

"Normal speech"

'Thought'

(Silent magic)

[Normal magic]

{Change of location, time or POV}

Hey good fellows... I just want to say this, what the hell was Maru smoking when he thought out the Abelion Hills?! I was researching them and the races inhabiting them to make sure everything I have planned come out according to canon. And... there are 26 fucking demi-human races! 26! Fucking hell! I already tried to avoid having the lizardman involved in Azerlisia to avoid having more than 4 races involved at a time, and now they drop 26 on my head!

And yeah, if you are wondering, that is also part of why this chapter took so long. Mostly because I had to do a lot of ground work and research for this arc. Hell, I even created a whole word file only for those races and the details on them to try and stay accurate to canon. I never had to do anything like this before, but there is no way I can memorize all the details about them, and checking the wiki for every doubt is a pain.

So yeah, 10 hours of my life just went down the drain skimming through the wiki of 26 races and creating a report as if I was still in Uni studying for an exam.

Okay, rant over, but I had to take this off my chest, for real.

Chapter 103: First Contact

She slithered out of her hiding place, the night sky managing to hid her form well, mimicking herself among the tall grass and bushes.

As a member of the royal guard, it was their duty to make sure the scavenger groups were safe. In such dangerous and unstable times, it was imperative for food to not run out. Their numbers had already been depleted by the Night Scourge, and successively, the war, resources were already running scares for everyone, and her kind was easy picking for becoming food for other races.

They could not afford to be careless. Wise King Beebeeyee ordered them all to bury themselves deep during the day and only scavenge during the night. It cut their losses greatly, but it also limited their supplies by much. Luckily their Wise King has managed to bring the Pandex on their side. The other insect race had never been as numerous as the Zern, but the initial chaos and brutality of the war had caused their number to decrease dangerously toward extinction, barely numbering over a thousand nowadays.

Even though their species did not interbreed, they were still most similar in culture, the only major difference being Pandex being matriarchal in nature, due to their lack of females, which was a mirror to the Zern's patriarchy.

Pandex had a better time seeing in the dark and also distinguishing between herbs thanks to their greater eyesight, both their races' situations had been greatly improved since then, earning the King his current monicker. And if she had to be completely honest, she saw how their prince looked at the Grand Mother of the Pandex, and she had smelt a familiar dose of

pheromones from the young prince as well. A first, and a welcomed turn indicating the prince had finally reached his maturity. For all Zerns and Pandex did not breed, nothing could stop a political union from taking place. But that was not something a guard like her should ponder or worry herself with.

She needed to make sure enough resources were gathered to safeguard their ruler's health and prosperity.

Something caught her attention from the corner of her eye. Zerns could not distinguish colors, but they had a very apt perception for light. And on the horizon, here was light, and it was clearly too soon for dawn.

One of the demi-humans tribes that could not see in the dark came to mind, few as they were, but that made no sense with the direction. The Zerns and Pandex had already been pushed north enough, every other demi-human should be south of there.

Her gaze sharpened, she turned around slithering back into her tunnel.

“Something is wrong, recall everyone!”

She ordered one of the Zern soldiers who darted away down the tunnels.

The insectoid heteromorph turned around, coming back out of the tunnel, she observed with her claws ready just in case. She observed in silence as the scavengers were notified, and groups returned to base one by one, digging into the earth. Even after the last one left, she stayed there, mimicking herself among the grass. As a royal guard, the safeness of royalty was her primary concern, and she needed to know whatever was coming and report to her Wise King.

“We got a curious ladybug here.”

Her entire body froze over as she heard someone speak from behind her. Her first instinct would have been to turn, but the sharp metal currently placed on her throat made her body desist from such natural reactions.

She felt another blade prick her back, as if she wasn't already in a terrible position, that eliminated all avenues of escape that wouldn't result in her death. Yet, what kind of demi-human could be so skilled? No one but a very skilled Armat or Spidan could ever hope to get the jump on her like this, without even being detected.

“Seems like it sister... but I still hate how slimy it is.”

A voice identical to the first said, though the royal guard would have not recognized her as a different individual from the first if not for the fact her words implied so.

She felt soft claws grab her arms, bringing them behind her back before something was wrapped around them tying them together before she was forcefully brought to her feet.

