for the two foreign races to have never experienced cold as well.

It was not that unlikely, considering how weirdly they acted while walking through the faint layer of snow that had accumulated on the ground.

Only a few brave and resilient individuals of the foreign races dared to leave the enclosure of the town that had been warmed up due to the Sun temple's miniature Sun!

Dilan paid most attention to these brave and resilient individuals because they went out wielding weapons. Their expressions were fierce as well, and Dilan could clearly sense that they were powerful.

'On par with the Blue Tiger?'

If his perception was not wrong, each of the half-human half-lion and Hawk-headed beings was strong enough to fight Dilan head-on.

But that was actually what interested him a lot, simply because he had expected the two foreign races to be stronger.

'Those are not their strongest forces, right?' Dilan kept squinting his eyes as he followed the group of six individuals slowly.

As long as he figured out how fast they were, Dilan would be able to tell whether he could run away from them or not.

It was not as if he planned to run away but the idea that formed in his mind was too reckless. Thus, he needed to be able to run for his life if everything failed.

He kept watch over the six foreign existences and followed them while maintaining sufficient distance from them.

They didn't seem to notice him, or they simply didn't care about him but that was not something he was concerned about right now.

Dilan saw that they approached a batch of Bisons that had moved a bit farther while grazing the pastures from the rest of their horde.

There were a total of 10 mutated Bisons and their size was similar to that of the Giganon Long-tusk Boars he had hunted recently.

But contrary to the Giganon Long-tusk Boars, it looked like the Bisons were stronger and had attained a higher level of intelligence.

If Dilan perceived this from a distance of more than 300 meters, while pressing his body to the ground to hide behind the cover of the long grass blades, the foreign beings could tell this as well.

However, they were not even trying to hide their intentions as they kept approaching the Bisons. Not long after, the mutated Bisons noticed the approach of the six individuals followed by their intentions to kill them.

This enraged the Bisons but they didn't attack recklessly. At first, they retreated a few steps as they didn't know whether their opponents were stronger or not.

Yet, just when the mutated Bisons began to retreat they halted in their tracks as they saw that two of the approaching individuals slipped on the ground.

They struggled to remain on their feet but ended up falling even after the effort they put in to remain standing.

The Bisons took this as their opportunity when they saw what happened. After they issued a thunderous roar, they charged forward, reaching a breathtaking speed in an instant.

However, instead of panicking, the four Lion-headed beings changed their stance as if nothing was wrong.

At that moment, a glint of slyness emerged in the eyes of the two Hawk-headed beings, who had 'fallen' to the ground.

'What an act!!' Dilan could only think before his focus returned to watch the fight of the six existences of the foreign races against the 10 powerful mutated Bison!

Chapter 172 Destructive force

When the mutated Bisons were less than 50 meters away from the four Lion-headed beings, their mane suddenly ignited.

The blazing flames that emerged seemingly out of nowhere burned brightly, extending over their entire body, shrouding the Lion-men which was the name Dilan gave them, completely.

Meanwhile, the two Hawk-headed beings, who received the name Hawk-men from Dilan, were shrouded in a gust of wind.

The snow around them was stirred up as they flapped their wings once. In an instant, they soared three meters in the air before softly landing on the ground.

A moment later, the grayish feathered wings caught fire that was churned up by the gust of wind released by the Hawk-men.

All of this was intentional as brightly burning flames emerged around the Hawk-men. On the other hand, the spears held by the Lion-men turned a fierce shade of red as if they were about to melt.

'So the Hawk-men have a Wind and Fire affinity, while the Lion-men have only a fire affinity? Though the Lion-men's fire affinity seems several times stronger than their Hawk-men's fire affinity.'

Dilan didn't take long to comprehend several clues that he could pick up while watching the fight.

Using all their might, the Lion-men charged forward with the spears they wielded as the 10 mutated Bison were still 20 meters away..

The moment the spears were thrust forward out, the blazing flames, which shrouded the spear tips, were shot out. The burning spears flew through the air as they soared toward the mutated Bisons.

At the first glance, the blazing spears that had been shot out seemed slow. This was only obvious because they had been created without the use of much mana.

But when Dilan felt a strong gust of wind brushing on his face he realized what was going on.

'They used minimal mana to create the blazing spear before shooting it out. This drastically reduces the time required to manifest the attack as well.

Meanwhile, the Hawk-men use their wind affinity to accelerate the blazing spear's speed, which in turn, drastically increases the attack's lethality...'

If a single individual were to do everything by himself, it would drain lots of mana. But it was thanks to the six beings' teamwork that they didn't even use two units on average to create a total of 4 lethal attacks.

Even if the mutated Bisons' hide was extremely tough, the Bisons were not strong enough to block the advance of the four accelerated blazing spears.

They pierced through four mutated Bison, damaging them severely in an instant.

Dilan felt like clasping his hands together at this sight because even he was not able to eliminate his opponent so fast without using a high amount of mana!

Fortunately, he quickly regained his senses and kept watching the battle that turned even worse for the mutated Bisons' as the blazing spears were fired in quick succession one batch after another.

Dilan didn't feel any pity for the mutated animals that succumbed to the terrifying destructive force of the two Hawk-men and four Lion-men.

He was simply observing their battle waging in front of him and not giving in to the urge to fight against the foreign races rising from the depths of his consciousness.

'Get your act together, Dilan!! You're not here to fight... You need information...INFORMATION!!'

Dilan had to start shouting at himself inwardly to get back to his senses. His body was itching for a fight and so was his mind.

However, there were other things he had to do than launch a massacre.

He was barely able to calm down enough to see that the Lion-men pierced their spears in the head of the defeated Bison before pulling the mutated animals' Essence crystals out of their brains.

They absorbed it immediately after giving the Hawk-men their share.

Afterward, the Lion-men moved their hand around in a unique way before the spear they had been holding shrunk in size.

Their spear morphed and reduced to the size of a pen, which gave them the necessary space in their hands to start carrying the heavy mutated Bison corpses back to the Sun temple.

When Dilan saw how their spear had shrunk, he was astonished.

If it had been before his encounter with the Penta Item Pouch, Dilan would have been utterly flabbergasted.

But fortunately, he already had the Penta Item Pouch hanging around his belt, which he subconsciously patted to reassure himself.

He smiled while looking at the six foreign beings before he got up from the ground.

'Is it my time to shine now?'

His moves were slow and deliberate, which was why nobody noticed when Dilan was exposed.

However, the moment he took the first few steps toward the six beings, who were dragging the mutated Bison corpses through the snow, he was noticed by them.

Dilan didn't mind exposing himself. In fact, that had been his plan after gauging his opponents' strength.

Regarding power and brute strength, Dilan was confident of being stronger than the four Lion-men and the two Hawk-men.

There were three main factors to determine one's strength after the Primordial Ascension had occurred. Stats, abilities, and items.

Stats could be labeled as the most basic and fundamental factor for strength. One could attain superhuman strength and speed from stats alone.

On the other hand, abilities were a factor that relied on certain stats to be unleashed. This didn't include all abilities but most active abilities were utilized through mana.

That means to attain superhuman powers one requires both stats and abilities.

Last but not least were items. They increased one's stats just by wearing them. Certain items even provided skills or other unique functions that even allowed low-leveled ascenders or unleveled ascenders to become superhuman existences with a single item!

While taking note of his opponents' strength, Dilan continued to advance toward the foreign beings, who had stiffened upon sensing him.

They were carrying heavy corpses as well, preventing them from moving rapidly all of a sudden. Thus, he didn't have to fear not being able to run away if something were to go wrong.

Nonetheless, Dilan lifted his arms as he approached the foreign beings to show that he was not hiding any weapons.

"Hello, my name is Dilan Cier. Who do I have the pleasure of meeting with?"

He was trying his best to sound calm but his first encounter with foreign intelligent races was something that excited him.

However, the Lion-men and Hawk-men were far from being as excited as Dilan.

They looked at him with squinted eyes before growling out something in an incomprehensible language.

"Shakrian vulnasmif oriagha snautraf!!"

When Dilan heard this, he halted in his tracks before knitting his brows.

'Was it smart of me to approach them if they cannot even understand me...?'

Chapter 173 Attack & Protect

All the eyes were glued on Dilan that stared at him with various emotions.

