



The Legend of Sun Knight Volume 7: **Ending the Demon King, Part One**

Original novel in Chinese by: [御我 \(Yu Wo\)](#)

Translated by [Prince Revolution](#)

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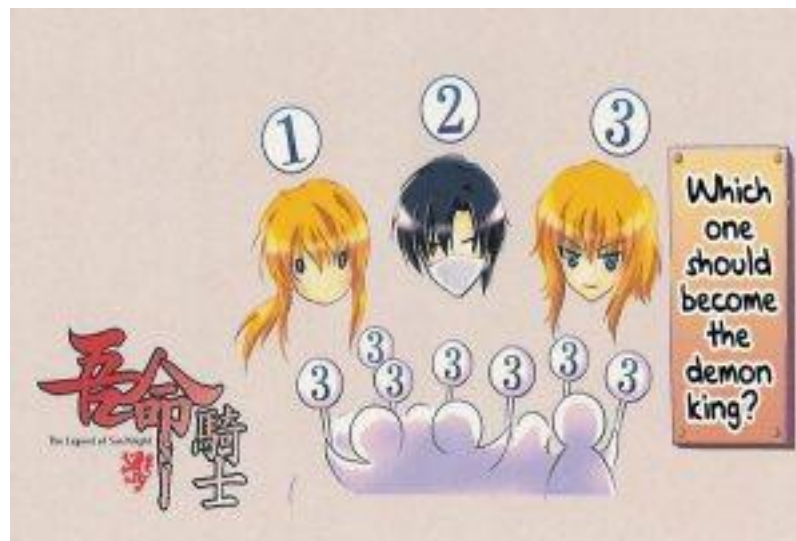
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The Legend of Sun Knight Volume 7: **Ending the Demon King, Part 1**

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- **Prologue:** Insanity
- **Chapter #1:** "Revealing the Truth Behind the Demon King"
- **Chapter #2:** "The Demon King's Eyes Open"
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- **Shared Rule #7:** "When the Sun Knight and the Judgment Knight Have a Falling Out, Follow the Sun Knight's Commands – Unless the Sun Knight Has Not Upheld His Duty."
- **Epilogue:** Character Introductions



Prologue: Insanity

An enormous amount of holy light engulfed the entire conference room. Although the rays of light were piercing, none of the people present closed their eyes. Instead, they did their utmost to widen their eyes, afraid to even blink.

All of them stared in concentration at Grisia Sun.

He lay on top of the conference table, his white hair splayed across the surface. His clothes were completely stained with blood. It contrasted against his white hair and clothes, the blood being a red deep enough to shock any who laid eyes on him. However, what was even more frightening were those blue eyes of his. They were open but lacking in luster.

The Twelve Holy Knights... now only ten... were all fixated on those blue eyes.

Enveloped by holy light, the blue eyes slowly closed. Upon seeing this, everyone became elated but then became even more nervous. The eyes hadn't opened back up.

They started to panic.

Elmairy was the first to yell anxiously, "What's going on? Did Resurrection f-fa..." *Fail*? He could not even complete his sentence. He was afraid that if he uttered it aloud, it would become true!

The Pope did not answer. He only focused on continuously releasing holy light. When they saw this, no-one dared to disturb him and could only stare uneasily at Grisia's face, praying with all their might to the God of Light for his eyes to quickly open.

With each second that passed by, everyone became more and more nervous. There was still no indication that those closed eyes would open again.

The amount of holy light gradually dropped and the Pope's face turned ashen. Even though he continued to pour out holy light, his expression and his complexion indicated he was pushing his limits.

Suddenly Lesus bellowed, "Grisia Sun! You're not allowed to sleep anymore. Wake up!"

At first, they were surprised by his shout, but then they immediately followed him and started yelling too.

"Sun, you can't die!"

"Sun, you must not abandon us! You said that the Twelve Holy Knights would never abandon the Twelve Holy Knights!"

"Without the Sun Knight, we will no longer have a path to follow!"

"Sun, the blueberry pie is done!"

"..."

Everyone turned in unison to look at Ecilan.

When he saw everyone stare at him, Ecilan was a little at a loss, but he hesitantly explained, "I, I just thought this would be the most effective."

"Right!" Realization suddenly dawned upon everyone.

Ceo immediately turned and shouted by Grisia's ear, "Sun! Judgment is angry! He says that if you don't wake up, he's going to confine you for ten years!"

Georgo also shouted, "Sun, there's a super hot babe who's not wearing anything!"

Finally, even the Pope joined in. "Sun, if you don't wake up right now, I'm going to deduct sixteen years worth of your salary!"

Whether the Pope had stumbled upon the right method to wake him or whether it was a coincidence, Grisia actually moved. Even though only his eyelashes fluttered, a movement so slight that they probably wouldn't have noticed if they hadn't all been focused on his eyes, at this moment, such a small movement was enough to quiet everyone down in an instant.

All of them waited, their eyes wide...

Suddenly, Grisia sucked in a large breath, then bent over and continuously coughed in pain.

"Sun woke up!"

It was unknown who shouted it first. Everyone else followed him and started celebrating, jumping around and yelling like a bunch of crazy people having a party. They displayed not an ounce of dignity normally associated with the appearances of the Twelve Holy Knights. The only person whose expression had not changed for the better was Lesus. He carefully examined Grisia's body.

From his outer appearance, it didn't look like he had lost anything, but that was not enough assurance. Some things, even if they were lost, could not be detected from the outside, similar to the previous time when Grisia lost his sight.

He opened his mouth and asked, "Sun? Can you hear me?"

Although it was still unknown whether or not Grisia had heard, everyone else had. They all stopped. In a moment, the happiness on their faces vanished without a trace. Their focus returned to Grisia. They only saw that he had already stopped coughing, yet his breathing was still heavy and quick. As he was lying on his side and his white hair was all over the place, they could not see his face.

"Grisia?" Lesus asked quietly.

Grisia turned his head slightly toward Lesus. His expression was still clouded.

So he can hear? Lesus's worries lessened by one. He even began to hope maybe the God of Light really did favor Grisia that much and did not exact any price. *This is a big possibility; otherwise Grisia's holy*

magic wouldn't have been that strong, right?

"Sun, open your mouth and say something," Lesus called out over and over again.

Everyone began to feel nervous, worrying about whether or not Grisia had become mute. However, he suddenly moaned in pain, "Uhh..."

He hasn't lost his voice either!

Everyone was almost completely relieved. His outer appearance looked fine, he hadn't lost his hearing or his voice, and it looked like there was nothing wrong. They even started to hope that maybe Grisia hadn't lost anything.

"No..." Grisia suddenly grabbed his head with both hands, his expression pained.

Everyone was shocked. They asked one after another, "Sun, what's wrong?"

"No!" Sun gasped and then began screaming, "No, no, no. It wasn't me! It wasn't!"

"...Sun?"

When Grisia held his head and screamed, numerous magic spells burst out around him. Though these spells weren't harmful in the least, everyone was caught off guard by Grisia's sudden attack and the people closest to him were lightly injured. However, they weren't at all

concerned about their injuries, only surprised at Grisia's unexpected scream and attack.

Though they were all blocked by the Shield of Earth, the magic spells came at them nonstop. Lesus grabbed Grisia by his shoulders and yelled, "Sun! Stop this!"

Grisia stiffened and raised his head. There were rips and bloodstains all over his clothes, his white hair was a mess, and on top of that, his expression was frantic; he could not look any worse than he currently did.

"Sun, what's going on?" Elmairy was so worried that he was nearly crying. He had never seen Grisia look this panicked before.

Though no one else asked, their expressions said that they also wanted to ask this question.

"It wasn't me, it wasn't me, it wasn't..." Grisia merely repeated that line over and over again. He became more and more frantic.

Lesus calmly asked, "What didn't you do?"

Grisia remained beside himself in panic, as if he had not heard Lesus's words at all; like he was completely submerged in his own world.

Lesus carefully observed Grisia, but he could not deduce any clues from Grisia's eyes because Grisia was basically blind... He hadn't felt the impact of that as deeply as he did currently.

Everyone yelled in worry. "Knight-Captain Judgment, what's going on with Sun?"

There was no way Lesus could know either, but he did know everyone was currently confused and needed someone to calmly tell them that everything would be all right. Even better, they needed someone to give them orders, to tell them what they should do now, to make them so busy that they wouldn't have time to panic... that person had always been Grisia.

Currently, Lesus had no choice but to play that role. He bellowed, "Don't panic! Grisia has only just been revived, so his mind is not very clear yet."

"It was me," Grisia said abruptly.

Stunned, they all turned to look at Grisia. Even though he'd suddenly switched from denial to acknowledgment, they were not at all happy. Grisia's complexion looked even worse than before. If Grisia's state were previously described as extraordinarily panicked, then his current condition was practically deathly despair.

Dejected, he mumbled, "So it really was me..."

Lesus roared, "Sun, wake up! Only the Twelve Holy Knights are present. There is no one else!"

Grisia seemed to have finally heard Lesus's words. He stilled, and then he struggled to get off the table, nearly falling. Lesus, who was nearest to him, quickly helped him up.

He never would have thought that Grisia would pull out the Divine Judgment Sword.

Grisia's action stunned Lesus, who immediately took two steps back. He was not afraid that Grisia would harm him. However, since Grisia was not currently in a good state, if he were to swing the sword and hurt Lesus, Grisia would definitely feel very remorseful in the future. He didn't expect that Grisia would flip the sword around and plunge it towards his own heart...

"No-" Lesus quickly stepped forward, but Grisia's action was so resolute that he couldn't make it in time.

Clang.

The Divine Judgment Sword was sent flying by a knife. The two weapons both pierced the wall, and everyone saw that the knife was Metal's. Because everything had happened so quickly, there was no reaction until a few seconds after everyone saw the two blades quivering in the wall. Then, they realized that Grisia had nearly killed himself with a sword, and became so scared that they broke out into cold sweat.

Lesus rushed forward and grabbed Grisia by his shoulders. He yelled furiously, "What are you doing? Do you know what you just did?"

"I did it. It was me... So it was me. Everything was me!"

Grisia began to laugh loudly. He laughed so much that when he raised

his head, there were tears leaking out of the corners of his eyes. His laughter ended in dry coughs, which became sobs, before he finally fell to the floor and started weeping in agony.

At that moment, don't mention the others being scared witless, even Lesus was no longer able to keep his composure. He forced Grisia up from the floor and shook him violently back and forth. At the same time, he yelled, "Sun, Sun, you have to wake up! You haven't done anything. You have just been revived. Do you remember? You were..." *Betrayed by Roland.*

He stopped abruptly because this was really not a good time to discuss something like betrayal. Grisia was already so agitated that he could barely recognize the people around him. There was no need to upset him even more.

However, there was not even the slightest reaction from Grisia. He stilled for a moment and then looked like he had seen something. He suddenly got up and dashed toward some direction... It wasn't until Lesus flattened Grisia against the floor that the others realized Grisia's target was actually the sword and the dagger in the wall.

Grisia struggled with all his might, but Lesus's strength was much greater. Slowly, he stopped struggling, but instead dark element started gathering all around him until countless blades brimming with dark element formed and hung in the air above the room. All of the blades were pointed in the same direction – at Grisia himself.

Lesus did not pay any attention to the Dark Blades. Only anger existed on his face. He could not help but yell at the person below him, "Sun,

stop this! It was very difficult to save you, yet you want to die?”

Grisia tilted his head and wasn't even looking at Lesus. Multitudes of Dark Blades dropped upon them all at once, but none of them hurt the two of them as the Shield of Earth had long since been cast to protect them.

Lesus pushed Grisia's face to the floor forcefully, but Grisia's eyes didn't focus. Even if Lesus stared at his face, he could not determine where Grisia was putting his attention.

Though Grisia had been blind for some time, he had always “looked” at things, such as the person he was speaking to. So even though they knew he was blind, they hadn't really understood what that meant because he was truly too good at pretending.

Seeing this, Lesus felt uneasy. Every time Grisia dropped all pretenses, nothing good happened. He could not help but yell, “Sun, what has gotten into you? Can't you see that we're in front of you?”

“A side effect...”

Everyone turned to look toward the Pope, who seemed to have thought of something. Their expressions were all frightening, each worse than the other's. The Pope pushed on and said, “No matter how I look at him, Sun doesn't seem like he has any other side effects, but my success rate of a perfect resurrection is only 10%. The chance of gambling and winning is not very high. What if going crazy was the...”

“Don't speak nonsense!” Ceo cut the Pope off and yelled, “Sun has

only just woken up. It's just that his mind isn't clear yet!"

Seeing everyone else nodding hurriedly, the Pope closed his mouth and didn't press the matter further, but he knew very clearly... that inside everyone's hearts, they knew that those words were actually nonsense. Two other people present had previously been resurrected as well, and neither of them had displayed Grisia's current condition.

Elmairy suddenly yelled in alarm, "Knight-Captain Judgment, Sun is absorbing dark element!"

On hearing this, everyone became stunned. Lesus immediately bellowed, "Bring the Divine Sun Sword over!"

Once the two of them finished speaking, everyone realized what was happening. Because the rate at which Grisia was absorbing the dark element had rapidly exploded, even someone who didn't have an inclination for sensing could discover the abnormal gathering of dark element. They were all holy knights of the holy element, so naturally they were more sensitive toward the dark element.

Grisia even cast Bone Prison, and those who were caught unprepared were knocked away.

Lesus was the first to crawl back up. He rushed toward the Resurrection Circle and drew out the Divine Sun Sword. Then, he brought it with him as he ran in Grisia's direction. Grisia looked very despondent, as if he had a natural loathing of the light. He sat on the floor and raised a hand. Numerous bones sprung up from the floor by his side, the Bone Prison layering upon itself like a gigantic, white

cocoon of thistles and thorns.

Lesus would never give up advancing just because of that. He used the Divine Sun Sword to slash at the Bone Prison. It was as easy as using a heated knife to cut butter. He slashed and slashed, and in a matter of seconds, reached Grisia.

Grisia did not wait for him. He reached a hand out to his Bone Prison. Immediately, his hand was riddled with cuts by the sharp bones, but he was not bothered. He grabbed one of the bones and pierced it towards his heart.

Luckily, when the tip had barely touched his chest, an arrow shattered the bone.

Grisia stilled. Right after, he reached out for another bone and stabbed it toward his chest without the slightest hesitation. Elmairy's arrow stopped him again in time. When Grisia finally realized that he would not be able to use the bones, he switched to using dark element to attack himself...

"Stop it!" Everyone started destroying the Bone Prison.

As he cast the Shield of Earth to protect Grisia, Georgo yelled, "Sun, can you hear us or not?"

Grisia merely continued to attack himself with all his might. Simultaneously, he repeatedly cast Bone Prison, not letting anyone near him.

"Grisia Sun!"

Lesus yelled angrily. He brought the Divine Sun Sword down behind his waist, immediately following that up with the starting position for swinging his sword. He paused for around three seconds, and then he swung. His battle aura flared following his swing, destroying all of the Bone Prisons before him. It knocked into Grisia, but was stopped by the Shield of Earth.

Following that, Lesus threw aside the Divine Sun Sword, rushed to Grisia's side, and performed a hand chop to Grisia's neck, rendering him unconscious before he could make a sound.

When Grisia fell, the dark element he had gathered immediately dispersed. After all, this was the Church of the God of Light, and even the Divine Sun Sword was present, so it was truly not a good place for gathering dark element. It could even be said that a normal mage would not have been able to gather any dark element in here.

"Captain Judgment, Sun is..." Ceo started to raise a question but stopped halfway. He really didn't know if he wanted to receive an answer.

Lesus was also somewhat at a loss. Yet as per normal, he retained the composure that the Judgment Knight should have, and said calmly, "Maybe Resurrection has muddled his mind a little. Maybe some sleep will help. No need to worry too much."

"Is that so?" Elmairy quickly asked, "But he didn't even notice that we were by his side. That's, that's..."

But after saying that much, he copied Ceo and closed his mouth. That was because he saw the panicked expressions on everyone's faces; even the one who was usually the calmest out of them all was no exception... They needed to calm down and to wait for a change. Maybe it really was like what Knight-Captain Judgment had said, that Sun only needed to sleep and he would recover.

Right! Nothing would happen to Sun. He only needs to sleep a little, and when he wakes up, he will be back to normal...

Notes On The Chapter

There was an [April Fools version](#) of this made.

Chapter #1: "Revealing the Truth Behind the Demon King"

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Child!

"...?"

Child, my child, why were you so foolish as to trust others? It's okay even if you don't trust me; actually, that's even better. It's okay even if you kill me or seal me. The most important thing is, don't trust anybody and don't trust anyone!

"... Scarlet?" Hearing the word "seal," I finally understood whose voice this was. In a hurry, I replied, "I don't want to be the demon king!"

I only didn't want you to die! If you don't become the demon king, you would definitely perish! In the end, you really died.

I died?

Yes, you were killed by the last demon king candidate, remember?

The last demon king candidate... Roland! It's Roland who killed me. He

and Pink set a trap, and then they killed me!

After remembering everything, I still didn't dare believe it at all. I growled, "I don't understand, why would Roland kill me? Even if he is the last demon king candidate... I don't believe it!"

Pink as well. Why would she harm me? We have already known each other for more than ten years. How is it possible that she would watch me bleed to death... I don't believe it!

You don't understand us. So many years have already passed. Within all three of us, the only left thing that we are concerned about is our own child. Everything else is not important, not important!

"That's impossible! There must be some kind of misunderstanding!"

Sigh, then I'll just let you see it all!

Child, remember, next time, don't trust anyone else again.

It all? Wait, Scarlet!

In the darkness burst a sudden great release of light. It was simply so blinding that even my eyes hurt, and I couldn't help but use my hands to cover my eyes... *Wait a moment! How am I able to see this?*

"Oh no, I'm late!"

A child ran past me. The expression on his face was a little nervous,

not much like an expression that a child would show. However, those fair and tender cheeks likely explained that he was definitely not any older than twelve years old.

Fair and tender... I thought that I would never be able to use this description ever again. That's because no matter how exceedingly good a blind man's sensing ability is, even if above average and close to godliness, he is definitely unable to sense whether something is fair and tender or not. One is not able to tell something like color when sensing, and without color, nothing will appear tender no matter what the object is.

However, rather than the matter of "I suddenly can see," what was more shocking was that the kid just now had golden hair and blue eyes with fair skin, and his face was so familiar that it couldn't be any more familiar... If that wasn't myself, there's an eighty percent chance that it was my future child!

Unfortunately, right now, I don't even know who my wife is, let alone my child. That should be me all right. To say it more accurately, it was me before the age of twelve.

I looked all around me, to the left and to the right. This was a place that couldn't be more familiar. This was the Holy Temple's square, and I couldn't have mistaken the time either. That's because I saw my teacher, and in front of him, there were ten children who were about ten years old lining up. They were selecting the young Sun Knight!

"Perhaps it was because of your beautiful blond hair!"

This line... I was stunned for a moment. At this time, a brown-haired kid walked past me. I shot a glance at him by reflex, and only then did I abruptly recall who he was...

Roland!

Upon remembering who he was, I glued my eyes to him hurriedly. That was because at that time, I had only seen his back as he left. Thus, right now, I wanted to see his every step and expression clearly. *Did he leave with anger and unwillingness? Did he cry? At that time, every child who wasn't selected had cried. Did Roland do the same?*

I even specifically walked in front of him, wanting to see what kind of expression he was showing at the moment. He walked toward me, head-on, and on his face there was... no expression?

I stared at him, but he had no expression on his face at all. He looked as though he was in a blank daze. This was simply too strange; how is it possible that he would show this kind of expression at this kind of time?

He walked straight onward, and though I was blocking his path ahead, I had no intention of letting him pass. I really wanted to block his way and ask him what exactly he was thinking... But he passed directly through my body without even stopping.

I turned around to look at him. He walked directly to a woman's side, and that woman's left hand was already holding onto another child. The child was wearing a cloak and had her head lowered, and the hood covered the child's face. One couldn't tell exactly how old she was, but

it seemed that she was a little bit younger than Roland.

The woman extended her right hand, and Roland took her hand in passing. The three of them turned around and left.

I chased them for a few steps, before the child wearing the cloak turned around. Her line of sight passed through me and landed on an area not too far away behind my back.

Softly, she said, "Grisia? I've remembered you, humph!"

So, actually... this was the first meeting between Pink and me?

However, I had completely no recollection of this matter for, at that time, I only managed to have the time to sneak a hasty peek at Roland's back. That was because the whole square was paying attention to who the young Sun Knight was, and after my teacher had announced that he had selected me, he had brought me around to see the other young knight selection results. There was completely no time to even look at Roland for more than a peek.

Roland had actually already known Pink then... No, he was actually brought to the selections by Pink, right? But he had never mentioned this before. Didn't he come from an orphanage?

Wait, he seemed to have said that his sword was a family heirloom? Where would a family heirloom come from for an orphan?

However, if Roland wanted to hide the fact that he wasn't an orphan, then he shouldn't have mentioned a family heirloom. Could it have

been a slip of the tongue? Is it my brain that is confused or is Roland's brain confused?

I really wanted to follow them and see where they went afterward. However, the surrounding scenery started to blur. It felt extremely familiar, a little like the scenery before one is about to faint... *Being familiar with this kind of matter simply isn't a good thing. In this year already, the number of times I have fainted is even more than my past twenty years combined!*

Usually this process wouldn't take too long. It wouldn't take more than two seconds to lose consciousness after the surroundings begin to blur. However, I had already thought about so many things, yet I have yet to faint? What was more important was that the scenery was starting to sharpen again...

After my surroundings became clear, I instead discovered that I was not at the Holy Temple's square anymore. However, this place was still within Leaf Bud City, and with just a look, I could tell that this street definitely wasn't far from the Holy Temple.

Just as I was pondering over which street this was, a boy suddenly passed through my chest!

Right, I seem to be in spirit status right now with others being unable to see or touch me. However, even if that is the case, could you not pass through me randomly? It feels really strange... Wait, was he a golden-haired boy? Don't tell me it's me again?

Thinking till there, I hurriedly gave chase. However, just after I took

two steps forward, the boy stopped. He turned around to yell into an alley, "Hey! What are you all doing?"

Although I was only looking at his side profile, that was me all right. I looked into the alley that he was facing. A few boys were giggling as they surrounded something unknown. This scene was simply very unfamiliar. However, many things had happened over the years since I was young. Even my memory wouldn't be able to remember every little segment of it. However, I should be able to remember if I watch a little longer.

That golden-haired boy... I guess I should call him Grisia now? He was shouting at a few boys who were bigger than him, "Don't bully her! A few guys bullying a girl, how shameless!"

Those boys turned around and retorted, "It's none of your business!" At this point, I finally saw that they were actually surrounding a little girl. The girl looked extremely dirty, with her clothes torn and tattered and her hair in a disheveled mess. She was kneeling on the floor, her eyes long since filled with tears. However, she was trying to force herself to be strong and hold her tears back. When she really couldn't stop the tears from flowing, she quickly used her hand to wipe her face. Looking at her attire, she should have been a beggar.

However, what was strange was that there was dark element faintly emitting from her body. Though normal people didn't possess sensing ability, they would still dislike things with dark element in them by instinct. This was probably one of the reasons she was bullied.

"She is an unlucky girl!" Those boys threatened, "If you dare go near

her, you will also become unlucky!”

“Nonsense!” Grisia wasn’t afraid in the least bit and even retorted,
“There’s completely no such thing as an unlucky girl! It’s apparent that
you guys are bullying her. A few guys bullying a girl, shame on you!”

Those boys’ faces became red, their shame seeming to turn into anger.
The girl instead lifted her head up, and her face lit up in hope as she
stared at Grisia.

The boys rushed toward Grisia, full of rage. The latter was not to be
outdone. He quickly ran to one side, took a broom and wielded it as a
sword. The pose seemed to have an impact, for even the boys slowed
their footsteps a little. However, seeing that they had the advantage in
numbers, they still charged on fearlessly.

Grisia wielded the sword... No, it was a broom, and knocked it into a
boy’s arm. The other person yelled loudly in pain, and then using his
backhand, he snatched the broom away with a single grab.

“Er...” Grisia looked at his empty hands and then lifted his head to look
at the tall boys in front of him who were angry and had grown a little
too well. He gave a radiant smile, saying, “The God of Light tells us
that, even toward our enemies, we should hold fast to a benevolent
and affectionate heart ... Ouch! That hurts!”

The boys gathered around, and without a second word, they launched
into a flurry of punches and kicks.

“Don’t hit me anymore, it hurts!”

While he was getting beaten up, he muttered in fragmented pieces, "Sob, sob, sob! I'm going to tell my teacher... No wait, if I tell Teacher that I lost a fight, he will kill me! Sob, sob, sob, I got beaten up and I can't even lodge a complaint, I'm so pitiful..."

So I had already started muttering like this from such an early age?

The girl seemed to be unable to look on any longer. She dashed in front of Grisia, using her two hands and body to protect him, and shouted, "Don't hit him anymore! This has nothing to do with him, just hitting me is enough."

Grisia, who had been screaming that it hurts as though his life depended on it, immediately grabbed the girl and pushed her behind his back to protect her. However, the girl wasn't willing to let that happen and struggled to stay in front to protect him. Grisia was a little vexed as he yelled, "Don't protect me! If my teacher were to find out that I was actually protected by a girl, he would certainly kill me! Don't get me in trouble!"

Hearing that, the girl faltered, as though she had no idea what to do. The boys helped them solve this problem by beating up the two of them fairly. Only after beating them up for a while, when a few adults stuck their heads out to scold them, did the boys run away laughing, not forgetting to turn their heads back to ridicule them.

"Who asked you to protect her!"

"I told you she is an unlucky girl! Look, you're also unlucky now!"

Hahaha!”

The girl lowered her head with a sad expression. No matter how hard she tried to hold them in, her tears couldn't help but flow down.

Grisia suddenly jumped up, shouting, “You guys beat me up, yet you say that this is the misfortune that she brought onto me. Are your brains rotting or something? No matter how you say it, it is a misfortune that you guys brought onto me! What does it have to do with her? You guys are the ones who are unlucky!”

Hearing that, the girl lifted her head to look at Grisia. Though there were still two streaks of tears running down her cheeks, her expression was no longer sad.

Grisia lowered his head, just in time to lock eyes with the girl. He gave a smile but also agitated the bruise on his cheek. The smile immediately turned into a pained smile, and the expression of him crying and smiling at the same time was so comical that even the girl couldn't help but laugh.

Grisia cursed under his breath, “It hurts like mad! They actually hit me so hard... They better watch out! In the future, you better not get caught and thrown into the Judge's Complex. If you get dragged in, I'll make you guys pay for this!”

After he finished cursing them through his mutters, he lowered his head again to tell the girl, “Don't be scared! In a moment, it won't hurt anymore!”

The girl gave a faint smile, saying, "Will the pain fly away?" Though she said this, her expression was one of obvious disbelief.

"That's right! It'll probably fly to the God of Light's place." Grisia finished his words casually and then muttered a short incantation. Following that, both his hands emitted a warm, honey-colored glow that covered the two of them. Laughing, he said, "Look, it doesn't hurt anymore, right?"

The girl was stunned for a moment and then turned her head to look over her own body. The original wounds were actually all gone. She showed an astonished expression and then looked at Grisia blankly. Laughing, Grisia said, "I am called Grisia, and I am the future Sun Knight! How about you?"

"S-Sun Knight?" The girl hesitated for a while before she shyly replied, "Everyone calls me Unlucky."

Grisia was stunned for a moment. Then, he frowned as he commented, "That's not a name! Don't you have another name?"

The girl shook her head.

"Then let me give you a name!" As though it was a matter of fact, Grisia continued, "Hm... Then I'll call you Charlotte! How about that? The meaning of Charlotte is a healthy girl, and because you look very healthy and energetic, can I call you Charlotte?"

The girl replied back in a daze, "Charlotte?"

“What, you don’t like it?”

The girl... I should call her Charlotte now. She nodded her head in a hurry, saying, “I-I like it!”

“Then good.” Grisia nodded his head, and following that, he acted like a spoilt child as he said, “Then Charlotte, would you accompany me to buy desserts? One has to queue for a really long time at that store! Queuing by myself is boring, so accompany me there! Let’s go!”

After saying that, without caring about whether she consented, he extended a hand to hold hers. Charlotte stretched her hand out hesitantly. However, once she lowered her head to see her own filthy hand and the other person’s hand as white as snow, she immediately pulled her hand back. However, Grisia’s movements were even faster, and after grabbing her hand, he dragged her to the shop.

“Let’s go! If we arrive too late, everything will be sold out! That shop’s desserts are really super delicious!”

I followed behind them, watching them chat, giggle and line up. In the end, when they had finally reached the front of the line with much difficulty, they only had a few copper ducats on hand due to Grisia forgetting to bring his wallet. It was just enough to buy a single blueberry lollipop; thus, the two of them shared it together...

In the end, the two people sat at the edge of the fountain in the center of the plaza. Facing the sunset and sharing one blueberry lollipop, the two of them looked rather picturesque and poetic. However, the people involved were two little mischievous children licking a blueberry

lollipop, so rather than unpractical stuff like picturesque and poetic charm, they would probably prefer a slice of blueberry cake.

Grisia suddenly exclaimed, "Oh, oh no, it's really late. I have made plans with my teacher to go look for Big Sister... Never mind, it should be fine. I should still be able to make it in time if I go now, since Teacher always arrives rather late."

Wrong, my teacher just happened to not to be late that time, resulting in me getting a beating. Moreover, because I had executed two healing spells before that, I didn't have enough holy light to heal myself completely, causing me to feel so much pain on the way there.

I remember now. I remember everything now.

Meeting Charlotte, playing with her the entire afternoon, leaving because I had to go look for Big Sister and also, our promise...

Grisia stood up and jumped off the step, shouting to the girl, "Charlotte, tomorrow evening I'll come and look for you to play, okay? Let's just meet at this fountain!"

Charlotte nodded her head, giving a smile as she replied, "Okay." After finishing her words, she realized that she was still holding half of a blueberry lollipop in her hand and handed it over in a hurry, saying, "Your lollipop."

"I'll give it to you! I couldn't possibly bring a lollipop to go find my teacher. He would kill me!"

Charlotte's face was full of fear as she replied, "Your teacher is so scary. No matter what you do, he is going to kill you."

"Haha, my teacher is very scary, that's right..." Grisia gave a hollow laugh and then continued, "Then I'll be going off first! See you tomorrow evening. If I am late or I don't come, it could be because my teacher suddenly gave me an assignment. If that is so, then we'll meet the evening on the day after... In conclusion, you have to wait for me. You must wait for me!"

"Okay, I will wait for you. I will come here every evening to wait for you," Charlotte agreed and nodded her head. Only then was Grisia willing to depart.

Until she couldn't see the boy's shadow anymore, Charlotte kept on murmuring, "I'll definitely wait for you, Grisia, Sun Knight."

Charlotte...

It was me who had given her a name. It was me who had asked her to wait for me. In the end, it was also me who killed her.

However, just by spending half a day with her, I had actually affected her entire life. Is there anyone who is more obstinate than she is?

She licked the blueberry lollipop, her eyes still looking in the direction in which I had gone. Even though I was actually long gone from that place and was completely out of sight, she still kept on looking in that direction.

I, too, kept on looking at her. That was because from now onward, I would never see her again, for she hadn't even left behind a corpse! However, at this moment, the scenery started to blur again, and Charlotte's body also began to fade. I couldn't help but look at the sky and beg, "Please, Scarlet, let me look just a little longer. Just a little longer would be fine, I beg of you!"

I don't know whether she couldn't hear me begging her, or whether she wasn't willing to let me look on any longer. Charlotte still disappeared, and no longer... would I be able to see her again... Because I killed her.

The surrounding scenery changed again. It didn't look like this place was Leaf Bud City anymore but a cavern. *What time and place will it be this time?*

"Neo, why did you knock Grisias unconscious?"

I was stunned. Turning around, I saw that the person who had spoken was actually Aldrizzt. My teacher, Neo, was standing at his side, and I, at that time, was lying on the ground unconscious... This was the time when we had entered the cavern to take Eternal Tranquility!

While tossing Eternal Tranquility, my teacher lowered his head to look at the unconscious me, saying, "If I didn't knock him unconscious, later on he would be all long-winded again! If you knock him out, he wouldn't be so long-winded anymore."