“Listen, you are a prisoner now, we were instructed to bring you to the Evil Lord, so don't oppose resistance and we won't harm you.”

One of the figures was finally revealed to her. not that it helped much, since the Zern never saw anyone remotely similar to the one standing before her.

There were already few demi-humans wearing any kind of armor, since many a species already had their exoskeleton, and the few remaining, like the Bafolk, had fur all over their bodies.

This one, was very strange, barely any trace of fur apart from the top of the head, and the rest of the body seemed made out of squishy flesh. Not an intimidating sight in the slightest, considering the fact they were even shorter than she was. If she wasn't just subdued in a most embarrassing way, she would have thought these creatures quite harmless.

“Move it.”

The one behind her pushed her forward with a slap. The Zern obeyed without saying anything. She was already lost, her only shame was not being able to report her findings to the Wise King, even though her race would certainly be alarmed after others reported what had them retreating.

Right now, she could only comply and see where this went. Out of curiosity, she even tried straining her arms but, as expected, whatever was wrapped around her arms did not relent in the slightest.

The one creature in front of her guided her toward the light from the horizon, and even if this one was giving the Zern guard her back, she was quite sure that if she lunged, she would have had a blade stuck in her throat or back before she could do much, courtesy of the one in front of her or behind her.

They proceeded in silence for what seemed like endless hours for the anxious Zern. And ironically, sooner than she would have liked, they had reached their destination.

She would see it, in the distance, a large group of creatures scurrying around, not unlike Zerns in their underground domain. But there was something different, something almost...

rhythmical to it all, as large structures were erected from nowhere in a matter of minutes.

As they approached a lone group of armored beings stood in their path.

“Halt there! Identify yourselves!”

One of them cried out bringing his spear forward.

“Weren’t you notified? Lord Satoru sent us scouting... and we found what we were searching for, so lower that stick unless you want to lose a couple fingers and have to explain yourself to him.”

Her escort said, and for some reason, the royal guard could imagine her being quite unimpressed from the display. Though, this also clarified their position. Whoever these beings were, they clearly were not here with good intentions, they were sent scouting and even ordered to capture anyone they found or, in the worst case, specifically a Zern, which would mean they were already aware of their home’s position... she needed to find out more, and eventually try anything she could to mislead them.

Also, whoever this Satoru was, the mere mention of their name was enough to make all the guards back off... maybe it was their king? Could this be another invasion from a foreign race? But why?... And who?

She ended up being escorted through what she could only describe as a large settlement, the likes she only saw races like the Bafolk, Snakemen, and Blader have. Not to account for their numbers, which clearly were capable of matching some of the most populous races inhabiting the Abelion Hills, and they all seemed to be armed in some way.

A truly dangerous situation... to come so close to the Zerns' new home, in number that would outmatch them even before the Night Scourge came.

"I received an answer from big sister, the Boss is waiting in his tent and wants to see the prisoner immediately."

The one behind her said in a monotone voice much similar to the one of the being in front of her. and considering they did not exchange a single word all the way here, she must deduce that this race is capable of mental communication like the Magelos. Which made their already dangerous status rise sky-high if they could wield magic of similar level to them, and possessed such numbers that dwarfed one of the strongest races inhabiting the Hills.

As she was escorted around, she received many different gazes, from those who were curious, to those who were disgusted, or even fearful. It was an unfamiliar sensation, to be judged on appearance alone, most demi-humans did not do so, you are either food or predator regardless of your look. But in the end, no matter their opinion, they were still servants, and the same way Zern would obey their king, these ones will obey theirs. It was a law of all races, and so she already knew their opinion was of no concern.

She was soon brought into a tent larger than others.

She immediately felt it, as soon as she entered, a chill unlike any other. Her mouth immediately dried as her muscles began twitching with a sensation of wrongness, as if she should not be here at all.

Her eyes immediately darted to the figure dominating the scene. Even though there were countless curious and eye catching things

in this tent, her eyes felt compelled to focus on one thing, or better say individual, alone.

A Zern's eyes could not perceive color like many other races did, but the figure before her was emanating a darkness that her eyes had never been subjected before, to the point it was starting to hurt her as if she was looking at the sun itself, or its opposite in this case.

