

Creator 1581

Chapter 1581 Relation

For the next few days, Sam roamed around various branches of the Dusk organization along with his friends and the three Gaja clan siblings.

He didn't object to whatever the trio suggested. They went to all kinds of entertainment spots that the Dusk organization has along with all kinds of research places, demonstration grounds, academies, competitions, and even some expeditions.

Dusk organization's mining techniques, construction techniques, and transportation techniques of them are demonstrated for the siblings.

For some reason trio kept on feeling gleeful about every situation that made the siblings feel shocked.

"No wonder you are underwhelmed by everything Gaja clan and Mari clan have. You are indeed holding a massive treasure trove here and it is just improving with every passing moment."

Giyon said as she took a sip of some special fruit juice.

"Underwhelmed? More like disappointed. I thought the top organizations of these realms would have something more than just a normal structure of a clan.

I don't see any difference between your clan and a clan that I found on this desolate planet. Do you understand how bad that is?

Except for the power difference, you are all the same. In fact, we didn't even use any other tactic to defeat the Mari clan. All we did is increase the power scale of our attacks to match their power scale.

These three just went with the same blueprint that we used to defeat a very low-level organization. They went after the branches and small figures first. Attracted the attention of the key figures and some powerhouses. Dealt with them when they are alone and separated from the rest of the clan.

Then finally went after the clan in a single large and exhaustive attempt.

All of it is as simple as that."

Sam said without holding back.

The three siblings went into deep thought. They got a gist of what the trio did to Mari clan and how they suffered which indirectly eased up the pressure on them for the war.

Now that Sam put it so bluntly, they can see how their clan is also very similar and could have been taken down if followed the same blueprint.

"The only variable you guys have are the powerhouses that thrive in a grey circle. If they are not there, it will be way too easy.

Since your clan is going through restructuring, it is better for you guys to eliminate these obvious flaws.

Especially you Giyon, since you are trying to establish your own organization, try to improve the communicative structure within it.

Make it a single collective entity and also make sure that every element of that entity is equally valued, but not overvalued.

Except for your headquarters, no other resource point should be holding too many eggs. If it does, try to spread it out and balance it.

And even if there are too many baskets and there is not much value in each of them individually, as long as one of them is attacked or destroyed, make sure that they can be aided and rectified as quickly and as effectively as possible."

Sam explained as he cut the meat on his plate.

They are currently having dinner in the Naga Loka. In the beach resort that Sam owned here. Since their power levels are obviously way higher than the realm's poison level, they can casually roam around in this place at this point.

Giyon and Grivon went into deep thought. Jyon on the other hand is enjoying the beauty of the resort that is made of crystal bamboo of different colors.

Naga Loka itself is a very beautiful place, to begin with, and with the addition of such beautiful construction, it might just be one of the most beautiful places she has ever visited.

After they finished dinner, they waited for the dessert to arrive while talking.

"So, Sam. How long are you planning to stay here? I heard from my mom and dad that you promised them something and even Senior Elder Ma has something that he needs from you. You need to visit the Gaja clan again right?"

"Of course, I will stay for a few more days though. It is not like I am going to waste too much time traveling.

I will also be delivering the promises to your parents and Ma as well.

But there are obviously some things I need to take care of here.

If you guys want to go, I can drop you off. Otherwise, you can stay here with me until I return."

"I don't have any problem staying here for a while." Grivon agreed immediately.

"I am also staying. I don't have anything to do back home at the moment. They still need to do the basic setup for the city. I can just stay here. I want to observe your organizational structure carefully. Particularly, your academic system."

"I also want to stay."

"Do as you like then."

After finishing their meal completely, they went back to Desolate. That evening after everyone retired to their own rooms, Sam took a deep breath and looked at his wrist screen.

In the past year that he was stuck in a different body, the other players are actually working on destroying the organizations.

Even though they did feel bad about Sam being stuck in such a situation, they also tried their best to simply finish as much as they can, while Sam is still stuck in the body and the trio are stuck in finding and helping Sam out.

Of course, Sam's team worked hand in hand with Arkiv while taking down some of these organizations. In fact, his subordinates already contacted Arkiv and he would be visiting Desolate soon to give Sam his share of the resources and the heirlooms within this process.