At first, they froze in place because they didn't notice him. But because they didn't see any weapons in his hands, they relaxed visibly.

It was possible for Dilan to hide his weapons elsewhere but he would have to move his hands rapidly that were held in the air.

The six foreign beings understood that Dilan showed them his empty hands as a sign to tell them that he didn't want to attack them.

However, this didn't mean the other side wouldn't think of attacking him.

This was something Dilan knew which was why he could tell that he was putting himself at great risk.

If they attacked and pursued him, it would become quite problematic.

But rather than being too worried about that, it was more important to find out where the Sun temple came from, what the two foreign races' mission was, and if they looked at the human race with hostility.

Dilan was ready to enter the pits of hell to figure this out.

'The worst that can happen is that I'll feel some pain...and pain is something I lived with my entire life!'

He didn't fear pain and embraced it if that was necessary to ensure his survival.

Thus, he kept smiling gently as he looked at the six beings, who were speaking with each other in an incomprehensible language.

"Dangarsa kinars limansit!"

"Osranto luroasd bsadirn?"

"Lasir seirn minasdh!!"

The tension in their group seemed to rise over time and though he did not understand a word, he could notice their body language and their tone which seemed agitated. This attracted Dilan's attention because he had not expected them to start a discussion due to his arrival.

'They won't attack me? Weird... Not even their weapons are pointed at me...Do they think of me as a weakling? Just what is going on?'

Dilan was a little bit confused. He thought that they would either be overly vigilant against him, and point their weapons at him, capture him to interrogate him because he was a human, probably the first one they encountered, or they would kill him at once.

However, at the end, the situation unfolded in the exact opposite way because the foreign beings didn't drop the Bison corpses to get into a combat stance. In fact, they didn't bother about him and continued to discuss something.

It was as if Dilan didn't even exist. This was more than enough for Dilan to be baffled.

Ever since the Primordial Ascension occurred, nobody had been foolish enough to knowingly ignore his existence, and if somebody would have dared so, they would have either died or faced some unfortunate situation.

That was, at least, what monsters and hostile human Survivors would have faced.

Dilan was not sure how much time passed but he didn't feel like lifting his hands anymore because the human-like beings opposite him didn't seem to care about that either way.

Yet, the moment Dilan lowered his arms and took a deep breath, six pairs of eyes immediately turned toward him.

"Now you guys finally pay attention to me, really?"

He knew that they couldn't understand him, which was why Dilan was quite relaxed while speaking his mind. They could only perceive his emotions, facial expressions, and every movement made by him to determine whether he was hostile or not.

The same was the case for Dilan but he was not exactly proficient in determining whether a hawk or lion was friendly or hostile.

At least, he couldn't tell that solely based on their facial expressions. That was why he sighed once again and felt that it might have been a mistake to approach the six hunters without any prior planning.

In the end, the Lion-men and Hawk-men were simply not sure what to do with Dilan. They had never seen a human after all.

But they knew that there would be other races on the planet. So they were wary of him as they were not sure if Dilan was strong, weak, if he was a spy, worked alone, or in a group.

They had zero information about Dilan, the surrounding area, let alone the planet, and the current survivability of the races living on the large and beautiful planet called Milarn.

Thus, they had been discussing what to do with Dilan; the first human they encountered.

At that moment, Dilan flinched. His ears pricked up and he looked at a location that was less than ten meters away from the six hunters.

His eyes didn't detect that anything was off at first. However, he felt bloodlust radiating from the location he was staring at. It was then that he spotted some footprints in the snow.

This attracted his attention. Subconsciously he took a step forward and his hand moved to the Penta Item Pouch.

The hilt of the Blazing Serpentine Blade emerged out of the pouch. Dilan grasped it tightly as he was completely oblivious to the reactions of the six hunters, who had their eyes trained on him.

They had noticed that Dilan's expression had changed, that his body was overflowing with the intent to kill, and that everything else but his designated target had become negligible.

However, what they misunderstood was that they weren't his designated target. Rather, it was something entirely different, which they hadn't even noticed until now.

Their eyes were fixated on Dilan's hand that was tightly grasping the hilt of a weapon, which had emerged from the pouch he was wearing.

Because their entire focus was on Dilan, the six hunters from two foreign races noticed too late that a huge cheetah had suddenly emerged out of nowhere.

From the hunters' point of view, there was no clue indicating a surprise attack.

However, the moment the one-meter-tall cheetah emerged out of nowhere, and pounced at the closest Lion-men, they felt as if they had frozen on the spot before the cheetah slashed at them.

One of the Lion-men, who was targeted by the cheetah saw his life flashing past his eyes, and could merely think about moving backward as blood spurted through the air.

A moment later, a body fell to the ground with a resounding thud. Yet, contrary to everyone's belief it was not their comrade, who died, but the cheetah, whose blood painted the snow red.

Instead of attacking the foreign races, Dilan activated [Gale] twice to emerge next to the cheetah.

He had also activated [Thunder Step] to accelerate his movement speed, allowing him to brandish the Blazing Serpentine Blade in a rapid motion.

The Blazing Serpentine Blade was engulfed in blazing flames when it cut through the air and the cheetah's body, killing it in an instant.

If one didn't pay close attention to their surroundings, it was impossible to perceive the cheetah that had some sort of [Stealth] ability which was enough to hide its appearance and presence.

Dilan merely noticed the cheetah because its killing intent leaked from its body.

'Stealth? If it would have been a stronger and more intelligent opponent, who is also capable of hiding its killing intent, I wouldn't have noticed it at all!'

He was quite surprised about the Stealthy cheetah's existence. It could be considered one of the apex perpetrators solely from the Stealth ability it seemed to have.

Unfortunately, the cheetah hadn't been adept at using its stealth, which was why it had been possible for Dilan to kill it.

The six hunters from the foreign races could only look at Dilan with conflicted expressions.

They couldn't fathom how Dilan had crossed the distance of 20 meters between them, let alone how he brandished the Blazing Serpentine Blade, which had suddenly enlarged to a 20-meter-long replica of a serpent lunging at its opponents.

Only when the stealthy cheetah had been killed did they notice that Dilan was the one, who had rescued them and that he had disappeared from his prior location.

This was when realization dawned upon them and they noticed that Dilan was powerful enough to kill the six of them if he wanted to!

Yet, even before they could attempt to say something, Dilan's ears pricked up once again. His head turned toward his right and he saw a blue shield emerge in front of his eyes.

Dilan had instinctively activated [Aegis' shield] because he had sensed danger from his right.

And the moment the glorious-looking blueish shield had emerged on his right, an even larger cheetah pounced at him.

It was the other stealthy cheetah's partner who had witnessed the death of its partner, enraging the cold-hearted predator.

Thus, instead of attacking the hunters of the foreign races, it had targeted the one and only human around.

But Dilan merely smiled as he noticed the cheetah's sudden emergence.

"Even if your Stealth is much more proficient than your friend's, if you cannot suppress your desires, you should definitely not try ambushing someone, whose Agility is much higher than yours!"

Dilan's eyes gleamed brightly, excited about the fact that he was now facing a new type of opponent, a seemingly perfect assassin.

Unfortunately, slashing the serpent-form of the Blazing Serpentine Blade through the air was more than enough to pierce through the neck of the stealthy cheetah, who had been struggling to break through the Aegis' shield's defense!

'What a waste of a great ability...and it didn't even drop the ability crystal. What a shame...'

[Undying Warlord](#)

Chapter 174 Entering the Lair

The fight against the stronger stealthy cheetah had been an extremely close one and he had won just by a hair's breadth. If it had not made too many sounds while switching its target from the foreign races to him, Dilan wouldn't have heard it.

At the same time, it would have been near impossible for him to protect them to label himself as their savior, their knight in the white shining armor!

But the final result was still quite satisfying. The six hunters from the foreign races might be holding their weapons tightly for now but they didn't dare to attack him.

In a short instant, Dilan had used up 20 Units of Mana. As such, he activated [Bearer of Pain] to instantly regain the entire mana he had used up.

Following that, Dilan grit his teeth before he activated [Regeneration] making use of five units of mana.

He quickly regained his composure and felt the soothing sensation of his body regenerating at a fast pace.

