

"Normal speech"

'Thought'

(Silent magic)

[Normal magic]

{Change of location, time or POV}

Sorry for the delay everyone! If you didn't read the general chat, my area got hit by a wild storm and we had a three days blackout that didn't allow me to access the internet till yesterday evening. Counting the overtime today at work I had barely time to eat dinner and check the chapter before publishing and going to bed!

Speaking of which, wish you all a good night! Now enjoy the chapter!

Chapter 64: Recruitment

Arche gawked at the scene before her, as she was sure the rest of her travelling companions were doing the same. The scene before her seemed just out of one of the battlefields of legends.

Craters filled the area, clearly burned rocks and soil plastered the landscape as if they were uprooted by a tornado, the side of the mountain had partially collapsed, and the rubble was enough to bury a small army.

In all her life, she never thought she would be capable of seeing such devastation firsthand. She had no idea what number of warriors and high tier magic casters would be needed to cause

such destruction. And yet, apparently, such a scenario was created by none other than two people.

“Umu, I hope the Coalition will not be too upset about this, it’s not like be blocked an entrance to the mountain.”

She heard the familiar voice of one of the two responsible for this landscape come from behind her.

She timidly turned her head to look at the magic caster she studied under for the last year and a half. As usual, his tone did not betray no emotion behind it, be it satisfaction or mortification.

“M-Master Satoru! D-did you say the battle ended in a draw?!”

Asked Rayne clearly intimidated by the sight.

“A spar, not a battle young Rayne, and yes, for all I loath to give the woman credit, she was probably the strongest warrior I came across in a long time, no offense intended Gazef.”

The masked caster answered calmly, offering an olive branch to the Warrior Captain’s pride.

The man in question just shook his head at those words.

“None taken, I have wondered, ever since I saw her fight that Frost Dragon, if I could defeat her in a one on one, I guess the answer is clear now.”

The strongest warrior in Re-Estize openly admitted his defeat without a hint of remorse or shame.

“Ah! So, she was holding back all the time!? If she didn’t run a way, I would have given her a piece of my mind!”

Openly protested Lakyus who seemed disappointed at the realization that the woman who gave her some lessons did not take her seriously at all.

“Well, let’s not dwell on this minor inconvenience, let us begin our descent.”

Arche sweat-dropped at her master’s attempt of minimizing what they just saw. As if he didn’t put all the caster in the world, apart from a legendary few, to shame.

“Are you planning to walk all the way down?”

The one who asked that question was none other than Vulmitar himself. The dragon had been a last second addition to their group, he said that he wanted to continue practicing and learning magic alongside her and Rayne, as well as seeing what the world had to offer now that his father was dead and no longer had a say.

It was not like she minded really, on the contrary, the dragon had been a great addition for bouncing off ideas between her and Rayne. All of them were trying to break through in the 3rd tier and she felt like the three of them would be able to help each other on that endeavor.

If someone told her that she and her fellow student would have struck up a friendship with a dragon a couple weeks ago, she would have called them mad, but she could not deny the ease with which the three of them bonded over the study of magic. Also, the Frost Dragon did ransack the library taking every book on magic he could find before they left, so he surely did pull his weight.

“Wait a moment! YOU CAN FLY!”

Shouted Rayne as he wildly gestured for Vulmitar's wings. The dragon just gave the boy a look Arche could only translate as his version of a deadpan.

"Please can you let me fly on your back?! Please!"

The boy seemed ecstatic at the sole thought of being able to fly on the dragon's back as his green eyes seemed to shine like gems as he begged the dragon.

Though, she had to admit, she understood his excitement, she could not think of anyone currently alive who flied on the back of a dragon.

"No one ever asked me that, I guess, if you really want."

Vulmitar calmly said as he shrugged his shoulders before lowering his body.

Rayne took an elated gasp before rushing toward the dragon with the intent of climbing on him.

"Me too!"

Lakyus cried out as she waited for Vulmitar to give her a positive response. The dragon shrugged again.

"Just keep that blade where it is."

He said, it seemed like he did not get over what had happened during their battle completely.

"Sure thing! I swear on my honor!"

The delighted blonde knight said as she made to follow Rayne in his pursuit.

"You want to join too?"

This time it was Vulmitar himself who asked her that question, as he seemed already resigned to his fate.