Teacher! So you had actually knocked me out, and it wasn't that I had used too much holy light and fainted? Y-You... Though I know that it

was something that had already happened in the past, I still couldn't help but start to feel anxious. *That's because in a while, Scarlet is going to come and chop off Teacher's arm!*

If I was still awake, perhaps I could have helped my teacher. Perhaps he wouldn't have lost his right arm.

Aldrizzt sighed as he commented, "Since you knocked him unconscious, won't you have to wait for him to wake up?"

My teacher seemed not to care in the least bit as he said, "He won't be unconsciousness for long. You, hurry and take the chance now to tie the rope onto Eternal Tranquility and then tie it around his neck." After saying that, he shoved the gemstone into the other party's hands just like that.

Aldrizzt rolled his eyes at him, saying, "Don't tell me tying a rope around gemstones is a mage's job?"

"You haven't done much along the way here. Do you have to nag so much over doing such a small thing?"

Hearing that, the dark elf grumbled, "It wasn't me who wanted to get the gemstone..." while he started to do the chore. Not too long after, he held the gemstone with the rope tied around it and squatted to the side of my unconscious body. Just when he was about to tie on the necklace...

"Aldrizzt!" My teacher roared.

"Huh?" Aldrizzt turned around to look at my teacher in puzzlement.

My teacher pushed aside Aldrizzt with one hand, but he himself had not had enough time to dodge the blow. His right arm was sliced off by a dark blade. The entire arm flew away until it hit the wall and fell down again.

Large amounts of blood spurted from my teacher's cut-off limb.

"It just missed by a little bit!"

That "me" spoke as such and then slowly climbed up. On my face was a smile filled with malicious intent. I even released a boom of dark elemental magic in passing, the explosion thoroughly blasting my teacher's cut-off right arm into smithereens.

It wasn't until now did I truly understand what had happened...

Teacher's right arm was chopped off by me?

"No!" I couldn't help but give a loud scream, not daring to believe it at all. *This isn't real; it must be Scarlet trying to confuse me!*

"Nonono- It wasn't me! It's not!"

However, there was no one who could hear my screams. My teacher didn't even give another look at his right arm that had been blasted into smithereens. Instead, he stared at the "me" who had a malicious smile, saying, "Grisia, what are you doing?"

"What am I doing?" That "me" gave a laugh, and then his face twisted and he growled, "Who asked you to knock me unconscious! It's always

been like this. Whatever you wish to do, you'll do so recklessly. You want me to purify the area, I have to purify the area. You want me to faint, I have to faint. What do you think I am? Your toy? I've wanted to give you a lesson for a very long time!"

"Grisia!" Aldrizzt angrily said, "It was for your sake that Neo came to purify this cavern. How could you say something like that! This is simply just too..."

Clank!

That "me" lay down once more, the culprit being the Divine Sun Sword. Aldrizzt froze in shock, and my teacher instead walked to the front of that "me," and then gave a cold snort before he growled, "I, your teacher, can still slaughter you without my right hand! You better watch out! This time, I used the sword hilt to hit you. Next time, it would be the sharp tip of the sword!"

When Aldrizzt saw that my teacher's entire right side of his body had been dyed red by blood, he panicked and shrieked, "Neo! Your arm..."

Instead, my teacher interrupted him, "Aldrizzt, pass me pen paper." "Pen paper?" Aldrizzt's eyes turned wide as he exclaimed, "Are you asking for bandages? You have to hurry and treat your injury!"

My teacher roared at him in rage, "I want 'Pen and Paper'!"

Aldrizzt was stunned for a moment, and then he hurriedly dug out a pen and paper from their luggage. After receiving the items, my teacher actually started to write a letter.

Seeing the situation, Aldrizzt felt helpless and anxious. He quickly tried to find bandages to help him bandage up the wound, but the blood soaked through the bandages in a short period of time. In the end, he could only take off his own cloak and use it to help my teacher tie the entire wound.

After writing the letter, my teacher hurriedly shoved the letter onto that "me." Though he was pretending that nothing was wrong, his forehead had long since broken out into a cold sweat.

Finally, Aldrizzt couldn't help but growl, "Neo, stop pushing yourself! Do you really want to die? Do you know that the amount of blood you have lost is already enough to cause death?"

"It's all settled." My teacher said urgently, "Now throw Grisia outside, then we will leave."

"Let's ignore him. He won't die here, but you're about to die!"

"No way! If he sees the state of this place, he would deduce the truth. My student is not someone so easily dealt with!"

"You don't intend to tell him?" Aldrizzt asked, shock written on his face.

"Tell him? Don't joke around!" My teacher growled, "Usually he is already so long-winded with his never ending words, and you still want me to go and tell him that my arm was cut off by him? He would never forgive himself his entire life! Now, do you intend to watch me bleed to death, or are you going to help me move him outside?"

Aldrizzt could only agree with him, so he answered, "Okay! Don't be so

agitated. Go drink a few bottles of potions first. I'll move him outside. You wait for me here, and by all means, don't move randomly!"

"Yes, yes. After leaving the long-winded student, there came along another long-winded companion..."

"Shut up! Go get some rest!"

...

Leaving without even saying goodbye, throwing the unconscious me into the forest, the illegible handwriting, and being reluctant at the beginning to tell me who had chopped off his arm... It all fits together; it really was me!

It is me who chopped off Teacher's arm!

At that time, I actually really believed my teacher's words and thought that Scarlet did it. There were obviously so many doubtful points; I just didn't dare think about them... Hahaha!

How laughable, though I have been saying with all my might that I want to protect my companions, in the end, the one who broke the promise and even killed Charlotte was me. The person who chopped off Teacher's arm was also me. For the sake of stopping me, Pink killed Leaf. For the sake of protecting my secret, Judgment was killed... It's all my fault!

"I did it. It was me. So it was me. Everything was me!"

Chapter #2: "The Demon King's Eyes Open"

Child, you can't continue to sleep. There are still things you must do.

Stop your deep sleep. Wake up.

Wake up!

My eyes suddenly opened. I still couldn't see anything, yet that actually made me feel a sense of safety. Previously when I had temporarily regained my sight, the things I had seen were all horrific...

"Sun."

Did someone call me? I was startled and quickly extended my sensing ability; however, I discovered that this action was unexpectedly difficult. Even if I exhausted my strength I was barely able to sense a distance of about a meter around me. It seemed that even without my sensing ability, however, I could tell what my current situation was like; I was lying on a bed, my four limbs shackled to the bed posts, with a wad of cloth stuffed into my mouth.

What is going on right now? Have I been kidnapped again... That can't be right! I have already died!

My mind was completely confused, and then someone walked to the bedside and sat down. Luckily, he was sitting close enough that I was able to sense his face. It was Lesus Judgment.

Judgment lowered his head to look at me and quietly said, "Sun, you've become quieter and quieter. Although your appearance when you struggle terrifies everyone, I would rather you struggle than be quiet... so quiet that it feels as if you've already given up on everything."

Struggle? I wanted to open my mouth to ask him, but my mouth was gagged with a ball of cloth. Even after I "mmphmmphed" for a long while, Judgment remained silent, completely ignoring me. *Just what the heck is going on?*

Even though I wanted to use magic to chop off the shackles binding my hands and legs, simply maintaining my sensing ability was already very strenuous, not to mention using magic. *Could this be the repercussion from using Resurrection?*

Did I-Did I lose my ability to use magic?

After a period of silence, Judgment suddenly said, "Sun, just when will you wake up?"

Wake up? I'm clearly awake right now, and my eyes are open. Judgment is it your eyes or your brain that has stopped working?

I tried to say, "Judgment, is your brain damaged?" but all that was left of the words I spoke was, "mmmmmmph, mphmmphmmphmmmmph?" At that moment, a different voice suddenly spoke up, "How is Sun's condition?"

As the person speaking was standing too far away, I couldn't sense his

appearance. In addition, he seemed to have deliberately lowered his voice, so I wasn't quite able to identify who he was, but he should be one of the Twelve Holy Knights.

Judgment gave a rare sigh and said, "Same as before."

What do you mean same as before? Do I normally appear tied to a bed and unable to move, with a ball of cloth stuffed in my mouth?

The other person sighed, saying, "Soon we won't be able to withstand the pressure anymore."

Ah, this voice sounds like Stone.

"No matter what, we must hold them back!"

...This voice is definitely Blaze's. So there is more than one person here. I didn't realize it at all. Even though people say that the hearing of a blind person is better, apparently only my sensing ability has improved.

"We definitely cannot let them kill Sun!"

These words seemed to be spoken by Leaf... *Hold on, who wants to kill me?* But when the question left my mouth again it became "mmphmmphmmphmph."

Leaf said, "Sun seems to want to talk. Shouldn't we loosen the ball of cloth a bit?"

"Remember to leave a strip of cloth at least, in case he tries to bite his

tongue off again to commit suicide.”

... Bite my tongue and commit suicide? Me?

The moment the ball of cloth in my mouth was removed by someone, even though I had a pile of questions I wanted to ask, the most important was...

“Release me!”

In a disappointed tone, Leaf said, “As expected, he’s still the same.”

“Alas! What should we do now? The pressure from the other parties is too much. Soon we won’t be able to hold them back any longer.”

“The Pope suggested that we secretly take Sun and run away.”

“However, if we are discovered, without the Church of the God of Light’s protection, we will really have no choice but to engage the other party in combat...”

So there are actually a lot of people in the room. Seems like my hearing not only didn’t improve, there’s still a lot of room for improvement!

I yelled, “Hey hey, what are you guys doing? Even if you want to chat, you should release me first!”

Everyone paused, and then continued their conversation. No one paid me any attention at all.

There really was something not quite right here. I had just experienced Roland's betrayal, so maybe I should think along the lines of betrayal, but I had already died, so if they had wanted to betray me, then it would have been better to simply not resurrect me, and leave me dead! There was no need to truss me up again after resurrection, since they would then need to spend money and manpower to look after me. How wasteful!

At that moment, Leaf couldn't help saying, "Sun has been crazy for half a year already. Will he truly return to his former self?"

The instant the words left his mouth, everyone fell silent, including me. Those words, "crazy" and "half a year" were so shocking that my mind turned blank.

"We have to believe that he will recover," Judgment simply said calmly. "Everyone listen to me for a bit," Stone said slowly. "I've been watching Sun since a short while ago, and his response today seems rather strange, as if he's reacting to our conversation."

Everyone started talking at once.

"Is that so?"

"He looks about the same to me."

"It's not that I don't want to believe that Sun has returned to normal, but there have been many times that he has appeared very normal, yet the moment we released his shackles he would start finding ways of harming himself."

I couldn't resist asking, "Has it already been half a year since the time of my death? What do you mean when you said that I have gone crazy?"

The entire place fell silent. I didn't know what was happening, but I could only see Judgment. Since Judgment always has a poker face, it was impossible to read his emotions from his expressions!

"Sun, have you returned to normal?"

Being asked in this manner, I suddenly didn't know how I should respond. I merely answered, "I should be back to normal."

Leaf asked, "Sun, are you hungry? Or do you want to go to the toilet? When I fed you just now, you refused to eat anything, so now you should be hungry, right?"

I was truly rather hungry, but I shook my head and said, "I don't want to eat like this."

With a pained smile, Leaf said, "We can't untie you. How about we get you something to eat first?"

"Release him," Judgment suddenly opened his mouth to say.

"What? But..."

Judgment growled, "I said release him! We are all here. Could his attempts at suicide still succeed? He also has no means of using magic

in here. The Pope has already set up restrictions!”

Judgment’s angry growl was so terrifying that the whole place fell silent for a while... *Okay, I admit that I can’t see whether the others are terrified or not, but I was truly frightened. Why did Judgment suddenly become so agitated?*

Someone walked to my side. It was Leaf. He started to remove the shackles on my wrists, and then he supported me as I sat up; however, the chains on my legs were still intact. It looked like they were not assured of my sanity yet.

When I moved, I realized that my body was outrageously stiff. It seemed to be the aftereffect of lying on the bed for too long.

I couldn’t help blurting out all my questions, “Why did you guys chain me up? Who wants to kill me? What the heck has been happening?”

“You should eat a bowl of porridge first,” Judgment said expressionlessly. “If you don’t eat anything, no one will want to answer your questions.”

I immediately consented, because after I got up I realized that I was really very hungry. I hurriedly nodded, saying, “Remember to help me add the cilantro.”

“...All right.”

Judgment was, as expected, true to his word. From the moment he finished speaking, to the moment someone brought in the porridge,

and then later when I slowly ate mouthful after mouthful, taking my time to eat, from start to finish no one spoke a single word. Only Judgment had spoken once to say, "Eat slower."

Only when I had finished eating the entire bowl of porridge did a sigh of relief come from the room. Even I, with my terrible hearing, could hear it clearly.

"Is everyone here?" I asked, since I could only see the person closest to me, Judgment.

"That's right." Judgment finally spoke. "Sun, tell us first what happened on the day you died."

"What else is there?" I truly didn't want to remember it, and merely explained in a few simple sentences, "I went to find Pink together with Roland, Roland cut me once from behind with his sword, Pink used psychic magic to restrain me, and in the end I was killed by them. Has it really already been half a year since I was killed?"

"Mm."

"Is Roland already the demon king?"

"No."

I froze, and hastily asked, "Why not? There shouldn't be any other candidates, right?"

Judgment explained, "Ever since you were resurrected, he hasn't been

the only candidate. Have you forgotten? Roland is basically already dead. He is a death knight. Apparently, as long as you still exist in this world in some form, you will still possess the qualifications of a demon king candidate."

Oh, I see! That's right, Roland died a long time ago. If death alone caused one to lose qualifications as a candidate, then he would have lost his a long time ago.

All of a sudden, Judgment asked, "While you were crazy, you kept yelling 'It was me.' What did you do?"

After a long silence, I said, "Did I really go crazy? That's why you tied me up in here, and even set restrictions on magic?"

"Yes," Judgment replied simply.

At that moment, in a tone as if he couldn't believe it, Leaf asked, "S-Sun, have you truly recovered?"

"Of course I've recovered!" I said incredulously, "Could a lunatic talk so normally like this?"

Judgment shook his head, saying, "Your manner while you were crazy was different from most lunatics. Mostly, you seemed very clear-headed, even able to converse fluently, but the moment we released your shackles you would frantically use any method to kill yourself. If we stopped you, you would even use dark element to attack us."

"I tried to kill myself? A-And attacked you guys?"

Judgment nodded. "Luckily, while you were crazy, you mostly only seemed to use dark elemental magic. You didn't use other types of magic much at all. Since your ability to attack with the dark element isn't very strong, it didn't cause too much harm. However, there was an indication that your ability to use the dark element was growing stronger and stronger, so we had to be careful, do you understand? It was with no other alternative that we tied you up in this confinement chamber, and if possible, I hope you won't request to leave the confinement chamber."

Judgment explained this particularly clearly. I think most likely he was worried that I would misunderstand him and think that he had some ill intent, like wanting to seize power and so on.

"Okay, I won't leave this place." Even though I felt that I couldn't be more awake, Judgment had said that I had attacked them, so it was still better to be careful! "First, tell me about the current situation. Where is Roland?"

Judgment nodded, replying, "He's at the Cathedral of the Shadow God." "The Cathedral of the Shadow God?" I laughed coldly, "Have they changed to supporting Roland already?"

"Because they had no choice." Judgment didn't appear to blame them at all. On the contrary, he added, "Having gone crazy, you were very dangerous. We could still manage to restrain you at the moment, but if you had become the demon king, then there would no longer be anyone capable of stopping you. The consequences would be inconceivable."

I understood. Indeed, I couldn't blame the Cathedral of the Shadow God. If they had allowed a lunatic to become the demon king, this world would truly become insane. "A while ago, you said that someone wanted me dead. Is that person Roland?"

"I don't know what Roland is thinking, but the people who wanted us to kill you were the Cathedral of Shadow God and the Kingdom of Kissinger. As the demon king was taking a long time to be born, in the past half year, lands of death have been rapidly expanding. The area is already more than five times its previous size, and the rate of expansion has been increasing continuously."

I see, no wonder they wanted me dead. As long as I died, the demon king would be born, and only then would the lands of death cease their continuous expansion.

"Sun, you can shift the fragment of the demon king to Roland, so long as you go to the Cathedral of the Shadow God to perform the ceremony. However, there was no way to do that at all while you were crazy, so they pressed us to kill you, the better to let Roland become the demon king... Sun? Are you listening to my words? Sun?"

"Sun, h-have you gone crazy again?"

"Sun! Don't fake being clear-headed again. We can't take it anymore!"

I was only still for a while, thinking about the various information I had just received, but I had not imagined that everyone would start calling me with panicked, nearly terrified voices. I hastily reassured them,

"I'm alright, truly alright! Don't panic!"

"We th-thought that again... again your clear-headedness was false."

Hearing how their voices all sounded like they had been startled by my slightest pause, how each and every voice was extremely paranoid, their cautious hope mixed with nervousness, I could fully understand everyone's feelings, and truly felt extremely sorry. It seemed that I had caused them a lot of worry this past year.

"Sorry, I've made you worry. Okay, you don't have to release me yet, but go and relay a message to the Cathedral of the Shadow God in advance, that I'm now awake, and in three days' time I will set out on a journey to carry out the ceremony, to prevent them from coming here to stir up trouble."

When they heard my words, everyone started to create a commotion. Blaze shouted, "Sun you're awake! You're truly awake!"

In a fluster, Leaf said, "I-I will now release you..."

Upon saying this, he moved to undo the shackles on my legs, but paused to turn around and look at everybody, especially Judgment. However, contrary to my expectations, Judgment actually didn't have any intention of objecting.

"No!" I was forced to refuse myself, "Don't release me yet. Right now, I-I still don't fully comprehend the happenings of these past six months. I also don't remember having gone crazy, so it's still best not to release me yet."

"But..." Leaf said worriedly.

"Sun, we'll release you first," Judgment said. "We really need you. The Church of the God of Light proclaimed that you were severely ill, so the common people still don't know that you are a demon king candidate. However, it's already been half a year since you have appeared in public, so a lot of people have been wondering whether or not you are dead."

I pondered for a while, then said, "At least one day, keep me tied for one more day. We'll discuss it again if nothing truly happens. I also need some time to think."

"Alright, we'll do that then! I'll just ask you one more thing, and then we'll let you quietly think."

"Mm? What do you want to ask?"

Judgment lowered his voice as he said, "If you don't want to answer the question I asked at the beginning, 'while you were crazy you kept yelling 'it was me,' what did you do?' you can tell me directly, no need to evade the topic."

...It was just like Judgment, to actually remember the question he had asked at the very beginning!

"Scarlet allowed me to see everything. My meeting with Charlotte, a-and..." I hesitated for a while as I steeled myself for the next line, and said, "Actually, Teacher Neo's right arm was chopped off by me!"

Sure enough, everyone fell silent. At this time, I was suddenly rather glad that I couldn't see everyone's expressions. If they showed expressions of condemnation, I...

"How can this be!" Earth said in complete disbelief, "You can't even hold a sword well, and you want to say that you chopped off Neo's arm? To say it was Leaf, this nice guy and archer, who chopped it off, I would be more convinced!"

"...I gathered dark element into a blade and chopped it off," I explained uncomfortably. "Under the state of the demon king, I chopped off Teacher's arm. Subsequently, I was knocked out by him, and couldn't remember it at all after I woke up, until Scarlet allowed me to see that section of my past... Judgment, that time you died, it really wasn't me who killed you right?"

Judgment was startled, and angrily said, "I've already said it wasn't! Just how many times do you want me to repeat it?"

"As long as I didn't, it's fine," I hastily said. "I was only asking, just asking, you don't have to get so angry over this, right?"

Judgment softened his expression, and said indifferently, "You should rest. Tomorrow, we'll come again to untie you."

I nodded, and after Judgment turned his head and told everyone, "Let's go," there were sounds of many footsteps. At that moment, I hurriedly yelled at everyone, "Don't worry everyone, I won't run away again. This time, I will definitely resolve this whole affair!"

I couldn't see everyone's expressions, only able to see Judgment's and Leaf's who were the closest. Leaf let out a smile, and looked a lot more relaxed. Even Judgment's brows loosened a bit.

"Storm, Metal, and Earth, stay behind and give me some answers to a few matters." *And at the same time keep a close eye on me.* Of course, I didn't say this sentence out loud. "Everyone else, go do whatever you are supposed to do!"

After I heard the sound of the door opening and closing, Storm walked over to me, simply pulled a chair over, sat beside the bed and asked, "What do you want to know? Ask it all in one go!"

"First, all of you need to stand a bit closer. Right now I can only sense about a meter around me."

The three of them huddled around, but a range of one meter was actually rather harsh. The image of these three grown men squeezed beside the bed was really not a pretty sight.

"Storm, tell me about the Church of the God of Light's plan to deal with the lands of death, which people know that I am a demon king candidate, and then you can choose whatever else you should report to me."

"That's just like Sun. When you're not spouting nonsense about the God of Light you will go directly to the main point." Storm nodded and said, "The plan of the Church of the God of Light to deal with the lands of death is to send troops to suppress them. Right now, only a tenth of

the clerics and holy knights have remained behind to take care of matters in the Church of the God of Light.”

Feeling a bit doubtful, I asked, “But if the Twelve Holy Knights are all in the Holy Temple, who is responsible for leading the troops?”

He carefully explained, “The former Sun Knight Neo is leading the twelve vice-captains, dispersed in various regions to suppress the undead creatures. Although we announced that the commander of the army was only the former Sun Knight Neo, according to the reports, apparently all the Twelve Holy Knights of the previous generation have volunteered to join in the suppression.”

Teacher... Don't think about it, now is not the time to be feeling guilty and sad.

Unconvinced, I asked, “Why didn't any of you go?” To allow the previous generation of the Twelve Holy Knights to lead the army, even if he is the former Sun Knight, I'm afraid that still wouldn't fly.

Storm feigned calmness, but I still noticed that he secretly glanced at me. He said, “There must always be someone left behind to guard the place.”

I suddenly understood. To have such a huge problem, and yet to not even dispatch any of the Twelve Holy Knights, this did not make sense at all. *Most likely they stayed behind in the Holy Temple in order to protect me.*

“Originally, Adair also wanted to stay behind,” Storm suddenly

explained. "We had to spend a lot of effort convincing him to leave with the former Knight-Captain Sun. Although I said that the person leading the troops is the former Knight-Captain Sun, I think the true commander of the current vice-captains of the Twelve Holy Knights and their platoons can only be Adair."

Indeed, even though Teacher is very strong, if we asked him to command an entire army, I'm afraid he would rather rush up to the enemy alone and kill them all.

"You've trained Adair really well. Actually, he should probably be considered the real commander. The former Knight-Captain Sun is only outstanding in his fighting capabilities. He's really not quite suited to be a commander. It's just that when we announced it to the public, having the title of the former Sun Knight would more easily set the citizen's minds at ease."

Of course, because I passed everything to Adair to do, he is competent at a lot of things! As expected I planned well, training a multi-talented vice-captain in advance, so that no matter what happens he would be able to take care of it immediately. Even if I'm unconscious for half a year, I have no need to be afraid that when I wake up there will be a mountain of work to do!

Storm continued his report, "As for the people who know you are a demon king candidate, they include Silent Eagle and a few of the highest-leveled shadowpriests of the Cathedral of the Shadow God, every kingdom's royal family, the Son of the God of War, and a few of the high-leveled warpriests in the Monastery of the God of War."

"Why do so many people know? Did Awaitsun leak it out?" I was furious. With so many people knowing about this, I couldn't guarantee that it would not become leverage against us later on!

Storm explained, "Concerning this matter, Silent Eagle has previously written a letter to clarify things. It was the royal family who deliberately leaked that information. By the time he found out, there was nothing he could do to stop it."

The royal family? It was the Kingdom of Kissinger that leaked it?

I was silent for a while, and then said, "Most likely they deliberately leaked this news to make all the kingdoms pressure you together."

Earth said loudly, "That's right! In order to protect you, we were so busy our hair will likely turn white like yours! And regardless of what you want to know, couldn't you wash your face and brush your teeth first. Your mouth stinks!"

Your mouth stinks even more!

Metal also shrieked, "At least shave your beard!"

Shave my beard? Because of the restriction on magic, it was very exhausting for me use my sensing ability. I really couldn't do anything about sensing details. Even being able to distinguish main facial features was already an impressive enough feat. I didn't have the leisure to care about facial hair. I hurriedly touched my face...

"Damn, who is this tramp with a beard covering his face?"

"That's you!" Storm, Earth, and Metal chorused in reply.

I sniffed my body odor... *S-stinks like hell!* I couldn't believe it and asked, "Just how long has it been since I've bathed?"

The moment I spoke, their eyes drifted away, looking left and right but not daring to look at me. Finally, Storm summoned up the courage to say, "Your previous condition was so dangerous, there weren't many people who could help you bathe, and it's unlikely that you would want us to help you bathe, right?"

That's true, I would rather stink to death than let a man help bathe me. It's so disgusting... Hold on! I hurriedly asked, "Then who took me to the toilet?"

"Leaf..."

Leaf, you really are a good person who couldn't be any nicer!

"You must take responsibility for what you did to him," Earth patted my shoulder.

Go to hell, if I were to take responsibility, I'm afraid Princess Ann from the neighboring kingdom would take an axe and chop me into itty bitty pieces!

"I am going to take a bath! Metal, go and help me get the largest bucket, carry in ten or so basins, then go to my room and bring all my ingredients for my facial mask!"

"... What sort of ingredients did you say?" Storm pretended to be astonished as he asked.

I hastily corrected myself, "Cough! That is, bring me all the bottles and jars in my room!"

"Who would want to help you get your things!" After Metal finished protesting not so poisonously, he left to get them obediently.

Earth's face froze, and he turned his head to ask Storm, "Do I have to be here to watch him bathe?"

"Captain Judgment wanted us to watch over Sun," Storm quietly assessed. "So you have two options. Number one, violate Knight-Captain Judgment's orders. Number two, see Sun's naked body."

"...F***!"

*F*** what? In any case, I am actually a fair and beautiful man, with a head of long blond hair, and now because of sleeping for half a year I am malnourished and too thin. Simply by looking at my figure from behind, I might actually look very much like a lady...Wait a minute! Come to think of it, later on when I bathe, there will be three men staring at me?*

*F***!*



Bathing almost tired me to death.

As expected, a body that has slept for half a year is so stiff that it can't move about freely in such a short while. All the actions that I did were ten times more difficult than they previously were, and upon movement all my joints in my body would creak, like rusty door locks. In the corner, there were two people currently facing the wall. They were Storm and Metal. Only Earth had to face me, because he had to watch me closely, to prevent me from going crazy and hurting myself or them. However, I had insisted that he stand outside the range of my sensing ability, since as long as I couldn't see him, I could treat him as nonexistent!

After battling for half an hour, I finally managed to remove my clothes, and he blurted out, "Do you want Leaf to come and help you? He's already taken you to the toilet before, so he shouldn't mind helping you bathe."

"I mind a lot!"

After a while, he spoke again, "You should eat more, you are really outrageously thin, the likeness of a skeleton. It's super unsightly."

"Then you don't have to look!"

"You think I want to watch a skeleton bath? But if I don't watch, and Judgment finds out that I disobeyed his orders, his expression will be even more unsightly!"

"Then would you die if you shut up?"

"Don't tell me you want me to quietly observe you bathing? Isn't that even more perverted?"

I angrily roared, "Storm, it's your turn to watch. Tell Earth to turn around and face the wall for me!"

However, the person who replied was Metal. "Storm has already fallen asleep."

"..."

"In consideration of Storm sleeping, I will be quieter and not disturb his sleep," Earth coldly said. "In this past half of a year, he and Judgment worked so hard that it wouldn't be strange at all if one day they just collapsed and died."

"... I'm sorry."

"There's no need for that. The fact that you've awoken is the best apology, so in short don't go crazy again." Earth grumbled quietly, "In the past, I never saw you do much at all. Didn't you always push all your work onto Storm and Adair? But it's so strange, it's truly quite troublesome without you, and we kept being harassed from morning till night..."

I was stunned, and then roared furiously, "Who has been harassing you?"

"There are so many!" Earth started listing, "His Majesty the king used

the excuse that the demon king candidate is the Sun Knight, so he wouldn't give any money for the army expenditures. Even if it's to suppress undead creatures in the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound, he's still the same. During this period, the expression on the Pope's face has been as unsightly as an undead creature. He said if it wasn't for the secret stash of money that he had saved in the past, the expeditionary army would have run out of food a long time ago. However, if we continued fighting for another three months, completely without any other aid, then he would be forced to tell the expeditionary army to simply go and eat all the undead creatures."

Your Majesty... Even if you are a good king, you must still spit out the expenses for the army!

"There's also the Monastery of the God of War. They demanded a group of clerics from us to get rid of undead creatures in the Kingdom of Moon Orchid, but also wouldn't assist us with any money. Even the traveling expenses had to be paid for by the clerics themselves!"

"Did you guys agree to it?" I couldn't believe it as I said, "The Pope also agreed?" *That money-grabbing Pope actually agreed to send out clerics without payment in this crucial, money-taxing time period?*

Metal shouted, "It's because they used your identity as a demon king candidate to threaten us, we couldn't argue at all!"

So it's like that. I laughed coldly. Very well! Since they see me as a demon king candidate, then I will act like one for a while!

Earth muttered, satisfied, "As expected, it feels pretty good to tattle to

Sun. Simply by looking at his expression, I feel great! It's like I've already gotten revenge, no, three times the revenge. Sweet!"

What Earth said was right. I would definitely make them cough up thrice the amount of money!

Chapter #3: "The Demon King Gets Ready and Departs"

After bathing, the first thing I did was shave my beard. When I almost cut my face twice due to my hand shaking too much, causing Earth to think that I was going crazy again and about to commit suicide, Metal finally could not stand it anymore. He rushed forward, pulled out his two daggers, and sliced at the left and right sides of my face twice until my face became smooth and shiny again... *I never knew that Metal's beard-shaving abilities were this good. In the future, I have someone who can help shave my beard!*

After that was combing my hair. My hair was so long it had now passed my bottom. When I tried on the Sun Knight uniform again, I actually had to buckle my belt at the innermost hole. No wonder Earth said that I was as thin as a skeleton. My current waistline was probably only twenty-five inches at most.

My current image, described in Earth's words from earlier was, "You currently have a sort of poignant feel. If you left your hair loose, you might get mistaken and hit by Blaze's Flames of Purification."

After I was done tidying my appearance, I sat beside the bed. I felt so tired that I believed I would fall asleep the moment I lay down.

"I'm so... so tired. Why am I so weak now?"

Earth said incredulously, "Weak? Your bath alone took three hours, your facial took two hours, shaving took half an hour, brushing your

hair took half an hour, and polishing your shoes took another half an hour. I feel tired just watching you!”

“I’m going to take a nap.” My eyelids were already about to fall.

“You want to sleep?” Earth’s expression seemed worried.

I asked doubtfully, “What’s wrong?”

Metal muttered, “Don’t go crazy again when you wake up!”

So that’s what they’re worried about. I answered helplessly, “I can’t go without sleep forever, can I?”

Earth said, “Hurry up and get to sleep. We’ll take turns keeping guard.” I suggested, “Why don’t you all just tie me up. That way, you won’t need to watch me.”

“Don’t joke around. You think we have nothing to do and tied you up for fun? Not to mention even if we did tie you up, we would still have to take turns guarding you. There’s no way we would leave you alone!” Earth answered unhappily. “Just hurry up and get to sleep!”

“Alright!”

I didn’t bother arguing with them anymore because my eyelids were so heavy that they could have fallen straight down. The moment I lay down and shifted my head to one side, my consciousness blurred...



The scene was blurry at first, but it was becoming clearer and clearer. Not to mention I wasn't using my sensing ability to see but was actually using my sight.

I can actually see again?

Damn it! The me outside couldn't have gone crazy again, could I? That's not good at all! Hurry and wake up! I don't want everyone else to be worried.

Although I struggled my hardest to wake up, this wasn't something that I could control at all. No matter how many times I slapped myself, I couldn't even feel the pain, and there were no signs that I was waking up.

I couldn't help surveying my surroundings. This one look made me think that the end of the world had arrived. The ground was a mass of burnt black, the surface looking like it had been burned by fire multiple times. Don't even mention the plants. I couldn't even see a natural colored piece of land.

The whole sky was filled with clouds and mist, and the weather was damp and gloomy. I couldn't even see a ray of sunlight. The only greenery surrounding me were a few trees burnt black. I couldn't differentiate whether the trees were still alive or just burnt wood.

This sort of place wasn't unfamiliar to me. This was a land of death, but I had never before seen such a vast land of death. When I turned to look all around me, I couldn't even see its end!