Dilan threw a short glance at the vigilant Lion-men and Hawk-men before turning to the stealthy cheetah's corpses.

With swift movements, their Essence crystals landed in his hand. They crumbled a moment later as Dilan absorbed the Essence within.

[Two <Bronze> Essences of Tier-1 Level 9/13 Snowwhite Isolation Cheetahs have been absorbed → +0.4 Agility, +0.6 Mana]

Dilan was not surprised that he still didn't level up so he turned back to the hunters of the two foreign races. The Blazing Serpentine Blade was tightly packed and stored in the Penta Item Pouch in the meantime..

Once again, his bloody and blood-thirsty presence had been replaced with a calm and gentle aura.

This sudden change was somewhat frightening to the six hunters of the foreign races as every single strand of their fur stood up on its end.

They looked at each other in uncertainty, only for one of the Hawk-men to lower their guard.

It approached Dilan, who was still smiling faintly.

'In the worst case, I will activate the last use of [Gale] and run away!'

Even if he was stronger than the six hunters of the foreign races, Dilan didn't want to aggravate the first foreign race he encountered and leave a bad impression of himself before getting to know more about them.

That was why he could remain calm as the Hawk-men approached him. In the end, the Hawk-men stood less than two meters in front of him before they began to make several weird gestures.

Dilan didn't understand them at all, but he could sense the Hawk-men's gratitude.

The tension in the surrounding eased a little and the other hunters made similar gestures after they thought about it for a while.

'Looks like they know how to repay kindness with kindness. I guess this hand gesture is their way of saying <Thank you for saving us>?'

Dilan was not sure what to do so he instinctively bowed lightly, thinking that this was easier to understand than anything else.

Seeing Dilan bowing faintly, the other hunters stored their weapons once again. Almost in unison, they pointed at the corpses of the Snowwhite Isolation cheetahs before pointing towards the Sun temple.

"You guys want me to follow you to the Sun temple?" Dilan asked before realizing that they couldn't understand him.

Thus, Dilan pointed at the corpses and replicated a walking motion with his fingers before also pointing at the Sun temple.

The hunters nodded their heads vigorously, which Dilan took as a sign to pick up the corpses.

Afterward, he made his way toward the Sun temple while trying to ignore his wildly beating heart.

'Am I really entering the town of foreign races right now...maybe even their temple?'

Dilan was excited but that was not something he should openly let others notice.

He wanted to act as if he was used to dealing with foreign races so that they would show him more respect.

Unfortunately, it was difficult to keep his senses in an orderly manner as he entered the town.

Numerous, small, tall, skinny, bulky, old, and young members of the two foreign races entered his sight.

They looked at him in vigilance and kept looking at him intently until he left their sight.

Even the six hunters next to him were still not fully unguarded while walking next to Dilan.

But that was perfectly normal because Dilan was not able to keep his calm either.

He expected a surprise attack to happen at any moment because Dilan was unable to trust the foreign races completely.

In the end, Dilan made a big gamble by entering the Sun temple's proximity where he saw numerous Lion-men and Hawk-men that were as strong as the hunters.

His interest in the small town and the Sun temple was quite high. That was why he could quickly tell that there were only around 1000 Lion-men in addition to fewer than 500 Hawk-men.

That was a lot less than Dilan had expected but more than he had seen from far away.

Walking along with the six hunters he heard the incomprehensible and ancient-sounding language both foreign races spoke.

He tried to understand something but it was way too difficult. But even if it was impossible for him to understand them, Dilan's gut feeling told him that the Lion-men and Hawk-men around were speaking about him.

This was only obvious, and it hinted to Dilan that it was rare to see a human in their town, or that they might have never seen a human, to begin with!

The language barrier between them made things quite difficult, even more so when he noticed that hostile stares were directed at him.

Dilan was currently making his way toward the top of the Sun temple. It looked like he was approaching the cone-shaped structure on top of the temple.

It was uncertain what he was supposed to do up there but Dilan could tell that it was something great for the foreign races.

'They're probably jealous of me because it is a great honor to go up there?'

Of course, this was only Dilan's assumption and didn't necessarily mean that it was the truth.

Thus, he kept his guard up until he entered the cone-shaped building.

As he neared the miniature sun he found the temperature to become unbearable and it was only thanks to his high Health stat, his great physical condition, and the Stone Skin special trait that he was still able to stay on his feet.

He was sweating profusely, and could barely take note of what the hunters were doing.

There was a huge sacrificial podium in the center of the cone-shaped building on which the huntress placed their prey one after another.

Yet, what Dilan noticed only later was that the huge mutated Bison corpses disappeared not long after they had been put on the sacrificial podium.

They turned into countless sparks, which were then pulled toward the faint, almost inconspicuous suctioning force that emerged from the top of the cone-shaped-building.

Dilan looked up, and could instantly see numerous dozens of ancient-looking inscriptions on the ceiling.

The inscriptions spiraled around the tiny opening one could barely perceive in the center of the ceiling.

The sparks that were once the monster corpses were pulled through the small opening and were nourishing the miniature sun.

‘Amazing!’

Dilan had almost shouted out in his excitement before putting down the corpses of the two cheetahs on the sacrificial podium.

[Corpses of two Snowwhite Isolation Cheetahs(No Essence Crystal) will be sacrificed to the Fragment of Sun God Valgard’s Divinity, execute the task?]

Chapter 175 Sun God Valgard

[Corpses of two Snowwhite Isolation Cheetahs(No Essence Crystal) will be sacrificed to the Fragment of Sun God Valgard’s Divinity, execute the task?]

When he received this notification, Dilan’s mind blanked out for a moment.

He subconsciously agreed to it but didn’t feel like watching the process of the sacrifice itself.

‘Sun God...Fragment of a Divinity...what the hell?!?’

Dilan felt that his sight blurred for a moment but he regained his senses quickly.

Even if he had expected the Sun temple to be something special, especially the miniature Sun, he would have never expected to encounter something related to real Gods, let alone so early.

Not even a month had passed since the Primordial Ascension but he was already encountering the Divinity of the Sun God.

‘So the miniature Sun is the Fragment of the Sun God Valgard’s Divinity? That...is crazy....’

Dilan tried to get more information from the system but it didn’t provide him with anything.

This was quite sad as he wanted to figure out if his Divine occupation was something similar to a Divinity.

‘What does a Divinity of a God even mean? Does it have to be an object like the Miniature Sun, can it be living beings, weapons, all kinds of inanimate objects, abilities, or something else?’

It was only obvious for Dilan to be confused.

That was why he frowned deeply, feeling that he knew way too little about the world Milarn had turned into.

'I don't even know how the Sun temple had appeared out of nowhere, so how should I know something about divinities?!'.

Dilan suppressed a sigh of frustration before he turned back to the hunters.

When he turned around, Dilan noticed that another group of Lion-men and Hawk-men had arrived next to the hunters.

They were clothed in beautiful garments, and expensive accessories, which made it seem as if they belonged to a royal household. Following the first batch of noble-clothed Lion-men and Hawk-men, Dilan felt distinct pressure of powerful existences.

Instinctively he knew that the four Hawk-men in the back were much stronger than he was.

Their equipment radiated a distinct sensation of danger as well. Thus, Dilan felt like stepping back. Yet, instead of allowing his mentality to be affected by the guards, he overcame it and began to smile gently.

Bowing faintly, he wanted to step aside to allow the noble-clothed female Lions to step toward the sacrificial podium.

However, instead of moving, they glanced at him and didn't do anything.

This felt odd to him and he was unsure of what to do next when a noble-clothed child stepped forward.

With both of its hands, it was carefully carrying a cushion while approaching Dilan.

On top of the cushion, an ability crystal was placed.

Dilan's interest was attracted almost immediately because the situation felt a little bit weird to him.

Yet, the moment he saw the information about the ability crystal, his eyes widened in surprise.

"Is that for real?" He blurted out, clearly baffled.

Without a second thought, he looked at the noble-clothed female Lions, not sure what the hell was going on.

But even if he was not sure what was going on, he had yet to be attacked by the powerful Hawk-men, which he deemed as a great sign.

Thus, he thought about something which led him to take action almost immediately.

Dilan first pointed at the ability crystal with his index finger before he pointed at himself. This was his way of asking if the ability crystal was for him.