Dread built inside her body, every instinct in her was screaming at her to escape, run away as far as she could from this... this... monster.

Never before in her life did she, a royal guard, ever feel so hopeless and terrified, and she faced many a skilled demi-human in battle.

And yet, this one being, who did not even utter a word, had just shaken her world with their mere existence.

Before she realized it, she was brought to her knees by the sheer pressure she was feeling on herself. Any thought of escape long gone from her mind, as all it remained was the hopeless certainty of her incoming end.

“Greetings, I am the leader of this expedition, you may call me Satoru, a magic caster from the northern kingdom of Re-Estize, it is a shame this first encounter must happen under such dire... circumstances but, as you may know, the reputation of demi-humans precedes you.”

The demi-human did not know how to respond to this monster... how, how could the ones next to her not fall to their knees before such a being?! Did they not avert the overwhelming aura of death around him?!

“T-this one’s name i-is Beebeebie, p-please spare me oh Great Lord... I intended no ill will upon you...”

To be reduced to begging, such a dishonor for a royal guard such as herself.

She heard a muffled chuckle, prompting her to avert her gaze just for a moment, noticing for the first time two far more smaller creatures in the tent alongside the incarnation of darkness. The slightly taller of the two being was the one trying to stop her chuckling just to receive an elbow in the ribs courtesy of the smaller one.

“You caused me no offense, after all, I am the one invading these lands... but I am curious, I am not familiar with your race.”

Her eyes immediately returned to the overwhelming presence before her. initially, she thought of misleading the possible enemy away from her people and lands, but right now... she could not fathom lying in the face of such a being... what if he recognized her lies and grew irate with her people? The Zerns would be done for...

No, if such a being wished to occupy these lands, her race could only hope to live on and find a new home, and she imagined her Wise King would think the same... as long as they gave no motive to this one to cause them harm... they could survive.

“I am a member of the Zern race oh Great One... we are a peaceful race that only acts in self-defense, we beseech your mercy... please allow us to leave these alnds you desire... we do not wish for any conflict to occur between us.”

She prostrated herself before the almighty monster before her, a most unseemly sight for a royal guard.

She awaited the answer of the incarnation of darkness who seemed to glance for a moment toward the two figures next to him before addressing her again. The gems in the mask shrouding his features shining ever brighter like lone stars in the night sky.

“You speak of such radical matters with such certainty, are you perhaps the leader of your race? For only a leader could decide on such matters.”

It was a valid point. She had been too fixated on safeguarding the royal guard in the face of such catastrophe that she had made such a foolish mistake.

“I apologize, I do not possess the power to make such decisions... but I am a Royal Guard in service of my King, and knowing his mind makes me certain he has the wellbeing of us all on the forefront of his mind... so no matter where we will need to go to live in peace, the Zerns will never lose the way as long as we follow our King.”

Silence fell in the room after Beebeebie's proclamation, she could not help but sing the praise of their Wise King.

One of the shorter beings moved toward the giant form of the incarnation of darkness seemingly wanting to say something before stopping herself in her tracks.

“You said your name was Beebeebie... it is not everyday I meet someone who can show such loyalty to their leader, not for foolish reasons such as power, but out of sheer admiration and love... you have impressed me, and I find myself curious to speak with a leader who could instill such loyalty... so, you will be freed, and you will present an invitation to your king for a parley... tell him that Marquis Satoru of Re-Estize desires an audience with him.”

Before Beebeebie could fully comprehend those words, she felt something behind her snap, and she suddenly felt the pressure on her arms release, freeing her.

“I-I thank you G-great One... I will deliver your message to my King as you spoke it... but, I do not intend to offend, may I know what race should I introduce your force as?”

She asked, trying to squeeze just a little more details out of him, everything she could present to her king would be vital for him to make the right choice.

“Umu, Re-Estize is a human kingdom just north of the Abelion Hills.”

So.... These were humans? Beebeebie observed the figures with new eyes. She heard of the race, a dangerous bunch capable of competing even with the strongest of the Abelion Hills’ races, but she never saw one with her own eyes before. And considering the dread this one managed to invoke with his mere presence, she now understood why Magelos and Bafolk never managed to break into human territory if not for small and quick raids.