On the other hand, I could see that there was a wide stretch of dust close by. It looked like an entire army was galloping over...

Just as I was about to look for a place to hide, I recalled that I was currently in spiritual form. There was no one who could see me, so why on earth should I hide?

Therefore, I stayed put and continued to observe the stretch of dust. Only when they had rushed closer did I notice that it was actually an entire crowd of creatures of darkness!

With white bones jutting out everywhere, rotten horses were what they rode... What I mean is "rotting horses," not lousy, rotten horses. These horses might be rotting in several places, but their muscles were large and robust. Their eyes were bloodshot, and they were snorting vigorously. They looked even scarier than the creatures of darkness riding on them!

The frontline had two rows of high-leveled creatures of darkness numbering over a hundred. Of course there were death knights, and I could also vaguely make out witches, werewolves, and a lot of other creatures that I couldn't even name. Behind them was a white sea of skeletons.

It's an army of darkness!

They rushed toward me. Just as I realized that I would be passed through over and over again by hundreds of thousands of soldiers and horses, they stopped about ten paces away from me. The creature of darkness at the forefront seemed to be the commander. His black

armor looked more frightening than the others. When light shone on his helmet, I could barely make out a shrieking face. His rotten horse wasn't all that rotted. Only the area about its right eye was bone.

However, he was one of the ones that I couldn't identify. His outer appearance was no different from a normal person's, except that people don't have shining red eyes or fangs, nor would they ride on a rotten horse.

He walked before me and yelled, "My monarch!"

... If he's addressing me, can I order them all to self-destruct collectively?

However, it was very obvious that he wasn't addressing me. His line of sight went right through me and above me. I turned around and looked up reflexively. A gigantic black shadow was floating in midair. At first, I thought it was a gigantic bird, but immediately I noticed that it was a person. He just had humongous wings.

He is...

"Don't follow me... Who's down there?" He lowered his head. When he saw me, he stilled for a moment before laughingly saying, "So, it's you! Have you finally awakened?"

He slowly descended. The first two rows of creatures of darkness immediately dismounted uniformly and even knelt down, but he ignored them, facing only me. It had been a long time since I used my real eyesight to look at his face.

"Roland, is it really you?" I stared at him.

It's too unbelievable. He, he actually advanced again. His entire person was still ashen, but the dark aura surrounding him had become even thicker. The clawed dragon's wings had not only increased to three but even looked twice as big as before. His appearance now looked exactly like the creature of darkness that only appeared in ancient myths– a death monarch!

"It's really me." He smiled indifferently.

I felt that something was off. "Wait a minute, you can see me?"

"Your current state is a bit strange, but I can still see you. You don't seem to have lost anything through your revival. Is going crazy a side effect?"

Although he had asked me a question, the number of questions I wanted to ask him was definitely more numerous by at least a hundredfold. I couldn't help barraging him with questions. "Why did you kill me? When was the first time you actually met Pink? You, have you been lying to me all this while? Also, do you really not want to be Hell Knight?"

Facing my scores of questions, Roland only smiled, then raised a finger and said, "Sun, looking back at our former friendship, I will let you ask one question. Only one. No matter what question it is, I'll answer it truthfully. Give it a good thought about what you want to ask! Ask me the next time you see me."

"My monarch, who is it that you are talking to?" The creature of darkness behind me questioned.

Hearing this question, Roland's face immediately darkened. He walked around me and then faced the mass of creatures of darkness and roared, "I already warned you all, don't follow me!"

Roland's roar actually caused the earth to shake. The rotten horses raised an uproar and neighed. A number of the creatures of darkness couldn't maintain their balance. Some weaker ones even fell down. But the foremost creatures of darkness remained unaffected, although their kneeling position was even more humble than before, their foreheads nearly plastered directly against the ground. Only that red-eyed, fanged man still dared to raise his head and face Roland, even speaking aloud. "My monarch, following you is our only mission."

Roland glared at him, but he faced Roland steadily. This wasn't something that the other creatures of darkness could do. It seemed as though this guy did not have an ordinary status, not to mention the firm resolution that this serious guy was giving off felt familiar to me... *Exactly like the Roland I knew.*

Roland apparently couldn't do anything about that guy either. He turned around, looked at me, then spread his three pairs of wings and flew up high.

At this, the red-eyed, fanged creature of darkness also spread his wings. It was a pair of wings that looked like it was made of some thin membrane. It was so thin that the framework could be clearly seen,

and there was not a single feather, resembling a bat's wings.

The moment he spread his wings, the two rows of high-leveled creatures of darkness immediately cried out.

Hearing the shouts of alarm, the creature of darkness looked back and swept across the two rows kneeling at the forefront with his eyes. The latter actually let out pitiful expressions of begging. Finally, he could only sigh and fold his wings up, saying to all the creatures of darkness, "Get up, we have to lengthen our strides to catch up with our lord."

Hearing his words, the first two rows immediately showed reassured expressions.

These creatures of darkness really differed from what was written in undead creature textbooks. I had never before seen creatures of darkness that could beg, sigh, and look reassured!

After this, the creatures of darkness saddled up on their rotten horses again. The entire army hurried in the direction that Roland had departed toward...

"What the hell, how could Roland be so impressive?" I mumbled. "We're both candidates for the demon king, but why do I feel that Roland will definitely win? This is such an unfair fight!"

This is all that bastard Sun Knight's fault! If he hadn't taken you away, I would have trained you to be even more imposing than that guy!

"Don't you dare criticize Teacher!" I was so furious that I rebutted before remembering whose voice that was. I anxiously asked, "Scarlet? Oh no, I can't have gone crazy again, can I? That's right! Could you have been behind my insanity?"

I didn't tamper with anything, but I am also to blame. You were originally already in that unstable state of being revived, yet I still let you see those things...

Scarlet's deep self-blame made me feel that I had gone overboard. Actually, Scarlet had never done anything to harm me, but she first got beaten up by my teacher, then got beaten up by me...

Remembering this, I softened my voice. "Alright, leaving that aside, hurry up and awaken me!"

It is not my doing that you are here.

My soul has been hurt again and again. I am already so weak that I am almost powerless. The most I can do now is talk to you. This is your own power; it is you who let your consciousness come so far.

"Me?" I didn't believe her at all. "How could I have this sort of power? Even with my sensing ability, I can't sense this far."

Of course you can. Now, there are only two demon king candidates left. Although your power is still not as strong as an actual demon king's, you are still very powerful!

You are here because you wanted to see the other demon king candidate, isn't that so? I have been observing you for a long time from within the necklace. You seem to be using your instinct to use magic. You wanted to see, so you unconsciously let your consciousness come to such a far-off place.

I asked, shocked, "Are you saying that as long as I want to see him, I can see Roland?"

I don't think you are able to control your power that easily.

That's what I thought. My power always seems to fluctuate between being both strong and weak. When it's strong, I could probably beat the Twelve Holy Knights, although I believe that if Judgment actually drew his sword he could still cut me up into several pieces.

You were born with talent but it has not been properly developed. You were undoubtedly a vessel for the dark element, but you went on to become the Sun Knight, a vessel for the holy element. Later on, you were taught various random skills. Holy magic, elemental magic, necromancy and battle aura; you randomly learned everything. The fact that you didn't self-destruct due to the clashing abilities is already praiseworthy enough.

... At least I was born with talent. Even Scarlet said that the fact that I haven't self-destructed is praiseworthy. Looks like the God of Light really is looking out for me. I consoled myself.

Sun!

"Why are you calling me all of a sudden?" I asked, confused. But I immediately felt that something was off. Scarlet never called me Sun. To her, Sun Knight would actually be my teacher. She normally addressed me by my name, but even more often seemed to call me Child...

Sun! Wake up!

This voice is... Storm? Damn, what happened out there? I need to hurry and return...

Return!



"Sun, Sun!"

I jerked up. Although my eyes were open, I realized that I still couldn't see anything. I hurriedly spread out my sensing ability.

I only saw Earth, Storm, and Metal. All three of them were squashed together at my bedside, their faces full of horror. I hurriedly faced them with my eyes. They immediately yelled anxiously, "You, are you okay?"

"I'm fine!" I immediately clarified. "I just had a dream. There's nothing wrong. I didn't go crazy!"

After this string of clarifications, the three of them looked me up and down for a long time before they finally relaxed their horrified

expressions. However, they were still uneasy, and their expressions weren't too great. I immediately asked, "Did I do something? Don't tell me I attacked you?"

"Nothing of the sort!" After replying, the three of them looked at each other in dismay. Finally, Earth gritted his teeth and said, "You kept on yelling words like 'Roland' and 'why'."

Hearing that, I felt a little awkward. I didn't know how to explain, and stumbled over my words, "I-I was merely..."

"It's probably just sleep talking. We were just overly worried." Storm hurriedly said, "The sun's already up. Hurry and freshen up. Your toiletries have all been placed at your bedside."

He hesitated and then said, "We'll head to the Holy Temple's hall and wait for you there."

Once done speaking, the three of them stepped out of the range of my sensing ability. Afterward, I heard the sound of a door closing. It seemed like they really had stepped out. *They're so reassured about me? They even left the Divine Sun Sword by my bedside... Aren't they afraid that I'll go crazy again? Even I don't trust myself!*

No matter how worried I was, they had already left. Nor was I interested in asking three guys to return and watch over me while I got ready. I got off the bed and took off my shirt. I was planning on changing into my uniform, but then I noticed that the Eternal Tranquility was hanging around my neck...

I touched the Eternal Tranquility and softly said, "Scarlet, if I let you out now, the rest of them will definitely feel uneasy. Since you're already so weak that you're powerless, resting in there for awhile isn't bad, right?"

Come to think of it, I haven't heard Stephen's voice at all. He should still be in the necklace, right?

You killed his child and sealed him in here. He's so furious that he says even if you let him out, he won't go out. He says that he'll stay in the necklace and wait for the next child to be born.

"... When there are people about, please don't talk to me. I'm afraid I'll carelessly reply to you, and when that happens, the others might think once more that I've gone mad."

I don't know whether Scarlet obeyed my words or was too lazy to reply, but anyway, she stopped talking to me.

I concentrated on fixing my clothes and appearance. Actually, I wanted to do a facial before going out, but I was worried that everyone would get anxious if they waited too long and would break my door open. If that happened, I would have to give some nonsensical excuse like "I accidentally spilled flour into water, and it turned to flour paste. Then I accidentally smacked it onto my face." That would be a real hassle, so the better choice would be to change and rush out!

I pushed open the room's door. The moment I stepped out of the room, my head lightened and my sensing ability exploded outwards. I

hurriedly backed up against the wall, and only then did I not collapse to the ground.

Numerous scenes appeared in my head. I could almost see the entire Church of the God of Light. I could even see the Twelve Holy Knights gathered and waiting for me in the hall.

... That's right, the room had magic restrictions, so I had to use a lot of energy to sense. The moment I left the room, the restrictions disappeared. That's why my sensing ability suddenly burst out.

To reduce the backlash, I slowly reined in my sensing ability and offhandedly observed the number of people in the Church of the God of Light.

The entire church was desolate. I had never seen the Church so empty since my arrival here. Moreover, all the holy knights and clerics were rushing about quickly; they all looked very busy.

All of a sudden, I saw a holy knight that was not in much of a hurry. He was leaning on the balcony and looking outside, not doing a single thing. In the midst of a bunch of people running around, he was very striking. I couldn't help observing him, intrigued. If this guy was goofing off, then he needs to be punished. But when I took a closer look, I realized that the symbol on the back of his shirt was Hell's symbol...

I almost thought I saw Roland, but then I immediately realized that it was actually Vice-Captain Tyler. He leaned on the balcony, not looking at anything, just staring blankly with an especially forlorn expression.

Although Hell Knight's sword was sheathed at his waist, he wasn't wearing the Hell Knight's uniform. The uniform he was wearing was still the vice-captain's uniform.

All of a sudden, his captain became the Sun Knight's murderer and is even the Demon King...

That would be like me suddenly killing Judgment then running off to become the Demon King. Adair, as my vice-captain, would definitely suffer a hard blow... *No! Adair would definitely not believe that I would have the courage to kill Judgment. He would insist that someone else besmirched my name.*

As for my demon king identity, I think that Adair would pause for a moment and then follow me, directly becoming the Demon King's lackey!

Having an overly loyal subordinate is not a good thing either. It'd be too easy to become the Demon King when no one is preventing it.

I adjusted my sensing ability to its normal range and then summoned holy element to cover my hair. I wanted to masquerade my white hair as gold again, but gathering holy element had become unusually difficult. Although I could still gather it, I couldn't gather thick enough holy element to dye my hair.

What's going on? Could it be that because there are only two demon king candidates left that the dark element in my body has started to suppress my holy element?

After thinking for a while, I could only go back to the room and pick up my Divine Sun Sword to hang it by my waist. Only with the help of the divine sword was I able to gather enough holy element to dye my hair... *Looks like I can't go anywhere without it from now on.*

I walked through the corridors. Every holy knight that I passed by froze when they saw me. If they were holding something in their hands, all the things fell down to the ground without fail. The things that fell included paperwork, swords, cups, and even love letters.

I arrived at the Holy Temple's hall accompanied by plonk plonk plonk sounds as things fell.

The Twelve Holy Knights... Actually, I should say, ten of the Twelve Holy Knights were all in the hall. All of them had on stern expressions that carried slight nervousness. The moment I walked into the hall, their expressions turned ecstatic. It was exactly like seeing a dead man come alive.

I gave my trademark Sun Knight smile and exclaimed, "Dear brothers, although the morning sun has risen, Sun remembers that it hasn't been a full day since the last time we met. Why should we be so harried? After this meeting, why not let Sun return to Sun's humble abode to listen to the God of Light's benevolence so as to make sure Sun's actions are more fitting?"

No matter what, I was still worried about the possibility of me going crazy, so it'd be better to make an appearance, let the people know that the Sun Knight hasn't gone off to meet with the God of Light, and then return to my own room and stay there for another two days!

With tears in his eyes, Leaf said, "It's been so long since I've heard Sun talk like that!"

"It feels like I've returned to the days of harried deciphering. How nostalgic!"

"I never knew that I actually liked hearing Sun's nonsense so much!"

"Sun, speak more! It feels so good listening to you talk!"

... Did I go mad for this past half year, or have all of the Twelve Holy Knights gone mad?

Storm anxiously said to me, "Go meet the people first. Right now, you're as pale as a spirit and so thin you're all bones, exactly like someone who has been horribly ill. Saying that you have been horribly ill is definitely believable."

"Not to mention him dragging such a long head of hair. He looks more like a vengeful spirit than a sickly invalid to me," Earth muttered. "Why isn't your hair as bright as before? It looks a bit pale."

The moment Earth said this, he seemed to have immediately thought of something and fell silent. It wasn't just him. Everyone else had also fallen silent. Judgment especially swept me with a severe gaze.

I immediately confessed truthfully, "I just discovered that my ability to gather the holy element has weakened."

"Besides that?" He must have noticed my confused expression. Judgment asked more clearly, "Besides your ability to gather holy element having weakened, is there anything else unusual?"

I shook my head and replied, "No."

Everyone immediately relaxed. Although the Sun Knight's holy element having weakened should have been an important thing, compared to me going insane for half a year, this thing must have seemed to them a small matter.

But this wasn't a small matter to me. The fact was that my ability to gather holy element had weakened to the point that I needed a divine sword's help, and even with the Divine Sun Sword's aid, it was probably impossible for me to cast support magic on the twelve of them like before and still have enough left to perform healing spells... *No! I might not even be able to cast support magic on all twelve of them.*

Thinking of this, I couldn't help gripping the Divine Sun Sword tightly. Storm walked up and said, "Sun, since last night we've been sending out holy knights to announce that you've recovered greatly and that you're appearing today. There are a lot of people gathered at the plaza right now. It's about time to go out."

I nodded my head. Appearing for a short while was nothing much. After all, the Sun Knight's duty was to act as the Church's living billboard. From the moment I stopped looking like a little kid sneaking into adult's clothes when dressed up in the Sun Knight's uniform, Teacher would often tell me to replace him and go out to wave to the

crowd because he was too lazy to act as a walking billboard.

Although I often masqueraded as Teacher during that time, the public didn't seem to notice it was a different Sun Knight... Actually, for this past half year, Judgment could have ordered Adair to dress up in the Sun Knight's clothes and go out. The public might not even realize that the person wasn't me!

I turned around and walked toward the great entrance. Everyone else followed behind. For some reason, they all looked better than before. All their worries and nervousness seemed to have dissipated. They almost looked like they were back to normal.

When I neared the doors, I could hear a lot of noise from outside. Agitated shouts and a lot of talking sounded, but the moment I stepped out of the doors, all the noise disappeared. The entrance to the Church of the God of Light was filled with people; it felt like all the residents of Leaf Bud City were present!

Their movements were very uniform. All of them raised their heads to look at me, their eyes wide open, expression stunned and even afraid. I thought about what I should say for a moment, and then said, "Beneath the luminance of the God of Light..."

"Sun Knight!" A shriek cut me off. It sounded so mournful and desperate that I was startled and didn't know what was going on. I could only hurriedly look around to see who had cried out.

"You are still alive! You really are still alive!"

"It really is the Sun Knight. The Sun Knight is still alive!"

Watching the people's excitement which was like an exploding pot, I was taken aback. Although the Sun Knight hadn't appeared for half a year, "Sun Knight" is something that is very removed from a normal person's life. I never thought that my disappearance would cause such a big reaction amongst the people.

Not to mention, it "really" is the Sun Knight? Did they really recognize me?

"We really need you. 'We' doesn't just refer to the Twelve Holy Knights." Judgment walked to my side and asked purposefully, "Do you actually understand now?"

I smiled and said, "Actually, for this past half year, you could have just found someone to masquerade as me. The people probably wouldn't have realized anything."

Judgment refuted, "Did you think that we haven't tried it?"

What? My eyes widened. I turned around to look at him, disbelieving. He nodded and said, "It was the Pope's idea. He picked a holy knight that resembled you the most in hair color and body shape and made him wear the Sun Knight's uniform. Then, he had him stand on the balcony to face the people."

No wonder he's the Pope. Great minds really do think alike!

"But the aftermath was serious. Initially, the people were very happy

when they saw the Sun Knight. But after the fake Sun Knight had barely said three words, they started rebelling. The people had already realized that it wasn't you."

I was stunned. *They really noticed? The people knew that that wasn't me?*

Judgment looked at me blankly and said, "Finally, the Church pushed the entire thing onto me and said that it was Judgment Knight's sinister idea. That finally suppressed the entire commotion. However, rumors about your death started then. There were even some rumors that stated that you were killed by me."

"How could you kill me?!" I blurted.

The corner of Judgment's lips curved but immediately drooped back. He said plainly, "For the people, it's a very real possibility. When the Demon King was born, Judgment Knight actually killed Sun Knight. You can imagine how much pressure the Church of the God of Light has been under."

Judgment must have definitely been severely verbally abused. If not, he wouldn't be complaining. I immediately felt very sorry. For this half year, he must have been handling a lot of stress. The moment I wanted to open my mouth and make an apology, he cut in far more quickly. "Don't apologize to me. I won't accept your apologies. All you have to do is do your duties as Sun Knight properly."

"Is it so difficult to let me apologize to you?" I muttered. "At least after apologizing, I will feel less guilty."

The corners of Judgment's mouth lifted. He replied softly, "Letting you bear that guilt will at least make you think carefully before you go off alone and do something foolish again."

I blurted, "I didn't go crazy because I did something foolish!"

Judgment reprimanded in a low voice, "You went to see an undead lich with a death knight. You call that not foolish?"

"What! I informed you before leaving. You didn't even stop me!"

The moment the words left my mouth, Judgment's face darkened. He pressed his lips together and didn't say a word again. Only then did I realize what I had said... I actually reasoned out that my going crazy was Judgment's fault because he didn't stop me!

Just when I had no idea what to do, Storm luckily came up and said, "Please, if the two of you want to argue, do it privately. Right now, the people are all staring at you. They might not be able to hear you both, but even they can see that you two are arguing!"

We were both startled and turned to look at the public. As expected, all of them had terrified expressions, eyes darting back and forth between me and Judgment, as if worried that we would start fighting... *What are you worried about? I have absolutely no interest in getting beaten into a pulp by Judgment in front of a crowd!*

Judgment took a step back and retreated with Storm to stand behind me.

After taking in a deep breath, I surveyed the people. They seemed very eager for me to speak, but I was unsure of what they wanted to hear. Do they want to be reassured? Do they want my excuses? Or...

"I was not plagued by a deadly illness. The truth is, I was attacked by the Demon King."

The moment I stopped speaking, the people froze, but then an uproar started. Even the holy knights, the clerics, and the Twelve Holy Knights behind me became panicked.

Storm stepped forward and murmured behind me, "Why... why are you telling the truth?"

"Don't you all want to hear the truth?"

Storm balked. I turned around and roared to the people. "But the Sun Knight is not dead! Even the Demon King cannot kill me."

The people's commotion stopped immediately. They raised their heads to look at me, expressions anticipatory.

I smiled and said, "Even if Sun wanted to die, Sun's brothers, the Twelve Holy Knights would probably not allow Sun to have an early retirement and a leisurely time by the God of Light's side."

Soft laughter rang from the people.

"There is only one Demon King, but we have Twelve Holy Knights.

Even the Demon King cannot defeat us! So everyone, please do not worry. The Twelve Holy Knights will continue working hard like usual to solve this problem under the God of Light's protection."

The people looked up at me with radiant expressions... *I think I was wrong. They really do recognize me.*

"The Twelve Holy Knights are here. Don't worry."

After saying the final sentence, I turned around. The Twelve Holy Knights were all staring at me with strange looks on their faces.

"Is this a side effect?" The Twelve Holy Knights were murmuring amongst each other. "I suddenly feel that Sun is so dependable!"

"No no, 'dependable' is not the side effect. 'Honest' is the side effect! He actually told the truth!"

"Oh! That's right. The side effect of 'honesty' is really good, but for some reason, hearing Sun tell the truth makes me feel a little frightened!"

"Dear brothers, if Sun's change is too sudden and caused you all to be in shock, please forgive Sun, as this past year has profoundly taught Sun that lying is an uncouth method that only causes more pain. But if my brothers feel that Sun is still not honest enough, then Sun will have to be even more honest and spill out all the secrets that Sun has come across by accident!"

Metal nudged Storm with his elbow and asked, "Hey, what did Sun

say?"

Storm dumbly said, "He said that this isn't a side effect. It's just that he has learned his lesson and won't keep things from us again. But if we continue insulting him, he'll spill out all the secrets we have that he learned by accident."

Metal grunted. "I'm not afraid!"

Of course you're not afraid. Everyone already knows that you're a masochist, so you really have nothing to be afraid of, but everyone else has!

My investigative abilities were not for show. I knew at least one or two secrets of each of the Twelve Holy Knights... Excluding Judgment. His only secret had been hiding the fact that I was one of the demon king candidates.

Judgment shook his head and said, "Stop playing around. There're still a lot of things we have to do."

I nodded and swiveled my head to look at Storm. "Have you informed the Cathedral of the Shadow God?"

Storm came back to his senses and hurriedly reported. "I've already informed the messengers from the Cathedral of the Shadow God that are in the Kingdom of Forgotten Sound, but they seemed unconvinced. They replied that they want to see you first."

I snorted and said, "Then ignore them. After half an hour, gather in

the conference room. I want to give out tasks.”

Storm asked, confused. “Why after half an hour? Can’t we just go now?”

I replied honestly, “Because I’m hungry. I want to get a bite first.”

“You’re hungry, but you think we’re not?” Metal shouted. “We’ve been so busy since morning that we haven’t had time for a meal!”

I considered this and decided, “Then let’s all go to the conference room and eat.”



In the conference room, everyone was holding a bowl of porridge.

I elegantly ate my delicious fish cilantro porridge. Although I was really starving and there were no outsiders here, I still had to be elegant because the porridge was really too hot. When I impetuously took a large bite, I scalded myself so badly that I almost went to meet the God of Light.

Being scalded to death by porridge is definitely an inelegant way to die that would get me killed once more by my teacher. So I had to elegantly and slowly eat my congee!

While eating the porridge, I said, “Judgment, the Holy Temple can’t be without any of the Twelve Holy Knights guarding it. You lead Ice, Stone, and Moon in staying behind and guarding the Holy Temple.”

Judgment was in the midst of chewing a bit of fish. He had a habit of not speaking when chewing something, so he only nodded his head.

After eating two slices of fish and mouth still full with one, I ordered, "Cloud, Earth, Leaf, and Blaze, you will all go and assist the army in trying to defeat the undead creatures. Undead creatures are originally the responsibility of the Church of the God of Light. It would really be hard to justify not sending out any of the Twelve Holy Knights..."

BAM!

Judgment slammed his bowl of porridge down. I was so startled that the piece of fish in my mouth got stuck in my throat, and I started choking. Then it was everyone else who got startled by me. Blaze, who was next to me, slapped me hard on the back. *Not just the fish, even my heart almost got slapped out by him!*

After spitting out the fish, I coughed a few times before finally getting my breath back.

"Are you alright?" Judgment asked worriedly.

I answered snippily, "Besides getting almost scared to death by you, I'm completely fine!"

Judgment's expression turned relieved, but it immediately hardened. He coldly said, "You plan to head to the Cathedral of the Shadow God alone?"

I stared at Judgment oddly and asked, "Have I finished assigning tasks

to all of the Twelve Holy Knights? If I remember correctly, there are still two people who don't have anything to do yet, right?"

Judgment stopped. Storm nodded and said, "That's right. Sun hasn't mentioned me or Metal."

I glared at Judgment. Embarrassed, he muttered, "Sorry," then thought for a while and said, "Let Earth and Ice accompany you as well."

"No. Earth has to help with the lands of death." The moment I finished speaking, Judgment's expression darkened. I hurriedly explained.

"Roland has an entire army of darkness. Even Earth can't block that. If we encounter a dark army, then running away would be the most important thing, so bringing along Storm and Metal who are the fastest is the best decision!"

"How do you know that Roland has an army of darkness?" Judgment shot a look at Storm and asked, "Did they tell you?"

"No."

I hesitated but still told them about my conversation with Scarlet and my meeting Roland. But beyond my expectations, none of them looked particularly surprised. *Looks like their ability to handle strange things is far better than I expected...It seems like there's nothing that can shock them!*

"What sort of expression is that?" Metal shrieked. "Do you think we're

such scaredy-cats?”

Storm glared at me. “For this entire year, first it was you going blind, then it was Judgment dying, and then you dying. Even after you were revived, you were in an insane state. Hell Knight becoming the Demon King, lands of death encroaching further and further, the Cathedral of the Shadow God wanting you dead... Which one of these is not earth-shattering? It’s not easy to scare us nowadays!”

It really isn’t. Just thinking about it, I already believed that the fact that Storm hasn’t died of overwork must definitely be due to the protection of the God of Light. He must have been afraid that if Storm really worked himself to death, His Church of the God of Light would probably collapse as well.

Moon, eyes reddened, said, “Because I’ve been too busy, I didn’t even have time to go on dates. My girlfriend even broke up with me!”

... Then that really was sad. But if it was that 180cm tall one I met before, then breaking up wasn’t necessarily a bad thing. It’s not that I look down on girls who are too tall. I only look down on girls who are 180cm tall, have biceps, and a voice that is very similar to Judgment’s super deep voice.

I looked around guiltily at everyone but received eye-rolls in return. Storm even roared, “If you really feel all that sorry, then start working! I’m telling you, when this thing is over and done with, I definitely want half a year’s worth of holidays!”

“... Then by the time you returned, the Church of the God of Light will

probably have collapsed.” The moment I finished speaking, the Twelve Holy Knights nodded.

While Storm roared despairingly, “Why is it that if I’m not around, the Church will collapse? I’m not the Sun Knight or the Judgment Knight or even the Pope. I’m just the Storm Knight,” Judgment patted me on my shoulder and said, “Sun, you really are being very honest recently.”

I nodded and said, “I have learned my lesson. Hiding things will only make things worse.”

“That’s good.” He said faintly, “It makes me wonder whether I should be as honest as you. There’s something I have to tell you. I might as well tell everyone else too.”

After speaking, he looked around. Although they had just been joking, everyone immediately quieted and looked curiously at Judgment.

I couldn’t help asking, “What is it?”

“Although you have been revived, I still conducted the investigation of your death like a murder case. According to the results of the investigation, I think that Roland...”

My eyes widened.

Chapter #4: "The Demon King's Move"

After wasting an immeasurable amount of saliva, I finally managed to get Judgment to agree to send Earth to support the army going on the punitive expedition instead of following me to the Cathedral of the Shadow God; however, it was on the condition that I had to bring Moon along as well.

This wasn't that big a deal to me. Since Earth had the ability to make a protective shield, sending him over to where the troops were would mean preventing the previous generation of the Twelve Holy Knights from getting injured or killed. However, if Moon went over, he would only be another addition to the military power. Therefore, it didn't matter even if he didn't go.

"Moon's speed is also very good. When necessary, Storm, Metal, and Moon can take you to safety."

At that moment, Judgment especially emphasized the words "take you," and I was even stunned for a moment because of it. *So Moon is also the speed type?* I was under the impression that he was the "stand rooted to the spot and only move the whip" type. *Seems like I really have underestimated him.*

In short, the three of us headed for the Cathedral of the Shadow God on horseback the next day. Though we had deliberately chosen to leave early in the morning so as to not cause an uproar, we were still spotted by the people in twos and threes on the main street of Leaf Bud City. They all halted the work they were doing and stared blankly at us.

"Sun Knight, m-may I ask, where are you going?" an old lady asked me frantically.

I tugged on the reins to make the horse stop, and while still mounted, I lowered my head to look at her with a faint smile on my face. I explained to her, "Sun is going to the Cathedral of the Shadow God as an ambassador so as to discuss matters relating to the expansion of the lands of death."

Looking at me, the old lady had on an expression that showed that she didn't quite understand my words, but she only asked, "Following that, will things become better?"

In a gentle tone, I replied, "Yes, everything will be fine. I guarantee it." The old lady's expression relaxed a lot and she seemed to look relieved. She even had a smile on her face as she answered, "May the God of Light bless you."

"The benevolence of the God of Light will bless you along with the citizens of Leaf Bud City."

After giving her a smile in reply, I nodded at each of the others, expressing that we could then set off.

"Your smile sure is useful." Storm was rueful as he lamented, "I don't know how many words we have used to reassure the citizens that everything would be fine, but they weren't effective at all."

Moon cut in, "Yeah, even my girlfriend didn't believe my three words

'It'll be fine.'"

"You mean ex-girlfriend, right?"

He roared in rage, "Don't remind me!"

"Sun, be careful!" Metal suddenly leaned over to pull my reins.

All of a sudden, a black shadow rushed in front of the horse. Thankfully, Metal had managed to pull the reins in in time. Moreover, in order not to give the citizens the impression that I was leaving the city in a hurry, our pace of riding was really slow, so we didn't end up enacting the tragedy of a horse crash where the horse was injured and a person died... Of course, the person who died would definitely not be me, but the fellow who was foolish enough to use his body to stop a horse!

The person who had stopped the horse with his body shouted loudly, "Knight-Captain Sun, please take me along!"

Knight-Captain? Only holy knights would use this form of address. I was stupefied when I looked at the holy knight who had his two hands spread wide apart to block the horse. It was... Vice-Captain Hell!

"Tyre?"

"...It's Tyler." He put down his hands and replied a little helplessly. Storm urged his horse to go forward, and he admonished him, "Vice-Captain Hell, what are you doing? Do you know whose path you are blocking?"

"Please take me with you," Tyler solemnly beseeched. "I believe my captain still owes me an explanation."

This was really a hard request to turn down. I was the one who had brought Roland into the Holy Temple and made Tyler, the substitute Hell, step back into the position of vice-captain. In the end, Tyler had not only accepted it, but he even became rather loyal toward Roland. However, in the end, things became like this...

I asked calmly, "Vice-Captain Hell, did you come here on horseback?" Joy appeared on Tyler's face, and he immediately replied, "Yes, the horse is tied up over there! I have also already brought my luggage!"

I nodded my head, commenting, "Then, Sun has no reason to turn down holy knight brothers who care enough about Knight-Captain Hell to go forth together. Please follow us."

"Yes." Tyler elatedly ran off to fetch his horse.

Like this, the five of us rode out of Leaf Bud City on horseback. Once we left the city, we vanished. However, of course we didn't disintegrate. We only made use of the magic circle that the Pope had drawn to teleport us to the forest nearby to change into our costumes.