Seeing this, the female Lions slowly nodded their heads before gesturing with their hands to signal him to go ahead.

Carefully taking the ability crystal from the cushion, Dilan studied every movement of the beings opposite him.

They didn't move at all and looked at him in anticipation.

'If they want me to absorb it, why not!' Dilan thought though he was unable to hide his bright smile.

But it was only obvious for him to smile brightly right now. After all, the ability crystal in his hand was extremely valuable!

[Language comprehension(Passive)] Tier-1 ★

One new language can be learned instantaneously! Understanding of foreign languages increases drastically. The more languages the host hears and the more he studies foreign languages, the easier it will be for the host to learn a new language!

Not wanting to hesitate any longer, Dilan absorbed the ability crystal.

It crumbled in his hand a moment later, while his mind was filled with various information.

For a moment, the sensation was great because Dilan could tell that he was learning more about the three languages he already knew about.

Other than that, it felt like he was able to comprehend the ancient-sounding language the two foreign races had communicated in a while earlier.

However, the more time passed, the more information flooded his mind. The sensation terrified Dilan after more than two minutes had passed. Dilan was not sure if his head would explode at any moment, which was why he groaned in pain while holding his head.

Without hesitation, Dilan used up 10 units of mana to activate his Origin ability [Regeneration].

This made the process of learning a new ability more bearable. However, Dilan had never felt so much pain while binding an ability to himself.

Thus, he was not even able to pay attention to the others around him as he was panting heavily while simultaneously trying to adapt to the sensation.

'Is it because I have learned a Tier-1 ability...or because [Language comprehension] is just like that?'

Dilan had no idea but if he were to think about it for a short time, he should have been confused why the six hunters weren't able to understand them if the noble-clothed female Lion was in possession of an ability such as [Language comprehension]!

If he was allowed to learn such an ability, the hunters should have learned this ability as well.

However, that was not the case because of a simple reason- The hunters' mental strength, and innate comprehension was too low to meet the secret requirements to learn the [Language comprehension]

They wouldn't be able to overcome the pressure and pain of receiving the devastating amount of information caused to their mind.

The noble-clothed female Lion certainly didn't plan on killing Dilan by providing him the opportunity to learn the Language comprehension ability.

Rather, she wanted to know how powerful the race that lived on the planet they had infiltrated was.

Other than that, the only way to communicate with each other was for someone with the Language comprehension ability to learn his first language instantaneously.

The noble-clothed Lion-men and Hawk-men had all already learned the Language comprehension ability but they had also learned their first language already.

It would take several weeks for them to get to know the human language, provided that they were in constant touch with a human.

Thus, to communicate without any barriers, they needed Dilan to be able to speak in their language and understand them perfectly.

Through this, the noble-clothed female Lion was able to gain all the benefits, while slowly getting to know whether Dilan was a strong or weak individual of his race.

'If he is stronger than the average, their race may be as strong as ours, but if he is weaker than the average, we may be annihilated the moment a stronger one appears!'

This was one of the many thoughts on the mind of the female Lion as she had ordered one of their young ones to procure one of the exceedingly rare Language comprehension abilities.

Procuring information was the most important right now, not the value of a single ability crystal!

The female Lion expected Dilan to survive. From the looks of it, he would require, at least, 6 hours before the pain would ebb and he would have learned everything.

His speed was twice as fast as she had learned [Language comprehension]. Thus, it was only obvious for her to be slightly nervous.

Yet, the moment Dilan stood up after merely five minutes had passed since he had absorbed the ability from the ability crystal, it was as if everyone froze in place.

'He..is already done? That cannot be... Five minutes is way too less of a duration...Maybe he can suppress the pain but hasn't adjusted to the flood of information yet?'

Trying to calm her mind, the female Lion cleared her throat before she began to speak in the seemingly incomprehensible and ancient-sounding language.

"Greetings esteemed guest of this wonderful planet. I welcome you into the first Basic Temple the Sun God Valgard transported to this wonderful place...the planet Milarn!"

The Lioness was intentionally using words that sounded extremely difficult in her language. She didn't believe that the weak being in front of her was being truthful to them.

'Reveal your true self! Show me that you have yet to adapt to the language that was planted in your head!!'

She sounded desperate but that was only obvious. Even if Dilan were to be extremely fast and stronger than the average, possibly even a prodigy of his race, if it was true that he had spent only five minutes to learn and adapt to [Language comprehension], even his race's average existence should have a much higher mental strength than the average Ligrav!

“How do you know that this planet is called Milarn?”

After using his Origin ability several times in succession, the pain in his head had finally dissipated. Unfortunately, it took him five whole minutes to adjust to the massive flood of information that swept into his mind.

Thus, he could only stand up when he had arranged everything.

Dilan even accidentally forgot to be formal as he began to speak in the ancient-sounding language he had just learned.

He was just expressing his suspicion as the Lioness shouldn't have been able to know Milarn's name...except...

‘Was the notification about the Divine Inheritance and the Universe's Faith not only sent to everyone on Milarn...but to the entire Universe?...NO that cannot be possible...or can it?’

Dilan was unsure if he had missed out on some important pieces of information, however, he could tell that the situation became even more complicated all of a sudden!

‘What a mess...’

[Undying Warlord](#)

Chapter 176 Ligrav & Rasnian

Everyone looked at Dilan as if he was the weirdest existence they had encountered in their entire life.

This confused him a little bit but he couldn't mind it too much as he noticed that his nose was bleeding.

However, that was the only aftermath Dilan had to face, nothing else.

‘He is merely bleeding a little bit but seems perfectly fine in every possible way...is that owed to his race that is so powerful, or because he is a rare and strong individual of his race?’

The noble-clothed Lioness, who was standing in front of the others, couldn't help but feel a little bit worried.

It didn't matter that Dilan was weaker than her, or the guards behind her were even stronger than her. Even then, she didn't feel safe right now as the fear of having entered a too dangerous planet crept up her spine.

Meanwhile, Dilan had noticed that he had spoken rudely to the noble individuals of the foreign race, which was why he felt the need to change his attitude.

He straightened his back, smiled gently, and introduced himself formally.

“Greetings your Excellency, my name is Dilan Cier, I belong to the human race, and I'm not here to hurt anyone.”

After his introduction, Dilan waited for a second, hoping for the others to say something in return. Unfortunately, they kept looking at him with seemingly soulless eyes, which was why he felt the need to break the awkward silence once again.

“May I know your name and what race you hail from? I’m very interested in the Sun God Valgard as well. I have never heard about divinity, the existence of Gods, and so on..

In fact, your Excellency belongs to the first foreign race I’ve encountered in my entire life. That being said, I would like to apologize if my behavior comes across as rude. I am not familiar with the customs and traditions of your race.”

It was obvious that Dilan was intrigued by the two foreign races. Not only was this because he had to figure out their views about the human race but also because they seemed to have the support of a God.

This sounded terrifying enough for Dilan to act as politely as possible, which was certainly not his biggest strength.

Yet, the more Dilan spoke, the more frightened the others became of him. They looked at him as if he was a devil, who had crawled out of the pits of hell to tear them apart.

‘His pronunciation is perfect...even someone who learns a new language instantaneously cannot achieve this...just what kind of monster did our hunters pick up?!’

Instead of answering any of Dilan’s questions, the noble-clothed Lioness asked him a peculiar question.

“Is everyone....like you, or are you the strongest of your race?”

The answer to this question was the only thing the Lioness wanted to know, right in this instant. She couldn’t just answer Dilan’s questions without knowing the answer to that first.

“Strongest of my race?... I’m not sure. I guess I’m not the strongest? But I’m certainly strong!”

There was no arrogance in his voice. He was quite nonchalant as he revealed his honest thoughts.

He could tell that he was not the strongest amongst humans right now. This was quite easy to deduce because Pyro from the Death Beatles gang had reached Tier-1 before him.

As long as someone similar to Pyro existed on Milarn, he or she should have reached a much higher combat prowess than Dilan.

Dilan did not only face the disadvantage arising from his occupational passive ability [Warror’s Unparalleled Physique] that deprived him of half of the Essences he absorbed but there was also the Blessed Curse!

The Blessed Curse [Will of the Primordial] crippled his quick advancement, which was why Dilan was certain that there should be stronger Ascenders out there on Milarn he had yet to come across.