“Ah, uhm... if you don’t mind...”

Arche felt a tinge of embarrassment crawl up her body. She really wanted to experience it, but she didn’t want to sound like a needy child as much as Rayne did when he asked.

The dragon just pointed to his back with his muzzle. She understood the message and went to climb up, her blush still flaring on her cheeks.

Vulmitar’s body was quite warm, far warmer than she expected from a race that was known as Frost Dragons. Not that she minded, in fact, she was glad she would not have to freeze herself atop him. As she tried to climb on the dragon’s scales, she found an offered hand, courtesy of Lakys, in front of her face. She grabbed it and soon enough the three of them were settled on his back, trying to find handholds on the dragon’s back.

“Would you mind taking one more?”

She felt the familiar voice of her master say from above them. she immediately turned to see him floating just half a meter behind them, the third princess nuzzled in his arms.

“I-I... I think I can take... one more.”

The frost dragon stuttered out in a very appeasing tone. He still seemed scared of the 6th tier magic caster, and for a good reason, seeing how he was the one to take out his father, a so called Dragon Lord, and cause such destruction outside the mountain. Arche would have been on edge as well if she was in the dragon’s place.

“Here, I am sure you are going to have fun.”

The magic caster said before placing a, not so convinced, Renner between Lakys and Arche.

“What if I fall?”

The princess asked with a doubtful expression.

“Do not worry, the rest of us will be flying behind you, if anything happens, I will catch you.”

Satoru reassured with one last pat on her head as he flew away.

“Now have fun.”

He said as he left them. Right in that moment, Vulmitar stood up forcing Arche to hold for her life the spikes on his back.

The dragon began to walk forward, as if testing his new additional weight, as his wings began to flap, he began to walk faster and faster until he started running and then leapt into the air, his large wings flapping wildly to propel himself in the sky.

Arche was trying to hold herself as hard as she could as she felt the vicious wind try to blast her off the dragon’s back.

Slowly the inclination stabilized, as the dragon seemed to have reached his desired height, his wings no longer flapping erratically but rhythmically, even the cutting wind seemed to have given her some reprise as she finally opened her eyes she was unaware had squinted, focused as she was on not falling off.

“WHOA!”

The shout of surprise from next to her almost made the blonde caster loosen her grip. The culprit was none other than an elated Lakys who was looking down mesmerized at the view.

Arche immediately followed her example and decided to look down.

Her jaw fell open as the entire world seemed to be laid bare before her. An endless landscape of biomes stretched till her eyes could see.

Threes, rivers, lakes, snowy mountains, even the desertic Katze plains. There were no words that would ever be enough to describe the magnificence of the world basking in the sun.

How could so many live in this world and never see this view? Was that not a crime against life itself? To deny the most beautiful scenario someone could witness from the eyes of all?

She could not help but feel some tears gather in her eyes, the beauty of the world just brought her literally to tears. She felt a hand squeeze her shoulder lightly as a familiar face appeared next to hers.

“Isn’t this incredible? Doesn’t this view make you feel like there is still so much we have to see and discover in this world?”

Said Rayne in a mesmerized tone, and for once she had to agree with him from the bottom of her heart. This was truly a view that inspired the heart toward the path of an explorer.

“Yes, it really does.”

She whispered, unsure if her fellow apprentice heard her.

The two of them remained like that as more and more of the world unraveled before their eyes, using each other as an anchor as they floated atop the world.

{Hours later}

{Green Claw’s Village}

{Lakyus' P.O.V.}

It was almost dusk when they finally reached their destination. From atop Vulmitar she could even see the entirety of the lake and the lizardman villages.

They began their descent toward the Green Claw's village as the lake was painted red with the reflection of the downing sun. She held herself as hard as she could as she felt them losing height very quickly, for a moment she even feared the dragon had lost his balance. But the more they neared the ground, the more their inclination adjusted and speed decreased, till they landed with a surprising level of gentleness.

Once Vulmitar lowered himself she moved to dismount only to notice she was stuck in place due to Renner having pressed her body completely against her. She was so amazed and preoccupied with admiring the scenery that she didn't even notice the tight grip of the princess around her.