When he looked at the list of the organizations, he couldn't help but feel surprised.

There are actually only two organizations left in the last three. The third one which was finished is the Mari clan and it is actually on top of the list. The second one is the Divine Formation Mountain which is located within the Grey circle areas.

The third organization is somewhere very far away from the Gaja clan, Mari clan, or even the Grey circle.

If all the realm locations are considered as places on a globe, then the Gaja clan and Mari clan are located at one point on the globe while this organization could even be located at the exact opposite point on the other side of the globe.

It is that far away.

They are not even in the grey circle and even Giyon adamantly said that she never heard of the organization's name in the grey circle.

Sam also confirmed their location through the coordinates he got in the Dimensional Drifter.

Now the Divine formation mountain and this organization are the only things left for him on the list.

Apart from that, there is something else Sam is worried about.

Whereabouts of Dayus.

The one guy that he hated more than Sivan. In fact, in a way, Sam didn't hate Sivan much. There is of course anger for stealing what is his, but for Dayus it is pure hatred.

No matter how many differences they had, the players always dealt with it by themselves. They tried not to involve outsiders and underhanded means to deal with each other.

That was the decorum they kept for years and Dayus just broke it completely. He repeatedly tried to set Sam up and literally made trouble for Sam.

There is no way Sam could let that go. He was hoping that Dayus would be present at the Mari clan's headquarters, but there wasn't.

Now there is only one way to find out and that is from Sivan's memories. In the last few days, even though he is enjoying his time, he didn't stop attacking the dormant soul of Sivan.

Since he is already familiar with the whole thing and he has the assistance of the specter that is much stronger than before, it is going much faster. He is already done halfway through and since most of the memories are something that he already had, digesting it was also easier.

Now he is at the final stage of absorbing that soul.

He closed the wrist screen and started attacking the soul. Within an hour he was done and he absorbed all of the information that he needed.

He got all of the info about the Divine Formation mountain and the three men that came from there and also a rough situation of Dayus.

The three men are not just related to Sivan in a normal way, it turned out that they are related to Sam as well.

In fact, their relation to Sam is the reason why they got acquainted with Sivan.

They are the ones that trapped Saber Monarch and Vidyuth who are released by Sam.

These are mysterious people that created the Maze formation and the Mountain Prison and Sam successfully broke them apart.

Chapter 1582 Arkiv's Visit

Sam was really surprised upon this revelation.

He didn't expect that these three young men would be connected to him this way.

He actually got the liquid energy process by decoding their original work. The three formations they left down in the lower realms by trapping Saber Monarch and Vidyut as well as the formation that was made in that glacial lands to create a massive patch of the warm region, three of them are decoded by Sam.

He broke the first two and modified the last one to his own violation. These three formations are some kinds of challenges to the world by these three guys and Sam won all of those challenges.

Not just won, he even stole their ideas to improve his own research.

What he doesn't know is that they learned about Sam as soon as he messed with their work. They learned about his whereabouts, what he is doing and how he is climbing one realm after another as he made name for himself.

They kept a close eye on his journey and after Sam was trapped by Sivan and lost his body, they got a bit interested.

They started looking into Sivan and learned the details about this soul transfer process before reaching out to him.

They are very much interested in Sam's ideas and thought processes along with all of the inventions he had at hand.

They approached Sivan who is trying to figure out a way to make the ideas from Sam's memories work.

The Mari clan obviously didn't have a single capable person that could make this work, so Sivan was in a perilous situation. There is nothing worse than having a treasure trove right under his feet, but not being able to enjoy it.

In that time, they contacted Sivan and all three of them are the reason why Sivan was even able to create all of this equipment.

Not just the equipment. They are the ones who helped him understand the Void style and ripple style, they created the Spiritual energy poison. They are involved in the creation of armors and puppets.

They basically prepared Sivan and his army for this war. Sivan, Mari clan, and the Divine league might be the reason why this war happened, but these three are the reason why this war progressed as it did.

If they were not present, Sam would have dealt with the Mari clan much more effectively. The war would have ended even before the Mari clan could have any chance to fight back at all.