This was despite the fact that Dilan had a Divine occupation and that he was likely to be the reason for the System to send everyone the notification about the ‘Divine Inheritance’!

When Dilan connected the dots, it was impossible for him to be certain about anything related to someone being the ‘strongest’ of an entire race.

Dilan’s answer may not be perfect but it was more than enough for the noble Lioness to sigh in relief.

As long as Dilan was not an average or below-average human, everything was somewhat fine.

He had been quite nonchalant while answering as well, giving the Lioness more confidence about her opinion that Dilan was simply a monstrous talent!

Feeling reassured after hearing Dilan's comment, the Lioness could finally answer his questions.

"There is no need to refer to me as 'Excellency'. I'm merely a Priestess and a loyal subject to the Sun God Valgard! I'm managing this small but beautiful temple in the name of the Sun God."

The Lioness made some gestures with her hands when speaking about the Sun God before continuing,

"My name is Brashta, and our race was named Ligrav by none other than our magnificent God, Sun God Valgard!"

After Brashta said this, she turned to one of the Hawk-men guards before pointing at them in a subtle motion.

"The Eternal Guards that were born to protect the Ligrav race and to ensure that we will be able to follow our Sacred mission are called Rasnian. As long as Rasnians would reach enough achievement to be promoted to guards, their words hold as much value as mine!"

Brashta explained a few more things he had to pay attention to, which Dilan absorbed like a sponge.

He was very intrigued by every single piece of information she told him.

That was also why he didn't even notice that the tension on top of the Sun temple had slowly receded.

The Eternal Guards had calmed down as well, while the hunters were now looking at him with a slight trace of interest.

'No wonder we thought that he was strong. He truly is!'

Strength held the most value for most races in the vast space. The Ligrav was no different, even less the Rasnian, who were always training hard to attain the rights to enter the lowest ranks of Eternal Guards.

They had witnessed Dilan's strength first-hand, which was why they had allowed him to pray to the Sun God Valgard to begin with.

It was the highest form of gratitude Warriors of the Ligrav and Rasnian races could offer other races, who hadn't been lucky enough to obtain the right to be under the Sun God's protection.

However, seeing that their savior was powerful enough to talk with their Priestess on the same level made them somewhat proud.

'We brought him to the temple, that was the correct decision, right?'

Brashta didn't notice the proud expression of the hunters and even if she did, she wouldn't have bothered about that.

Her intention in treating Dilan as if he was someone on the same level as her was simple.

First of all, he had protected her people, second, he had sacrificed his prey to the Sun God, and third, he was the only human they had come across until now.

The information she could obtain from him was vast.

Little did she know that Dilan had obtained far more information from Brashta's seemingly endless babble, rather than vice versa!

'Just what is their plan?'

Despite having received many pieces of information, it was quite difficult for him to figure out the Sun God Valgard's plan.

Maybe it was normal for Gods to branch out their temples in newly awakened planets in order to gain more influence.

This would make sense, considering that the sacrifices made to the Fragment of Sun God Valgard's Divinity should be of great importance.

The sacrifices might even strengthen the divinity but that was not something Dilan could know right now.

By the time Brashta finished speaking, Dilan was already deep in thought. He was thinking about the ways to utilize the information he had just procured.

He had already gained a lot from his short trip. That was why Dilan believed that it might be a little bit too much to be overly confident and invite unnecessary trouble.

However, he had the urge to try something.

"Priestess Brashta, is the Sun Temple willing to make a deal with me and my group?"

"....a deal?"

Priestess Brashta was not sure how Dilan reached this conclusion because she was pretty certain that her chatter had nothing to do with anything that could be used to make a deal.

Nonetheless, her interest was piqued because Dilan mentioned his group.

'So he leads more people? If we can figure out more about the human race by making a deal with him...why not...as long as we don't make a loss, that is!'

"What kind of deal did you think of?"

Chapter 177 Slaves

From the moment he had received the passive ability [Language comprehension], Dilan had been thinking about something particular.

'Not only are both the Ligrav and Rasnian race experienced in absorbing Essences, but they can hand out a Tier-1 passive ability like [Language comprehension] to someone they never saw.... Their knowledge about the system, and how to procure ability crystals should be far higher than mine!'

That was why Dilan thought about making a deal, without actively showing that he didn't know how to procure Ability crystals other than by trading them with Gates, and random fortune encounters.

"How about I and my group provide the Sun temple with sacrifices, and you provide ability crystals, treasures, and other things in return?"

Of course, Dilan didn't know if the Sun temple usually accepted any kind of corpse as a sacrifice. He was taking a big gamble by demanding ability crystals and treasures in return for some corpses.

However, the Priestess didn't show much of a reaction at first. She peered deep into his sky-blue eyes and tried to figure out what Dilan was thinking about.

'Did he notice something about the Sun God's Divinity? That cannot be...the Fragment still has enough energy to bless us with its Ancient flame...'

The Miniature Sun was not only the Fragment of the Sun God's Divinity but also a necessity for the Ligrav and Rasnian race to survive the winter.

They lived in extremely hot temperatures on their home planets and rarely faced difficult times with the surrounding temperature when expanding their influence.

However, this time it was different. The Sun temple had emerged when a strong snowstorm was wreaking havoc and showed no signs of calming down.

The Ligrav and Rasnian entered a weakened state the moment the surrounding temperature dipped in the single digits, while they felt powerful and full of vigor as long as it was hot or at least warm..

This was something both races had in common, their weakness in cold and their strength while being in a hot environment.

Dilan couldn't know this normally. However, while walking along with the six hunters when he was being taken to Brashta, Dilan had noticed that the four Ligrav and the two Rasnian felt much stronger when they were closer to the Miniature Sun than they had been outside the town.

What Dilan assumed was that the Miniature Sun and the Sun God's Divinity provided an effect on the Ligrav and Rasnian race that had enhanced their stats and mentality.

He told himself that the more sacrifices the Miniature Sun received, the stronger the Miniature Sun's effect would become, or that its range of effect would increase.

That was why he made the deal.

What Dilan missed out on noticing was the fact that the Sun temple's hunters were not able to hunt too many monsters in the cold, without facing severe issues.

This resulted in the Miniature Sun's accumulated energy decreasing slowly, resulting in a quite depressive situation.

The Priestess had already thought about sending out the Eternal Guards just to hunt some monsters and procure corpses.

However, this would result in the temple being unguarded for a while, which was not something they could do under any circumstance.

After all, the moment a powerful monster got wind of a God's Divinity, they wouldn't hesitate to try devouring it.

Even the slightest damage to the Miniature Sun would make the Sun temple's branch face annihilation and both the Ligrav and Rasnian race would face severe punishment for disappointing the Sun God Valgard.

That was why Dilan's deal sounded both too good to be true and suspicious.

After all, he presented a deal when they were already in a dilemma of how to handle the situation ahead.

Was that really a coincidence or was everything Dilan's masterplan?

Neither the Priestess nor the intellectual Eternal Guards of the Rasnian race were sure about an answer.

But what the Priestess knew was that she had to agree to the offer, because they truly needed help at the moment

'We might need help but that doesn't mean anyone is allowed to exploit us! If you desire to take advantage of our situation, I shall use you and your group to get to know the human race in its entirety!!'

The Priestess devised a simple system on how to take advantage of Dilan and his people, which was why she required a few minutes of silence until she began to speak once again.

"We're willing to make a deal with you and your group. However, we will do it properly and make use of the system to measure the value of each sacrificed monster!

It is possible to measure the value of a sacrificed monster in Sacred points. These sacred points can be exchanged for everything you want, for example, ability crystals, ingredients such as herbs and ores, special-type Essence crystals, and recipes for constructions, devices, and weapons. The Sacred points can even be used to be exchanged with Slaves!"

The Priestess sounded quite calm at first. However, the more she spoke the more Dilan was forced to control his facial expressions.

'Why is she offering so much? Something is odd...and what?! Slaves?? Why are we suddenly talking about slaves?'

Dilan was more than a little bit confused but he merely smiled when he heard the plan the Priestess had come up with. It was a little bit crazy, in his opinion.

For a short moment, he ignored the comment about slaves, and that the Priestess sounded a little bit too desperate as he made something clear.