As long as I was clear-headed, the Cathedral of the Shadow God would want me to become the Demon King. This was something that Judgment had heard directly from Awaitsun. Roland and Pink would definitely try to stop it from happening. Thus, of these two factions, one of them wanted to kill me, and the other wanted me to become

the Demon King. No one really wanted to see me go into the Cathedral of the Shadow God to conduct the ceremony, and thus, the best method was to secretly sneak into the Cathedral of the Shadow God myself and then complete the ceremony.

For the sake of avoiding pursuit by the Cathedral of the Shadow God and Roland, we made the decision to disguise ourselves as an ordinary adventurer team to journey there. Anyway, right now, every country was offering large rewards to hire adventurers to eradicate undead creatures from the lands of death. Thus, who knows, the number of adventurer teams running wildly around in the lands of death might even be more than the number of undead creatures there. It wouldn't be hard to pass ourselves off as one of them.

After using my sensing ability to confirm that there were no other people around, I turned around to look at the other four people, saying, "Henceforth, we're not allowed to use the titles Sun, Storm, Metal, and Moon. We'll just directly call each other by our real names. Is that okay?"

"Only you would have a problem with that!" Metal... No, rather, Laica yelled, "If you dare to continue calling me Slime, you better watch out! I'm Laica!"

Everyone reported their names one-by-one.

"I'm Ceo!" Ceo smiled extremely radiantly, seeming to hint that if I were to call his name wrongly one more time, he was going to make me meet my "death"!

"I'm Vival." Moon repeated it seriously, "Vi. Va. L. And definitely not 'Voila'!"

If you read Vival a little faster, isn't it "Voila"? I only read it a little too fast, that's all!

"Tyler." Tyler helplessly said, "Knight-Captain Sun, please don't call me Tyre anymore."

I only said, "Alright, I will try very hard to remember, but it will be fine even if I accidentally use the wrong names, right? In any case, it should be okay as long as we don't use the titles Sun or Storm."

All of them rolled their eyes at me.

"Hurry and change into your costume!"

Everyone changed into their costumes one after another, the attire of a holy knight, assassin, mage, cleric, and warrior, respectively. After changing my clothes, I even dispelled the holy light around my hair, and it reverted back to a head of white hair. This way, not only did it make the disguise more effective, it also made me heave a sigh of relief.

Right now, maintaining holy light for long periods of time was not easy. Especially since the Pope had put layer upon layer of seals onto the Divine Sun Sword so as to prevent holy light from leaking out, which would make our disguises fall one step short of success. Therefore, maintaining a head of golden hair was simply not as easy as it was in the past and was also very wasteful. I would rather save the holy light

for casting heals in emergencies.

I sized everybody up. There really was the feel of a proper adventurer team, other than the fact that everyone here was male, which makes one feel very sad. *The so-called cleric and mage should be cute and beautiful females!*

I started to miss the adventurer team from before. There was the female priest Yuna, though her figure wasn't very good, and the female assassin Sybil, who had a great figure. Right now, this adventurer team that was comprised of only males was simply too heart breaking.

"Sun, the cleric outfit really suits you well!" praised Ceo, who was dressed as a mage.

"Really, it's very suitable," Vival, who was wearing a warrior's outfit, agreed via blinking.

"F***! I'm a holy knight," I growled in rage.

"Elegance!" Storm patted my back, saying, "Don't forget the Sun Knight's elegance. See, Tyler has been frightened by you."

I didn't need to turn my head to see how wide Tyler's eyes were becoming and quickly said, "It's pretend. I'm only pretending!"

However, no one believed that.

Storm took out a few cards from the Adventurer's Guild from his

luggage, and as he gave them out to us, he said, "Alright. Though we are only intending to rush our way there, who knows, we might still meet someone. Right now, let's collude first; our adventurer team is called..." He looked at the team name on the card and fell silent for a moment before he said, "Moneyless Squad."

Laica asked in disbelief, "Who gave us this lousy name?"

"The Pope."

I was alarmed. "Moneyless? Don't tell me that he really didn't give us even a little bit of funding?"

"Er... He did, but he said that he would deduct it from your future salary."

"...Can I go and become the Demon King?"



We spurred our horses on, galloping, pausing occasionally to let the horses rest. Around the time when the afternoon was turning into the evening, I told everyone, "I'm a little tired. Let's ride a little slower, and when there's a town, let's rest."

"Why is your stamina even worse than what it used to be?" Laica complained unhappily.

Indifferently, I said, "That's probably because the holy light within my body is far from what it used to be! Holy light more or less has a little bit of a recovery effect."

Laica flinched and then started to look guilty. I quickly changed the topic, saying, "Roland's physical fitness is the best, Charlotte's dark element is the strongest, and I seem to be the strongest in a mishmash of abilities."

Though it was only for the sake of diverting the topic, after I said that, even I myself was blank for a moment.

So when the three of us are combined together, we are the invincible Demon King. Also, my dark element seems to be higher than before because the one with the strongest dark element, Charlotte, is dead.

"You are really the strongest in a mishmash of abilities." Vival nodded his head in agreement.

...Though that is the truth, hearing it really makes one feel kind of angry!

"Sun, there's a town up ahead. Let's rest there!" After Ceo finished speaking, he warned us, "Everyone, be careful. Don't reveal your identity. If there isn't a need, don't talk to others."

Everyone nodded their heads.

We entered the town, and at first, I was still a little worried. However, we didn't attract too much attention on the way to the restaurant except for the restaurant's waitresses frantically exchanging winks with Ceo and occasionally sneaking a peek at the other three... *Why isn't any woman looking at me?*

In any case, I am also a handsome guy! Never mind losing to Awaitsun, but it can't be that I can't even compare with Vival, Laica, and Tyler?

I glared at Tyler, growling, "Tyler, answer me, am I not as handsome as you guys?"

Tyler froze for a moment before he answered in a hurry, "Maybe it's because you have a head of white hair right now, giving you a mysterious and profound aura, so people are afraid to approach you!" Vival instead said with suspicion, "Is that so? On the contrary, I think that Su-... Grisia right now has really long hair and is also very skinny. His skin is as white as a spirit, and the clothes that he is wearing are even cleric robes. At first glance, you simply look like a woman."

"What do you mean at first glance? Even after you look closely, he still looks a lot like a woman!" Laica immediately continued. *I keep feeling that, right now, his words seem to be a lot more poisonous than before!*

I look a lot like a female right now? I looked at Tyler with an inquiring expression. As a vice-captain, he didn't have the authority to refuse to answer, and of course, he couldn't lie either. Thus, he was forced to give a reply. "Indeed, you do look a little like one."

Ceo was very serious as he said, "No, he really looks like one. I keep having this impulse to wink at Grisia!"

"Because you are using sensing, you possibly might not have noticed..."

Vival whispered into my ear, "From the time we stepped into the town till now, there have been a lot of guys winking at you!"

I'm really thankful I haven't noticed that! If I were to notice a man winking at me, I might possibly not be able to stomach this meal. Who wants to be winked at by a man?!

When I turned around, Ceo was still winking at the waitresses. This couldn't help but make me think that, even now, there were men winking at me... Goosebumps broke out all over my skin! I hurriedly reminded him, "Ceo, at the moment you don't have to wink, you know?"

"...I really forgot." Ceo retracted his gaze and then started to pour all his effort into eating. Even if there was a waitress with a super good figure walking past him, he didn't even raise his head, and he seemed to even look very moved.

All of a sudden, Vival said, "Grisia, actually, if you were to dress up as a woman, wouldn't the disguise be even more effective?"

After he said that, every one of them had an expression of sudden realization. In order to prevent them from making suggestions such as "Why don't you wear a lace skirt and then tie a bow on top of your head" and the like, I immediately said, "Right now, don't I already look a lot like a woman?"

All four of them stared at me, and in the end, they couldn't help but agree. "You really do look a lot like a woman."

...Though not having to wear a lace skirt makes me feel a lot more at ease, hearing that sentence really makes me angry!

Vival patted my shoulder, comforting me. "Don't worry, at least you look like a beauty. Moreover, it's not a common beauty but the extremely beautiful kind! If I didn't know the truth, even I would want to woo you."

*F***! I'm even more worried now. What if later on in the night, someone tries to attack me?*

Under the situation where I was very scared and on edge and didn't dare use my sensing ability to see how many men around were winking at me, I finished my food rapidly. Following which, I let Ceo get rooms from the employee at the front desk. After a whole day on the road, I simply wanted to lie on a bed and sleep.

Ceo told the shop assistant, "Please give me two rooms."

"Two rooms?" The shop assistant frowned as he said, "Our rooms aren't very big; having four guys squeeze into one room might be pushing it a little!"

Ceo was stunned for a moment and answered back in confusion, "Why do we have to squeeze four people in one room? We can split into three people in a room and two people in a room, right?"

This time, it was the employee who was stunned. After sneaking a peek at me, he showed an expression as though he thought it unfathomable and replied, "Yes, of course you can." Then, he gave two

keys to Ceo.

Ceo turned around and handed one of the keys over to me, saying, "Grisia, you'll share a room with Tyler!"

It didn't make a difference who I shared the room with, but Ceo's attitude made me feel that something was a little strange, for he seemed to especially not want to sleep in the same room as me. Deliberately, I said, "No, I'd like to sleep in the same room as you."

Hiss!

I seem to have heard a sharp intake of breath coming from the side? I used my sensing ability to check and discovered that many men were looking at my back, their faces full of disappointment...

Ceo flatly rejected me, saying, "I don't want to. Earlier, I had a very heavy workload, so I want to sleep tonight. I don't want to take care of the men who attempt a night raid!"

...

Vival patted Tyler's shoulder, saying, "We'll hand Grisia's chastity over to you. We're going to sleep."

Upon receiving the order, Tyler reflexively gave a "Yes."

"...Yes, my ass!" I smacked his head.



Climbing onto the bed, I immediately felt a little drowsy. Though I knew that I should go take a bath first, so as to avoid the stench of sweat ruining the Sun Knight's image... *Wait a moment! Right now, I'm in disguise, so I shouldn't need to behave like a Sun Knight, right? Very well, let's sleep!*

I was just about to extend a hand to grab the blanket when Tyler opened his mouth to ask a little hesitantly, "Knight-Captain Sun, could I please consult you on an issue?"

Although I really wanted to say leave it for tomorrow, it was simply very difficult to tell someone who had a heart-broken expression on his face to obediently go to sleep... If I didn't know the truth, I might possibly be under the impression that the person that Tyler had lost was actually his lover and not his captain.

Gathering his courage, Tyler asked, "Knight-Captain Sun, was it really Captain who killed you?"

I went stiff for a moment and said, "Yes, but don't blame Roland! Tyler, he has his circumstances."

Tyler fell silent for a moment then sighed as he said, "If the person that Captain had killed doesn't blame him, then I don't think I have the right to blame him. It's just that... Am I left without a captain again?"

I looked at Tyler and asked back, "Is being captain yourself not good?" Hesitation appeared on Tyler's face, and he seemed at a loss of what to say. He replied back falteringly, "To every holy knight, it is likely a

dream to be able to become one of the Twelve Holy Knights! Probably, it's only Adair who thinks otherwise. He always says that he doesn't have your ability and doesn't dare become the Sun Knight. However, no one believes his words, and that's because..."

He suddenly trailed off, as though he didn't dare to speak.

"It won't hurt to say it directly. No matter what you say, I won't blame you."

Tyler then lowered his voice to say, "That's because he's always extremely busy, as though he is already doing all the work that the Sun Knight does. However, he insists that he doesn't have the ability to become the Sun Knight... I had asked him about it before, why he thinks that he is not qualified to be the Sun Knight."

"What did he say?" I couldn't help but ask in curiosity.

"Adair said that everything he does is just following orders, and what's truly hard to do is actually giving orders."

I smiled and felt satisfied as I commented, "As expected, I didn't choose the wrong vice-captain."

"I really wish that I could hear that line too."

I was stunned, and Tyler explained, "Perhaps I also want to be the Hell Knight, but I still wish that Captain would come back." After that, he gave a weak smile, asking, "Knight-Captain Sun, am I being too greedy?"

"Indeed, a little too greedy..." *Though, I am also the same.*

I opened my mouth to say, "Tyler, go run into the other room to notify the others."

"Notify?" Tyler asked back in astonishment. "But, what should I notify them about?"

"There is a large group of creatures of darkness coming toward this town. They are to get ready for battle!"

Tyler opened his eyes wide, but he instantly stood up and went to carry out my orders without any hesitation. He didn't even question me on how I knew that. He really did almost have the Adair's demeanor and was a pretty good vice-captain.

I touched the Divine Sun Sword at my waist. Right now, even when I was sleeping, I would use it as a bolster, though it was so hard that it was difficult to use it as one. If my sleeping posture wasn't good, I would often even discover an imprint of a sword handle on my face when I woke up the next morning!

However, I at the moment had to get used to this. That's because carrying the Divine Sun Sword with me everywhere can help make up for the problem of my deficiency in holy light.

Now, the scabbard of the Divine Sun Sword had been replaced with the Pope's specially made sealing scabbard, which could prevent holy light from leaking out and causing unnecessary trouble. However, this

seal also made me unable to absorb holy light from the Divine Sun Sword smoothly. It wasn't that I couldn't absorb any at all, but still, if I had to cast an Advanced Heal, I would probably have to pull out the sword... It's just that, after pulling out the sword, I have a feeling that a Death Monarch would be knocking at my door.

Moreover, sealing the Divine Sun Sword created another major problem...

"Sun!"

Everyone knocked the door aside and rushed in. I rolled my eyes at them and said unhappily, "I'm Grisia. Don't call me by the wrong name."

Ceo immediately switched to ask, "Grisia, what happened?"

"Large numbers of creatures of darkness have entered from the southwest section of the town."

"The southwest section of the town..." Moon retrieved a map from his possessions, and after spreading it out on the table, he looked at it, frowning for a moment. Then he said, "In that direction, there is indeed a land of darkness. However, the distance is about a hundred kilometers away, so it's impossible that they came from there... Could it be that the land of darkness has already expanded to this place?"

Metal's eyes turned wide as he said, "It can't be! If every land of darkness has expanded a hundred kilometers, then is there any place left for humans to live?"

Seeing everyone's face turning more and more unsightly, I explained quickly, "The land of darkness has not expanded up to here. It could be that the seal on that land of darkness has been broken, and that's why some creatures of darkness came out."

Ceo furrowed his brows as he commented, "Grisia, we shouldn't get into contact with the creatures of darkness and especially should not fight with them. If we do, then the disguises that we wore specifically for this would become meaningless!"

Once he finished his words, Tyler immediately cried out in alarm, "Wait, if we ignore them, then are we to look on helplessly as the villagers in this town are all slaughtered by the creatures of darkness?"

Hearing that, Ceo's face darkened too. No, it wasn't just him. All four of their faces darkened, as though they were facing the end of the world.

"Listen to me." I only said three words, but all of them turned around to stare at me, their expressions a spitting image of a creditor who met up with someone who owed them a debt.

Unhappily, I told them, "What are you so nervous for? There are so many holy knights and clerics in this world, and there are traces of holy light everywhere. As long as we don't use the weapons that are exclusive to the Twelve Holy Knights, then even the Demon King wouldn't know that members of the Twelve Holy Knights are here."

Once I said my piece, everyone had on an expression of sudden

realization.

"The ones attacking are only some common creatures of darkness, so there's nothing to be nervous about. Now, let us go in the direction in which the creatures of darkness are nearing, and then along the way, we'll tell the villagers that we have discovered creatures of darkness approaching, so as to let them escape beforehand. Also..."

"What's wrong?" Vival asked, not understanding.

I turned around to look into the distance. Though I actually had no need to turn my head around, I would often do so by reflex. Also, by doing this, I can also let the others know what I am doing, so as to prevent them from randomly guessing.

"The number of those creatures of darkness is more than what I had sensed before. Also, among them, there seems to be a few higher-level creatures of darkness. The speed at which they are approaching is really fast... Oh no, there are some that can fly among them!"

I instantly turned back around to face the others and then commanded, "Tyler, go to the place where the most villagers are to battle with the creatures of darkness, and try to use exaggerated fighting styles as much as possible."

Tyler froze, and I roared at him, "This is an order!"

After saying that, I cast the Wings of God spell onto Tyler, Laica, and Vival so as to increase their speed by a large margin. However, I skipped doing so on Ceo. That's because his normal speed was already

the fastest among the Twelve Holy Knights, and if he were to become even faster, I was afraid that others might suspect his identity.

"Ceo, go along with Tyler. He's responsible for using exaggerated fighting to attract the villagers' attention, and you shall take the opportunity to gather together the adventurer teams and strong men in the town. Tell them to exert themselves to protect their own town! Right, remember not to use your leg armor so as to prevent others from finding out your true identity."

After saying "Yes," Ceo grabbed Tyler and headed out the door.

I turned to give commands to Laica and Vival. "You guys patrol within the city and put rescuing the elderly, women, and children as your top priority. Also, once you save them, run away. The best result would be if you were not seen by others. I will use my sensing to check where the civilians in danger are and then pass on the location to you."

Both of them replied back with a "Yes" and turned around to leave. However, upon reaching the door, Vival seemed to be a bit worried as he turned back to ask, "Are you staying here?"

I nodded my head. "Yes, I am going to stay here to sense the surroundings."

Hearing that, Vival then turned back to leave with Laica.

I waited until they were some distance away, and then coated myself with a layer of dark element. This way the creatures of darkness would think that I was one of them and hence would not attack me.

Tyler rushed outside and shouted loudly. At first, his actions caused a lot of disgruntlement. However, that wasn't strange. To shout like that in the middle of the night and not have someone throw wine bottles at him at his first yell would already be pretty good.

However, as Tyler talked on and on, quite a few people started to gather by his and Ceo's side. Ceo roared to a few men. I'm not sure what he said, but the men's faces started to show rage, and then one after another, they dashed back into their homes to take out various kinds of weapons: hoes, sickles, kitchen knives and even brooms!

Looks like there aren't any problems on this side.

I turned my attention back to the creatures of darkness' movements. They had already started to invade the town.

Laica, continue walking straight ahead. Vival, turn left.

The two of them followed my commands without hesitation. The creatures of darkness that Laica encountered were three werewolves of a slightly higher level. Vival's opponents were a large bunch of skeletons, about twenty of them.

Seeing the situation, I couldn't help but feel a little worried. Though, under normal circumstances, these creatures of darkness weren't much of a threat to the Twelve Holy Knights, at the moment, both Vival and Laica didn't have Light Shield to protect them, and they couldn't use the exclusive weapons of the Twelve Holy Knights either.

Moreover, they were both members of the “cruel, cold-hearted” faction, so I wasn’t too sure of their actual capabilities. If it were the members of my own “good, warm-hearted” faction, I would definitely leave the job of rescuing to Earth and Cloud. The strongest protection and the strongest... attacker you can’t even see coming!

The more I thought about it, the more worried I grew. I quickly used my psychic magic to send them a message.

Laica, Vival, are these creatures of darkness too strong? Should I find Ceo to assist you both...

Laica was lightning fast. With a single jump, he leaped past the sides of the three werewolves. When he landed, the three werewolves behind him opened their eyes wide, and in the next second, large amounts of blood spurted from their throats. Then they collapsed onto the ground.

It was so cool that even I gave Laica a round of applause... Or perhaps giving him a few lashes would be more to his liking?

On the other side, facing twenty or so skeletons, Moon took out his whip that was the kind with spikes at the end. After he uncoiled his whip, numerous gouges appeared on the ground around him, almost like there was a tornado surrounding him. Once they hit this tornado, the skeletons had to resign themselves to the fate of turning into white ash on the ground.

As expected, I wasn’t wrong; Moon is the “stand rooted to the spot and only move the whip” type.

After the two of them killed the creatures of darkness within a matter of seconds, they even stared at the sky in a rather synchronized movement, which would mean at me, and rolled their eyes.

...Very well, I was obviously just worrying too much.

Following that, the two of them went around to help the civilians under my directions. When the number of creatures of darkness increased, they also had to kill a large bunch of them offhandedly while hurrying on their way to the next rescue. However, this "offhandedly" didn't slow them down at all. Quite frequently, they just ran past the creatures' sides, and then the creatures of darkness would either have their throats slit or their legs cut off.

After the creatures of darkness appeared, none of the villagers who were rescued seemed to notice the presence of Laica and Vival.

After being attacked by the creatures of darkness, the civilians were all in a state of extreme panic, and they didn't even dare to glance back while running away. Added with Vival's and Laica's originally fast speed and the support of the Wings of God spell, the civilians would often run a certain distance before suddenly looking back and finding the undead creatures chasing them to be either missing or down on the ground. However, by then, the two of them would already be off in other places saving other people.

After the rescuing had been going on for some time, I finally could not find any lone civilians who had fallen behind. After instructing Laica and Vival to go around and hunt the creatures of darkness, I went

back to look at the situation on Ceo's side.

The situation on Ceo's and Tyler's side seemed to have developed pretty well too. Under their lead, the men held weapons of all sorts to hold back the creatures of darkness. Even if there was any danger, Ceo and Tyler would save them in time. As for the women with children and the elderly, they were hiding in a few houses that were heavily protected...

"Don't come any closer! Help!"

I was stunned. *This cry seems to have come from the lounge downstairs.*

After shifting my attention to the ground floor, I then discovered that there were actually two children who had fallen behind! The boy was tightly hugging a girl who was smaller than him. Though the two of them were hiding behind the front desk, it didn't stop two skeletons from finding them. One of the skeletons' hands was already reaching toward the boy's arm!

I dashed frantically out of the room and ran all the way to the lounge. When I passed by the tables and chairs, I even conveniently picked up a chair to throw at the two skeletons.

One of them had their left hand knocked away by the chair, and the other had a hole punctured in its skull. Regardless of which part of them got injured, I had successfully managed to attract their attention. The two skeletons gave up on the children and then ran toward me in a rage.

Though I really wanted to just directly turn them into dust with holy light, doing that might possibly attract even more creatures of darkness. At that moment, the amount of holy light that I had was simply not enough to make the creatures of darkness feel afraid and hence keep away. On the contrary, it might make them even angrier.

“Wind Blade!”

Several streams of wind flew out from my hands and cut the skeletons apart in a cross shape, and they instantly split into four parts. This was the fastest way to make them lose their combat power.

The boy surreptitiously poked his head out from behind the front desk, and I whispered to him, “Hide there, and don’t come out!”

I turned around, and ten or so more creatures of darkness appeared at the door. Not to mention that they were well-equipped... For an undead creature, holding a weapon and wearing a little bit of something on their body is already considered very well-equipped.

After thinking for a moment, I didn’t attack but instead stopped restraining my inherent ability to gather dark element and let the dark element naturally gather onto my body. After I gathered it to a certain degree, I had to use all my willpower to force myself to stop. That kind of feeling where you are filled with strength is simply t-too hard to resist...

I coldly told them, “Get lost!”

These creatures of darkness didn't leave, but they did instantly kneel down before me with almost their entire upper body plastered onto the ground, not daring to even look at me.

Creatures of darkness are actually kneeling down before me... I turned my head around and roared, "Scram!"

This time, they really did run off, scrambling and crawling away.

To actually be able to command undead creatures to get lost... Not having enough holy light, the dark element would naturally be attracted to me. After the Divine Sun Sword was sealed, I had no way to stop the dark element from gathering, to the point where the moment my hand left the hilt of the Divine Sun Sword, my body would immediately be invaded by dark element. *What kind of Sun Knight am I?*

"Thank you..."

I froze for a moment, and then turned around to see the boy walk out from behind the front desk, leading the girl by the hand. The two of them looked to be in a state of panic, and they ran to my side in small steps. The little boy grabbed my hand, and the girl was even more straightforward as her whole body clung to me. The two of them were trembling all over.

"Don't be afraid!" I comforted them in a hurry. "With me here, these things will definitely have no way to harm you!"

It seemed that the boy only started to feel scared at this moment, and

his tears fell non-stop. As he wiped away his tears, he thanked me, “Thank you! Thank you, big sister, thank you for saving me and my little sister!”

*...F***! I’m a man!*

Chapter #5: "The Demon King's Followers"

I hugged the little girl with my right hand and held the little boy's hand in my left hand. Then I walked to where the populace had gathered. They were all waiting at the public square, exhausted and in a state of panic. Though the creatures of darkness were already routed, no one dared to go back to their houses.

Vival and Laica were moving back and forth on the periphery of the public square, on the alert for any approaching creatures of darkness. Ceo and Tyler were surrounded by the villagers, and they were explaining what method was the most effective against creatures of darkness.

After learning how to destroy the creatures of darkness, the civilians looked much more at ease. It was especially so with those young males, whose expressions looked like they hoped for more creatures of darkness to come so that they could test out those techniques.

When Ceo lifted his head, he noticed me and immediately shouted, "Grisia, you're back!"

At this moment, everyone turned their heads and gazed at me steadily. However, this scene was already so familiar for me that I could handle it with my hands tied behind my back. As the Sun Knight, one had to learn how to face the populace from a young age. I automatically revealed a smile and then said, "Yes, under the God of Li- God, just returning back here safely was a big problem!" The words God of Light nearly slipped out of my mouth. Thankfully, I noticed it in time and forcefully changed it to something else.

I walked toward Ceo, and along the way, I asked, "May I ask if the parents of these two children are here? Does anyone recognize them?"

The civilians stared blankly at me, not having any reaction at all. That was really strange. Generally speaking, when children disappear in a situation where creatures of darkness were wreaking havoc, their parents would be desperately looking for them everywhere. However, it seemed like no one had been looking for this pair of kids.

At that moment, an old lady said, "They are orphans. They usually help out a lot in the village in exchange for some food."

So they are orphans. No wonder nobody was looking for them. I nodded my head, saying, "I see. They are badly frightened, but other than that, they are unharmed. Is there anyone who is willing to help take care of them for the moment?"

Although these two children were not related to them, when they heard that the children were unharmed, the citizens still showed expressions of relief.

A few women came up to try and pry the two children away from me, but they seemed not to want to leave my side yet. The girl hugged me tightly, and no matter how much the women advised her, it was of no use. Fortunately, her brother was a little older—*I guess he's about eight years old?*—and was extremely understanding and took his sister off me by carrying her. Only then was the girl willing to leave my chest. I stroked the two children's heads and told the boy, "You have to be strong and take care of your sister, got that? Wait till you grow older,

and if you wish to become a holy knight or your sister wishes to become a cleric, then come to the Church of the God of Light, got it?" The boy nodded his head earnestly and promised, "Okay!"

At this moment, I abruptly remembered that I wouldn't know how many years later this boy would come to find me, and children also grow fast, so I had to know a name so as to differentiate him easily. I asked him in a hurry, "What is your name?"

The boy lifted his head to look at me, and I suddenly found out that he had a head of golden hair and a pair of blue eyes. Though the blue hue of his eyes was a little closer to green, looking more like the color of a lake than the sea, if I were to forcefully claim that it was blue, it would still be acceptable.

The boy said, "My name is Elaro, and my sister is called Ludia."

"Elaro and Ludia, is it? Very well, I will remember your names," I gently whispered to him, "I am Grisias. When you come to the Church of the God of Light, say that you want to find the Sun Knight, got that?" Elaro's eyes turned wide. I quickly added on, "Hush! You can't tell anyone yet!"

"Okay!" Elaro nodded his head earnestly, saying, "I definitely won't tell what big sister said to anyone else!"

"...I'm a big brother!" I put both of my hands on his shoulders, and then I smiled and said through gritted teeth, "Big. Brother!"

Elaro's eyes widened much more. Ludia, who was in his embrace,

turned around, and reached out her tiny hands, saying, "Sister, hug."

"It's brother!"

Ludia looked at me, seeming to not quite understand what I was talking about. I tried hard to repeat to her many times "brother," but from the beginning to the end, she used a pair of big, watery eyes to look at me. She seemed to think that my repetition was very funny, and hence started giggling. Her smile was simply really cute, but she still didn't call me brother. It was really so frustrating!

I-I... could only ruffle her hair with all my effort for revenge! However, ruffling her hair halfway, I saw Elaro looking at me with eyes shining with longing, and every now and then, he looked enviously at his sister whose hair I was ruffling. Seeing that, I could only use my other hand to pat his head. As expected, he revealed a happy smile.

The world has really changed. In the past, when I was still a child, I hated others ruffling my hair the most... However, that's probably because the Sun Knight must always maintain a tidy appearance, so when people ruffled my hair, I had to comb my hair. It was simply so tiring!

The two children smiled joyously, and the surrounding villagers too started smiling. The few women in front of me even had sincere looks on their faces as they gave heart-felt praise, "You are truly a benevolent holy woman."

It should be holy knight!

What is going on? I have already opened my mouth to speak, so how is it possible that I would still be mistaken for a woman?

Ceo patted me on my shoulder and whispered to me, "Disguise, don't forget that right now you are disguised as a woman. Don't expose yourself."

I too replied back softly, "But my voice completely doesn't sound like a female's!"

Ceo gave a smile, and then he said into my ear, "You are the tenor who can sing the Hymn of the God of Light! Even if we say that you're a female with a low voice, it wouldn't be strange at all... Let's stop talking; many guys are glaring at me as though I have stolen their girlfriend. Your charm is really boundless!"

Hearing that, I fiercely glared at him. I didn't expect that I would instead hear these sentences from the villagers: "Even her glare is maddeningly charming," "Really, a goddess has descended," "I wouldn't marry in this lifetime unless it was with her..."

You mean it's charmingly mad!

"It can't be helped; you really are extremely beautiful right now!" Ceo patted my shoulders, saying, "I also couldn't help but wink at you a few times already. Just now, when you appeared hugging the two children, even Vival blurted, 'A hundred and eighty centimeters superb beauty! I'm going to woo her' and then found out that it was actually you."

"Am I really that pretty?" No matter how skinny I looked right now, a big man like me couldn't possibly turn into a beauty, right?

Ceo sized me up and down and said, "A tender and slender figure, skin as white as snow, rosy lips with white teeth, along with a pair of big, dreamy eyes the color of the azure sky. What do you think?"

Dreamy, my ass! This is called being blind, okay, and your thorough and detailed adjectives make me feel like you're completely treating me as a female!

All of a sudden, something flew out from within the crowd, and it even headed straight towards Ceo's head. At first, I wanted to give a warning, but I realized that it was but a broken pail, so I might as well not say anything. It was a pity that Ceo's reflexes were the real deal, and he dodged that pail just by moving a single step. What a pity.

Ceo turned around, yelling angrily, "Who threw that?"

However, when he turned around, he saw many men staring at him with dangerous expressions, as though they were husbands who had just seen their wife cheat on them. Even the great Storm Knight was so frightened that he took a step backward.

Seeing the situation, I stepped forward and then extended a hand to brush Ceo's disheveled hair back into place. While doing so, I even had on a gentle smile as I looked at him tender-heartedly.

Ceo turned around and opened his eyes wide as he looked at me. Shocked, he asked, "What are you doing?"

I gave a grin, and following that, what headed toward Ceo's head were brooms, chair legs, rotten tomatoes, an entire bag of garbage, moldy bread...



Everyone waited in the plaza together until morning, and only then did we bid the people farewell, even though they looked like they were thinking of tying us up and keeping us in the town for eternity. This was obviously an impossible feat.

Although the people appeared reluctant to part, I, on the other hand, couldn't wait to say goodbye to them because last night... It's better if I don't say it.

After riding for a short while, Vival spoke with regret, "If we had stayed for one more day, perhaps the number of guys who had confessed to Sun would have exceeded seventy! That's even more than the amount of women who have been to Earth's room."

"Shut up!" I roared back indignantly.

Ceo patted my shoulder, saying, "Image! Pay attention to your image! You see, you've terrified Tyler again."

I turned my head back and fiercely told Tyler, "Since we left the Church of the God of Light, my actions have all been part of a disguise, understand?"

Tyler stared wide-eyed at me, and sure enough there was a terrified

expression on his face, but he deserved to be called a vice-captain, immediately nodding and replying, "Yes."

"You see, now there won't be any problems!"

Upon hearing this, Ceo, Laica, and Vival simultaneously rolled their eyes.

"Alright, no more talking, we should start to move faster now to avoid the continuous expansion of the lands of death."

Everyone nodded, and we spurred our horses to hurry on our journey. After speeding along the road for about half a day, I suddenly sensed a thick concentration of dark element ahead and hurriedly stopped the horse to fully extend my sensing ability.