“We will be waiting here for three days, in respect of your King, we will not advance further... Tia, Tina, bring this one back were you found her.”

The two, now revealed humans, who captured immediately stood at attention, appearing on both of Beebeebie’s sides.

“As you wish Master.”

“We will do as commanded.”

The two said with the same emotionless monotone they used the entire way here.

Beebeeb was escorted out of the tent, and she felt like she could breath freely again, something she didn't notice she started having difficulty with until she was freed from such oppressive aura.

Considering everything she had seen, this could have ended much worse, if humans were alike to some of the most belligerent demi-human races, she had no doubts the Zerns and Pandex would have been wiped out.

Now... now she could only lay her trust on her Wise King, for he will certainly make the right decision for them all, and usher them toward a bright future.

{The Next Day}

{Satoru's P.O.V.}

“Could they be any more rambunctious? We stop for a day and they treat it like a holiday...”

The masked undead mumbled under his breath listening to the high-volume voices coming from all around his tent. They made him wish he used the silencing spell not only around the bedroom area but the living space as well, alas, a good leader should always be aware of everything going on around them, so he could not afford being deaf on purpose.

He looked down at the logistic reports Renner had been giving him a help with, honestly, if it wasn't for that girl, he could never have made sense of them. Even in Seven Hands, logistics have always been Hilma's thing. He could go over balances for shops no problem... but everything else was outside his area of expertise.

But he could not bring himself to waking up the princess today. Both her and Lakys had been up late due to the twins capturing

the first demi-human they came across in these lands, and youngsters needed their rest. Also, he wasn't nearly as heartless as to ruin such a cute scene he stumbled upon when he first visited the two. He never took Renner for a hugger, but seeing how the princess had latched on the blonde adventurer could not help but bring an impossible smile to his face.

That girl had really come a long way since he met her. it was truly a wonderful thing, and it made him feel warm inside. The joy of having friends was something he could not compare with anything in the world.

And he did his part. Hilma, Evileye, even Gazef, those were friends that he would have not seen out of place in the old Ainz Ooal Gown guild. Gazef would have certainly found Touch Me and Takemi very much agreeable. Hilma would have been straight at home with Punitto, Ankoro, Buku, and Yamaiko. As for Evileye, he had the impression her and Tabula would have been quite the research buddies and for some reason he could have seen Ulbert taking a liking to her too, not that the old goat would ever admit as much.

Alas, he was alone in this new world. But still, even without anything but his memories, he felt less alone than when all his guildmates had quit the game and he was left in an empty base. Sure Nazarick was nice and full of good memories, but it was also painfully empty...

He shook the depressing thought out of his head, there was no time for contemplating old memories.

“Should I have them quiet down Master?”

The one to ask that was none other than the former leader of Ijanya, Tira, who was currently sitting on the ground, laying her back against his leg. This one continued to quietly confuse him, maybe he was just a distrusting man by nature, but he could not imagine anyone would be so compelled to switching up their loyalties after growing up in an indoctrinating environment, and yet, he was proven wrong at every turn. He did not perceive any inkling of distrust or treachery, and like Punitto always said, if your hypothesis gets proven wrong at every turn, maybe it is time to accept what reality presents, unlikely as it may seem.

He was also quite baffled by the sheer resilience this one had without possessing any gears. He had been undead for years now, so he hardly noticed at first, but it was not uncommon for this girl to go without sleeping for up to three days, which was kind of insane and he could definitely think of some people who would have loved her for it back in the Japan of 2138.

Though, her sisters did not seem cut from the same cloth judging by the fact the remaining two younger sisters were currently sleeping it off in the corner of the tent, which was ironic to say since they were a triplet.

Apparently Tira had noticed the direction of his gaze as she glared at her sisters sleeping silently side to side.

“What an embarrassing sight to present the Master, I will discipline them immediately, just give the order... those two have gotten lazy ever since they started to work for such a benevolent Master who graciously has no qualms with sleeping times... then again, as their superior, I should be the one receiving the punishment for their misdemeanor.”

She apparently misunderstood his intentions, reaffirming herself as a discipline-addicted junkie.. which maybe was the reason behind her sudden shift of loyalty if that was indeed one of the rules that had been inculcated in her brain.

“My Lord, unidentified creatures are approaching from the south!”