"So to put it simply, if I sacrifice a monster's corpse valued at 2 Sacred points, I will be able to purchase an item of the same value, right?"

The Priestess nodded while acting as if this was only normal.

However, Dilan felt a little bit intrigued.

“May I know how many Sacred points the two Snowwhite Isolation Cheetahs were worth, and how much the [Language comprehension] ability crystal is worth? The value of a Silver Tier-1 Essence crystal interests me as well; both if I sacrifice it to the Divinity of the Sun God Valgard, and if I want to purchase it using Sacred points.”

It was important to ensure that the Priestess wasn't exploiting them. He didn't trust her a tiny bit!

Dilan was sure that she wanted to take advantage of him as much as he wanted to take advantage of her. Their common goals were to get to know each other's intentions, the characteristics of the other's race, and much more.

The Priestess turned her head to the Miniature Sun to take a look at something.

“Your sacrifices were valued at 7 Sacred points, while a Silver Tier-1 Essence crystal is valued at 15 Sacred points if you want to purchase it, and 5 if you sacrifice it.

As for the [Language comprehension] ability, it is valued at 2500 Sacred points!”

Dilan merely nodded his head before thinking about something.

‘Did that system already exist before? Are the Sun temple's hunters using the same system to purchase goods? Well, either way... the price is fine. I expected it to be worse!’

Dilan would have to hunt around 700 Bronze Tier-1 Level 10 Monsters to purchase the [Language comprehension] ability on his own. However, that was without sacrificing their Essence crystal.

Thus, only the corpses that didn't hold much value for Dilan and his people would be sacrificed in exchange for Sacred points.

This was great, to put it simply and Dilan felt his excitement skyrocketing.

[Language comprehension] should also be one of the rarer abilities, meaning that all of his Ascenders should be able to accumulate some Sacred points as long as they worked hard.

‘Yvonne, Kathrine, Williams, and the others will be able to easily earn enough to purchase powerful ability crystals...we just need some time...I don't know how many sacrifices the Divinity requires but I should make use of it for as long as possible!!’

Dilan hid his sly smile behind a poker face, only to recall something else.

‘But about Slaves...what the hell was that about?!’

Chapter 178 Deal

Dilan was not sure what to think about the slaves Brashta had mentioned earlier but he chose to speak about it.

He sensed that there was something important about it, which he had to know before agreeing to a deal with the Ligrav and Rasnian race.

Yet, even before he could speak about the slaves, a notification popped up right in front of Dilan's face.

[Access permission to God Valgard's Sacred Shop (Basic) has been granted. Sacred Sun Points can be exchanged with all kinds of goods!]

Dilan halted in his tracks for a moment. He opened his Ancient Log, where he found a small Sun icon, on which he tapped to open the Sacred Shop mentioned by Brashta.

A big window similar to the online shops he knew about opened on a new holographic screen.

Dilan searched through the Sacred Shop for half a minute while his focus was on the [Slaves] column, where he could clearly see that there were a total of six different races that had been enslaved.

'I have a bad feeling...'

There were even Tier-3 Slaves that could be purchased as long as one had enough Sacred Points. Their prices were in the millions, so Dilan didn't bother focusing on the actual price.

However, something felt extremely off..

"By the way, what is that about slaves? I see that there are a total of six different races exhibited in the Sacred Shop."

Dilan sounded extremely calm and as if he had merely noticed this just now. It was as if he didn't give the slave topic much attention.

Brashta noticed this, which was why she thought about her answer for a moment before concluding that the human race had their fair share in the practice of slavery as well.

"We have enslaved the beings of races we defeated. They're great laborers and have other powerful characteristics as well. Some are strong and are great manufacturers, some are knowledgeable blacksmiths, while others are merely good enough to do some chores.

Brashta could say a lot more about the races both the Ligrav and Rasnian annihilated in the name of the Sun God Valgard.

But she didn't feel the need to do so as her expression turned in disgust at the mere thought of some races.

Some had been like cockroaches, nasty pests that were seemingly impossible to eradicate, while others had been too strong to let them to live, even if they were to be enslaved.

'So you guys annihilated other races...and you act so nonchalantly with it...Looks like you didn't understand why I asked you about the slaves.'

Dilan was still calm but his mind was working relentlessly, slowly forming the grand picture of the foreign races he was surrounded with.

The information Brashta's comment and behavior revealed was more than enough for Dilan to be vigilant. He believed that the Sun God Valgard might attack the human race the moment he knew that they were not dangerous enough.

However, there was another point Dilan had figured out.

'She is not scared of me, otherwise, she wouldn't tell me this information. It could also be her naivety and trust in me but I actually doubt that.

But there should be another reason for the Sun God's subjects to be so careful around the Sun temple for the last few days...Is it because of the possibility of other temples to emerge nearby, or something else?'

Dilan had yet to understand that the Ligrav and Rasnian race were drastically restricted from expanding further owing to the cold environment in the Shikan plains.

'It will be fine even if they attack us when they become confident of defeating us. We will take advantage of them while they'll try to do the same...If the situation gets too risky, I will kill them all!'

There was no way Dilan could trust Brashta, the Ligrav and Rasnian race, let alone the Sun God Valgard.

He wanted to survive, and the same should be the case for the entire human race, without their freedom getting restricted.

Slavery and torture were the worst things someone could face. That was also why Dilan, who had faced numerous obstacles, pain, and a state in which he was almost enslaved in his childhood, felt anger surging up from the depths of his conscience.

However, he had to keep his calm, which was why he swallowed his anger as he asked another question that ought to lead Brashta down the wrong train of thoughts.

"If I were to purchase a slave, how would I be able to ensure their loyalty to me?"

Dilan's eyes seemed emotionless when he asked this. Brashta didn't think that it was a big secret, which was why she didn't feel like hiding it.

"Usually Ancient Magic is performed to bind the slave's soul to their new master. The master will be able to do anything they please with them. Even eradicating their slaves' soul will be possible!"

Dilan nodded his head at Brashta's comment before taking a deep breath.

"If there is nothing else to talk about, I will return to my people, share the details of the benefits Sun God Valgard's grace has given to us, and we will start hunting monsters for you."

Dilan acted as if he was delighted to be accepted by them and a worshiper of the Sun God after he had been given the task to hunt monsters in exchange for Sacred points.

This was something Brashta seemed to easily believe, which was the major reason for him to act like this.

"How many monsters will you be able to provide in 9 days?"

Brashta's sudden question caused the Eternal Guards to look at her with an incomprehensible expression.

'9 days? What is in 9 days?' Dilan asked before replying with another question.

“How many monsters do you need in 9 days?”

He wanted to know the exact reason for which they needed sacrifices in nine days. However, rather than asking something that may be deemed suspicious and distrustful, Dilan felt that it was much better to focus on everyone’s expressions.

“If possible we need 25,000 Tier-1 monster corpses. 18,000 if the Tier-1 monsters underwent one bloodline enhancement, 12,000 if they underwent two bloodline enhancements. It would be a third less if their Essence crystals can be sacrificed as well.”

Brashta tried to sound extremely calm, but that was nearly impossible. She had already drawn an inference according to the state of the Miniature Sun.

Nine days.

That was how long the Divinity could maintain it’s current condition without receiving further energy supplies.

The numbers Brashta mentioned were quite high considering that Milarn underwent it’s Primordial Ascension not even a month ago.

However, she had to be as accurate as possible about the number with which the Miniature Sun could be maintained for a week, at the very least.

Dilan didn’t really care about the number of monster corpses she wanted to have in the following nine days. He was more focused on two particular things.

‘Brashta and the Eternal Guards are nervous, while everyone else seems clueless as to why they need so many sacrifices in such a short time. That means only the higher authorities know what is going on, and it is certainly not something good for the Sun temple.

That aside, what exactly are bloodline enhancements? Does she mean the Essence crystal’s quality with bloodline enhancements? Bronze monsters equal to one bloodline enhancement in that sense, I guess?’

It was almost impossible for Dilan to hide his smile. He slowly gained a better understanding of the world in which Milarn had changed to.

He was glad to have approached the Sun temple because he had made huge gains without losing out in any way.

‘I shall tell the others about it as well!’

Having sealed the deal, Dilan smiled as he looked at Brashta.