"It's a land of death... It has actually already reached this far?" *This place isn't very far from the previous town!* I turned around and asked everyone, "Should we head back to warn the people in that town?"

"No need," Ceo said expressionlessly. "Right now, lands of death are everywhere. Even if we go and warn the people in that town, there's nowhere else they can go."

Laica also replied, "Make haste to the Cathedral of the Shadow God and finish our business. That's the most important matter right now!"

That was true. I hadn't imagined that the lands of death would actually expand so quickly... I remember Awaitsun had previously said that "Within less than half a year of the lands of death expanding, the

Cathedral of the Shadow God would be completely submerged.” *If that is the case, don’t tell me the Cathedral of the Shadow God is already...*

I turned my head and asked, “What is the current situation at the Cathedral of the Shadow God?”

Ceo replied, “The entire cathedral is in a land of darkness, but because Roland is there, creatures of darkness have not attacked it.”

Because of Roland... I continued to ask, “Then, what about the condition of other places? Are the casualties among the people very severe?”

Ceo froze and gave an irrelevant answer, “The Church of the God of Light has practically been overturned and dispatched, going to various places to hold back the creatures of darkness.”

Upon hearing this sort of answer, I instantly understood that the situation must be very serious, since Ceo answered in such an evasive way, only mentioning the trivial parts. It was true, when I thought about it, that if the previous town hadn’t had us, I was afraid the casualties last night would have been disastrous. However, not every town can have the Twelve Holy Knights conveniently passing through!

“Even if there are even more clerics and holy knights, it is still impossible to look after every city and town. There must have been a lot people who have died in this half year, right?”

If I hadn’t been resurrected, Roland would be the demon king, and in that case, the lands of death wouldn’t have expanded, and those

people wouldn't have died either...

"Sun!" Vival suddenly asked sternly, "What are you thinking about?"

"Nothing," I quickly answered, but the other four weren't so easily brushed off. The intensity of their glares was exactly as if they were torturing a criminal for answers. I could only admit truthfully, "I was merely thinking that if I had died at that time, the lands of death wouldn't have expanded, and perhaps a lot less people would have died..."

Ceo was stunned and furiously roared, "What are you saying!"

Vival even growled, "We resurrected you without hesitation. It's not for you to regret that you didn't die!"

"I-I was only..." I couldn't think of anything to say in my defense and resentfully said, "I was so honest and didn't brush you guys off, so there's no need to be so angry, right?"

"It's because you said things that would anger others!" Ceo said unhappily.

"Captains..." Tyler opened his mouth to say something, perhaps he was even thinking of breaking up the argument, but no one paid him any attention.

"I said things that would anger others?" I growled, unsatisfied. "I was only speaking honestly!"

"Your honest words are enough to anger people!" Laica retorted.

"Captains..." Tyler said, flustered.

"Then, how about from now on I'll just tell lies!" I said rather spitefully.

"Of course you can't do that. You can't return to that former state where you never say anything, either..." Vival declared, alarmed.

"All four captains!" Tyler suddenly roared.

We were all startled and turned around to growl at the same time,
"What?"

Tyler didn't say anything and simply gestured right behind us. Again, we simultaneously turned our heads to look in that direction.

In the distance there was a large cloud of dust, and we could faintly discern horses among the dust. Since there was an entire expanse of a land of darkness in that direction, this gave us a particularly ominous feeling.

"Sun, how can your sensing ability be worse than Tyler's pair of eyes!" Laica muttered. Recently, his tongue had become more and more poisonous, so much that I yearned for his malicious phrases like "so sparkly and pretty!" that could even make the listener feel a little happy.

"I don't usually sense at such a great distance because it's very tiring!" While explaining angrily, I extended out my sensing ability to examine

things and exclaimed in alarm, "That's an army of darkness."

I was very astonished, but the other four people seemed like they were used to it. Probably because of my puzzled expression, Ceo hurriedly explained to me, "This occurrence isn't strange among lands of death. In many places, we have heard of situations where creatures of darkness gathered to form armies in the lands of death. However, they were all just a motley crew and would usually scatter the moment the battlefield turned unfavorable."

I was stunned and hastily said, "The army I'm looking at is very strong. It doesn't look as if it will scatter."

"Creatures of darkness have always had an imposing manner."

"The troops are even lined up in rows and are holding a military flag," I said rather uncertainly. "However, it might simply be for appearances' sake?"

"...Rows? Military flag?"

Shocked, the four of them stared at me and cried out in alarm, "How can that be?"

I grumpily said, "Why can't it be? If not, you can see for yourself! You should be able to more or less see their military flag... Wait!"

Halfway through speaking, I suddenly realized that those creatures of darkness were currently advancing in our direction, and there was no one in front, behind, left, or right of us, either. Unless they were

interested in the frogs by the roadside, their goal was definitely us!

Should we run or fight?

I turned my head and quickly recited to everyone, "There are ten death knights, twenty werewolves, fifty undead creatures whose race is unclear but shouldn't be as strong as the death knights or werewolves, and about five to seven hundred skeletons. Leave the group of skeletons to me. Can you guys deal with the rest of the creatures of darkness?"

Ceo nodded his head first, saying, "No problem."

Laica asked doubtfully, "Sun, are you sure you can really handle the group of skeletons? Perhaps you should move to the side and rest. It's fine to leave everything to us!"

It was so poisonous I almost vomited out blood. I growled, "Right now, we are in disguise. I'm already being inelegant, so you also don't have to use such a poisonous tongue, right?"

Laica was startled and said, "I didn't deliberately use a poisonous tongue. I haven't been since departing from the church."

So that means, all the words you've spoken after leaving the church have been sincere? I could hardly believe it and said, "Y-Your sincere words are actually so malicious!"

"Eh?" Laica actually went wild with joy as he said, "Really? I've truly spoken malicious words? If my teacher heard that, he would definitely

say that he could die with no regrets!"

I-It can't be that serious... But right now isn't the time to be thinking about ridiculous ideas. That army of darkness has been advancing closer this entire time, and they're even charging quite quickly!

I commanded the rest of them, "Prepare for battle!"

Vival asked, "Can we use the specialized weapons of the Twelve Holy Knights?"

I frowned as I asked back, "If you don't use them, can you defeat these creatures of darkness?"

"We can." Vival shrugged, saying, "Those death knights should be mass produced types, not as strong as genuine death knights. It's just that it would take longer to clean up this army."

"Then don't use them," I nodded. Briefly sensing that the army was already fairly close, I hastily commanded, "Laica, you're in charge of taking advantage of the confusion to kill those ten death knights."

Vival's most important targets are the twenty werewolves. Ceo, you're responsible for those fifty unknown undead creatures. Tyler, you're in charge of supporting the three captains and going to help whichever side of the battlefield you see in a disadvantaged situation."

While giving orders, I helped cast support magic on them. This time, I cast Light Shield and Wings of God on all four of them. Luckily, I had enough holy light for this, and I even had leftover strength to use on

healing spells. However, if I wanted to help twelve people with support magic, even if it was only casting Wings of God, I probably wouldn't be able to do it ... *No! The Divine Sun Sword is currently sealed, so if I had the help of the divine sword, I should be able to do it!*

I shook my head, flinging away all those various negative thoughts, and said to the four of them, "Go now!"

"Right!"

The four of them dashed out as if they were flying, while I considered the army of darkness. The five hundred skeletons right at the front had already reached a place about a hundred meters away. It was time to begin to think about what method to use to kill them once more.

Of course, I must avoid using dark elemental magic, as all these just happen to be creatures of darkness. Using dark elemental magic to attack them is not exactly a sensible move.

Aldrizzt had once used hell's fire to set skeletons ablaze. That was truly a brilliant method of destroying skeletons, especially when facing five hundred skeletons. *Unfortunately, I can't use dark elemental magic... Hold on, even though I can't use hell's fire, I can use fire related magic!*

Although I rarely used fire related magic, I knew I should be able to produce at least a basic fireball. I gathered fire element on both my hands, intending to have a field of super blazing skeletons, and if it went smoothly, maybe several unknown creatures of darkness would

be burned to death...

"Hot hot hot!"

I flung out the fireballs and then gathered water element onto my hands to reduce the burns on them.

"Sun! You almost threw them onto my ass!" Laica's shriek came from the front. "Your swordsmanship was never very good, but now you're not even capable of magic?"

Upon hearing this, I hastily searched for an excuse. "I only assumed that you would like it!"

"... It wasn't too bad. Captain Judgment isn't capable of using magic to beat me up," Laica had to admit and then shouted, "However, I need to dispose of the enemy right now, so don't distract me!"

I agreed loudly and waited until the four people charged straight past the large army of skeletons, until they engaged the higher leveled creatures of darkness at the back, and then when there was only the large army of skeletons left in front of me, I flew straight up.

Although it would be easy to become a target for archers when flying in front of a large army, luckily, creatures like skeletons generally lacked a lot of parts, so they wouldn't be able to execute a highly difficult action like shooting an arrow, unless they were advanced skeletons... However, few people would think of advancing the level of cannon fodder like skeletons.

With the recent painful experience of being burned, I gathered fire element about a meter away on both sides of me, creating ten fireballs, each and every one of them as large as an adult. Then, I randomly tossed them below. In any case, there were only skeletons beneath me, so there was no need to aim at all!

Sure enough, skeletons are good fuel. Ten fireballs ignited approximately ten areas, then started spreading between the skeletons... but I hadn't thought that the result of the flames in this sort of spacious and void region would not be as good as inside a cave. The flames only roasted about ten skeletons before extinguishing.

I was stunned. I hadn't imagined that the results would actually be that bad. My capability at gathering the fire element was simply not that great. It might even be a little worse than the water element. It was really impossible to gather enough to annihilate five hundred skeletons with fireballs.

With no other alternatives, I could only settle for using wind blades to eliminate the skeletons. However, the results with the wind blades were barely satisfactory. Shooting out a specially enlarged wind blade could obliterate around six to eight skeletons, even fewer than the fireballs, but at least I had the confidence to shoot out a large amount of wind blades.

While shooting out wind blades, I expanded out my sensing ability. Even though I was already certain that the four of them were very formidable, the number of opponents was truly exceptional, so I was still a bit worried, particularly as they couldn't use their specialized weapons and because my current healing spells weren't as strong as

they had been before...

They each faced countless enemies, but the difference in speed was so great the opponents had no way of hitting them at all. Although Laica and Vival weren't as aggressive as they had been in the small town, so long as they charged forward, they could easily dispose of the creatures of darkness and still make it look effortless!

It looks like there really are no problems. I just worried too much. Even if they don't use their specialized weapons, they are still very strong!

I surveyed the skeletons below, which had already been whittled down until probably only about two hundred remained. However, being so thinly spread out made it even harder to hit them. I could only go by the book and use small wind blades, chopping up two to three each time, so as to avoid wasting too much wind element. It would be disastrous if I couldn't produce anymore later on.

Taking out two or three each time, this speed was truly so slow that I started to get impatient. *It would be easier if I could use dark element. I would definitely be able to strike down everything in a single moment. These low leveled skeletons are actually wasting so much of my time... If I use dark element to instantly dispose of the large army of skeletons, it wouldn't lead to us being discovered, right?*

I started gathering dark element on my hands. It was as easy as gathering holy element in the past... *No! This is even easier than that. If I release a blade made of the dark element, I would only require three blades to chop up all the skeletons into pieces, right?*

Maybe just one blade would be enough? I suddenly had this sort of feeling.

I quickened my speed at gathering the dark element, determined to dispose of them with one blade!

The dark element I had gathered turned into a humongous dark blade like no other. From afar it would look like a flowing black river. After that, the black river swept horizontally across the place where all the skeletons were standing, and those skeletons were chopped in half at the waist... *No, I should say everything from their chests to their thighs was blasted into smithereens.*

In a flash, two hundred skeletons had been broken into white bits and pieces covering the ground. It was truly a magnificent sight!

"This is really too easy."

I slowly flew back to the ground, and standing in the middle of the sea of fragments, I really had an indescribable sense of satisfaction!

After using my sensing ability to confirm that the others were still fine, I calmly waited at the starting point for them to finish their battles.

Before long, Ceo and the rest dashed over, looking flustered, and growled, "Sun! Just now you used dark element, didn't you?"

I hastily said, "It was only for a short while, and this is a land of darkness. There is dark element everywhere, so it won't be noticed!"

"It had better not be noticed ..."

Suddenly, my expression changed, and I turned my head towards a distant place.

"What is-?" Ceo didn't complete his question but exclaimed, "Don't tell me, we've already been discovered?"

I shook my head, saying, "Unless Roland and Pink can teleport a large army here the moment that they discovered me, we certainly haven't been discovered by them yet."

"A large army?" Vival cried out, "Ah... Could it be that the army we just annihilated was this army's forward troops?"

Don't joke around! However strong Ceo and the rest may be, against an entire army, even if they don't meet enemies that are too strong, they would die from exhaustion by the act of killing them all! I made my decision. "Let's flee!"

"How many are there exactly?" Laica asked doubtfully. "You're always underestimating our true strength. A few random werewolves come, and you're afraid that we can't deal with them!"

"I'm only being careful." I expanded my sensing ability, roughly counted, and replied, "At least more than five thousand, and among them there are about five hundred higher leveled creatures of darkness."

"There's so many?" Ceo frowned, saying, "Then we'll just have to

avoid them.”

I nodded my head, but halfway through nodding, I noticed a familiar person in the middle of that army... I should say a familiar creature of darkness. He was riding on a horse, had a large amount of dark element gathered around his eyes, and even had fangs at the sides of his mouth. *This fellow seems to be the creature of darkness that I saw in my dream who wouldn't give up on chasing after Roland.*

Hold on! Could this army be the one that was adamantly chasing after Roland? I frowned and said, “Ceo, you guys can escape first. I will disguise myself as a creature of darkness and enter this army to observe it for a bit.”

The moment the words popped out of my mouth, four faces immediately fell, and I hastily explained, “Don't worry about my safety. When it gets dangerous, I can quickly fly away. Not many creatures of darkness can fly, so you don't have to stay with me, and I won't have to worry about your safety.”

The majority of creatures of darkness don't depend on their eyes to explore things. Instead, they sense dark element. Hence, I, who would be completely wrapped in dark element, would seem to them to be the same sort of creature. Unless I meet creatures of darkness that can recognize me, I shouldn't be exposed.

Puzzled, Ceo asked, “Why do you have to enter this army?”

I hesitated for a moment, then said truthfully, “I suspect this army is the one that was closely following Roland. There is also a very highly

leveled creature of darkness among them. In my previous dream, he seemed to be different from other creatures of darkness. Perhaps he would know about the recent developments concerning Roland."

Ceo's expression immediately changed, and he asked, "So what if you know about his recent developments? You're going to the Cathedral of the Shadow God to perform the ceremony, and after performing the ceremony, Roland will become the demon king! You haven't forgotten this, right?"

Of course I know that... I explained, "We're going to perform the ceremony for me to give up becoming the demon king. However, the Cathedral of the Shadow God wants me to become the demon king, so how could it be that they wouldn't send men to guard the place for holding the ceremony?"

The instant I finished speaking, everyone else looked stunned. I immediately said loudly, "Other than the Cathedral of the Shadow God, Roland's and Pink's motives are also unclear. If the time ever comes, would the three sides fight or not? If after the battle, one of the two of us still dies, there wouldn't be any meaning to the delay of these past few months!"

The four of them fell silent, only frowning. After a while, Ceo opened his mouth and asked, "What in the world do you want to say to him when you meet that creature of darkness?"

I coldly said, "I want to know whether Roland plans to kill me or if he is willing to allow me to perform the ceremony, peacefully handing him the title of the demon king."

Vival asked suspiciously, "But are you sure this creature of darkness will answer your questions?"

"Of course he wouldn't answer obediently, but we have many methods of making him answer!" I looked at Vival's whip and Metal's daggers.

In a disbelieving tone, Laica said, "But you can't just bypass the army to reach the place where that creature of darkness is!"

"Relax! I can use dark element to surround myself, which will guarantee that the army will believe I'm also a creature of darkness."

"Since you can use dark element to surround yourself, then you can surround all of us, right?" Ceo said evenly. "Having us watch from the sidelines is something that is definitely impossible. If you truly wish to go and see that creature of darkness, then let us go together!"

How can I... Just as I was about to say this, I saw the rest of them standing by Ceo's side. Not only did they stand resolutely, they also glared at me, like if I dared to say anything about wanting to go by myself, they w-would...

"If I insist on going alone, what will you guys do?"

The three of them showed malevolent faces like no other and growled, "Beat you unconscious and take you away!"

"...You've scared Tyler."

The three of them roared in unison, "We're in disguise right now!"

Forget about Tyler, even I was terrified.

"Hurry up and make your decision," Vival urged. "Are we going or not? We can all see the dust cloud from the army already. If we aren't going, we have to flee quickly!"

I clenched my teeth. "Alright, let's go together!"

Chapter #6: "Meeting Between Demon Kings"

We walked amidst the dark army with all sorts of creatures of darkness around us.

As we closed in on our target, the levels of the creatures of darkness around us rose higher and higher; some higher levels even yelled at us to get back to our positions. However, after I absorbed a greater amount of dark element, they shut their mouths and their attitudes even turned somewhat respectful.

"Do they have eyes or not?" Vival asked in astonishment, "Don't they notice us just walking in like this?"

I whispered, "As long as they are undead creatures, their eyes have already mostly decayed."

"But not all of these creatures of darkness are rotten-eyed undead creatures!"

"When I covered our heads with dark element, I roughly shaped that into pointed ears and horns. Creatures of darkness have more or less some ability to sense dark and holy element, so to them, we look like unknown creatures of darkness with pointed ears and horns."

Vival revealed an expression of sudden understanding. At that moment, Ceo jerked my arm and said quietly, "We are almost there, but that ring of creatures of darkness up ahead looks pretty high level. It probably won't be as easy to fool them."

I looked up. Our target with red eyes and fangs was now within a hundred meters. However, the real challenge started now because the creatures of darkness surrounding him were all of the highest levels, and a lot of them were not even covered by the *Basic Knowledge of Undead Creatures* textbook.

I guessed that this army was probably just chasing after Roland instead of causing trouble in various places. Otherwise, there would probably be massive destruction left in the wake of this army's forces alone. Even the Church of the God of Light would not be able to stand up to this force and would probably have al...already killed me to solve the problems of the birth of the Demon King, the ceaseless expansion of the lands of darkness, and the rampage of the undead creatures across the land.

We walked to the ring of high-level creatures of darkness. One of them stepped in front of us before we could speak and frowned as he looked at us. "You wish to see the general?"

This creature of darkness was a werewolf, but he seemed a little different from normal werewolves; he was at least a full head taller, and his biceps were larger than even my head.

I immediately gathered more dark element and stared sternly at the werewolf.

The werewolf's expression darkened, and he got off his horse to stand face to face with me... Okay, we weren't really face to face since my head could only reach his abs.

Then, I inspected him; aside from his muscular body, he was even wearing a full set of armor and had a huge sword strapped to his back. Usually, it was impossible for creatures of darkness to have such intricate battle gear. They didn't have people like smiths, so all their gear and weapons were seized from beings they had killed, and often by then, the gear would have already been used until it was out of shape.

"You are not one of us!" The werewolf scrutinized us, a malevolent expression coming over his face. He almost unsheathed his huge sword on us.

I immediately said, "'That person' sent us here. There are some things he wants us to pass on to your general."

The werewolf hesitated, but he stopped unsheathing his sword. However, he still looked at us suspiciously and asked, "What does the monarch want you to pass on to us?"

"I'm sorry." I put on a stiff expression and said, "The monarch said to tell none but the general."

That should do it. The textbook says that werewolves are all muscles and no brain.

"Then tell me, what is the name of the general?"

Gah! I'm going to burn that textbook!

With no way to give his name in reply, I could only darken my

expression and coldly say, "I do not know the name of the general. I was personally summoned by the monarch, and the monarch only told me to give his orders to the leader of the army."

Hearing that, the werewolf frowned, but at least he let us pass with no further comment.

After the werewolf allowed us through, we walked undisturbed toward our target. No other creatures of darkness tried to stop us.

Laica stepped up to me and asked quietly, "How did you know to address Roland as 'that person'?"

I smiled and answered quietly, "I didn't know what they address Roland as, so using 'that person' was the safest measure. Since this army is only chasing after Roland, if you say 'that person,' then they will definitely only think of Roland. From that, they will tell me how to address Roland themselves."

"...Wow! You are so despicable. You are even more qualified to be an assassin than I am!"

It's like the person following me is Earth instead of Metal; his every word drips with poison! Could you please stop saying sincere words? Please try talking poisonously!

As we approached our targeted creature of darkness, he lowered his head to look down at us. Although he was expressionless, there was a sense of excitement in his voice. "What does the monarch want you to convey?"

On closer inspection, this creature of darkness did not look much different from a human, with his height of a hundred and eighty centimeters or so, regular facial features, and waist long hair. He was wearing lightweight armor. One thing special about this armor was that the entire back was done away with. It was no surprise as I already knew that this creature could grow wings, so obviously, the back had to be removed to let his wings out.

Even though he didn't look very different from a regular human, that was only based off of his outer appearance. No blood flowed through his body, only thick dark element. His heart was simply a glob of dark element so dense that it had solidified.

From the point of view of a blind person who relied on sensing, he really was beautiful, just like the Eternal Tranquility, with extremely pure element. Of course, to others, they could only see a horrifying creature of darkness...

"The heck, that handsome?"

Ceo's muttering drifted over from behind, "Is there no justice? He's a creature of darkness, yet he's this handsome? If one out of ten creatures of darkness is this handsome, then all women would go live in the lands of darkness!"

What? That handsome? Awaitsun is handsome. This creature of darkness before me is also handsome? Don't tell me all these dark elemental guys are handsome! No wonder even though the Cathedral of the Shadow God has a dark reputation, their followers are still drastically increasing!

"What are you waiting for? Speak!" the general ordered, annoyed.

I put on a hesitant expression, and then glanced quickly at the creatures of darkness around us. Lastly, I frowned and said, "The monarch only wishes for you to know, sir."

Hearing that, he frowned but did not speak, looking as if in deep thought. At this moment, I stepped closer. The creatures of darkness surrounding him immediately spurred their horses forward to block my passage, not allowing me to advance any further, but he said, "Let him pass."

After a few horses moved back, I walked up to his horse and spoke in a low voice, "The monarch wishes to see you, but he does not want too many people to know of his location. He said that if he sees anyone else, then he will not appear and will leave immediately." The other asked quietly, "Why is the monarch looking for me?"

"The monarch has some orders for you to carry out regarding the demon king."

I looked left and right and pointed at a hill a short distance away. I spoke, "Let's go behind that hill to talk. If anyone overhears our conversation, they might want to go with you. That's the reason why the monarch specifically said to only tell you."

He hesitated before saying "Okay" and then sprouted a pair of membrane-like wings.

Seeing that, I wrapped the five of us in dark element and shaped translucent black-colored wings behind our backs. However in reality, I was planning to use wind element to fly while the dark elemental wings were just for show.

It was only when he saw the dark elemental wings that it seemed like he finally believed me. He turned to the creatures of darkness beside him and ordered, "I have matters to attend to. Stay put to await orders."

"Yes!"

"Go," he told me. Then he immediately beat his wings, took off into the sky, and flew toward the hill.

The five of us also flew with the help of wind element and followed behind him to the hill. Upon landing, he retracted his wings. Just when he was turning toward us, the dark element surrounding us suddenly lunged at him and morphed into layers of Chains of Darkness that bound him tightly.

"You dare do this? To suppress me with dark element? Naïve!" He roared as he struggled. He really had the right to call me naïve because he could actually use his bare hands to tear the Chains of Darkness apart.

Using dark element to suppress a creature of darkness is truly a tiring job, but unluckily for him, I can use as much dark element as necessary. Don't even mention doubling the amount of dark element, even quintupling it is no problem!

I absorbed more dark element and strengthened the Chains of Darkness. There was absolutely no hope for him escaping now. My Chains of Darkness have once bound a dragon!

Ceo yelled, "Sun! You used dark element again!"

I explained, "Don't worry! We are still close to the army, so even if Roland really felt that the level of dark element was especially high here, he will think it's this guy and not suspect me."

Hearing that, Ceo frowned but did not utter another word.

That creature of darkness struggled madly but could not escape from the layers upon layers of thick chains. With some difficulty, he turned around and growled at me, "Who exactly are you?"

I turned to look at him and laughed, "Grisia Sun, ever heard of me?" Even though he did not answer, he paled, and this could also be considered as some form of answer. He had indeed heard of me before.
I wonder if he found out about me from Roland?

As I thought over the questions I wanted to ask, I first asked some random unrelated questions. "Tell me your name first."

He merely looked at me coldly and did not speak.

"Not telling, are you?" I grabbed his collar and growled, "Tell me, if I drag you over to blackmail Roland, will he hand the qualifications of the demon king over to me?"

Hearing that, he blanched... So did Ceo and the others.

I am only scaring him, don't panic!

After using psychic magic to tell them, their expressions returned to normal, and they went back to casually watching me threaten a person... Threaten a creature of darkness!

"Illu," he finally succumbed and answered, "The monarch named me Illu."

"Very good, Illu." I continued to ask, "You know of a lich with pink-colored skin, right?"

"No."

"Tell me, where is she now..." I suddenly stopped. *What did Illu just say? He doesn't know Pink?* I growled, "Don't fool me! How can you not know Pink? You should have at least seen her beside Roland, right?"

Illu frowned and replied, "Never saw her before."

Is he trying to deceive me or is he telling the truth? I frowned and continued asking, "You were summoned by Roland?"

"Yes."

"Roughly when?"

"Half a year ago."

He was summoned half a year ago but has never seen Pink before? I asked in disbelief, "You've really never seen the lich? Then was there anyone else who was always by Roland's side? She's probably the lich, and you just couldn't tell..."

"There wasn't! There was no one by the monarch's side!" Illu replied with annoyance, "Not even Silent Eagle of the Cathedral of the Shadow God is allowed to constantly be by the monarch's side. The only one who followed the monarch before was me!"

From his expression, it looked like he was proud of having followed Roland before, so he probably would not lie on that account. *However, if Pink was never beside Roland, then where did she go?*

Not being able to come to a conclusion, I could only continue to ask other questions. "Where is Roland? At the Cathedral of the Shadow God?"

Illu replied coldly, "If I knew where the monarch was, why would I get tricked by you?"

That's true! Damn, does this mean this guy knows nothing?

"Why did Roland leave the Cathedral of the Shadow God?"

"The monarch's will is not something I can randomly guess at!"

This guy is really clueless, and it looks like he really doesn't know. Don't tell me I took such a big risk to capture this guy for nothing? If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have done so much... No! I have to get some information, no matter what!

"What race are you? How many high level creatures of darkness like yourself can Roland summon?"

I figured Illu could possibly be on par with Roland's previous form—a death lord. If Roland could summon a lot of Illus, then I might as well just obediently surrender to him straight away and have him deal with me however he wishes.

"I don't know."

Don't know.... I abruptly grabbed Illu's collar and then pressed the Divine Sun Sword flat onto his face. Even though the divine sword had been sealed, it was still a divine object full of holy element. Direct contact for him was definitely not a pleasant experience.

I growled, "You don't believe that I'll really use you to blackmail Roland?"

Even though Illu tried hard to remain calm, signs of decay were starting to show on his face. With much effort, he endured the pain and only then was he willing to explain, "I am an exclusive bodyguard created by the monarch from his own blood and a fresh corpse. I do not know how many of us the monarch can create, but creating guards will take away some of the monarch's own power. The monarch probably would not carelessly create more."

So the guards are like a distribution of Roland's power. Lucky for us, or else Roland would be virtually unbeatable... Even though, with this army alone, he will not have many enemies left.

Ceo opened his mouth and asked, "Sun, I've been thinking of asking you, are you going to kill him after you finish asking questions?"

"Kill him?" I almost jumped out of my skin. I asked back, "Why kill him? What would I do if Roland becomes furious and comes after me wanting revenge later?"

"Then what are you going to do with him now?" Vival looked down at me with much disdain and said, "Let him go and have him lead the army against you?"

...That is a very good question.

"Sun." Ceo smiled gently and asked softly, "You did not just grab him without thinking about what you were going to do with him after, right?"

"..." I tried suggesting, "Can't we just take him with us?"

The three people's feral expressions almost scared both Tyler and Illu to death.



I used the spell of flight to fly desperately away with everyone. In short, the further we get away from that army the better. After all, I

had just kidnapped their general, so it's common sense to fly as far away as possible. It would be best if we could fly out of this land of darkness.

After flying for an entire day and night, we finally flew out of the land of darkness and landed in a forest. It also proved that my current magical capabilities have grown significantly stronger, even though flight still counted as one of the random jumble of abilities.

After landing, Laica exclaimed, "If you can fly this many people for a whole day, why did we have to ride horses back then?"

I was so tired that I almost couldn't speak, so I couldn't be bothered to come up with a retort. I only said, "Pitch, pitch the tents. I need to, need to sleep..."

"Are you alright?" Vival said worriedly, "You should have landed if you can't handle it. What good is there in being stubborn?"

"I'm alright." I waved his comment away and sat down against a tree trunk without any further explanation.

Vival shook his head wordlessly and then hurried away to help the others set up.

Seeing that everyone was busy pitching tents and cooking, I leaned against the tree trunk and felt my eyelids grow heavier. After confirming once more that the Chains of Darkness on Illu were still very secure, I drifted off peacefully...

I felt like I had opened my eyes right after I had closed them, but I realized that I was no longer in a forest but a strange and unknown place.

A deserted hillside. Thick red liquid flowed endlessly from above. All things in the liquid's path were obliterated... It was lava, and this was the crater of a volcano.

What was more important was the fact that I could see the "red" lava, so this was a dream. It seemed like my spirit was wandering around while I slept again. According to my previous spiritual journey experience, I should be able to meet him again...

I yelled out, "Roland? Roland, are you there?"

"Above you."

I looked up, and to no surprise, saw three pairs of gigantic wings. I said with annoyance, "Come down. Don't float above me. Do you think it's a pleasant view from down here? You are not a woman!"

He chuckled and descended to stand in front of me. Although his height and build were similar to mine, with the addition of those three pairs of wings, he truly had a majestic aura!

I couldn't help but ask, "Do you still have that ring of disguise from Pink?"

Roland seemed taken back. He said, "I threw it away, why ask?"

"Because I hate facing you like this. You feel too powerful! It makes me think that I've lost before we've even fought!"

Roland laughed. He took a few steps back and drew his wings forward to cover himself. Then mysteriously, the wings simply disappeared just like that. When Roland reappeared, he looked just like a human again.

He said lightly, "I do not need that ring to disguise myself now."

I stared at Roland. He hadn't change a single bit, remaining the age at which he had died. He already looked younger than me, but still had a quiet power and the aura of a leader about him.

I haven't seen a person with my eyes for such a long time. It really is completely different from sensing because the sensing ability can't recognize things like the aura of a leader!

If I get the chance, I wish I could see everyone with my eyes again, see the Twelve Holy Knights...

"I've almost forgotten what you look like," I said with emotions welling up. "As expected, my sensing ability can't fully replace sight. I really want to see everyone with my eyes again."

Hearing that, Roland stopped smiling and said lightly, "Maybe you can get your sight back if you become the Demon King."

I laughed, "I don't think it's possible to retrieve things that God has taken away."

Roland looked at me and said, "Don't you hate Him? He took away so many things from you without the slightest bit of mercy."

"Hate Him?" I was shocked and said, "The God of Light has always answered my prayers and let me successfully perform perfect resurrections. Why should I hate Him? That time I resurrected Judgment, He even merely took away the color of my hair. Such a price is so low that it's ridiculous!"

Roland opened his mouth and said, "Then you..." But he stopped midway abruptly.

Even though I didn't know what Roland wanted to say, I had a lot of things I wanted to say. *Let's start by revealing the cards in my hands!*

"I've captured your Illu."

Roland was first taken back, then he frowned and looked a bit angry. He glared at me while I wordlessly looked back at him with a smile. After a long staring contest, he asked grudgingly, "Why have you captured him?"

"Come find me, and I will give him back."

Roland laughed coldly. "Do you think I care for a creature of darkness after I've even killed you?"

If you really didn't care, then Illu would not have said so much after I threatened him, right? I refuse to believe that Roland does not care for Illu. If he created Illu, it must be for a dire reason, or else why create

a stalker when you don't want people to follow you?