"What is wrong Renner? We landed, there is no need to--"

Lakyus stopped as her eyes met with Renner's. she had never seen the princess, usually so strong and composed, like this before. There was something wrong in her eyes, a desperation she never saw before in her gaze. Now that she noticed Renner was pale, incredibly so, almost like a corpse, and she was sweating profusely.

'Did she catch a fever?!' Lakyus panicked inside almost wishing to slap herself for not noticing before during the hours she spent practically glued to her. But... why didn't Renner say anything? Now that she noticed, the princess did not utter a word since they

departed and her jaw was visibly clenched, all her muscles tensed up.

Be it as it may, Lakyus snapped out of whatever trance she had going on and immediately went into action as her best friend was clearly not well.

She grabbed her and jumped down immediately from Vulmitar, she hurt her ankle as she fell, but she couldn't care less right now, she needed to find Satoru as soon as possible.

Renner began to push her away and Lakyus let go as she had no idea what her friend was going through but believed in her judgement.

Lakyus looked as her friend barely managed to stagger forward for a couple meters before she fell on all fours. Lakyus immediately went to help her, but before she could even make two steps.

BLARGH

She looked in horror as Renner threw up the content of her stomach there and then. It took Lakyus thirty seconds before she managed to unfreeze herself and immediately go to her friend's side, patting her back and trying to calm her down as she continued to throw up.

After what seemed to be at least a couple of minutes Renner actually stopped her, admittedly disgusting, display. Not that Lakyus was focusing on that, she was rather worried on what had caused the problem to begin with.

“Can you sit?”

Lakyus recognized the calm and deep voice of Satoru as the magic caster had apparently been by their side for who knew how long, and now was actively kneeling down to help Renner sit back on the grass. The princess followed his instructions slowly as she sat gasping for air as fresh tears gathered in her eyes.

“It’s okay, calm down, the worst is already gone by.”

The magic caster continued to say soothingly as he gently rubbed circles on the princess’ back, while using a handkerchief to clean her face.

“Satoru, what is wrong with the princess?!”

An agitated Gazef gave voice to Lakyus’ own question. The masked caster proceeded to put a flask of water in Renner’s hands.

“Sip it slowly and only when you feel like it.”

He instructed before turning to Gazef.

“Nothing to worry about, it is just some flight sickness, or motion sickness, when I was younger, I myself suffered from it.”

Satoru explained much to Lakyus’ confusion as she never heard of such sickness, even Gazef did not seem to be completely on board with the explanation.

“Did you ever see men feeling unwell after a long horse ride?”

He questioned as Gazef’s eyes sparked with recognition as he nodded.

“Well, it is pretty much the same, but the cause is not riding a horse, but rather flying.”

He explained while gently caressing the princess’ head.

“Her stomach is upside down after... well... that display, all she needs now is time to recover and something hot to sip... maybe some green tea will do... I will take care of it.”

He assured them both as he gently picked the princess up in his arms before slowly moving away toward a tent Lakyus’ could swear was not there a minute before.

She immediately went to follow him. Hell would freeze all over before Lakyus abandoned a friend in need alone!

She trotted behind Satoru as he entered the tent which, to her amazement, turned out to be bigger on the inside than the outside would let on. There was no need to speculate about the magical property of the tent considering who she was dealing with.

The magic caster placed Renner on a queen-sized bed before he turned and reached for a kettle on the stove in the corner of the tent. With a mere gesture he ignited the stove as he placed the water-filled kettle on it.

“Lakyus...”

The weak, raspy voice of Renner called for her prompting the knight to immediately return all her attention on the princess.

“Yes, do you need anything?”

She asked eager to help her friend in any way.

“I hate flying...”

Lakyus tried, but she could not manage to suppress her laughter at the, so uncommonly used, blunt statement of the usually reserved and dignified princess.

“I can tell.”

She managed to say through her, not really repressed, laughter. If looks could kill, Lakyus had no doubt she would be little more than a pile of ashes by now, seeing how Renner's eyes pierced through her very soul.

“You are going to regret... this... someday... I swear I will have my revenge.”

The threat sent some shivers down Lakyus' spine, for all she thought this was fair play seeing how Renner teased her when she got drunk, she could not do much else apart from taking her threat seriously. If she was sure on one thing about her friend, that thing was that she never spoke empty words.