“I’ll take care of it.”

After that, Dilan bowed faintly, which was the only way he knew of showing respect to others with gestures without coming across as rude to beings belonging to unknown cultures.

He walked past the priestess and the Eternals Guards, feeling unaffected by their presence that was even more distinct than the Blue Tiger’s.

With sheer unbending confidence, he walked down the sun temple's stairs, and crossed the town, where he was once again eyed warily before he left the town without another backward glance.

Chapter 179 Scheming

"What?! You've been inside the Sun temple, and you actually spoke to these foreign races?!" Oliver shouted out in excitement, feeling that each of Dilan's words sounded next to impossible.

He had been a nerd in the past, which was why his hand was trembling in excitement at the thought of talking to a foreign race.

Oliver wanted to rush over and have a word with them as well but it was his good fortune to have Ailee by his side.

She held him back, forced him to stay put, and to keep listening to Dilan's report.

Dilan had returned not too long ago. He had ordered the others to call everyone over, including Old Jeff, Williams, Kathrine, and others, who had been working outside the hospital.

He didn't say anything else and waited patiently before everyone had arrived.

Most information he spoke about was rather nice to listen to but the anger and frustration in Dilan's eyes made it clear that there was something he had yet to reveal.

Ailee's discomfort increased the more Dilan spoke.

And exactly as she had expected, Dilan began to speak about the slaves once he had reported everything about the Sacred Shop, the deal he made with the Priestess, and other miscellaneous things.

"They...enslaved the races they've conquered? Well, this is actually not something uncommon to do in the Era of the middle ages. Didn't you expect that Dilan?"

Neither Williams, Sven nor Xenia were actually surprised about the fact that the survivors of the defeated races were enslaved.

"Rather than annihilating entire races after they had been defeated, it is actually better to make use of them.

This is even more so the case if the beings of the defeated races are more proficient in certain fields of work than their own race.

You could learn a lot, have cheap laborers, and gain a lot. So, I cannot really find fault with their behavior. I'm sorry..."

Sven sounded truly apologetic to Dilan. He could not tell why it was necessary to apologize but Sven felt that it was necessary.

Dilan's expression looked bad enough to make his own people fear his reaction. This was certainly not good and clearly showed his stance toward slavery and bondage.

It also showed the others that Dilan's past may not have been as rosy as some thought it was.

In fact, Dilan didn't have anything to say in response. After conquering a territory, it made sense to take charge of the people, who had not fought in the war. To ensure their loyalty and to prevent them from rebelling, using ancient magic to subdue and enslave them seemed logical.

One could even say that it was the most efficient and cheapest way to ensure a large, loyal labor force at their disposal that would never dare to usurp them.

But even if that was the case, Dilan couldn't think that it was correct.

'Is life better while being enslaved, or is it better to die?'

Dilan was actually not sure about the correct answer. If the slaves were treated properly, without too many restrictions except for being loyal to their master, staying alive might be worthwhile.

However, Dilan was having an internal conflict with himself because he didn't want to acknowledge that enslaving someone was humane.

His mind was rattling wildly, enlarging the mess in his mind.

But Dilan knew that there was no point in breaking his head over the slavery topic. It was not as if he had enslaved someone, or that he thought of doing something stupid and reckless just because the Sun temple had enslaved a few races.

The Sun Temple was mighty enough to enslave beings at Tier-3, meaning that they could easily restrict Tier-3 beings and engrave the enslaved with ancient magic.

For now, the Sun temple in the Shikan plains didn't have these capabilities, and the Eternal Guards he saw were the strongest existences in the temple but it didn't mean that this would always stay the same.

"We have to become stronger, much faster!" Yvonne suddenly exclaimed. She was seated next to her sister and would prefer to stay quiet and observe everything around her instead.

In fact, she officially joined the leader meetings only after advancing to Tier-1.

Given her occupation and the speed with which she improved, it was impossible not to include her in the gatherings. Her strength was something the entire group required, and the same could be said about the others.

"Yes, we need to become stronger. That's why I want to use the Sacred Shop to our advantage." Dilan had calmed down a little bit and nodded his head while agreeing to Yvonne's words.

They wouldn't be able to enter Tier-2 in the following nine days, but he was certain that they could procure enough corpses to fulfill the quota mentioned by Brashta.

18,000 Bronze Tier-1 corpses should be equal to more or less 30,000 Sacred points.

And that was after allowing his Ascenders to absorb the sacrificed monster's Essence crystals.

30,000 Sacred points were more than enough to purchase dozens of powerful ability crystals, even more, if they chose ungraded, or Tier-0 abilities with few stars.

However, in that case, they would have to upgrade them, which might or might not be a problem.

'I have yet to find out the upgrade requirements for [Thunder Step]. If we purchase powerful Tier-0 ability crystals but cannot upgrade them, it will be a big mess as well...'

For now, the issue Dilan had in mind was actually not much of a problem. They had yet to procure enough Sacred points and think about what everyone in their group actually needed to improve at a faster rate.

Would it be better to provide the low-leveled Tierless Ascenders with powerful abilities to allow them to improve much faster, or was it necessary to further strengthen their best warriors?

Those were important questions that had to be answered...but only in the future.

For now, there was something else that had to be solved.

"How do you plan for us to improve faster? What should we do to meet the monster corpse quota you just mentioned?" Sven was a little bit doubtful if they would be able to even find that many Tier-1 monsters in Rian.

That was what made him feel was the reason for Dilan to venture in the Shikan plains. This would make it easier to transport the corpses to the Sun temple as well.

However, Dilan merely smiled as he revealed what had been on his mind.

He threw the Penta Item Pouch at Sven without saying anything.

Several seconds of utter silence passed before everyone could see Sven's baffled expression.

"Since when?...How?"

Sven was not even able to ask proper questions but Dilan knew what he wanted to say.

"I got it by chance when I exchanged 50 Bronze Tier-1 Essence crystals at the large gate within the Krendel's Underground Valley."

Dilan had forgotten to tell Sven and the others about the Penta Item Pouch before. Only now did he tell them but this was quite good as well.

The timing was perfect, which was why his smile turned even brighter when he added,

"I don't know if anyone noticed this already but I got Mira a new ability crystal as well. The new ability was a Tier-0 ★★★★★ ability, which I also obtained in exchange for 50 Bronze Tier-1 Essence crystals at the large Gate within the Krendel's Underground Valley!"

Dilan kept smiling even after he finished speaking, while Williams and the others took the Penta Item Pouch from Sven to figure out what shocked him so much.

Williams knew how hard it was to actually shock Sven, which was why he had been the first to move.

And as expected, the information about the Penta Item Pouch was truly shocking.

“Is that real?! It might only be able to store a total of five items, but you can actually stack them one above another! This can be described as a highly effective storage space. Oh my lord!!”

Williams was even more shocked than Sven. Thus, for a minute everyone was baffled and their eyes flicked to Dilan as if he was a treasure trove.

“So...that is your plan?” Sven asked after a while, to which Dilan only nodded his head without saying a word.

“How about you tell us your plan as well? I won’t get younger the longer you make us wait...” Old Jeff was intrigued by the Penta Item Pouch and was curious to know how it had been created but Dilan’s expression was even more intriguing because it looked like he planned to suck the Sun God’s Temple dry.

It might have been shocking that the Sun Temple belonged to a true God but it was not as if the Sun God had actually descended on Milarn.

As such, with Dilan in front of them, everything revolving around the Sun God’s Temple seemed far less impressive.

“You plan to make us focus on hunting Bronze Tier-1 monsters to sacrifice their corpses while we exchange their Essence crystals with Bronze Tier-1 treasures at the large Gate, right?” This time, it was Kathrine, who had spoken.

She had kept quiet for quite a while. Her mind had been in a similar mess, simply because the danger of the Ligrav and Rasnian race was much higher than what she had hoped for.

They were not a new race but had already annihilated several races, a total of six races had been enslaved, and they had the support and backing of a true God.

Once it was possible for them to transport higher Tiered individuals of their race to Milarn, they might be annihilated in an instant with the emergence of an inferno.

Despite her earlier worries, Kathrine felt that she knew what Dilan’s plan was, which was why she straightaway asked her doubts when Old Jeff wanted to know about his plan.