However, unless there was no other way, I still did not want to utter threats like "I will kill Illu if you don't come," so I had to start from somewhere else. "You still owe me an answer. You promised me before to answer one question."

Roland looked at me, confused. "You can ask now."

"No!" I growled, "I want to see you, face to face! Not some kind of false meeting like this!"

Roland was silent for a while. Then he replied with a question, "Why?"

I said indignantly, "At the very least, we have been friends since we were children. No matter how things have progressed from there, can't we meet one last time?"

Roland was silent again. He suddenly growled testily, "I killed you!"

Well duh! I widened my eyes, not understanding why Roland said that piece of useless information. *Would I, the person who got killed, still not know who my killer was?*

He was agitated. "I tricked you into entering Pink's secret room, cut your neck, passively watched you bleed all over the floor, and finally killed you! Don't you have anything you want to say to me for all that?"

So that's what it was all about. I replied calmly, "Yes, there are a lot of things I want to say. Come and see me, answer my question, and I

will tell you.”

Roland looked at me with a shocked expression, and then he laughed. First he chuckled, and then he started laughing loudly. He howled madly with laughter with his head tilted back, until he couldn't even maintain his disguise properly, faintly revealing his flaming eyes and black flame markings.

However, as I watched him laugh, I felt no happiness from it, only a sense of deep and prolonged sadness... Luckily I could see at the moment, or else had I been relying only on my sensing ability, I probably couldn't sense such subtle emotions.

Grieving laughter.

At last, Roland abruptly stopped laughing and said to me, “Okay! Sun, I will go see you. Take Illu with you. He is my summoning. I know his location. When you reach the place of the ceremony, I will immediately appear.”

When... did you switch to calling me Sun? Sun is what the Twelve Holy Knights call me. Didn't you use to call me Grisia?

“Go see them now.”

“Them?” I was taken back, not comprehending what Roland was saying.

“The Twelve Holy Knights.” He reminded me, “Didn't you say you wanted to see them just now? If you want to see them, go see them.”

At least right now, you would be able to see them, right? Don't worry about the distance. Since you easily found me when you didn't even know where I was, then you certainly have the ability to find the Twelve Holy Knights."

Is that so? If I can find anyone, then the one I want to see the most right now is...

With golden hair and blue eyes, a posture like that of a majestic lion, known as the strongest Sun Knight in history, Neo stood before me. He held an unknown animal's leg in his hands, roasted to golden crispness. Just looking at it made me hungry.

As he ate the roasted leg, he complained to Aldrizzt who was squatting on the ground and busying himself with roasting meat. "That bastard Pope, where did he find such awful tasting rations for the army's provisions? He forced me to hunt for food!"

"Teacher?"

I looked left and right. Roland had disappeared, and this was no longer the crater of a volcano anymore. To my left and right were a whole bunch of tents and many fully armed holy knights, knights, warriors, and even clerics walking around.

I know! This is the camp of the expedition army. With a simple turn of thought, I found my teacher. I never guessed that I was also pretty strong... Who was that? Who just said that this was one of those messy jumbles of abilities?

I walked in front of my teacher and greeted him with respect. "It's been a long time, Teacher."

Previously, I got killed and did not even die gracefully, so of course my attitude has to be as respectful as possible!

However, my teacher did not respond to me but continued to rant to Aldrizzt about the Pope's stinginess. He even dredged up past quarrels to count... I had almost forgotten; I was actually invisible at the moment, so no one could see me. *Roland is probably an exception?*

I waved my hand in front of my teacher to confirm that he couldn't see me. How fortunate! Or else, since I died ungracefully and made him lead an expedition against undead creatures, it would be weird if my teacher did not kill me!

"Stop complaining," Aldrizzt said tiredly. "I'm already roasting meat for you to eat, so stop ranting... Neo? Are you listening to me?"

"Who's there?" My teacher roared and pulled his sword out at the same time, swinging it right through my waist. If I had a real body right now, I would be in two pieces!

Gah! I almost forgot that my teacher Neo is a special case in all aspects!

Also, Teacher, is there anyone else who would cleave the subject in half when asking for their name? Then what are you asking for? Who cares what their name was. In any case, they are already in two halves, so they are a corpse now!

"Grisia?" My teacher abruptly hesitated, and asked doubtfully, "Is that you?"

Astonished, Aldrizzt stood up and asked, "Grisia? I heard from the Church that he should be on his way to the Cathedral of the Shadow God at the moment, right? Why did you call out his name?"

My teacher looked suspiciously at where I was standing and said, "Because my ears felt itchy, like I was hearing that student of mine blabbering again!"

...I am sorry. I should not have blabbered in my heart.

"Students reflect their teachers!" Aldrizzt shook his head and sat down again to roast the meat. He continued, "Even though I don't see anything, your student does have many odd abilities. It wouldn't be that strange if he really were here right now."

"I don't care if you are there or not, Grisia!" My teacher roared in my direction, "Hurry up and get this thing over with! Remember, you owe me half a year of retirement! When you retire, you have to be my slave for three years. Do you hear me?"

Why do I have to return three years for half a year?

"It's interest!" My teacher's features twisted as he roared.

... Are you sure you really can't see me?

My teacher roared, "Grisia, did you hear what I just said?"

I smiled and answered, "Yes!"

My teacher actually nodded and returned his sword to its scabbard. He reached over to grab the golden, crispy wing that Aldrizzt had roasted, and then continued to rant about the Pope's stinginess while eating.

Chapter #7: "The Demon King's Choice"

I opened my eyes and stretched. I was starving and just about to ask someone for food when I noticed that something wasn't right...

Before me were Ceo and the rest of them. They were all holding onto the specialized weapons of the Twelve Holy Knights and firmly obstructing me, as well as blocking my line of sight. Thus, I hadn't realized that there were others about as well.

I asked, surprised, "What happened? Who are they?"

"Why were you sleeping like you were dead?" Laica turned around and scolded me, "What the hell, why didn't you wake up when we kept calling you?"

"Who is surrounding us?" I hurriedly expanded my sensing ability while asking.

"The Cathedral of the Shadow God," Vival said in a bored tone. "We've been surrounded by the dark knights of the Cathedral of the Shadow God."

"What?" I was so shocked that I expanded my sensing ability in one quick burst.

He was right; we really were surrounded. A whole bunch of knights were all around us. They all had dark element but were obviously alive. Only one type of knight had this sort of element, and it was the dark

knights of the Cathedral of the Shadow God! They numbered about four to five hundred, and none of them seemed weak.

Off to one side, Illu, who had been bound up like a cocoon, said plainly, "The Cathedral of the Shadow God has always been following us from a distance that's not far nor close. They planned to track down the movements of our monarch through us."

So that's why we've been found! I thought it over. My only plan now was to... *Fly away!*

I stood up and gathered a large amount of wind element to surround the five of us plus the creature of darkness and then flew up. However, the moment the bottom of our feet left the ground, the other party roared, "Please do not do anything rash! Archery is one of the skills we are required to learn. If you truly wish to fly away, please forgive us for having to stop you with our arrows!"

As if to prove his words, the dark knights behind him all took out bows from behind their backs. They drew their bows and notched their arrows fluidly. Apparently, we couldn't hope for them to miss us. *What the hell? Dark knights even have to part-time as archers? Can this profession be any more difficult?*

I could only drop down to the ground and tap Ceo and Vival who were in front of me. The two of them moved a bit to the side. I stepped forward and said to the dark knights nearest to us, "Why have you surrounded us? You do know who we are, don't you?"

I never thought that those dark knights would immediately lower their

weapons and say politely, "It is all for your own protection, Your Majesty, the Demon King."

As expected, my real identity has already been discovered... That's not right. What am I saying? I'm speaking as if my real identity is that of the Demon King! I should have said that my identity as the Sun Knight has been discovered. No matter if my current appearance is that of a white-haired female cleric, I seem unable to trick them.

A few dark knights walked forward, still calling "Your Majesty, the Demon King."

"I am the Sun Knight of the Church of the God of Light, not the Demon King!" *And definitely not some kind of Your Majesty! Addressing me like that only reminds me of that fat pig of a king!* Before, I always had to address him as Your Majesty, and even though His Majesty was no longer him, I had already called him as such for so many years that my immediate thought would be that Your Majesty equaled that fat pig of a king!

But the dark knights were unperturbed, and instead, they requested of me, saying, "Your Majesty, please allow us to escort you."

"Escort me? To where?" I asked doubtfully, "Is it to the Cathedral of the Shadow God?"

If we're heading to the Cathedral of the Shadow God, then I might as well follow them and save myself a lot of trouble. The most I'd have to do was think of a way to escape later.

However, the dark knight shook his head and said, "No, we will be heading to the Shadow Cathedral which is far safer. When we assassinate the other candidate and let you become the official Demon King, we will immediately escort you to the Cathedral of the Shadow God. However, if by then you wish to remain at the Shadow Cathedral or maybe even some other base, we will follow your wishes."

Assassinate the other candidate? I finally understood why Roland had left the Cathedral of the Shadow God. If he hadn't left, we might have been involved in a battle to the death.

"Escort him to the Cathedral of the Shadow God?" Laica snarled. "He is the Church of the God of Light's Sun Knight! He is not going anywhere besides the Holy Temple!"

The dark knights in front knelt down together and yelled, "Your Majesty, for the sake of this world, please come with us."

For the sake of the world... This plea was so serious that I couldn't even open my mouth to refuse!

I asked, "Is Awaitsun at that so-called Shadow Cathedral?"

"Captain Eagle is currently not at the Shadow Cathedral, but when he learns that you have arrived there, he ought to return immediately to see you."

Ceo abruptly turned around, caught hold of my shoulder, and shouted, "Sun! What in the world are you asking that for? Don't tell me you're actually going to leave with them?"

I kept quiet for a moment and then nodded. "I plan to meet with Awaitsun and have a frank talk with him."

Besides Ceo, who had turned around, everyone else looked back to glare at me. Their expressions seemed to say that they had already decided to knock me unconscious and drag me away.

I hurriedly said, "The rest of you better come too!"

The moment I said this, the four of them were startled. Their expressions softened but immediately turned confused.

I looked at the dark knights and asked, "I believe the site of the ceremony has been completely and utterly surrounded by your dark knights and shadowpriests, right?"

The dark knights were stunned but nodded as I had expected them to. I looked at Ceo and the rest of them helplessly. Without Awaitsun's help, sneaking into the ceremonial site and completing the ceremony was clearly impossible, not to mention that Scarlet, who was still in the necklace, was still unwilling to tell me how exactly the ceremony was to be conducted... *Should I expect Roland to know?*

Especially since Pink disappeared without a trace for half a year, and even Illu had never seen her. Could she have told Roland half a year ago how the ceremony was to be conducted? I didn't believe so because she had absolutely no intention of conducting any ceremony and was intent on killing me straight off.

At the present, the person most likely to know how to conduct the ceremony would be Awaitsun.

That was why I had to see Awaitsun no matter what and strike a deal with him. If not, my entire plan would crumble to dust.

"I have to go. If not, there's no way the ceremony can be conducted."
At this, Vival, Laica, and Tyler all turned to look at Ceo.

Theoretically, Ceo was just the Storm Knight. Moon and Metal had no reason to listen to him, but all these years, most of the paperwork was stamped with Storm Knight's seal, and over half of the methods to handle problems were also written by Ceo. Now, when there was something they were unable to handle, under a situation where they can't defer to me or Judgment, looking to Ceo was the most logical choice.

Under everyone's scrutiny, Ceo was obviously flummoxed. He frowned at me and emphasized, "Sun, promise me that no matter what you do, it is to deal with the problem of the Demon King and that you have absolutely no intention of becoming the Demon King!"

I looked at the four of them and suddenly felt guilty. No matter whether or not my plan come to fruition, they would still feel worried about a lot of things, things they weren't originally supposed to worry about.

"Relax, I definitely won't give up on being the Sun Knight." I looked at the four of them and said in a tone that couldn't be any more resolute, "I swear upon the God of Light, no matter what happens, no matter

what at all, I will never give up on being the Sun Knight!”

The moment I spoke, the surrounding dark knights blanched, but Ceo and the rest of them stared dumbly. Laica even rubbed his nose and mumbled, “I even thought that you couldn’t wait for your retirement! I never knew that you liked being Sun Knight so much?”

I said to the dark knights, “I agree to go to the Shadow Cathedral, but no matter how you communicate this, I want to see Awaitsun as soon as possible when I reach the Cathedral!”

They did not seem to expect that I would agree. They flinched and then answered, “Yes!”



The Shadow Cathedral wasn’t too far off, but the journey was difficult. A team of over a hundred people rode for only a day and then switched to walking for a whole three days before we finally reached the mountaintop.

What the hell sort of place is this? The roads are so winding that we can’t ride a horse. Just trying to reach this place will surely cut down the followers by ninety percent! A rocky mountain road is not simply just difficult to hike!

Just when I started to suspect that these dark knights were planning to lead us to an abandoned area and kill us off with no witnesses, a grand, massive cathedral appeared before us.

There was even a moat surrounding the cathedral along with high

walls. The city gates could allow three horse-drawn carts in side-by-side with no problem. At that moment, the city doors were wide open, so we could clearly see what was going on within the city walls.

Behind the walls was an avenue paved with flagstones. At the end of the avenue was the main cathedral. The cathedral's doors were so gigantic that three horse-drawn carts could be placed one on top of another and pushed in easily. To the two sides were towers so high they seemed to reach the clouds. There were even several cathedral buildings besides the towers; calling this a small city would not be a stretch!

Isn't this Shadow Cathedral too astonishing! Then how luxurious must the actual Cathedral of the Shadow God be? The Church of the God of Light and the Cathedral of the Shadow God were both houses of Gods, but weren't their levels of extravagance too different?

Vival exclaimed, "This place is only the Shadow Cathedral, but it's even grander than both the Sanctuary of Light and the Holy Temple combined! I can't even imagine how much more imposing the Cathedral of the Shadow God must be?"

The dark knight in front smiled, embarrassed, "Actually, the Shadow Cathedral is far more majestic than the actual Cathedral of the Shadow God. The Cathedral of the Shadow God was built up slowly, so its appearance isn't too uniform. Not to mention that the Kingdom of Kissinger's capital has developed around it, so there was not enough land to be used for the construction. However, the Shadow Cathedral was built all at once. This is also a mountainous area, so we can use as much land as we want. Also, at that time, we had already obtained the

support of the Kingdom of Kissinger, so our budget increased as well.”

So that's the reason! When I think about it, Awaitsun had once said that in order ensure that the successors would not become lax, the Cathedral of the Shadow God had been built on the site where the lands of darkness would encroach first. At the time, I had felt so moved, only to find out now that they had even prepared a backup, and it's even far grander than the official cathedral!

We walked toward the moat, but the drawbridge was drawn up. The dark knight took out a whistle and blew it several times, but not a single sound could be heard. Just as we were feeling confused, the moat's drawbridge descended slowly.

The dark knight put away his whistle and said to me, “Please walk this way.”

After walking over the drawbridge, we entered the city-like cathedral. The cathedral was enormous, but throughout the entire journey, we could barely see even a couple of people. The corridors were lined with multiple large sculptures, most of which were of dark knights, robed shadowpriests, or warriors with dragon wings on their backs holding their weapons aloft. There were even sculptures of dragons. However, no matter what the sculptures depicted, the appearances were all stern and even scary. It felt very sinister. Instead of being a human cathedral, it felt more like a cathedral belonging to creatures of darkness.

Laica asked in surprise, “Why are there no people about?”

The dark knight answered dutifully, "Most of the people are at various sites in the Kingdom of Kissinger helping the people fight against the creatures of darkness. The number of people left behind to guard the Cathedral of the Shadow God is great, hence there are only a few people left in the Shadow Cathedral. Most of the people here are believers who have no combat ability or are researchers."

"Researchers?" I stopped. *What would they be researching? Theology?*

"Yes, in order to determine the exact expansion of the area of the lands of darkness, calculate the time of birth of the Demon King, and countdown to when the lands of darkness will completely envelop the world, the Cathedral of the Shadow God has always had a large number of researchers. They are also known as surveyors, and most of their work is measurements and calculations."

"How long do we have left?" I asked.

"What?" The dark knight turned around to ask, puzzled.

I calmly asked, "How long do we have left until the lands of darkness completely engulf the world?"

"About three months."

"That's impossible!" Vival yelled, shocked, "The current range of the world that has been engulfed has not even reached a third, and this is the result of a half a year's expansion of the lands of darkness. There is no way that two thirds of the world can be enveloped in the span of three months!"

"The speed of the envelopment accelerates. The speed of envelopment at the last month will be very shocking," The dark knight said calmly, "Please believe in our judgment because the only reason the Cathedral of the Shadow God exists is to facilitate the birth of the Demon King and prevent the lands of darkness from engulfing the world. The history of the Cathedral's study of the lands of darkness is as long as the history of the Cathedral's establishment."

Hearing this, my group all fell into silence.

After walking for a very far distance – it was so far that I even thought that this cathedral might be far bigger than I imagined – only then did the dark knight bring us to a room.

I opened the door. The room was very large, and the furniture and décor were very extravagant. It looked like some important person's room. Although there was only one bed in there, that bed was large enough for three people to lie in spread-eagle. Off to the side were equally extravagant-looking sofas and chairs. The chairs looked even more comfortable than my bed back at the Holy Temple. *That's really infuriating!*

I couldn't help but ask, "Is this the Demon King's room?"

"No, this is Captain Eagle's room. But please don't worry, Captain Eagle has never used this room before. He lives with us at the cathedral's buildings for dark knights. He says that it's more convenient that way."

The dark knight said, embarrassed, "The Demon King's room hasn't been tidied up yet. The furniture inside is all still covered with white cloth. I am very sorry."

"That's okay." I shrugged. This room was already extravagant enough. Although I wanted to see exactly how extravagant the Demon King's room was, I had no intention of staying in the Demon King's room at the present! What am I going to do if I get addicted to living there? The dark knight said, "Please take a rest. Captain Eagle should return to the Shadow Cathedral within three days."

"Can we go out and have a look around?" Ceo inquired offhandedly.

"I'm sorry, but before Captain Eagle returns, please do not move about," the dark knight answered uneasily. "We have to ensure your safety."

And monitor us at the same time, right? I said unhappily, "Whatever. Just bring some food. After walking for so long, I'm starving."

"Yes. It will be served immediately."

And it really was served immediately. Not to mention it was a full table of food and so delicately prepared that it didn't seem like the sort of food a cathedral would serve... *At least, the Church of the God of Light wouldn't.*

Everyone immediately wolfed down the food, not even caring to check whether the food was poisoned.

Journeying about for so many days, we had to make do with dried food every day. What's more, dried food prepared by the Pope. It was so hard it was like the soles of shoes that you can barely chew it! Even if the food in front of us really was poisoned, we probably would still consume it. After all, a holy knight not only has high endurance, but even our immunity to poison is great!

Laica snarled while eating, "If you can't deal with this matter and cause us to become stuck here, I will take Captain Judgment's place and strangle you to death."

"Being stuck here's not bad either! At least the food's good, right?"
The moment I said this, I immediately received a few glares in return. Tyler even looked dismayed with an expression that said he had no appetite and mumbled, "When can we meet Captain?"

I comforted everyone and said, "Don't worry, we'll calmly wait here. After I meet with Awaitsun, everything will be..."

BAM.

At this, the door was slammed open by someone, followed by a shriek. "Sun Knight! You really are here!"

Everyone nearly instantly chucked down the food in their hands and jumped up, grasping their weapons. Immediately after that, we were struck dumb.

Because, the person at the door was actually...



I was playing with the baby in my hands. Ceo and Vival were flustered, helping change another baby's diapers. Laica was making faces to divert the baby's attention and make it easier for them to change the diapers. Tyler took away the soiled diapers with a blank look on his face...

At this moment, Awaitsun rushed in while calling out "Sun Knight." When he saw the current situation, his expression looked like he had seen a live dragon.

I held up my hand and waved, "Long time no see, Awaitsun."

"..."

I held up the baby in my hand and said, impressed, "I really have to say you really are strong. You actually had triplets! I like this one best. He resembles you the most, so he should be very handsome when he's older. Remember what you promised me. You have to give the handsomest one to the Church of the God of Light to be a holy knight! But all three of them are boys, so you still need to have a girl so the prettiest one can be a cleric of the Church!"

"..."

Off to the side, Ceo and everyone else said, impressed, "As expected of Sun. Too despicable!"

I glared at them, and they immediately backtracked. "No, he's too far-sighted!"

Awaitsun looked at the child in my hands. He looked like he was at a loss, and there was even a trace of horror in his expression.

I couldn't comprehend it at first but then immediately understood and explained hurriedly, "Don't worry, your wife's breastfeeding in her room, so she made us help look after these two. I definitely have no intention of using your children to threaten you!"

"You, you..." Awaitsun kept on mumbling "you." He even forgot to address me respectfully as "sir." Finally he roared, "What are you doing here? I was going crazy looking for you outside, but then I received news that you had already arrived at the Shadow Cathedral! I almost thought that the news was fake!"

"I'm here helping you take care of your children," I answered honestly. "Your wife said that since I had nothing to do here, I might as well help her take care of the children."

Awaitsun's wife, Alice, was really more courageous than Awaitsun and all the other dark knights. She just kicked the door down and shoved two babies, one into my arms and the other into Ceo's. Then she pointed at her skin and said that I owed her. *Seems like she still hasn't managed to lighten her skin back to its original pale shade. I never thought that the recipe would have such a strong effect!*

Then, she turned around and returned to her room to breastfeed. What could I have done with the two babies in our arms? I couldn't have just thrown them into the trash can, could I? So I helped take care of the children for three days.

At this time, the baby in my arms seemed very unhappy and started to cry. When I started to coax him, he laughed. Awaitsun seemed unable to compute this. He stared blankly at me and Ceo amusing his children. Just then, the door was shoved open.

"Awaitsun!" Alice screamed happily and shoved the child in her arms at Laica, then threw herself into her husband's embrace, and started flirting.

"..." We patted the babies in our arms while watching the newlyweds sparkle. Even I, the blind one, could feel that my eyes were being pricked by light.

Laica lightly patted the baby's chest and said coldly, "Can I throw two knives at them?"

"Although I really want to say go ahead, we're in their territory now, so no."

Awaitsun reluctantly left his wife's embrace and said, "Alice, I have to work."

Alice nodded her head and obediently stood to the side. This woman who doesn't even acknowledge me, the Sun Knight part-timing as a demon king candidate, was actually so obedient to her husband? I really couldn't believe it. *The magic of love is even more terrifying than the Demon King!*

"Why did you want to see me, sir?" Awaitsun turned his head around

and asked me, confused.

I said bluntly, "I need to know how the ceremony to give up the qualifications to be the Demon King works, and I hope that you will not obstruct the ceremony's performance."

Awaitsun's face burned with anger after he got over the initial shock. I patted his shoulders and said, "However, let's not talk about this first. Let's go! I'll show you the prize I caught."

"Prize?"

"Sun!" Ceo and the rest immediately yelled, "We're going too!"

I turned and said to them, "There's nothing going on! I just want to have a talk with him. Wait for me here."

Ceo flinched and said, "We'll go along too. There's nothing that we can't listen to, right?"

"I'm only bringing him to see Illu. You all stay here and watch the children!"

Ceo frowned, still intent on speaking.

Trust me.

"... All right, we'll remain here and look after the children." Ceo looked at me and said, "You'll come back quickly, right?"

I immediately agreed, "Of course!"

Only then did Ceo nod his head.

I left the room with Awaitsun. While walking, I asked, "I know that Roland stayed at the Cathedral of the Shadow God for a while. Exactly how long did he stay there?"

Awaitsun looked at me out of the corner of his eye and replied, "When he arrived at the Cathedral of the Shadow God, he informed us that he had killed you three days ago and that you had absolutely no chance of becoming the Demon King. After that, he left. However, soon after, we received news that you had gone crazy, so he returned to the Cathedral of the Shadow God again. He stayed there until about a month ago."

"Roland wanted you to pressure the Church of the God of Light and make them kill me?"

Awaitsun looked at me, as though wanting to find anger in my expression. However, there was only calmness on my face. After that, he nodded.

"Oh?" I said emotionlessly. "Do you want to confirm the answer you have just given?"

Awaitsun's expression changed. After a short period of silence, he said, "I'm sorry. Roland never gave any orders of the sort. He just stayed at the Cathedral of the Shadow God. He spent most of the time reading books on dark magic. Once in a while, he'd ask me about your

condition, such as whether or not you had awakened.”

I nodded and warned him, “Never ever lie to me. You can’t trick me.”
The me at the present can easily determine whether a person was lying because whenever someone lies, there will always be some change in expression, and their heartbeat would speed up. I, who has replaced my sight with my sensing ability, can now see the five viscera and six bowels of anyone clearly. Figuring out whether someone is lying or not is truly not difficult at all.

Judgment is the only exception. No matter whether he’s telling the truth or lying, his heartbeat is always as steady as ever, his stern face always the same with no change in expression at all. Not even his heartbeat speeds up!

Putting aside Judgment’s superior ability in lying, I continued inquiring. “Have you seen Pink? She’s Roland’s lich.”

Awaitsun blinked and said, “No, I haven’t seen her.”

Not a single person has seen Pink. *Where exactly has she gone to?*

Perplexed, the both of us went down to a jail cell.

For some reason, the entire basement of the Shadow Cathedral was made up of prison cells. There were even more prisons here than the Holy Temple’s Judge’s Complex. Also, the jail cells were very strong. Normal prisoners have absolutely no need for such strongly-reinforced bars. If you must know, a jail cell’s bars are all made of money!

I was curious and asked, "What sorts of prisoners are held in cells of these designs?"

Awaitsun blanked out and then answered, "Heroes."

"... Heroes?"

Awaitsun turned to look at me and explained dutifully, "That's because the Shadow Cathedral was originally designed as the Demon King's base of operations."

I see. If this was the Demon King's base, then of course heroes would come and attack, so that was why there were so many strong cells. That was because the heroes who would attack wouldn't be all that weak. A normal jail cell wouldn't be able to hold them.

I asked curiously, "Then you keep all the heroes here? Or do you keep them here for a while and then kill them?"

Awaitsun blanched. He frowned, thinking for quite a while. I waited for so long that I began to feel ridiculous. Only then did Awaitsun explain, "Some heroes would be killed off immediately by the Demon King. A few who interested the Demon King would be locked up. Most of the time they would be locked up until the Demon King had forgotten about them, and then we would secretly let them out except for a few special ones that the Demon King particularly remembered. We can only continue keeping them locked up in case the Demon King wants to meet the person some day and we can't present him. This might anger the Demon King and cause even greater harm."

I said jokingly, "My memory is far better than the norm. I definitely won't ever forget."

"That's what I thought, so I thought that telling you would make no difference..."

We continued chatting while walking to the cell holding Illu. He was chained to the wall spread-eagle. If a normal person was tied up in this position, he would definitely be half-dead in a day and thoroughly dead in two days. However, Illu wasn't a normal person. If he wasn't chained this way and forcefully restrained by magic, there would be no way he could have been tied down.

Awaitsun looked at Illu. Illu completely ignored us. Awaitsun sighed and said, "Roland will be furious at you for capturing him."

"Who in the world is he?" I really didn't think that Roland would create a personal guard just for the heck of it.

He fell silent and then explained, "He is a dark knight; actually I should say he was. I sent him to be Roland's personal guard, but Roland killed him instead. But for some reason, after Roland killed him, he actually used his corpse to create this creature of darkness."

"Roland killed him?" I turned my head to look at Illu and asked, "Why did Roland kill you?"

Illu frowned. "The monarch didn't kill me."

Hearing this, I turned my head around to glare at Awaitsun.

Awaitsun explained helplessly, "This creature of darkness is no longer the dark knight from before. This creature of darkness was created from the dark knight's corpse, so of course Roland has never killed him."

So that's the case.

Awaitsun asked, confused, "Why in the world did you capture him?"

"To lure Roland over. I have a promise with Roland that I would meet him at the ceremonial site, and I even told him that I was willing to give him my qualifications to be the Demon King."

Awaitsun's face froze, and then he roared indignantly, "Do you really know how serious this matter is? If there's a way, I too have no intention of forcing you to be the Demon King! Even if Roland is a good person, he is dead. The dead should not interfere with this world. Isn't that one of the teachings of your Church of the God of Light? Moreover, it's allowing the dead to hold such frightening power!"

Have you forgotten to address me politely as "sir" again? Seems like Awaitsun is not used to using such respectful terms. Makes sense. After all, he is still the lofty head of the Cathedral of the Shadow God. Besides the royal family, he most definitely has not addressed anyone else so respectfully before.

"Listen to me!" I grabbed his shoulders and said, "That was to trick him. I have absolutely no intention of giving up my qualifications to be the Demon King."

"You're lying!" Awaitsun roared, "Don't try to trick me! To continue on being the Sun Knight, you can even ignore the fate of the world. My subordinates have also informed me that you had sworn to the God of Light that you would continue being the Sun Knight no matter what happens. How in the world can you be willing to be the Demon King?"

"Watch him." I gestured at Illu with my right hand and then summoned a small wind blade to cut my own right wrist. A large amount of blood spurted out, almost all of it spraying onto Illu's body. Awaitsun flinched and then frowned. "What are you doing?"

I explained in detail, "As the Sun Knight, my blood should have very strong holy element. Even spilling a single drop of it onto creatures of darkness should cause them unbearable pain. This is something that even I cannot control."

Pointing at Illu, I asked, "But did you see him react in any way?"

Awaitsun shook his head in a daze.

"The price I paid for being revived this time is that I lost most of my holy abilities. Without the Divine Sun Sword's help, I am only about as powerful as a normal cleric."

Awaitsun was startled. Then, he said, "But you have the Divine Sun Sword. With its help, you can still be the Sun Knight."

"That's right," I said calmly. "Let me ask you, if I lose the qualifications of a demon king candidate, then I will lose the talent of

the candidates, right?"

Awaitsun froze before nodding his head.

That's right. Scarlet told me as much too. I was just holding onto a strand of hope...

I smiled bitterly, "So, if Roland becomes the Demon King, I will lose my formidable ability at magic and possess the same power as a normal cleric. The even more serious problem is... I will become blind."

"Blind?" Awaitsun asked, puzzled. "What do you mean? Even if you were no longer the demon king candidate, you wouldn't go blind because of that."

I said dully, "That time you killed Leaf, to ensure that he would have no side effects after being revived, the price I paid was my sight. My eyes have been of no use for a long time now. Now, I'm using my powerful sensing ability as a substitute for my sight. If I lose my sensing ability, then I'll become blind! Truly blind!"

Hearing this, Awaitsun and Illu stared at my eyes disbelievingly.

"Do you think a blind person can be the Sun Knight?" I sneered and said, "That's right, I still want to be Sun Knight no matter what. However, the prerequisite is that I am able to do the Sun Knight's duties and not be a parasite!"

I clenched my fists and told Awaitsun, "I must become the Demon King! Because I have no choice, you don't have to worry about

anything. As long as you follow my plan, I will definitely become the Demon King! Do you understand?"

Awaitsun looked at me silently. Although his face was full of remorse, he bowed to me unhesitatingly.

"As you command, Your Majesty, the Demon King."

Chapter #8: "The Demon King's Conditions"

Upon returning to the room, I first returned the babies in Ceo's, Vival's, and Laica's arms to their mom and the bed before announcing to everyone, "I have made a deal with Awaitsun. I've agreed to become the demon king."

Ceo inhaled sharply. He didn't release that breath for a long time, looking as if he was going to suffocate. Vival's jaw dropped, but he couldn't utter a single word. Laica even half-fell half-sat onto the bed in shock. Luckily, I placed the babies far away enough. If I hadn't, our future holy knight would have definitely been squashed into a meat patty. As for Tyler, he seemed just a little surprised and didn't look that shocked. In fact, he seemed a little... hopeful?

Don't change your expressions.

I lied to Awaitsun. This was the only way to get him to tell me how the ceremony would be conducted and for him to be willing to participate in it.

Okay, now start quarrelling with me, and don't let him sense that something is fishy. We still need him for the ceremony to be carried out successfully.

"Sun!" Ceo was the first to display his acting skills. He bellowed, "You promised us that you would never become the demon king! You swore to the God of Light that you would never give up being the Sun Knight. How can you go back on your words now?!"

I shouted back agitatedly, "I don't have a choice; Roland is already a death monarch. If he becomes the demon king as well, he would become the most terrifying being to exist, and no one would be able to keep him in check. Once he goes berserk, which is pretty common for an undead creature, this world would be doomed!"