He heard one of his subordinates report from outside the tent, something that had always baffled him, why not just enter?

But anyway, if they were who he believed they were, this would be a most fortuitous opportunity for an excuse on why he did not finish the reports currently on his desk. For a moment he thought about waking up Renner and Lakyus, but he dismissed the thought. This was his expedition and Renner just came along to represent the crown, on paper, but really, he imagined she just wanted to get out of the capital after being stuck there for more than a year.

Also, he could negotiate with some demi-humans just fine. He really had no qualms about killing all of them if it was needed, but if he could avoid the hassle, he would gladly jump at the chance, not counting having someone who was well versed in these lands on his side would be a great boon.

“I will be meeting them myself.”

He said loud enough for the guard behind the tent’s entrance to hear him before standing up and feeling the familiar sensation of someone slipping in his shadow.

He passed the sleeping twins and, after hesitating a moment, created a sheet he used to cover their bodies. After all winter was

coming, and he would not want to have them fall ill for stupid reasons.

From there he proceeded to being escorted all the way to the south of the camp, from which a bunch of demi-humans were visible in the distance. His sight confirmed the presence of the Zerns but also an unfamiliar group of demi-humans quite similar but clearly not the same.

He waited patiently as the group got closer and closer to them, noticing how some of the guards he had posted grew quite nervous, those were the limits of having a force of volunteers, you just got what you got, luckily for him, this force was more for show than anything else. After all, if it really came to it, he would be the one fighting and ending it.

“Do not point your weapons at them, if there will be any hostilities, I will be the one taking care of it.”

He ordered, hoping to put the guards at ease, and judging by the looks of surprise, relief, or admiration he received, it was the right move.

In just a few more minutes the group of demi-humans stopped ten meters apart from his own.

They numbered around fifty in total, he immediately noticed how two of them, one from each race, was carrying what seemed to be two giant larvae, or maggots, one crystal-blue and the other coral in color. He might be undead, but the sight of those oversized bugs still made him quite uneasy and slightly disgusted. He really hoped they weren't some kind of offering of peace, as he would really rather not touch something like that.

“Greetings, Marquis Satoru of Re-Estize, my name is Beebeeyee, King of the Zerns.”

Much to his surprise the one to... talk? Was none other than the coral colored maggot, even though he had no idea from which part of his body the masculine voice was coming from.

“Greetings, I am the Grand Mother of the Pandex, my species does not utilize a naming convention, so you may address me by my title.”

The second one to greet him was none other than the crystal-blue slightly smaller maggot who possessed a feminine voice if her title was not enough to clarify her gender.

“It is a pleasure meeting you both, though, allow me a question, I was only aware of the Zerns’ presence, so I would like to inquire, for the good faith of future negotiations, what the relationships between your two races is.”

He tried to seek clarification of why exactly two races had presented themselves when he only had an invitation for one of them.

“In these chaotic times, the Zerns and Pandex have come together as one to weather the storm which is coming... Seeing how these talks may shape the future of the Zerns, it would have been in bad faith to not also invite a representative of the Pandex... if this caused offense, I very much apologize.”

The King of the Zerns explained making Satoru immediately wave away his concerns.

“It is quite alright, if your two races have indeed come together as one group it would indeed have been a poor choice to only speak with the representative of one of them and not both.”

Satoru said, meaning every word, as in his mind this was quite a good way to catch two birds with one stone.

“I would ask that you select ten of your guards to escort you, I am afraid the tent I have prepared is not large enough for so many... I do not know how it works among demi-humans but humans consider the parley an untouchable event in which violence could never come to be, while many might not extend the curtesy to demi-humans I am of the opinion that every being capable of rational thinking has such a right of safeness under parley... this all to say that there is nothing to fear and no harm will come to you under my banner.”

He awaited for the two rulers to decide on which members of their race to bring with them before they were escorted to the negotiation tent he had prepared for such an occasion.

He sat on his reinforced chair, which was positioned in front of the his guests, though, now that he saw who he was dealing with... he waved his hand, making the chairs disappear, replaced by large cushions.

“My apologies, I am unfamiliar with your physiology, I hope that such accommodations are to your satisfaction.”