“Kathrine is mostly right. I want to assemble an Elite Combat Unit and want everyone else here, except Old Jeff, and Bianne to join me to go hunting for the following nine days.

I want us to focus on increasing our stats and level while putting aside the Essence crystals that won’t provide any additional stat points. A group of the Porter Unit will bring the monster corpses to the Sun temple to sacrifice them. I’m the only one, who is rewarded with Sacred points, either way, so I’ll receive the points from all the sacrifices made by the human Ascenders in the surrounding area.

As Kathrine mentioned, the leftover Bronze Tier-1 Essence crystals will be exchanged with Bronze Tier-1 treasures in the hopes of procuring more abilities and Penta Item Pouches to increase the hunting efficiency.”

Dilan finished his explanation rather simply. In his opinion, his plan was not actually difficult.

The only problem was to appoint fresh leaders of the subunits because it was not feasible to prevent the strongest people in his group to focus on management tasks.

They should focus on increasing their strength, not their management skills.

And that was why they had to work hard on finding a way to reform their group and re-assign their responsibilities.

Several hours passed by and Dilan got to know many Survivors he had never seen before. They had been praised by Williams, Kathrine, Ailee, and the others, and been told to showcase their capabilities, whether it was team management, martial art knowledge, and so on.

Thus, the group was once again reformed, and sub-leaders, along with the management team below the sub-leaders and so on were shuffled.

Slowly, but steadily, Dilan's group turned into a real community that began to work like a well-oiled machine instead of an old and rusty machine.

Dilan liked what he saw, which was why he couldn't help but forget about his worries for a few seconds.

Chapter 180 Large-scale hunt (1 of 3)

By reforming the leader-base once again, some things got a little bit messy.

However, it was not actually difficult to sort the issues. With Dilan's help, there was no problem to ensure that everyone would obey the new Sub-unit leader's orders.

As long as they didn't demand too much from their subordinates, the Sub-unit leader's orders could be taken as Dilan's commands.

This was what they had mutually decided upon after spending the remaining day appointing the most trustworthy Survivors and Ascenders as leaders, vice-leaders, managers, and so on.

The most difficult was still finding the leader of the Elite Combat Unit, the Hunting Unit, and the Scouting Unit. Within all these groups, one could find powerful Ascenders.

While the Tierless Ascenders were not allowed to join Dilan's large-scale hunting group, close to half of the Tier-1 Ascenders had to stay behind as well.

For some Ascenders, this was quite frustrating because they felt that they were deprived of the opportunity to become stronger.

They knew that standing by Dilan's side would allow them to advance rapidly.

However, because they had been ordered to stay behind, they could only obey. They were tasked with protecting the hospital, Old Jeff's workshop, and the Porter Unit as they were the ones to carry the corpses Dilan's hunting group would kill.

Another opportunity for them to shine would come and they would grasp it the moment it would arrive.

That was what the Ascenders told themselves; to grasp all the opportunities that unveiled themselves in front of them!..

Williams and Xenia stayed as the leader of their group, simply because the Elite Combat Unit and the Scouting Unit needed someone strong to keep them in check.

On the other hand, Ailee and Oliver were replaced because Dilan had found the perfect person to teach new Ascenders.

Dilan had found a batch of five Martial artists not too long ago. They had attempted to fight monsters without any weapons, which resulted in quite severe injuries. The injuries didn't kill them but some of them could have been considered to be crippling enough.

Some of the Martial artists had a near-death experience before because the days that had passed by worsened the state of the injuries.

They had only survived thanks to Dilan's arrival and the Essence crystals he had handed them.

Right now, they could be considered to be quite powerful, even if they were still restricted by certain internal injuries that couldn't be healed even with the healing abilities some Survivors in their group had.

Their healing abilities were either too weak and had to be upgraded, or the Martial artists' injuries were far worse than what Dilan thought.

But that was not actually something Dilan was concerned about because teaching someone didn't require you to be fit enough to fight.

In the end, reforming his group once again worked out quite fine and it was possible for him and the others to leave early the next morning.

With some good rest, Dilan, more than 130 Tier-1 Ascenders, and some other Ascenders they required for specific tasks left the Rian mountainside hospital, while fully being prepared to fight hundreds of monsters head-on.

"We have never moved in such big groups...that is so thrilling!!" One Ascenders mumbled, feeling the chills running down his spine.

He was not the only one to be excited. Most present Ascenders had only seen Dilan fighting before he advanced to Tier-1. In fact, even Kathrine couldn't remember having clearly perceived Dilan's fight.

In the Krendel's Underground Valley the majority of his fights had been in darkness, preventing her from seeing much.

That was why she could only perceive that Dilan was powerful but had not witnessed it clearly.

Yvonne was powerful as well, but even the little sister was eager to see Dilan's fight.

However, this was mostly owed to the fact that the Origin ability told her that the next few days would be filled with blood and death!

"The Porters will be ready in half an hour, and they'll be protected by more than 50 Tier-1 Ascenders. That should be more than enough."

Sven had appeared next to Dilan all of a sudden. He had not chosen a combat occupation while advancing to Tier-1. Despite that, Sven could be said to be one of the most important Ascenders in the entire group.

He had chosen an occupation called [Strategist of the Thousand Kingdoms]. It was an occupation that had imprinted a lot of information in Sven's mind.

This information was mostly related to the management of a kingdom while going to war and what strategies could be employed in times of war, or against monsters.

Under normal circumstances, Sven's occupation was the most useful within the Rian mountainside hospital but Dilan wanted to get to know how Sven would fare as a General of a large group.

Thus, he had asked Sven to command and lead the entire group, astonishing many.

The astonishment didn't stop at the Ascenders but even Sven, Williams, and the others were not entirely sure why Dilan wouldn't want to show off that he was the leader of the group.

However, that was actually not something he could be bothered about. As long as there was someone who was more capable than him, he would allow him to do the things he or she was better at.

Dilan had no idea about warfare, which was why he stepped aside for Sven.

This was the right thing to do. He didn't regret his decision after listening to Sven's plan and was certain that everything would be fine.

"Alright, I can let myself loose and pave my way through the monsters, creating a gap for the others to enter as well."

Being in front of everyone while facing opponents in the center of the battlefield was quite important.

Not only was it possible for him to support the others if they were to require his help but his title [Beyond the Stars] allowed the allies in a range of 100 meters to gain more courage.

This was quite helpful, even more so because many Ascenders were nervous about the first large-scale fight they were in.

One mistake and not only their own life but also that of others would be endangered.

It was not too much to say that one's responsibilities were several times higher than usual.

And that was without the danger of powerful monsters getting a wind of their group. If monsters stronger than the Blue Tiger would attack them, even the large group of Ascenders would struggle to overwhelm them.

At least that was what many Ascenders thought but Dilan was actually not worried about that.

He was hoping to encounter some powerful monsters because he had to release some steam from his encounter with Priestess Brashta and all the information he had gotten about enslavement.

That was also why Dilan stormed into the first group of monsters they had targeted, the moment Sven instructed everyone to attack.

While volleys of arrows flew through the air, balls of fire, icicles, earth spikes, and various other long-range attacks followed suit in an instant.

The batch of more than a hundred Demonic Antelopes, who had noticed the Hunting group, retaliated by releasing a gloomy miasma.

The gloomy miasma shrouded the Demonic Antelopes in an instant, before expanding further.

Only their bloody red, glowing eyes could be seen through the darkness of the gloomy miasma. However, that was not enough for Dilan to halt in his tracks.

He was the first to pierce through the gloomy miasma before a huge blazing serpent emerged from his hand.

Carnage and the cold traps of death flooded the Shikan plains, caused by a single human being, and the terrifying weapon he wielded like a madman.

The Ascenders, who had been motivated to fight, charging at the gloomy miasma could only halt their tracks at the sight of the serpent form of the Blazing Serpentine Blade.

They feared being killed by accident. It didn't look like Dilan needed their help either...after all, the gloomy miasma was already diminishing, while the painful screams of dying demonic antelopes filled the Shikan plains with the rising of the morning sun.

"Maybe, I should have told him to hold back a little bit..." Sven mumbled first before he sighed deeply.

"How the hell will the others learn something if Dilan is already more than enough to massacre more than a hundred Tier-1 monsters in...three minutes..."