Giving a look of disbelief, Vival bellowed, "So you're going to give up being the Sun Knight just like this?"

"For this world..." I smiled wryly. "This is the only way out. We can't just stand here and let a worldwide catastrophe occur, can we?"

Everyone fell silent and looked a little remorseful. I guess this was not an act but probably how they actually felt. No matter how much they insist on having me continue being the Sun Knight, if it were to lead to the end of world, it would inevitably make them feel remorseful.

"Please, I really don't want to become the cause of the world's end." Everyone fell silent for a while. Ceo sighed and said, "Fine, let's conduct the ceremony right now."

"No." I shook my head, saying, "Roland needs to be present for the ceremony to be conducted. In case he plans to kill me, I'm going to set up a trap and catch him."

Hearing that, Tyler shouted, "Captain would never want to kill his friends!"

That acting is pretty good... No, Tyler isn't acting. Maybe this is how he really feels?

"He has already killed me once," I reminded him.

No matter how supportive Tyler was of his captain, with the truth lying in front of him, there was nothing he could say.

"How is the ceremony conducted?" Vival asked curiously.

Awaitsun explained, "There is a specific location that the ceremony is held at, a magic circle left by the Shadow God that can never be replicated. Hence, the ceremony must be held there. Since this magic circle is of the utmost importance, ten shadowpriests, fifty high ranking dark knights, and another thirty archers are regularly assigned to guard the place. As it is a sensitive period right now, I have assigned another five shadowpriests and thirty high ranking dark knights."

Everyone's faces started twitching unconsciously after hearing that. Although I had already expected the place to be heavily guarded, it didn't occur to me that Awaitsun would still have so many armed forces available that hadn't been sent to clear the creatures of darkness. If I hadn't made this deal with him, I probably wouldn't be able to make it through the armed forces even if I had known how the ceremony worked.

Awaitsun continued explaining, "During the fragment transfer process, the two must stand at specific locations in the magic circle. The one who is giving up the power must not resist or have any sense of unwillingness. It has to be voluntary."

Everyone nodded.

Hey! Hurry up and look surprised and ask how it is possible that Roland won't resist!

You guys have such lousy acting skills!

Ceo asked hurriedly, "But how is it possible that Roland won't resist? It's not like he's willing to give up his power."

"Of course it's possible!" I explained, "Roland puts great importance on his subordinates. We have Illu, and Tyler might be of some use too."

"You're going to threaten Captain with me?" Tyler looked stunned. I nodded and said, "If necessary."

"Sun..." Vival asked with difficulty, "Tyler is one of the vice-captains of the Holy Temple. Roland won't believe that we would actually do anything to Tyler. We can't threaten him like that, can we?"

"We wouldn't, but Awaitsun would!" I explained the process in further detail. "The person who will use Illu and Tyler to threaten Roland in the end won't be you guys. In fact, all you have to do is pretend to be held hostage and let the whole situation appear as if Awaitsun has taken control of everyone. He will then be in charge of threatening Roland with the two of them into letting me become the demon king."

However, in actuality, I will secretly untie you guys so all of you will be able to capture Awaitsun and completely turn the situation around, letting Roland become the demon king. Got

it?

"...You're too god damn despicable!" Laica uttered his true thoughts aloud in a stupor.

"How ingenious." Awaitsun smiled wryly.

"He's been despicable and shameless from the start!" Alice added while patting the baby's back.

"Your husband is going to work under me in the future. Didn't you hear how he said I was ingenious just now? And yet you dare say that I'm despicable and shameless. Beware of me bullying your husband in the future," I directed toward the princess.

Alice screamed, "Then beware of me telling my handsome son and beautiful daughter to create havoc in the Church of the God of Light when they work there as a holy knight and a cleric in the future!"

"...You're too despicable!"

"Look who's talking," Alice retorted.

Turning around, I told Awaitsun, "Since the deal has already been made, go make the arrangements as I said. Be hasty, we can't let the lands of darkness expand anymore."

Awaitsun nodded and said, "Understood!"

"Since you've got nothing better to do right now, continue to help me

babysit my children!" Alice said while placing the baby she had been holding in my hands.

"..."



Once Awaitsun and Alice had left, there were no outsiders in the room anymore except the baby in my hands.

"I should have asked Alice for this kid's name..."

Ceo immediately answered, "I already asked. His name is Shuis, and I have already claimed him, so don't fight with me!"

"...for the next generation of the Twelve Holy Knights?" I asked in disbelief, "Isn't he a little too young for that? He'll be at most seven years old by the time of the selections."

Ceo shrugged, saying, "In theory, the selection is mainly for children ages eight to twelve. However, it should be okay if the child is slightly older or younger!"

I suddenly remembered the pair of siblings we had met on the way here, Elaro and Ludia. Elaro seemed a bit too old. *He'll probably be fourteen by the time of the selections?*

Laica grunted, "Isn't it a little too early to be talking about the selections right now? Let's solve the problem of the demon king first before bringing it up!"

"Sun, you're really..." Vival hesitated for a moment before asking softly, "Is there anyone eavesdropping?"

I shook my head. "No. Don't worry! No eavesdropper can escape my sensing ability."

"How did you come up with this plan?" Vival couldn't resist asking, "You even tricked Silent Eagle, and he really thinks that you're going to be the demon king!"

I shrugged and said, "It wasn't that hard. He believes that most people wouldn't decline such great powers, especially if the reason for obtaining this great power is world peace. Any normal person wouldn't say no to it!"

"That's true." Vival joked, "But too bad our Sun Knight has never been a normal person."

Then Tyler suddenly asked, "If you are not going to be the demon king, will Captain have to take on the role of being the demon king?"

After a moment of silence, I said, "Yes."

Tyler opened his mouth, but he couldn't utter a word. Finally, he asked with much difficulty, "Then must we really use me to threaten Captain?" I immediately replied, "We have nothing else we can use to threaten him; you and Illu are our only choices. However, as I'm still unsure of the relationship between Roland and Illu, we must have you in case Illu alone is not enough to threaten Roland!"

Tyler glared at me as if he was trying hard to hold back something that he wanted to say... Although, I could already more or less deduce what he wanted to say. It was probably about how despicable and shameless I was or something along those lines.

"Tyler!" Ceo bellowed.

Tyler's body tensed up. He then lowered his head and replied stiffly, "I am sorry, Knight-Captain Sun. I will do as you say."

With that, he turned around and walked out of the room tensely without even reporting his destination.

Watching him leave, I just let him go without stopping him or asking him where he was going.

Vival patted my shoulder as he said, "Don't worry about it. Either you or Roland has to become the demon king."

I muttered, "I'm truly... very sorry."

"What are you apologizing for!?" Laica shouted, "Tyler has always been Hell in the past. It's just things going back to how they had been!" Turning around, I looked at the three of them and couldn't help but ask, "Do you guys feel that Roland is an outsider, so he's less important than the others?"

All three fell silent. Ceo then replied reluctantly, "As the Hell Knight, Roland was doing pretty well. Actually, I was even starting to get used to him being Knight-Captain Hell... But what difference does it make?

Stop thinking too much. Let's get things done and return to the Church."

I nodded. Vival suddenly said, "This has nothing to do with being an outsider or not. Because you're the Sun Knight, even if the choice of becoming the demon king is between you and Judgment, we would still choose to keep you and let Judgment be the demon king."

I was stunned, but then I saw the other two nod their heads as well. "Laica Metal, let me tell you this. We can afford to lose anybody except the Sun Knight! If necessary, we would even sacrifice ourselves in order to keep the Sun Knight safe!" After Laica yelled that, he returned to his normal volume and said, "That was what my teacher yelled at me!"

The previous generation's Metal Knight was indeed one with a very loud voice. The content of his words was pretty poisonous too. The combined effect of that and his shocking volume made him fit his title as the Metal Knight very well.

"All of our teachers taught us that way." Ceo smiled and continued, "The only teacher who wouldn't teach that is probably the Sun Knight."

Grudgingly, I replied, "As if it's possible for my teacher to teach something like that. He himself did so many dangerous things. Once, he even went to challenge a hundred and fifty fully armed bandits just by himself!"

"Seriously!" Laica sighed, "The Sun Knight of every generation seems to have a tendency of seeking death when they've got nothing better

to do! No wonder all the other holy knights have to desperately tell their students to save the Sun Knight at all costs.”

Who would like to seek death when they’ve got nothing better to do...
Ignoring Laica’s malicious remarks, I said, “I’m going to find Awaitsun and discuss the specifics of the plan. Ceo, you will go and bring Tyler back. Don’t let him think too much alone. It would be bad if he runs away.”

“Then what are Laica and I going to do?” Vival asked suspiciously.

“Stay here and babysit.”

“...”



I approached Awaitsun’s room. He and other high-ranking dark knights lived together in another cathedral building. Although he had a whole room to himself, his room was far from luxurious... But that was in comparison to the room for Captain Eagle. Actually, the room he currently lived in was similar to my room in the Holy Temple.

On the contrary, the room Alice and her babies lived in was a much more luxurious room, and they even had two maids. From this alone, we could say that Awaitsun was worth praising. In order to go through thick and thin with his fellow dark knights, he was even willing to live apart from his wife!

No wonder the other dark knights really respect him... But I’m still planning to ask him to move back to the main building because it’s too

troublesome to walk all the way to another building to look for him!

As I approached the door, the guards at the door immediately saluted me and opened the door without a single word. *They didn't even knock. Aren't they afraid of finding their Silent Eagle doing something unspeakable?*

I walked in. Expectedly, Awaitsun was indeed not doing anything unspeakable. He was looking down and going through a pile of documents. Hearing movement, he immediately looked up and seemed a little surprised to see me.

I immediately explained, "Your guards are really weird. They let me in without even knocking on the door."

Awaitsun laughed and said, "That is because it is you, sir. You are able to go anywhere you want in the Shadow Cathedral."

After pondering for a while, I asked, "Are all of you being so polite because you're afraid of angering the demon king and the possible grave outcome it may bring?"

"Yes," Awaitsun replied honestly, "We know that the demon king is going to be born soon, so all the dark knights in this generation have been trained to address the demon king with respect."

I joked, "You're in trouble. Now that I know, it won't work on me anymore."

"Indeed, that is bad." Smiling, Awaitsun replied, "But never slap a

smiler, right?”

I shook my head, saying, “With your face, no matter what expression you make, it would be so handsome that I would want to terminate you. You should be rejoicing that I’m blind.

Awaitsun’s bright smile immediately turned into a pained one. It seemed that he had suffered because of his face before. Being too handsome is indeed a sin!

“Let’s get back to the main business! I’ve already finished the first step of our deal, so isn’t it time for you to show some sincerity?”

“Yes, surprisingly, they did not question a thing.” Awaitsun said in disbelief, “Why didn’t they suspect whether or not you’re really going to become the demon king?”

“Because I’m the Sun Knight and they are very used to following my orders. Also, they know that I wouldn’t easily give up on being the Sun Knight for the prospect of being the demon king.”

Awaitsun looked at me and asked, “Is it really okay to trick them?” I replied indifferently, “There’s nothing okay or not okay about it, it’s just that this is what I have to do!”

“Why don’t you tell them directly that you want to be the demon king?” Awaitsun voice dropped. “Your attitude is worrying me. Maybe the person you’re trying to trick is not them but me! Although you’re saying you want to become the demon king, maybe, in the end, it will be Roland who becomes the demon king—”

I cut him off coldly, "I never wanted to become the demon king, but I will never give up being the Sun Knight either! Even if I have to become the demon king in order to be the Sun Knight!"

After giving it some thought, Awaitsun answered promptly, "I understand now. I will not suspect you again, sir."

"Good, then tell me all the details of the ceremony."

"Why?" Although Awaitsun said that he would not suspect me again, his eyes showed suspicion. Skeptically, he said, "I will be there too. I can just tell you what to do during the ceremony."

Harshly, I replied, "Because I don't like any form of uncertainty! What if you regret your choice when the time comes? What if you're just lying to me and your real intention is to make Roland the demon king?"

Awaitsun's expression changed immediately and he replied nervously, "I would not--"

I interrupted, "If you can suspect that I'm actually planning to let Roland become the demon king, then why can't I suspect your intentions too? Not to mention, you've even gone back on your word before! When I lost my mind, didn't you change to support Roland instead?"

Awaitsun opened his mouth, but there was nothing he could say to rebut me.

"In order to ensure that everything will be carried out smoothly, I must know every single detail!"

Frowning, Awaitsun questioned, "What if I don't want to tell you?"

Nonchalantly, I replied, "Then I will capture you right now and the dark knights nearby as well. If they can stay so close to you, there must be a rather close bond between you guys. And then, using psychic magic, I will tell Ceo to kidnap your wife. As for your children, two of them are already in Laica's and Vival's hands."

"You.. you..." After "you"ing for a long time, Awaitsun finally spoke through gritted teeth, "You really are the demon king!"

Without disagreeing, I replied, "Not yet, actually!"

Awaitsun looked so angry he seemed on the verge of vomiting blood. While gathering dark element, I said, "I will give you ten seconds to decide whether you're going to tell me or not. Ten, nine, eight, seven..."

"Alright!" He clenched his teeth. Then he revealed every single detail of how to conduct the ceremony. During this period, I carefully observed his heartbeat and expression to ensure that he wasn't lying. After disclosing everything, Awaitsun had such a gloomy face that I couldn't help but roll my eyes at him. "Since you've already told me everything, you might as well just sit back and wait for my plan to succeed!"

Hearing that, Awaitsun looked at me with an even more worried expression.

"You excel in coming up with plans, and you don't care if those plans hold any righteousness. However, you're able to uphold an honest and righteous image in front of so many. You even have many who are willing to sacrifice the world's safety just to save you. When you become the demon king in the future, you'll have great power. When that time comes, you'll even have two churches under your influence... I have a feeling you might be the most fearsome demon king in all of history!"

Displeased, I asked, "What? You regret supporting me now?"

"A little." Awaitsun sighed. "But in comparison, I'm more fearful of having the deceased become the demon king, so you don't have to worry."

I snorted. This person keeps changing the person he supports. Although he's thinking of the future of the world, it's still rather annoying!

Awaitsun continued quietly, "But being fearsome also means having great power and ability. Now I'm really curious, just what kind of impact would a demon king like you have on this world?"

Turning my head around to face him, I said, "Nothing. You know my plans. I want to be the Sun Knight. It just happens that I will also be the demon king. "

Without a choice, Awaitsun replied, "A demon king part-timing as the Sun Knight. You're probably the only one who would do that!"

"It's a Sun Knight part-timing as the demon king!" I corrected him.
"...Forget it! In any case, it has already been recorded in history that, no matter which generation, stubbornness is an unchanging characteristic of every demon king." Smiling forcefully, Awaitsun continued, "But then again, you must be one of the most stubborn ones, sir. In that sense, you really are the most suitable to become the demon king!"

Chapter #9: "Confrontation Between Demon Kings"

I firmly tied up Illu in layer upon layer of Chains of Darkness. When I was done, he looked exactly like a huge snowman, with a small head on top and a great round body below. The only thing missing was a carrot for a nose.

Under Illu's murderous glare, I observed him all around. After determining that I had tied him up tightly, I nodded my head in satisfaction.

After that, Awaitsun brought Tyler in. In contrast to my firm bindings, Awaitsun had only handcuffed Tyler and tied up his ankles.

After the both of them entered, they looked towards Illu simultaneously and exclaimed, "Isn't that too extreme?"

I answered unhappily, "Aren't your bindings a little too simple?" Awaitsun hurriedly explained, "These chains are made from special materials. There are lots of binding spells placed on them. It will make a person completely helpless, so there is no way that he can escape from this."

"Who cares whether Tyler is helpless or not? I'm worried over the fact that Roland could rip off those cuffs and chains with one hand!" I frowned and said, "Being extreme is far better than being inadequate. If Roland destroys those shackles and saves these two in one move, then we don't have a chance!"

"I see." Awaitsun nodded his head and said, "You're right. We should tie him up more securely."

Hearing this, Tyler blanched. Before he could finish his sentence of "Wait a min-," numerous Chains of Darkness appeared around me and scuttled towards him like a nest of snakes. The chains wound their way up from his legs, stopping only when they reached his neck.

Now two snowmen stood side by side, looking like a pair of twins. Their expressions were also surprisingly similar – similarly ugly.

I dared to swear that even if Roland were the perpetrator, he too would be unable to remove the chains binding their bodies... At least for a short while.

Awaitsun looked at Tyler with a guilty expression, then told me, "Tying them up like this, they won't be able to walk. How about I go look for someone to move them?"

"That's not necessary." I shook my head and added wind element to the two snowmen, letting them float. I then formed two chains and tied them onto the waists of the two snowmen. Like this, I could drag them along.

I handed a chain to Awaitsun and said, "We can just lead them along like this."

Awaitsun looked down at the chains, contemplated something for a while, then raised his head and begged, "If I do anything wrong in the future, can you please not tie me up like that? Beating me up or

locking me in the dungeons are both fine!”

I thought for a moment and then warned, “If you dare to disobey my orders, I’ll tie you up just like that and parade you around the cities.” After saying that, I thought that the threat wasn’t terrifying enough and added, “Also, I’ll take your children along and let them play with their snowman dad.”

Awaitsun paled. He seemed extremely regretful that he had chosen me... *You should have chosen Charlotte in the first place! With your good looks, Charlotte definitely wouldn’t have chosen to punish you by embarrassing you to death!*

“So you better remember to be more obedient in the future! Let’s go, Ceo and the others must be waiting for us.”

Awaitsun answered helplessly, “Of course.”

Dragging the two snowmen along, we conversed while heading towards our destination. It was mainly Awaitsun reporting things to me.

“In accordance with your wishes, we have moved to the Cathedral of the Shadow God and cleared out the Cathedral and everything within a one kilometer radius of it. But do we really not need the help of other dark knights?”

“No!” I frowned and said, “If Roland caught them and used them to threaten you to release Tyler, would you let him go or watch them die?” Awaitsun stopped, nodded and said, “You have really thought of everything.”

"Of course! So don't let any extra personnel near the ceremonial site, especially that wife of yours!"

Awaitsun nodded, forcing a smile. "I have already asked my comrades to take care of her. Alice will definitely be unable to come here from the Shadow Cathedral."

After passing through great double doors, we arrived in a hall. However, this was not the hall of the Shadow Cathedral, but the Cathedral of the Shadow God.

Compared to the Shadow Cathedral, the Cathedral of the Shadow God was a lot more simplistic. It would not tempt a holy knight upon first glance, making him feel he had chosen to devote himself to the wrong religion.

This entire hall could be said to be nothing worth mentioning, even more frugal than the Church of the God of Light. Although the floor and walls were constructed with sturdy stone, it was not extravagant, and there weren't any superfluous decorations. The only thing that the middle of the hall had was a divine statue. Although I call it a divine statue, it was just a person wearing a cape and holding a staff aloft.

I couldn't help shaking my head and saying, "Isn't the difference between the Cathedral of the Shadow God and the Shadow Cathedral a bit too much? Couldn't you all have used some of the funds for the construction of the Shadow Cathedral to improve the Cathedral of the Shadow God? After all, the Shadow Cathedral is far too extravagant." Awaitsun smiled and explained, "The more extravagant the Shadow

Cathedral is, the more likely the Demon King would want to use it as his base and not choose some other place. That would cause unnecessary trouble.”

So that was the reason. They really have thought of everything. If I were the Demon King, I would probably use that place as a base once I saw how extravagant it was.

After all, building a castle requires a lot of labor and time. The more extravagant the castle is, the more time is needed. For a castle as extravagant as the Shadow Cathedral, even if the groundwork was laid the moment the Demon King ascended, when the job was finally finished, the Demon King would probably have one foot in the grave by then.

At this time, Awaitsun walked to the side of the divine statue. He drew out his sword, leapt and used the sword to push one of the carvings on the staff. The carving sunk down, and below the statue’s long robes, an entrance around the height of a person opened. Within the entrance was a long flight of stairs.

So this is the entrance of the ceremonial site. If I hadn’t agreed to work together with Awaitsun, I probably wouldn’t have found the site even after a lifetime of searching!

Even if someone realized that there was something strange about the staff, most people would try and push the staff about or touch the inlaid jewel on it. Who would think that any of the carvings were suspicious? Not to mention that the carvings on that staff were as numerous as the stars in the sky!

We walked into the entrance and down the stairs. Both sides of the staircase were nothing but an empty cave, because below this was a cave full of stalagmites!

When we finished walking down the stairs, a long corridor of granite came into view. Normally, there would be a whole line of dark knights standing there, but all of them had been transferred. The only things left behind were the empty stalagmite cave and flickering candles. It was dauntingly eerie, completely unlike some place that a church would have... *But, on second thought, the Demon King is the representative of the Cathedral of the Shadow God. It should be normal that the entire cathedral would seem eerie.*

I looked up. The ceiling of the cavern was very high, and made completely of stalactites. I felt that a stalactite could fall down at any time and smash me into a pulp. *How dangerous!* I couldn't help shaking my head and saying, "Building a cathedral above this cave, aren't you all afraid that it would collapse?"

"That won't happen. This cave was created by god. How could it collapse?" Awaitsun answered devoutly.

Even if it was the Divine Sun Sword, I am always afraid that it would one day break in my possession, let alone a cave.

After walking past that long granite corridor, a broad empty space roughly shaped like a triangle appeared before us. The surroundings were natural stone walls. There was no sign of the walls being smoothed out; they were left rough and uneven.

In the middle was a humongous magic sigil, and, like the space around it, it was triangular in shape. At a glance it looked like it was carved into the floor, but the lines were actually floating above the floor by about ten centimeters. In addition to that, there was a small magic circle at each point of the triangle.

Although I called the circles small, that was actually in comparison to the triangular magic sigil. The circles were actually about the length of a man, and they were standing upright!

The entire thing was a partially transparent object floating in mid-air, untouchable. No wonder the liches and Awaitsun said that this magic sigil could not be copied, so the ceremony has to be held here. *And only gods can create something like this, right?*

Although I had never before encountered the God of Light, I have never doubted His existence... Holding the Divine Sun Sword, this holy item full of holy element, made it truly difficult to doubt the gods' existence.

At this, Ceo, Vival, and Laica ran in from another side. Vival demanded, "Why did you take so long? We've already done all the necessary preparations. The chains have already been secured to the walls."

"We were transporting these snowmen." I tugged at snowman Illu.

"Tyler, you, how did you become like this?" Laica looked Tyler up and down and mumbled, "Fat and round, he really looks like a gigantic snowman, but a darkened one."

Hearing this, Tyler's face darkened too.

"Since the chains have been secured, Awaitsun, you go tie up Ceo and the rest of them." I turned and said to Awaitsun, "Roland said that once I brought Illu to the ceremonial site, he would appear, so he could appear at any time now. We have to hurry up and make our preparations."

"Right!"

Ceo, Vival, and Laica walked to the stone wall. There were three pairs of chains there. Besides the hands and feet, there were even chains for the waist and neck. After the three of them were in place, Awaitsun tied all three of them up.

Although Ceo and the others were the ones who set the chains within the walls, the chains were provided by the Cathedral of the Shadow God. Awaitsun had already adjusted them. They looked firm and sturdy – that was to trick Roland, when in reality the chains were actually easily detachable – that was to trick the trio, but there was a secret lock to them. Once that was locked, this adjusted chain was still a firm chain.

Wooooow. It really is a complicated bit of work!

"I have locked it." Awaitsun walked to my side, took in a deep breath and announced, "Now, we only have to wait for 'him' to arrive."

If we waited for him, we would have no idea how long we would need to wait. Taking the initiative to contact him was far safer. I had found him twice... *There's no reason why I can't do something while awake that I could do while sleeping!*

I closed my eyes and called out urgently in my mind. *Roland, Roland! I want to find Roland, like before... I want to see Roland!*

"If I may ask, have you fallen asleep?" Awaitsun asked, perplexed.
"Shall I get a chair for you?"

I opened my eyes and said blankly, "No. I was just resting my eyes."
Awaitsun nodded his head doubtfully.

What the hell? I was able to do it while sleeping, but I really can't do it while awake!

Bah! That's because you're someone who uses instinct when using magic!

... Scarlet? That's great! Hurry up and teach me how to find Roland like how I did before!

No!

I want to become the Demon King, really! So teach me how to summon Roland. Then, I can quickly become the Demon King!

Whoever believes you is an idiot! Argh, you actually used the Summoned Door by yourself...

"What door?" I asked hurriedly.

Before Scarlet could reply, I saw the door. It was an arched door about

twice the height of a person. The scene in the door had no connection with the stalactite cave. It showed the volcano from before.

"What, what is this?" I asked, stunned.

The most basic step of summoning is to open a dimensional door besides the creature that one wants to summon, to allow it to arrive immediately by your side, however... This is the first time that I have seen someone with the courage to summon a death monarch.

Death monarch? I flinched and saw a gigantic black shadow descend and fill the entire door. That wasn't because he was fat, but rather because the six wings of his really were enormous.

"Sun?"

Roland seemed astonished and surveyed the door carefully. Finally, he shook his head and said, "You always do such inconceivable things."

That's right, summoning a death monarch. Even I think that it's inconceivable... And very suicidal! I hurriedly said, "Because I have already brought Illu to the ceremonial site, but there was no sign of you. So I had to open the door and invite you over."

Roland said blankly, "Aren't you a little too anxious? You must have just arrived there. No matter how powerful I am, I still need time to track down Illu's position."

"How can I not be anxious? In three months' time, the entire world will be swallowed up by lands of darkness. Even now, as we speak, there

are numerous people fighting against creatures of darkness. They might be close to dying!”

Roland was silent for a moment. Then, he nodded his head, “That’s true.”

He folded his six flesh wings and returned to his human appearance, then stepped through the door and walked forward a few more steps. He stopped around five paces away from me.

“I think that you probably don’t want me to be too near you.” He said lightly.

Hearing this, I purposely walked forwards a few steps, shortening the distance between us to around two steps.

Awaitsun immediately walked before me, turned his head and told me in a lowered voice, “This is too dangerous!”

I rolled my eyes and scoffed, “Calm down. If he wants to attack, two steps distance won’t make a difference. Get out of my way now!”

Awaitsun hesitated. He stepped off to the side, leaving from his position between us, but he still stood beside me, hand on his sword, as though ready to draw his sword at any moment.

Roland looked between Awaitsun and me and then focused on the two giant snowmen. He gave a start and called out, confused, “Tyler? Why are you here?”

"Captain!" Tyler shouted emotionally. But after he called out, he stopped, as if he had no idea what to say. He just looked at his own captain.

But Roland turned away from Tyler, no longer looking at him. Instead, he looked at me and asked, "Sun, were you the one who tied him up?"

I admitted bluntly, "Yes." This snowman-style of tying people up was far too obvious. Even if I denied it, Roland wouldn't believe that it wasn't me who had done it, right?

Hearing this, Roland frowned and looked at me with a confused expression, but my attention was on Ceo and the others. From the moment they were chained to the wall, they kept on trying to secretly unlock it but realized that it was impossible. They stared at me in bewilderment, but they didn't dare to make a sound.

"Sun!" Ceo finally could not stand it and yelled aloud, "Didn't you say that you were going to secretly tamper with the chains and let us go?"

Awaitsun turned his head and said, "He lied! What he really wants is to become the Demon King. To prevent you all from getting in the way, he--"

At this, I held out my hand. Countless Chains of Darkness shot out and tied up Awaitsun as the third snowman. Awaitsun could not even finish saying "What are you doing" before the chains wrapped around his mouth.

Seeing this, Ceo, Vival, and Laica all sighed in relief. Laica even

mocked Awaitsun. "I think the person who's been lied to is you!"

Roland, not understanding the situation, looked at Awaitsun and asked me, "Why did you tie up Awaitsun?"

I shrugged my shoulders and said, "Oh, that's because I lied to him, saying that I wanted to become the Demon King, so I needed him use Illu and Tyler to threaten you to give up the qualifications to be the Demon King."

Roland was stunned. He turned his head towards Ceo and said, "Then why did you lock up Storm and the others?"

"Because I also lied to them saying that I actually lied to Awaitsun and that the person who would really be giving up the qualifications to be the Demon King was me."

When I finished, Ceo and the rest along with Awaitsun blanched immediately. Roland asked in curiosity, "Then exactly who is it that you wanted to trick?"

I answered honestly, "Both sides."

The moment the words were out of my mouth, the tied-up Ceo, Laica, and Vival started raging. Awaitsun whose mouth was securely bound by the chains also glared at me with a burning expression.

Seeing this, Roland laughed. He really laughed out of joy, and even the flames in his eyes flickered.

"Sun, you are still so..." He laughed, shook his head, and said, "How in the world should I describe you?"

I suggested, "You can say that I am astonishingly wise and astute!"

"You are shameless and despicable!" Laica roared.

Laica, you're not a princess! Only princesses like to describe me with 'shameless' and 'despicable.' I summoned the Chains of Darkness and bound Ceo, Laica, and Vival's mouths to prevent them from cutting in, although this made their expressions even scarier.

I clapped my hands and said, "Great, now no one will interrupt us. We can have a nice chat."

"Do we actually have anything to talk about?" Roland asked coolly, and then understood. "That's right, you said that you wanted to ask me a question and it must be done face-to-face. Well, I've arrived. You can ask now."

I shook my head and said, "No, I want you to swear that you will tell me the truth!"

"You don't believe me again?" Roland said but immediately frowned after speaking. Then, he said blandly, "That's right, I said before that I would never harm the Twelve Holy Knights, but then I killed you with my own hands. It's obvious that you wouldn't believe me."

I opened my mouth but couldn't say anything.

"You can ask now." Roland said calmly, "I will tell the truth. But I swear that I will only answer truthfully to this one question."

I nodded my head and looked straight at Roland, unwilling to miss a single one of his reactions. Then, I opened my mouth and asked.

"Roland, do you actually want to be the Demon King?"

Chapter #10: "Ba of the Demon King"

Roland's face twitched and, gritting his teeth, he asked, "This is your question?"

"That's right!" I replied matter-of-factly.

"That's right?" He roared with disbelief, "Why aren't you asking questions such as 'Why did I kill you' or 'Why did I betray you'?"

"Those are also good questions." I shrugged as I spoke, "However, it's a pity that I already know the answers to those questions. Why would I still ask?"

Roland froze and asked, "Y-You know?"

"Mm, it was 'Judgment' who told me, and all the Twelve Holy Knights already know." I emphasized that it was Judgment in particular who had figured it out. While I said this, I even specially paid attention to Tyler, and only after ensuring that he was listening attentively did I continue talking.

"Even though I had already been resurrected, Judgment still treated the incident of my death as a murder case to investigate. He went to Pink's private room and discovered a special magic circle in there. However, he didn't have an inkling about what kind of magic it was, so he asked the Pope to inspect it. In the end, he found out that it was a magic circle that necromancers use to strengthen their control over death knights."

Upon hearing my explanation, Roland subtly breathed a sigh of relief. Even though he still maintained an indifferent expression, he could not hide from my sensing ability. When I had finished speaking, the muscles in his face had certainly loosened a lot.

“Actually, Pink has been controlling you since you were young, right?” The moment those words left my mouth, Roland froze and was finally unable to maintain his indifferent look. Instead, he wore a shocked expression.

You’re already astonished by this? The following things I’m about to say are even more shocking!

“She controlled you, making you do as she said, but then forced you to forget about her, as this made it easier for her to execute her plans. For example, controlling the king to torture you to death, which filled you with hatred towards the king. Then, she resurrected you as a death knight and deliberately made you come and find me to talk about old times, which would make it easier to find an opportunity to kill me in the future.”

When I finished speaking, Roland’s eyes widened slightly and even the others were stunned.

After capturing everyone’s attention, I continued speaking, “Having you come to my side was initially a very big risk. Had your true identity been exposed, you would have been in a very dangerous situation. However, under the circumstance that you yourself didn’t know the truth, exposing your lies would have been impossible for me because you didn’t know about your own identity or that you would kill

me in the future!

"Initially, I had various misgivings about why Pink hadn't killed me herself. There were numerous opportunities where she could have made a move and killed me. Later on, I learned the answer from my own lich. It was because Pink absolutely could not kill me with her own hands. A lich may assist their candidate, but they are forbidden from directly harming the other candidates. That is a prohibition engraved in their bones, so it is impossible to break that constraint.

"Therefore, Pink was forced to make this dangerous move and let you come and find me to reminisce about the past." I said self-deprecatingly, "Even though Pink wanted you to get closer to me, she probably never thought that I would take you straight into the Church of the God of Light and make you the Hell Knight." Thinking back now, I was truly courting death with that action!