“Here, sip it slowly and wait for your stomach to settle before trying anything solid.”

The gentle and deep voice of Satoru interrupted their banter as he offered a cup filled with hot tea to the sick princess. She took it with gratefulness and began to sip slowly as he said, glaring at Lakyus all the while even when Satoru patted her head.

And in that moment Lakyus knew, she fucked up.

Only the future could tell what cruel punishment awaited her soul.

{The next day}

{Zaryusu's P.O.V.}

The strongest lizardman sat among the tribes' leaders as he retold the events that had transpired ever since he departed more than two months before.

It took him almost four hours to retell all the events and what he witnessed with his own two eyes. He knew that the tale would

sound more outlandish than any of their tribes' legends. But still, he spoke nothing but the truth.

“Brother... even I, who have seen you grow, would question your mental sanity after what you just told us... but, alas, the presence of a Frost Dragon and a... Quagoa right outside our village would make most of my points invalid... so I will just ask, is everything you told me the absolute truth as you saw it?”

Shasuryu, his older brother, gave him a deadpan look as he waited for Zaryusu to give his final verdict.

With a heavy sigh the wielder of Frost Pain bowed his head.

“Yes, I swear on my honor and life, everything I said is the truth and nothing less.”

He said without hesitation.

“Spirits above, look upon us...”

The tribe leader of Small Fang, Sukyu Juju, prayed under his breath.

“Madness... Madness and insanity... what kind of monster could single handedly slay a Dragon Lord who has lived for over two-hundred years... and then proceed to collapse part of the mountain in a so-called spar.”

Added Kyuku Zuzu, leader of Razor Tail, as he laid bare the facts Zaryusu brought up in his retelling.

“I was there, I saw the might of the White Dragon Lord, how he emerged like a wrathful god after one human slayed one of his children, and I and the others injured another... and then I saw how that wrathful god was burned and roasted by the 6th tier magic caster, the same human who raised us from our plight... I

dread to think of what would have become of us if we acted violently instead of peacefully.”

Zaryusu shook his head as he shuddered at the sole memory of what Satoru the magic caster did to the Quagoa army and the Dragon Lord. He had no delusion that exterminating his whole kind would be little more than a chore for the likes of him.

“So, are you suggesting we join under this magic caster’s banner, as his servants... I am not going to lie, that is little better than death in my eyes.”

Ziguru, the previous chieftain of Dragon Tusk said much to Zaryusu’s ire. This one’s pride would be his downfall, but he would be damned before he let him drag his whole race down with him.

“We have only three paths left for us, we can either join Satoru under his banner, join the newly established Azerlisia Coalition, or remain on our own and pray for the best.”

Crusch Lulu finally spoke for the first time since Zaryusu finished his tale. Her delicate voice made his heart pound faster and faster, he had almost forgotten how beautiful she was. Though, she had been quite cold toward him ever since he came back the day before.

“Ziguru, for all you talk big, you are not the one in charge of your tribe, that ultimate decision sits with Lakys.”

The strongest lizardman said as he made sure to remind the former chief of that fact.

“You want to fill my claws inside your throat, wielder of Frost Pain?”

The larger lizardman said darkly as he pointed his razor sharp claw at the traveler lizardman.

“I would be glad to call such a great warrior my chief, the fact you do not see it makes me feel like your age is catching up with you.”

Zaryusu said, knowing well the weight of his words, his brother looked at him carefully, after all what he said could have been considered a great insult if it wasn't for the fact he was a traveler and no longer part of Green Claw.

The larger lizardman just huffed as he lowered his claw.

“She is as green as the grass we walk on.”

Ziguru rebutted grumpily.

“She stared death in the face and charged toward it for the good of tens of thousands she did not even know, she fought to exhaustion and never backed down... if that is being green, I can't even fathom what that would make of the majority of the warriors I know, you included.”

Zaryusu raised his voice in defense of the one he had come to admire as a warrior above all warriors. On the other hand, Ziguru narrowed his eyes at him.

“Careful boy, after a war I thought you could distinguish between courage and utter foolishness.”

Zaryusu saw red at those words, he stood up, his hand automatically going for his waist only to grasp nothing as his blade was left outside the hut.

“ZARYUSU!”