They would have been decimated. Except for Sin's existence, there is not a single thing that could have threatened them with the way things are.

Sam dissolved all of these memories and opened his eyes.

This is a really complicated situation. He thought Sivan might have had some other connection with these three men.

Even though he thought his inventions might have been the reason for this connection, he still felt it is primarily connected with Sivan itself.

But now it seems like he got it all wrong.

He is the main target of this whole thing and these people are trying to get the full set of his memories. That is because Sivan might be an idiot when it comes to technical things, things that need creativity and impeccable intellect, but he is cunning as a fox.

He didn't dare reveal everything he got from Sam's memories, he completely kept it in check and only revealed things that he has an immediate interest in and also things he thought would be done faster.

He also made a deal with these three men who clearly have means beyond anything Sivan and Mari clan could have, in case of shit went sideways.

Shit indeed went sideways and he tried to call them out. Too bad, Sam already reached out before they could do anything and cornered Sivan.

Even though Sivan was taken away, Sam is not really worried. He knew exactly what he did. To make sure that Sivan doesn't have a thought process of his own, he exploded his dormant soul that was left in Sivan's body.

If his estimation is right, Sivan would be in a coma and his soul should be shredded. Even if the three men killed Sivan right at the moment, they wouldn't get any information.

Sam is really worried about the information reaching these three guys.

Even with Sivan, there are limitations with what he could do, since he doesn't have enough expertise with the technicalities and theories needed to make these ideas practical and functional.

But these three guys are different. They are very skilled. In fact way too skilled that Sam felt some sense of rivalry for the first time because of them.

If they get all of this info, the things they could do will exceed any imaginations anyone ever had even within the grey circle.

They could either create something that is way too beyond this world or destroy something that makes way too much of an imbalance to the world.

Either way, he doesn't want someone else using his ideas to do such things.

He doesn't want to indirectly be the reason for such a massive impact.

So, he has to figure out a way to find them out and deal with them. The only problem is that they won't be easy targets.

The same blueprint Sam used against all the other organizations wouldn't work on these people. They are a very small organization. They are not spread too much, they have very few members and they have their own fair share of tricks up their sleeves just like Sam.

But he cannot do anything immediately.

So, he could only wait for a while.

He went to rest for the day after that was done.

The next day, Sam met Arkiv.

"How are you doing? I heard you stirred up quite some shit even when you lost your body and resources. You can never sit still, can you?"

"What do you expect? Do you want me to take it lying down?"

"Nah, that doesn't sound like you. Stirring up trouble is on par with your character. Anyway, I am glad you are okay.

The other players really became a pain in the ass for me. They are constantly trying to guilt-trip me for using your resources when I was dealing with the organizations."

"Who cares? I bet even you didn't care that much about it. You are just complaining here about the sake of it. How did it go through? Did you face any problems?"

"Not really, it is all good. In a way, your absence made this a bit more fun amongst ourselves, but the players worked really hard to lessen the gap between you and them.

They really thought this is the only chance they had to level the playing field a bit."

"So, did they succeed?"

"To an extent, yes. A lot of them even managed to gather some teams, just like you did. Noah and Kumar in particular. I don't know what organization they are a part of, but they have a really elite team.

I think they are going to be tough to tackle even with your regular tricks."

"Well, because of the circumstances, some new things are made by the dusk here. I am sure I can handle them well enough no matter the situation now. The playing field will be uneven again.

At least until we are dealing with this organization."

"You already took the Mari clan, is there any chance that you are going to back off from these organizations?"

Arkiv asked.

Sam was confused and asked.

"Why is that?"

"I mean, I am not particularly against you participating, it is just that we are all in the same boat, there is no point in the competition this much is there?"

It would indeed be better if the playing field is a bit even. If you let go of these organizations, the other players would have a chance.

With you widening the gap constantly, you are not just increasing the pressure, they are unable to keep up with the competition because of the lack of resources. Just be a bit lenient this time."

"You are right.

But I cannot let go of the Divine Formation Mountain. I have something personal to settle with them."

"So the other organization is free for all?"

"Sure. I won't even come to those premises if that is what you would like."