He could not say what everyone was thinking, but they had apparently frozen solid at his show of magic. That was till Beebeeyee jumped off with unexpected agility from the hands of his attendant and laid on the cushion.

“It is quite alright, this is more comfortable than most of our usual accommodations... though, I must say, Marquis Satoru... I never saw such magic before... even my son, who is quite skilled,

having reached the 4th tier of magic cannot do anything remotely similar or making it look so effortless.”

Satoru listened, taking note of the king’s son promising aptitude for magic. Not that he planned on taking any more apprentices, but he also would take note of every being who might turn out useful and outside the norm.

“High praise, I thank you King Beebeeyee, I come from a faraway land in the east, and I have noticed that Creation Magic is not a very known branch of magic in this part of the world, such a shame...”

While they were talking the second ruler had been placed on the other cushion, their guards laying back awaiting their leaders command.

“I wouldn’t mind continuing with pleasantries, but I think we have more urgent matters to attend .”

The crystal-blue maggot said.

“Forgive the bluntness of the young Marquis Satoru, but even if poorly said... I agree that we should address what we have come here to discuss.”

The king said making Satoru wonder if the two were playing roles, a common practice among salesmen of his time, playing on the psychology of people and using their internal biases.

“To be completely direct, what are humans trying to achieve by coming here?”

The king maggot asked something Satoru could not interpret as anything but a direct question lacking any second end.

“It is quite simple, I am leading this expedition I myself organized with the intention of taking over the entirety of the Abelion Hills, from the border of my kingdom, to the coast in the south.”

He saw no reason to lie and so spoke the truth. Silence descended in the tent for a good minute before the king spoke again.

“I see... it is a lofty goal, we have no intention of opposing you and your army, we just ask to be left free to leave the land you desire for yourself without bloodshed.”

That was... not what he expected. All the demi-humans he previously encountered always had a sort of stubborn self-destructive pride to them... to meet one so meek and agreeable, seemed quite wrong.

“I would not be opposed to that idea, though, I have no intention to evict you from these lands if you swear allegiance to me and recognize my dominion... I have treated with demi-human races in the past, and have business deals going back some years with them, I would treat you no differently than any other subject of mine.”

He tried to test the waters to see if he could elicit some kind of prideful reaction from this maggot king that had seemed unflappable till now.

“I see... I mean no offense by it, but we would still prefer to leave.”

Satoru could not say from his tone alone if the king found his proposal offensive or just untrustworthy, and there weren't really any expression to go off... was this how other felt speaking with him?

“No offense taken, though, may I ask why?”

He tried to probe the heteromorph for more information, making him slightly squirm.

“The current situation in the Abelion Hills has been tense, and it is all coming to a very unpleasant culmination very soon... we had already discussed the possibility of leaving due to it regardless of your coming.”

Oh, that was interesting... he had not heard of it, though he had a slight idea on what caused this sudden unrest. After all he had been part of the cause.

“I see, you are a wise ruler King Beebeeyee, wiser than many I met before, not many would put the wellbeing of their own subject over their own pride and arrogance.”

He praised trying to butter up the maggot king a bit before milking all the information he had.

“It is a father’s duty to look after his children.”

Satoru did not know if the king was just using a figure of speech or his subjects were literally his children considering the absurd reproduction rates of insects. But regardless, he needed to know more.

“Umu, I can understand the sentiment, for what is a king without his own subjects? Though, I am quite interested of hearing what is going on in these lands, it must be quite serious if two entire races were pondering leaving their homes for the unknown.”

His inquiry went without an answer for some time, to the point he was starting to wonder if the king caught on to his intent.

“It all started many months ago, when the Night Scourge came... every race was attacked in the night, no one was capable of

fighting back whatever it was... all we could do was fall back west... both Zerns and Pandex hid underground and were spared from the worst of it, but we heard many races were pushed to the point of abandoning their lands and being forced into attacking the human lands to the west for food... all those who left never returned.”

Satoru listened carefully, he was probably referring to the raids of the Black Scripture to push the demi-humans into attacking the Holy Kingdom. But he had no intention of revealing that of course. And he knew firsthand why none of those who invaded returned.