Two voices called for his name, his brother and Crusch moved to stop him from doing whatever he wanted to do. He continued to seethe with anger at the insult and disregard shown through the words of a lizardman he had respected for many years after the war.

“Do as you wish, hide behind your blind pride and rot in your stagnant mindset... You who talk of honor and pride while diminishing the accomplishment of others as you know you will never achieve anything remotely similar due to the cowardice you mask as wisdom... I have no respect left for you or any who indulge in such disgusting behavior.”

With his piece said, Zaryusu turned and marched out of his tent fuming at the sole thought of having to spend anymore time in the presence of such an hypocrite.

His eyes darted around his village full of life like he never saw it before, lizardmen hard at work to better their lives with the fish farms. All of this caused him to deflate as his anger left him, he just could not understand how some were so blind not to see what was happening and who was responsible for it.

But he did, and he will be damned before he let this debt go unpaid.

{Rayne’s P.O.V.}

“Lightning!”

He called out the 3rd tier spell but nothing happened as he felt his mana just disperse in the air.

“Shit.”

He muttered under his breath as he felt the sweat pour over his face as his mana was almost exhausted.

“I.. don’t think.. this is... working...”

He said in between deep breaths as her two fellow magic enthusiasts looked at him.

“Here it says that the control of the mana flow is as much needed to break through the 3rd tier as the mental resilience.”

Vulmitar said thoughtfully as he lowered his muzzle toward the book he was quoting and had been reading since this morning.

The three of them really focused on breaking through their limits as of late as both him and Arche really wanted to learn all the useful spells the 3rd tier would unlock and Vulmitar really wanted to learn that fire protection magic his father learnt to deal with his natural weakness.

Unfortunately, it seemed like they were still not closer to reaching their goal than they were since they started today. It was supposed to get easier once you finally learn your first 3rd tier spell, as the brain would automatically adjust to the mental strain needed and the only thing remaining was to learn other spells.

“Maybe we could try to-“

Arche began only to be interrupted when a familiar voice called for them.

“Hey! Rayne, Arche, Vulmitar!”

They all turned toward the familiar voice of the blonde knight as she ran toward them, or it would be better say, her stead ran toward them.

Rayne's eyes widened like plates as he saw the, far larger than he remembered, four headed hydra ran toward them, with none other than Lakyus riding him.

"Luck! Stop!"

The knight finally said as her stead slowly decreased his speed till he stopped before them.

He could not believe his eyes, when he last saw the hydra a couple of months ago the little guy barely reached Rayne's own midsection, now it towered a good head over him and had grown large enough to allow Lakyus to ride him.

"WHAT THE HELL DID YOU FEED HIM?!"

The unexpected cry of undignified surprise came from Arche who wasn't in a much better condition compared to him, seeing how her mouth was agape and her eyes ready to pop out.

"I don't know, they said they just fed him fish, and he himself went and ate fruits and wet weed from the lake."

The Re-Estize's noble jumped down from her four headed companion.

"To be honest I had the same reaction when I saw him this morning, he apparently had already gone to sleep when we arrived and when he saw me he charged me and almost crushed me as he was trying to cuddle with me like he did when he was a baby."

Lakyus explained with a large smile splattered all over her face. The four heads of the hydra immediately went for her as if they understood her and were trying to make up for their almost murder by nuzzling against Lakyus while lowly hissing and

cooing, much to Lakyus' clear delight as she spoiled the beast rotten with pats and caresses.

“So, what did you come here for?”

Arche was the first to regain some kind of composure and asked the other blonde her reasons.

“Oh yeah! It is almost lunch time, so I came here to tell you that... and...”

Lakyus averted her gaze as she seemed to fidget in place.

“Ah... uhm... well... w-willyoujoinmyteam?”

She blabbered something so quickly Rayne was completely dumbfounded and confused.

“What?”

He asked as he looked at Arche who just shrugged her shoulder as if to tell him she was in the same boat.

“I-I asked... if you... would like to join my team?”

This time around her words were understandable, though she didn't sound too sure when she said them, but still, Rayne was confused.

“What team are you talking about?”

He asked before anyone could do the same.

She blushed a little as she nervously scratched her neck.

“I... kind of formed an Adventurer team with Leinas... and I plan to ask Riyuro too! But, you know... We would still lack magic casters... and, I could not think of anyone better than you two, so, yeah, I just wanted to ask.”