Frowning, Roland said, "These are all your conjectures."

"They're my inferences made with reasoning!" I said with conviction. "I have tons of evidence! For instance, because of her control over you, there were many faults in your memories. Previously, you blurted out that your sword was a sword you inherited. However, you actually don't recall at all how you came about that sword, right? You and I are both orphans, so where in the world did that heirloom come from? Yet, you still had an impression in your mind that the sword was a family heirloom, right? It was because Pink instilled that impression on you so you wouldn't carelessly discard or sell off the sword!

"Furthermore, Pink obviously wanted to let me bleed to death. The

fewer wounds there are on a corpse, the better. It would make it easier for her to turn me into an undead creature at her disposal. Despite her wish, I was brought back to the Church in the end and there was even a big hole in my chest. It was you who gave me a quick end to my suffering and brought me back to the Church, right? And it was also at that moment that you killed Pink!”

Roland couldn’t help but let the words slip, “How did you know...?”

I further emphasised, “I even know that not only did you kill her, you even sealed her up just like how I sealed Scarlet and Stephen in the Eternal Tranquility. Therefore, she went missing half a year ago. That’s why Illu, whom you made afterwards, would say that he had never seen Pink!”

Roland looked at me for a long moment, then, shaking his head, he said, “It’s really hard to believe it, but it seems like you know even more than I do.”

That’s because I have Scarlet, who knows and will talk about everything except the ceremony to give up a candidate’s qualifications!

Feeling a bit curious, I asked, “Anyway, just where did you seal Pink?”

Roland hesitated briefly, then said, “My family heirloom.”

Ha! I couldn’t help but laugh. Scarlet had used every possible means to return the Eternal Tranquility to my hands, and I used the Eternal Tranquility to seal her away. Pink had found an excellent sword for Roland much earlier on, and Roland used that sword to seal her away.

These are perfect examples of reaping what one sows.

"I've finished saying all that I've wanted to," I reminded him. "Now it is your turn, Roland. You have yet to answer my question."

Roland fell silent. I wasn't anxious and leisurely waited for his reply.

The more I waited, the heavier Roland's expression became. Finally, I couldn't help saying first, "Actually, you don't have the slightest wish in becoming the Demon King, right?"

With a face full of anger and unwillingness, Roland roared at me, "I don't want to be the Demon King! I want to return to the Holy Temple and continue being the Hell Knight! However, between the two of us, one must become the Demon King. If it isn't me, it will be you, and we all know that it definitely cannot be you!"

"Says who?" Pretending to be relaxed, I said, "I actually want to be the Demon King."

Roland was startled and growled, "Quit joking already! Sun, even if you intend to sacrifice yourself to be the Demon King so that I won't have to, do you think it's possible for the others to accept me and let me go back to being the Hell Knight? Because of me, they will have lost their Sun Knight. It will be forever impossible for them to accept me!"

"My choice to be the Demon King has nothing to do with you." I said quietly, "I'm not doing it for you. I'm doing it for myself."

"For yourself?" Roland burst out laughing, "Did you think that if you

said it like this, I would believe you? That anyone would believe you?" I said flatly, "You know that I'm blind and am currently using my sensing ability as a substitute for my vision. So tell me, if I lose my qualifications as a demon king candidate, what will happen to me?"

The moment I said those words, everyone other than Awaitsun widened their eyes.

Unwilling to believe it, Roland asked, "Y-You'll turn blind?"

I nodded, then said bluntly, "That's why I have to become the Demon King! Thus, this decision has nothing to do with you whatsoever.

"It's only because I want to continue being the Sun Knight!" I couldn't help raising my voice.

"However, my resurrection made me lose a large portion of my holy light abilities. If, in addition, I lose my status as a demon king candidate, my sight and even my magic abilities will disappear completely! Tell me, how can I be the Sun Knight then?"

Roland was dumbstruck for a long while and only now did he use an incredulous tone to ask, "You want to be the Demon King, but you still want...to continue being the Sun Knight?"

"That's right!" I nodded resolutely, "No one has ever decreed that the Demon King can't be the Sun Knight!"

Roland was speechless for a very long while, then said helplessly, "No one has decreed it, but this is so... so much like something you would

do.” He chuckled as he finished his sentence.

“So you can come over here and obediently give up the Demon King’s strength. In any case, even if you aren’t the Demon King, you’re still a tremendous and terrifying death monarch. This situation has an additional benefit. With you as a death monarch, and I as the Demon King, the two of us can restrain each other. If one of us goes crazy, the other one will be in charge of stopping him.”

This is truly killing multiple birds with one stone. I admired myself for having been able to resolve things so flawlessly!

Roland looked at me, but he didn’t appear to have any intention of walking over to one of the magic circles. He opened his mouth and said, “Sun, now it’s my turn to ask you a question. You must also answer me truthfully.”

“A question?” I was a bit puzzled. In any case, I had laid down all my cards on the table and had revealed everything, so there was nothing that I couldn’t say. Nodding, I said, “Alright, ask away!”

“You asked if I wanted to be the Demon King. What if I said that I did? What would you have done?”

I paused, then said, “Then I would have given up on becoming the Demon King.” *If not, what else could I do?*

Roland persisted and continued questioning me, “Then you would become blind, so how would you continue being the Sun Knight?”

"...Well I'm actually quite glad that you said you didn't want to be the Demon King," I admitted with honesty. "Only in this way could I continue to be the Sun Knight while simultaneously holding the position of the Demon King. You could also continue to be the Hell Knight as well as a death monarch. And the problem would be resolved!"

Hearing this, Roland laughed. Shaking his head, he said, "It really is a pretty good plan. The Demon King is born and the Twelve Holy Knights don't lose a single person... But Sun, your plan won't work!"

I had thought that the issue was already settled, but Roland suddenly said these words from out of nowhere. Alarmed, I asked, "Why?"

"Sun, the Demon King's powers don't only include possessing formidable strength..." Roland frowned as he said, "When you become the real Demon King, you will naturally begin to absorb large amounts of dark element, and the dark element will affect your mentality... Oh, right, you've previously absorbed the dark element from an entire land of darkness, haven't you?"

I froze as I recalled some past memories. Abandoning and ignoring Ice and Blaze, whose lives were in danger. Chopping off Teacher's right hand...

"At that time, you had changed after absorbing the dark element from only one land of darkness. After you truly become the Demon King, the dark element you'll absorb then will be several fold, maybe even several ten-folds... When you become the Demon King, trust me, you wouldn't want to be the Sun Knight anymore."

Roland smiled bitterly as he said, "Even though it was for a very short time, from your death to your resurrection, I had truly become the Demon King. At that time, I had simply no way of restraining myself..." *Is that so?* I frowned deeply. After pondering for a while, I had an epiphany and said, "But after you became the Demon King, you still brought me back to the Church of the God of Light, didn't you? You clearly knew that I would get resurrected and you would become a candidate once again..."

Roland interrupted me, saying, "I didn't know there were still others who could use Resurrection. I also didn't know that your resurrection would revert me back into a candidate."

I blinked. *Really? That is to say, I haven't mentioned in front of Roland that the Pope can use Resurrection? It seems... it seems that I really haven't mentioned it before?*

Roland said desperately, "Even if you're blind, you should still be able to think of a way to be the Sun Knight. No matter what, you definitely cannot be the Demon King!"

I growled back, "But I can't think of any other way! The resurrection this time made me lose a large portion of my holy light abilities. If I lose my status as a demon king candidate, then I won't be able to use magic and I'll even become blind. Tell me, what sort of solutions can I think of?"

At the end of his wit, Roland said, "The others will help you..."

I turned my head to glance at Ceo and the other two. Their expressions were full of panic and they were at a complete loss as to what to do. I roared at Roland, "Of course they would help their Sun Knight, on the condition that I can perform the Sun Knight's duties well. But without holy light, magic or even sight, I can't do it at all!"

"No matter what, you absolutely cannot be the Demon King!" Roland was also starting to get angry and roared back at me, "Sun, you don't get it all. If you become the Demon King, you won't want to go back to the Church of the God of Light again! You won't want to be the Sun Knight anymore! The amounts of dark element that a candidate and the Demon King absorb are on completely different levels. You will be fully controlled by the dark element and will treat this world, even the Twelve Holy Knights, as nothing. The only thing you will think of is doing whatever pleases you!"

"Previously, even when I had lost my sight, I still wanted to be the Sun Knight!"

I stared at Roland, and spoke clearly, word by word.

"Even when I lost my head of golden hair, I still wanted to be the Sun Knight!"

"Even when I lost the favor of the God of Light, I still wanted to be the Sun Knight! So..."

"Even when I am the Demon King, I will still want to be the Sun Knight!"

"This is how much I want to be the Sun Knight! So please believe me! Even if I become the Demon King, I will not lose myself! I will return to my position as the Sun Knight and the Twelve Holy Knights will not lose a single person!"

Roland looked at me. His expression had long since changed from being indifferent and calm to being overwhelmed. Finally, he turned and looked at Ceo and the others, a plea for help strewn across his face.

Seeing this, I walked over to the wall and opened the locks on Ceo, Vival, and Laica's bodies, and then released Awaitsun, Illu, and Tyler. It was meaningless to continue restraining them now.

The moment Tyler was free, he immediately ran over to his captain's side and after saluting, opened his mouth and said, "Captain-"

Roland cut in, "You don't have to keep on calling me Captain anymore." Upon hearing this, Tyler lowered his head and beseeched in a low voice, "Captain, please come back."

Roland hesitated, and then said, "If I don't return, you can take over my position as the captain."

"But some things can only happen when you return as captain. For example, taking turns to spar with you every evening. And you're never able to finish correcting the mountain of documents that the Storm Knight throws at you, so the entire platoon is forced to correct those never-ending documents with you. While we're correcting, someone will be the first to yell that he cannot take it anymore, and

then we will all slack off together and run off to drink at the tavern.
And the first person to get drunk will always be you, Captain."

"Someone?" Roland chuckled, "Which time was it not Faterlin who shouted first that he couldn't take it anymore?"

"Yes sir, it seems that it is always that guy who shouts first. I truly have not taught him well..." Tyler said in a helpless voice. Then, feeling a bit embarrassed, he rubbed his head as he said, "Captain, even though I really want to be the captain, I long even more for the days when you were around. How should I say this... Those days were pretty good."

Hearing his words, Roland looked at him. His expression softened up a lot as he murmured, "Really? So there are people who look forward to my return?"

As expected, bringing Tyler along was the right thing to do! I was just thinking of cheering for a bit when I saw Ceo and the other two walking towards me with expressions more terrifying than a death monarch's. Without saying anything, they caught hold of me and six fists came down, administrating a severe beating... *This beating is really as painful as hell!*

"Don't hit my face!" Just as I finished yelling, two fists immediately punched my left and right eyes.

"Hey!" Awaitsun's eyes widened, then he used a barely audible voice to urge them to stop, "Stop beating him!"

If you lowered your voice any more, it would be the same as a mosquito calling out!

After a long period of beating, Ceo angrily roared "Let's see if you still dare to trick us in the future!" as he cast heal to completely heal all the wounds on my body.

After being pummeled, I could only bow my head and apologize, "I'm sorry. If I hadn't done it like this, I'm afraid you guys simply wouldn't finish listening to my reasons, and upon hearing that I wanted to be the Demon King, you would have probably beaten me up straightaway."

Ceo frowned as he said, "It's still taking a very big risk. According to Roland's words, after you become the Demon King, perhaps you truly won't want to be the Sun Knight. If that happens, what should we do?" "Even if the risk is great, I must gamble on it!" I insisted. "I really don't want to give up my position as the Sun Knight, and even more than that, I don't want to be a leech of the Holy Temple!"

Vival admonished me, "If Judgment found out that you became the Demon King, he would undoubtedly murder you, Demon King or not!" I put on a bold face and said, "At that time, please remember to help me stop him."

Laica yelled, "Who would care about you!?"

My face fell. Then, I turned to Roland and said, "Roland, even Ceo and the others aren't stopping me anymore. Now you can relax, right?" However, Roland continued to mutter, "But Sun, if you truly change, and you actually don't return to the Church of the God of Light, then

all of this would be my fault. I should...I should become the Demon King and let you go back to the Church of the God of Light..."

"You don't have to feel guilty at all." Ceo patted Roland's shoulder as he said, "Sun has already said that he is choosing to become the Demon King so that he can continue being the Sun Knight. By giving up your candidacy, you're even helping him!"

Roland fell silent for a while, then forced a smile as he said, "Sun, you will regret it... No! After you become the Demon King, you won't feel any regrets at all."

"That may not necessarily happen!" I couldn't take it anymore and shouted, "But if I let you become the Demon King you never wanted to be, and then I return to the Church of the God of Light to be a Sun Knight only in name, I will definitely experience a lifetime of regret starting from this very moment!"

Roland was startled, and only then did he finally nod his head and step towards one of the magic circles.

I beckoned Awaitsun over and said, "Perform the ceremony!"

Awaitsun promptly walked forward, and spoke to Roland first, "Please take note, you must not harbor any wishes of wanting to be the Demon King or keeping your strength."

"I've never wished to be some demon king!" Roland replied coldly.
Looks like he doesn't have a favorable impression of Awaitsun.

I hurriedly stepped forward to intercede and asked, "Believe Roland! If he wanted to become the Demon King, he would have done so a long time ago! Now tell me, where do I stand?"

"The middle."

I looked at the other two circles and asked, "Which middle?"

Awaitsun gestured to the center of the entire space and said, "In the middle of the triangle."

I hesitated, and then asked suspiciously, "Why? There are three circular magic circles. Logically, it should be for the three candidates to stand inside, right? If I stand in the center, won't one of the three circles be useless?"

"No, one of the circles is for a witness to stand in. It has nothing to do with the demon king candidates."

"A witness? Who?"

Awaitsun smiled and said, "The Silent Eagle of the present generation."

... No wonder Awaitsun was so cooperative and didn't harbor many doubts towards me. Turns out that it was because without his cooperation, the ceremony wouldn't succeed at all!

I rolled my eyes at him and then walked over to the center of the triangle.

Awaitsun stepped into one of the circles. I stealthily remembered the positions, intending to bring a diagram of the magic circle back to the Church of the God of Light for safekeeping, because it would be impossible to guarantee that there won't be another Sun Knight who just happens to be a demon king candidate again in the future!

"By the name of Silent Eagle, I am here to witness the fusion and birth of the twenty first generation vessel of dark element!"

The moment Awaitsun finished speaking, he picked up his sword and slit starting from his own wrist, making a straight cut at least twenty centimeters long up his arm. Large amounts of blood splattered onto the magic circle, and then he chanted a long incantation in a loud voice.

"%\$#@*&#....."

... I can't understand him at all! Which country is this language from? My eyes widened, but the first few sentences had already been finished. As I couldn't understand him, I also couldn't remember it at all... Looks like even if I have a diagram of the magic circle, it is useless!

Following the recitation of the incantation, the blood that was sprayed on the magic circle started to flow along the perimeter of the magic circle. Suddenly, the magic circle started to whirl in a frenzy. After that, the blood separated like a spider web into countless streams, and every individual stream flew towards Roland. *This situation is really too strange!*

Despite having an eerie cathedral, being full of dark element, and performing weird ceremonies, the Cathedral of the Shadow God still has so many followers... *The Kingdom of Kissinger must have put a lot of thought into how to present the image of the Cathedral of the Shadow God!*

When that web of blood flowed to Roland's side, all the muscles in his body tensed up, and it seemed as if he wanted to flee, but was resisting the urge with much difficulty. Fortunately, that web of blood didn't actually pounce on his body, but flowed onto the magic circle around him. Almost straightaway, this magic circle also started to whirl in a frenzy. After spinning for about ten seconds, a massive bolt of energy suddenly shot out from the middle and directly pierced through Roland's head!

Roland's eyes widened instantaneously and he cried out.

Everyone shouted in alarm. "Roland!" "Captain!"

Roland was startled and quickly said, "It's nothing. I was merely startled. Actually, I didn't feel much."

Only when they saw that he didn't look like he was in pain did everyone relax. But at that moment, I saw a tiny fragment fly out from Roland's forehead. Even though it was as small as a fingernail, it was pure dark element, inconceivably thick, and so beautiful...

"Sun... Sun?"

"Mm?" I replied absentmindedly.

"What are you looking at?" This seemed to be Ceo's voice.

"A fragment of the vessel..."

As I answered, I stretched out my hand. The fragment had already flown within my arm's reach. I reached out and caught it with my hand.

I opened my hand to look at it, but there wasn't anything there. *Where is the fragment?*

"It has succeeded," Awaitsun said softly.

What has succeeded? I lifted my head and looked at him, puzzled. Unexpectedly, he knelt down on one knee and shouted, "The Silent Eagle pays his respects to His Majesty, the Demon King!"

I looked at him in a daze, feeling a little confused. *I've already become the Demon King? Why do I not feel anything...?*

At that moment, the entire sigil beneath my feet suddenly started spinning and dark element started gathering like crazy. A spiral of dark element appeared at the ceiling of the cave, and accumulated without cease in the center. Finally, everything charged into me in one breath.

The dark element rushed into my body in an unending stream. I immediately felt my entire body fill with strength. I was as happy as one feels when downing a bucket of ice water on a scorching summer day; so happy that I couldn't help laughing out loud. The more I laughed, the happier I became. The happier I became, the more

joyfully I laughed.

Hahahahahahahahaha!

"Sun! Are you okay? Sun! Why are you laughing?"

As I laughed, I replied, "I am laughing from the joy of being filled with strength. It is really...really too wonderful! Hahaha!"

"Sun, do you still want to be the Sun Knight?" Roland asked carefully. I abruptly stopped laughing and turned my head to look at Roland.

A death monarch is truly not just for appearance only. His dark element is astonishingly high. Maybe his strength is only a little less than mine! But I am currently in my peak. Once the dark element starts being used up, my strength will start to wane. When that happens, Roland will be stronger than me!

"Sun?" Roland asked cautiously and even started to back away towards Ceo and the others.

Should I take the opportunity to kill him right now? No! No... That isn't necessary yet. This fellow and I have a very good friendship, he isn't a threat. Maybe I can even have him to help me in the future.

I licked my lips and said, "Take the others and leave now. Immediately. Otherwise, if we fight, they will surely die."

"Sun?" Ceo shouted in disbelief.

"I am—" I glared fiercely at them, and in a serious tone, warned,

"Grisia!"

Grisia, the Demon King.

Shared Rule #7: "When the Sun Knight and the Judgment Knight Have a Falling Out, Follow the Sun Knight's Commands – Unless the Sun Knight Has Not Upheld His Duty."

Lesus looked at the documents with his head lowered. When he noticed something that was not within his responsibilities, he lifted his head up, wanting to ask Knight-Captain Storm out of habit. Instead, he discovered that Knight-Captain Storm's seat was empty... He froze for a moment before remembering that Ceo had gone with Grisia to the Cathedral of the Shadow God some time ago.

He lifted his head up to survey the conference room. The fact was, it was not only the Storm Knight's seat that was empty; many of the seats were currently empty.

At the moment, only himself, Ecilan Ice, and Aivis Stone were left in the Church. It was only when the three of them had to operate the Church by themselves, which was usually the joint responsibility assumed by all twelve of them, that they realized that the Church of the God of Light had so many devotees and branches, even though the Pope always lamented that the influence of the Church of the God of Light was far from what it used to be in the past.

However, who knew exactly how long ago the past that he mentioned was?

For as far back as Lesus' memory went, the Church of the God of Light's influence had always been more or less the current situation. When Grisia had started taking over some of the work — at that time

he was probably only fifteen — the Church's influence even had an ascending trend.

"Captain Judgment?"

Lesus regained his senses and turned around to look. It was Ecilan calling him, and even Aivis' attention had been drawn over.

"I'm fine." Lesus calmly said, "I'm only somewhat not used to... it being so quiet."

"It truly is rather hard to get used to." Aivis smiled as he shook his head, saying, "Usually, I would be bothered by Blaze's voice being too loud, Metal's voice being too sharp, or Storm dealing with paperwork until he blows his top... Right now, I instead find myself missing those noises a little."

Ecilan nodded his head as well, adding on, "And Sun's long speeches of nonsense."

"Right!" Aivis started laughing loudly. "Sun's nonsense is scarier than any other noises out there!"

At this moment, the three of them abruptly felt something. They stood up promptly, but before they had time to process anything, a giant arched door had appeared, floating in mid-air.

Outside the door, it was the conference room that the Twelve Holy Knights usually used for meetings, but inside the door, it was actually a completely different scene!

There was a throne, a black throne!

There was a man sitting on the throne. He had a head of long black hair and skin as white as snow. His good-looking facial features formed an expression filled with languidness. He was wearing a black robe, and on his head there was even a small crown!

However, all that was not the main point. What truly stood out were actually his eyes. They were a pair of eyes that were pure black without even a single trace of white in the sclera.

It took a long time for Aivis before he realized who the person sitting on top of the throne was. He exclaimed, "Sun!"

Grisia gave a smile. From his side, he looked at the scene within the door, saying, "Oh, my. I was only testing, I didn't think that it would actually succeed... Then again, it has never crossed my mind that it would fail either."

Lesus looked closely at Grisia. He wasn't too shocked that the other had become the Demon King. Actually, he already had a faint hunch about for some time. After all, Grisia had absolutely no way to resolve the problem of his blindness.

What made him truly shocked were the two black pupils of Grisia's eyes. Originally, there had been a little golden twinkle to them, making those eyes look like a starry night. However, right now, the golden twinkle had vanished, leaving only a patch of pitch black.

This made him feel rather uneasy. Especially along with Grisia's attire and the attitude that he was showing now, something was extremely wrong.

"Where are the others?" Lesus opened his mouth to question. He was really feeling a little nervous, though he didn't think that Grisia would harm the others either.

"Don't worry." Grisia said lazily, "They are in the Cathedral of the Shadow God together with Roland. They might already be journeying back to the Church of the God of Light? Oh right, Lesus, I'm not going back anymore." His tone was relaxed, as if he were saying that he was going to stay overnight somewhere else today and hence he wouldn't be coming home.

"You're not coming back?" The uneasiness he felt finally made sense. His brows gradually furrowed tighter together as he said in a deep voice, "If you don't come back, then who is going to be responsible for the Sun Knight's duties?"

"Just let Adair replace me!" Grisia seemed not to mind as he replied, "He's very capable, so there definitely wouldn't be any problems!"

Hearing that, Aivis and Ecilan became startled. Aivis couldn't help but give a shout, "Sun! What are you saying? You have to come back! You are the Sun Knight!"

"Sun Knight?" Grisia started laughing quietly, "Currently, I am already the Demon King, can't you tell? I can do whatever I want! Why should I still go back and be the Sun Knight who can't do anything?"

As he spoke, his voice grew higher. He said in dissatisfaction, "Can't use magic, have to be elegant no matter what I do, must maintain a radiant smile, can't even give a large roar, can't even drink; you tell me, why should I go back and seek suffering! I'm not like Metal, who is sick in the head and likes to be abused by others!"

Aivis opened his mouth but could not speak a single word.

Sun actually said that Metal is sick in the head? Though everyone might have inwardly felt that liking to be abused is not something that could be broadcasted, they had never looked down on Metal because of that. As long as he fulfilled the duties of the Metal Knight and didn't break any laws, then nobody could reprimand him. Wasn't this the rule that everyone had obeyed?

What exactly was going on with Sun right now?

Aivis turned his head to look at Judgment Knight, as if crying for help. The latter had always been Sun's keeper! Unexpectedly, he instead received a huge fright. That was because Lesus Judgment's face right now was so terrifying that no one would dare look at him directly.

Lesus growled, "Grisia Sun, return to the Holy Temple immediately!" "Oh?" Unexpectedly, Grisia who had all along been the most scared of Judgment Knight only smiled as he said, "What if I don't return?" "You are the Sun Knight. If you don't return to the Church of the God of Light, where else do you intend to go?"

As though it was a matter of fact, Grisia replied, "Right now, I'm the

Demon King. Of course I would stay in the Shadow Cathedral...
No, 'my' cathedral!"

Jesus gave a roar of rage, "Even if you are the Demon King, you are also the Sun Knight. You better come back to the Church of the God of Light!"

Grisia gave a laugh. "I don't wish to talk to you any longer. Your expression is sure ugly! Even if I use my sensing, it's equally bad! If you wish to find me, then come to my cathedral! However, I'm not going to welcome you with open doors. If you want to come in, then fight your way in! *Judgment Knight*."

At this moment, Jesus drew out the Divine Judgment Sword, and he advanced forward in sudden, large strides. As he brandished his sword, he shouted angrily, "You're not allowed to leave!"

However, someone blocked his swing. Wearing an entire set of a black armor with silver patterns and wielding a similarly styled sword in his hands, Awaitsun blocked Jesus' attack. On his face, he didn't show any expression at all, looking almost as though he didn't recognize the other person.

"You sure have guts to actually dare to brandish a sword at me!"

Grisia seemed to be a little enraged as he said that. After he finished speaking, he casually waved his hand, and a blade made out of a large, concentrated amount of dark element flew out.

At this moment, the person whom Jesus was fully on alert against was

Awaitsun. He had forgotten, or perhaps he completely didn't believe that Grisia would really lay a hand on him. Hence, this blow hit him squarely, and he was even sent flying for a short distance by the force of the impact. He knocked into the chair behind him, and in the end fell to the floor.

"Captain Judgment!" The shout slipped from Aivis' mouth, yet he didn't take any action. The truth was, his brain was a little confused.

*Sun actually dared to raise a hand against Judgment to attack him...
How could this kind of thing possibly happen?*

"I'm not scared of you, Lesus! I have never been scared." Grisia ferociously said, "Even if your swordsmanship is very good, so what? I have at least a hundred methods to kill you discreetly!"

"So?" Lesus wiped off the blood from the corner of his mouth. He stood back up and retorted, "It's been more than ten years. Within this time, why haven't you killed me discreetly?"

"Sun, y-you, how could you raise a hand against Judg..." Ecilan shouted in disbelief.

Grisia gave a growl back in dissatisfaction, "It's Grisia!"

Lesus frowned as he asked, "Why do you mind the names so much?"

"Why do you guys not care about the names in the least bit?" Grisia exploded in fury as he roared, "What Sun, Judgment, they're totally the titles of the first generation of the Twelve Holy Knights. Don't tell

me that you guys really think of yourselves as the first generation Twelve Holy Knights? Those are not our names! I am not him, I am not the first generation Sun Knight. I'm not elegant, I'm not straightforward and upright, my swordsmanship is simply not good, and I simply like to drink wine! Why must I be forced to learn to be like him?"

"You forgot?" Lesus froze for a moment, saying, "The answer to this question was even something that you told me yourself. That's because--"

"I don't want to hear it." Grisia interrupted his words with an angry roar, "I don't at all care about that answer! Do you hear me? I. Do. Not. Care!"

Hearing that, it was as if Lesus had been dunked in ice. It was because the answer was...

Satisfied in seeing Lesus no longer opening his mouth, Grisia slowly opened his mouth to say, "Farewell, Twelve Holy Knights. You guys shall now forever become part of my memories... It actually sounds pretty romantic! Hahahaha!

"Oh, that's right! I'll return the Divine Sun Sword to you guys. Just treat it as a farewell gift."

An arc of light formed, and the sound of metal dropping onto the floor resounded. At the same time, the arched door closed. The conference room returned to the silence it held before... No, it became even more silent than it had been. It was practically dead silent.

Within the dead silence, Ecilan started to ask, "Captain Judgment, what is the solution?"

Lesus opened his mouth, but instead said, "Nothing. In any case, he doesn't care anymore."

Aivis asked in unease, "Captain Judgment, we... have we lost the Sun Knight?"

Hearing that, Lesus' lips pursed tightly. He walked over to pick up the Divine Sun Sword had had been thrown onto the ground. This sword really should not have to suffer this kind of treatment.

Each of Lesus' hands was holding onto a divine sword. In order to suppress the uneasiness in his heart, even the joints of his fingers had gone white from clutching the swords too tightly.

"Captain Judgment, Sun..." Aivis asked with his face pale.

Lesus didn't turn around, but only commanded, "Don't be in a daze. There is still a lot to do. Call the punitive expedition army back, and all of the Twelve Holy Knights are to return to the Church. Even the former Twelve Holy Knights are to be requested to come back to the Church of the God of Light."

"Captain Judgment! We..." Ecilan couldn't help but say it too.

Lesus let out an enraged roar, "Yes! We have lost him."

Hearing this reply, both Aivis and Ecilan fell silent. They were the holy knight captains who were under Judgment Knight, yet they felt like the world was in a state of chaos and darkness upon hearing this statement. They simply didn't dare to imagine what kind of reaction the holy knight captains under the Sun Knight would have upon hearing this news... Of course, Storm should have already known about this though.

The three of them fell silent for a moment. In this time period, Lesus tried his best to adjust his breathing. His breathing that was a little heavy due to his agitation gradually calmed down. Trying to be as calm as he could, he said, "We can't waste any more time. There are still a lot of preparations to do."

"Preparations for what?" Aivis asked, not understanding.

The matter regarding the Demon King had finally been resolved, yet the Sun Knight wasn't here anymore. What else do they have to prepare for now?

Lesus was unable to keep his calm anymore. With a slice of his blade, the tremendous power of the sword together with his battle aura split the conference table used by twelve people into pieces, filling the entire room.

"Prepare to bring the Sun Knight back!"

Epilogue: Character Introductions

Everyone should be very puzzled over the cover this time, right? Who exactly is that black-haired fellow?

The answer is: The. Demon. King!

After reading the story up till now, everyone should also know who that is already, right? In order to avoid spoiling people who have first read the epilogue before the main story, I shall not say who exactly it is here. Everyone, after reading the story, you will know who it is!

The back cover is a little spoof.

Teacher Neo is the strongest one! (Yu Wo screaming as she raises the Number 3 board)¹

I actually really like the topic of the demon king.

The demon king is really a very interesting character. Generally speaking, the demon king inside stories is always doing all sorts of evil deeds. Even if he has kidnapped a princess, he can still live arrogantly in a certain ancient castle and take things easy while waiting for people to send a punitive expedition against him.

I have always wondered, why would a country with a large army at their disposal never use it to get rid of the demon king? Their own daughter has already been kidnapped, don't tell me that the king is not only fearless of the day that the demon king takes his head too, but would actually still allow the demon king to exist pompously?

If the demon king is really so strong that even the country's army cannot kill him, then shouldn't the demon king have long since destroyed the country?

Furthermore, the demon king in the legends seems to really like making long laughs like "Hahahahaha," so even for this, I wanted to give a rational explanation... To say it in brief – Thinking too much!

Therefore, I have tried to latch onto a reasonable explanation for the demon king's existence and even all kinds of deeds.

Why would the country tolerate his existence, why would the demon king have a ready-made sinister ancient castle, why would nothing happen even after kidnapping a princess, why would the demon king always have a bunch of loyal subordinates... Explanations to things like these, and so on.

Volume eight is also the last volume of *The Legend of Sun Knight*. When I think about it, I'm a little sad yet a little happy. Knight, this child, would finally soon become mature and ripe. (This sentence seems to include both Eastern and Western cultures?) The next volume will be very, extremely, exceedingly full of broken traditions, I guess?

The male main character of a first-person story has gone bad and become the demon king. What kind of story would this actually become?

Actually, Yu Wo herself is also somewhat looking forward to writing

this main character who has gone bad. That will surely be a very interesting challenge!

Of course, the extra at the end was from a third person's point of view. Hence, it looks like Grisia is really asking for a beating. However, from a first person's point of view, one should be able to tell something is a little different. For example, you'll be able to see his internal struggle and the like. Thus, he should not seem to be asking for a beating as much... Right?

Then again, it seems as if one of Grisia's very famous traits is asking for a beating?

This time, he actually hit Judgment, a rare display of a little power of the main character. However, as the author was writing this section, her brain was filled with comebacks like "Grisia, this time you're really dead. To actually dare to hit Judgment, you're really asking for death" and the like.

As expected, the Judgment Knight has immense power... Even the author is scared of you! (Once the author had written the section of Sun hitting Judgment, she hurriedly packed up her stuff and fled.)

By Yu Wo

Notes On The Chapter

¹ **"The Number 3 board"**: If you look at the synopsis page, you'll see the back cover mentioned by Yu Wo. On the back cover, Grisia, Roland, and Neo were drawn as the three choices for Demon King. Everyone in the picture chooses Neo as the one who should become the Demon King.