“The Night Scourge seemed to have stopped after a while, and to this day none have returned to the lands east of here... many leaders and warriors either died to the Scourge or never returned from the human lands, and the remaining races found themselves without leaders and weakened, with no longer clear territories and much closer to each other than before, and to top it all off, winter is approaching and every food reserve they made have had is long lost... it was only natural war would ensue from this sequence of disaster.”

He didn't say anything, after all it was just a natural outcome of the events described... and a good occasion to put an end to this conquest of his without having to go from race to race.

“The Bafolk, Magelos, Orthrous, Horuner, Van Un, and Zoastia bent together into an alliance meant to eradicate every other race and use them as food to survive the winter... I have no doubt that they will end up turning on each other the moment spring arrives... those races are too proud and arrogant to ever sustain a

long term peace among each other, even less while living near each other.”

Satoru did not say anything as the king didn't seem to be done.

“To contrast them a second alliance was born. Snakemen, Armat, Blader, Centaur, Caben, Spidan, Stone Eaters, Spriggan, and Naga Raja joined a collective resistance against those races... while other races decided to stay out of the conflict for one reason or another like Zerns and Pandex.”

Beebeeyee concluded as a plan was already forming in Satoru's mind. But first he had to make sure of something...

“So, you fear that if you submit under me, I would use you as fodder against the other demi-humans, right?”

The king didn't answer, but it was not a hard conclusion to reach. If he was anyone else, that would have indeed been a likely possibility, luckily for them... he was Satoru, and had no need for fodder.

“Let me assure you, that is not my intention... I am a magic caster of the 6th tier, I have no need for fodder, able and capable subjects on the other hand... you can never have enough of those.”

He knew that he would not simply convince them with words. And while many in the room seemed shocked at his revelation of his power, no one seemed to believe his words.

“I promise you that if you aid me, none of your race will lose their lives... and when I will have brought the other races under my domain, I will take back the eastern lands that were taken from you... I will repel this Night Scourge and restore your territories.”

As expected, making more outlandish claims did not impress any of them... but that was the point, to make someone conceded to your rules, you should offer them a deal that would seemingly offer no losses either way, seemingly putting yourself at a disadvantage or impossible situation.

“I swear I will keep my word... and if I don’t, you may leave anytime you wish, no, I promise I will not touch your current land... you will continue inhabiting this place for as long as you wish... though, if I keep all the promises I made, you will become my subjects, does that sound like a fair deal?”

He offered the Zern King his hand, even though that so human gesture made no sense with the race he was negotiating with. But retracting it seemed like a show of weakness, so he awkwardly remained like this, arm extended, hoping the king would soon let him know if his wordplay worked, just so to release him from the awkwardness.

“Marquis Satoru, you... are a strange being... a powerful one, but a strange one nonetheless... are all humans like you?”

Satoru took the chance to lay back and retract his hand naturally with a chuckle escaping his nonexistent lips.

“I am afraid I am quite the odd one even among humans, but anyone who knows me can attest... I never before took back my word or broke a promise I made.”

He assured the maggot king.

“You would have to do much, while we would have to do nothing... a strange deal indeed... I wonder why you are so fixated on having the Zerns and Pandex under your rule... what would such a race be useful for to you?”

The question was a possibility, this king was perceptive, even if not enough to understand his motives, but that might have been quite impossible without the right information.

“If someone wish to become a Leader, they must demonstrate their leadership is worth something to those he wish to lead, and not the other way around... and as I said, you can never have enough capable subjects.”

He answered truthfully, as that was a philosophy he always found apt to a successful career and a standard he had applied to himself back in the day of Yggdrasil and Ainz Ooal Gown.

“So, do we have a deal?”

A.N.

And here we are! As a wise man known as Apollosynthesis said... there is no party like an Abelion party! And man... this party is about to start alright... prepare the oil-ehm! I meant the tissues-no, that sounds even worse... just prepare! Okay?

Jokes aside, gawd damn there are so many factors to consider when writing this, mostly due to the absurd amount of different races.

But also, hype for Satoru, as for once, he got a plan and wasn't just pushed into a situation he had little to no control over! That must be a first!

As always, I hope you all enjoyed!

Let me know your theories and ideas with a comment / review!

PS: Yes, Lakyus is in her bodypillow phase (and by that I mean she is the bodypillow)

Till next time! Stay safe!