She finished seeming a little too nervous in Rayne's opinion. He actually never thought about becoming an adventurer, but now that she thought about it, it sounded exciting, not talking about the fact he would get to explore the world he had admired from the sky the day before. It could also be a way to practice his magic in an actual combat situation and test out if that was the path he wished to follow.

But... he looked at Arche, the young noble he had lived with like family for more than a year... his heart tightened at the thought of separation, he would not do it if she didn't come too... yes, that was just right!

"Adventurers? Why though? Are they not hired to kill mon... I mean, other races?"

Lakyus visibly flinched at Arche's words.

"Yeah... but I would never do that! Unless they are incapable of thinking on a human like level... or even a little lower... I believe that as long as we can communicate, we don't have to fight! And I want to show the world that peace and cooperation is possible among all races!"

She explained getting more and more passionate about it.

Arche seemed to ponder her words before looking at Rayne who just stared back without saying or showing any of his thoughts.

"I think... Well, I think we should gather our thoughts, maybe even talk with Master Satoru about it before committing to anything."

She said in a reasonable tone. Lakyus lost some of her excitement at the non-answer she was given, but still she put on a smile nonetheless.

“Yeah, I mean, that sounds like a good idea...”

She said, though she didn't seem too convinced of her own words.

“Uhm sorry to interrupt.”

They all turned to the frost dragon who had remained silent till that moment. Rayne noticed as Lakyus' face immediately reddened.

“Ah! I am sorry Vulmitar! Of course, you are invited too if you want to join!”

She immediately cried out in an apologetic tone while waving her hands out of embarrassment at having seemingly forgotten he was there.

“Ah, that is good and all, but... what is an adventurer?”

Vulmitar asked genuinely as the three humans looked at each other.

{Riyuro's P.O.V.}

The former Quagoa King picked between his teeth to try and removed the countless fishbones stuck there. ‘Fucking fish! I don't even like it and it is a pain in the ass! Cave rock worms are still by far the best thing I had! And I can't probably have them anymore as I doubt, I will find any around here’ he lamented in his mind.

“Hey Riyuro!”

He almost jumped in place, busy as he was, he didn't even notice that annoying pest sneaking up on him... he really lost his edge out here.

“Tsk! What do you want brat? I am busy!”

He said as he kept trying to remove the fishbones from between his teeth with little success seeing how his claws were just too thick to be useful.

“Oh sorry... ah, do you need help?”

She asked, judging by her tone he had to be looking miserable, or comical, or a mix of the two, in that moment.

Seeing how this was going nowhere he just gave up.

“For the wrath of Pu, just remove these damned things from my mouth, I swear I am never again going to eat fish!”

He lamented as he offered his open mouth to her.

She gave a curious look inside before carefully putting her small hand inside and starting to remove the fishbones one by one with her thin digits.

“Ah, I actually never realized how many teeth you had and how sharp they are.”

He rolled his eyes at her comment, waiting for her to remove her hand from his mouth before speaking.

“Well, what did you expect? My kind eats rocks and minerals since the age we can walk, if we didn’t have good teeth, we would not be talking right now.”

He said before opening his maw wide once more for Lakys to enter.

“Well since we are kinda stuck here, I am just going to ask, what do you want to do now that you are free and can’t return back to the Azerlisia mountains?”

She asked as he just quirked one of his eyebrows.

He waited for his mouth to be freed once more before speaking.

“What do you even mean? You are my jailor remember, it is obvious I have to stick around.”

He said earning a smirk from the blonde human as she went for the remaining fishbones.

“C’mon, you know I would never force you to go anywhere, you are free to do as you wish... though, if you would like to stick around until you decide what you want to do... how about joining my Adventurer team?”

She asked with some hesitation and no small amount of hope she was unsuccessfully trying to hide.

He just blinked, his eyes hardly seeing much with all this light.

“Here! All done!”

Lakyus said as she apparently removed the last fishbone before throwing it away and reaching for the edge of the lake to wash her hands from his saliva.

He swirled his tongue around trying to feel if those infernal things were all gone for real.

Once he made sure that, indeed, they were gone, he turned his full attention back on the human he had come to call friend in the last month or so.

“Well, what is all this about again? And what the hell is an adventurer?”

He questioned making the girl giggle a little much to his irritation.

“What is so funny?!”

He asked vehemently, it was true he had no longer any need for his pride as he was not representing his kind anymore, though, he would let hell freeze over before he let someone laugh in his face at his expense!

“Sorry, sorry, it is just... you are not the first to ask today.”

Lakyus waved away his annoyance as she apologized as she tried calming down her giggles.

Once she composed herself again, she immediately answered his question. And what an answer it was, he had never even thought of such a concept before... it seemed so... absurd in his mind... he was used to living into a society ruled through strength, it was kind of impossible for him to fathom why someone would actively remove themselves from a possible position of power just to... do such seemingly pointless activities.

“So... these adventurers are pretty much paid to exterminate other races who get in the way of humans, or just act as guards, or just do chores, as long as they are paid?”

Lakyus seemed horrified at his summary and soon enough went on a tangent about how she wanted to use that position to help other races and humanity come together and join together in cooperation.

It all sounded as absurd as it sounded, though, he would never say so aloud and would probably attack however did so.

That is because he knew who he was talking to. This was Lakyus, the same human who arrived in a war-torn and divided country with three races with centuries of bad blood between them. And she left with a unified country with solid agreement and intention

of turning themselves around and create something better by working together rather than slaughtering each other.

If there was someone who could actually do something like this, that someone was the human before him. So no, even if it sounded absurd, he would not laugh for he knew who stood before him.

“Are you sure you want my help? I am going to be sincere, with all this light, I can see almost nothing during the day, I am afraid I will be of little use apart from during the night.”

He admitted to a horrified Lakyus.

“WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING BEFORE! COME! LET'S SEE IF SATORU CAN HELP!”

Her shout almost deafened him due to her intensity. He felt her hands wrap around his arm as she tried to drag him behind her.

“That won't be necessary, Lakyus.”

The two of them stopped in their tracks as the familiar, cold, and deep voice of the man known as Satoru interrupted them. If Riyuro didn't know any better, he would think the man was some kind of devil to appear every time his name was mentioned.

“I was actually searching for you as Renner asked me about your whereabouts.”

He continued calmly before shifting his gaze toward Riyuro who felt his blood grow cold the longer the masked caster stared at him.

“It seems you are gathering members for your new project... allow me to show my support.”

As the monstrous caster spoke those words, his right hand disappeared in a vortex of darkness only to come out just a few instants later with an object in his grasp.

The black caster advanced toward the two of them as Riyuro had to suppress any of his instincts telling him to run.

“Here, try these goggles on.”

Satoru said offering Riyuro the object he was grasping in his hand.

The Quagoa forced a trembling hand to accept the gift, whatever it was, to not displease the caster, making sure to avoid touching his gloved hand while he grabbed the object.

He looked at the weird object resembling a belt with two large slates of black glass encased in it. It took him only a moment to realize how the object was supposed to be equipped.

Though, he doubted the form of his skull would make the object usable, he tried it on anyway as he wasn't eager to displease the monster before him.

Much to his shock, the moment he brought the object to his face, it immediately morphed to perfectly fit on his body. He was so shocked that it took him almost thirty seconds to realize he could see perfectly as if he was in a lightless cave.

“I... can see...”

He uttered those words, probably sounding like a fool.

“Umu, good, I hoped the enchantment would work... now, consider this my personal patronage toward your little group... I can't wait to see what you all will accomplish.”

The caster said darkly as he left the scene followed by Lakys, leaving Riyuro behind.

Why did he just feel like he sold his soul to a devil right now?

A.N.

Oh, sweet god, I am done! Don't take this the wrong way, this has nothing to do with the story but I am so overworked right now. August and September are the worst months ever for my work and everyone just decided to go on vacation or get sick, so we are pulling in overtime like crazy right now, and I have barely the time to eat and sleep.

Well, enough of my depressing thought!

Lakys is finally getting her canon self to slap her in the face and get her started on her journey as an adventurer! Only thing is! What even is this team?! How did we get so off the rails?!

Also, trivia, I myself suffer from motion sickness, so I am with Renner for this chapter, poor girl needs a break and a nice cuddle session with Satoru.

Hope to hear your opinions, idea, and theories in a comment/review!

Till next time! Stay safe!