"That would be great. I will inform other players when I go back. As for the Divine Formation mountain, I will tell them the situation, and we will see what would happen. I think they will understand."

"Even if they don't I can't do much about it. It is not like I can just stop this enmity with the organization."

"Alright, alright. Don't need to get so serious. But why do you have so many enemies? Give it a rest man. Just don't piss off too many people. Why do you do that yourself?"

Chapter 1583 Back to Gaja

After meeting with Arkiv, Sam spent some time with him and went back to work mode.

Even though he really liked this small break he took and felt that he deserved it, he knew he cannot continue like this for long.

This time the enemy is a bit trickier than before. This is probably the first time that he has to worry about the quality and the intellect of the enemy, instead of their raw strength.

He decided to get as much information on them as possible before deciding on his strategy.

But before that, he has to finish up things in desolate and get back to the Gaja clan. There are some promises he needed to fulfill there.

So, he assigned all the tasks to the trio and his subordinates. Even though the trio did a great job in his absence, the massive spending on the equipment created still put a strain on the finances and messed up some plans for organizational growth.

Since they also got some loot from various organizations that covered these losses, he needs to figure out a way to make up for the missing time in this growth process, allocating these extra resources.

While dealing with this problem, he also started designing something. The designs for the vehicles, that Gamin and Yuvana asked for.

They didn't want some fancy flying machine, in fact, they wanted a rough vehicle for the rough terrains they usually travel in.

He cannot think of much other than Motorcycles.

In his previous life Motor cycle has been one of the best releases from the work and stress he accumulated with his role and responsibilities. They are fast, and free, and based on the rider could be dangerous also.

He wanted to design those things and give them to the couple. The addition of their blade usage just like how he implemented sword energy usage in Jack's hoverboard, will make it much more suitable for them.

So, he spent half of the time designing that while the other half was spent on organizational development.

He spent a bit more than a week doing that.

After that was done, he was finally ready to go back.

This time the trio wanted to tag along though.

"I will take you guys with me. I do need your help to deal with these guys, but not at the moment. You guys stay put and deal with the organizational matters first.

I will go there and gather the information needed for now. We know way too little about the enemy and the main problem is that the person we are dealing with is not just these three guys. We need to be careful about the teacher of these three and the subordinates they have under them.

When they are that strict in the selection process, there is no way they could have let some random people be their subordinates, I will spend some time studying all of these factors and come pick you guys up before I leave.

Meanwhile, assign the teams to Arkiv. Let him take them to the other organization that we are not participating in.

There is no use of them here, at least at the moment."

The trio looked at each other. They are a bit reluctant, but they agreed.

But before Sam left, Jack took out a red-colored metallic token and gave it to Sam.

Sam looked at the token in surprise. It is similar to another token that he has seen in the past. The token of the people from the league of blood iron.

"Take this token and use your blood on it when you are in the Gaja clan's territory, you will get a nice surprise.

We thought we would surprise you by ourselves after we go there. But since you are leaving earlier, this will help you.

"Is it related to the League of Blood Iron?"

"It kinda is."

"Don't tell me, you destroyed it," Sam asked in a surprised tone.

"Do you really think we had that much time? And even if we want to, we cannot destroy that. In fact, after learning about this surprise, even you would be reluctant to do so. Just go and check it out."

Sam shrugged and put the token in the storage.

He went to meet the siblings so that they can leave.

"I really don't want to leave this place. This is really a nice place to stay and enjoy." Grivon said in a dejected tone.

"It's not like you cannot come back. You can come back whenever you like. Just meet one of the managers and he will arrange the stay for you."

"Yeah, but the journey is so tedious. It is not like I carry around that slick transportation device as you do."

"Then don't come. You are the one who is already missing the place before we even left."

Sam just brushed him off and took out the Dimensional drifter. He took the three of them and arrived at the Gaja clan grounds.

The first thing that greeted their eyes is the city that is under construction. All of the earth elemental users are being guided by the artisans and the formation masters as they constructed every part of the city.

Since it is a city linked with intricate formations, it is impossible for them to not construct all of the elements simultaneously so there are no mishaps later.

They met with the Clan's leader, Gail, Gamin, and Yuvana.

Sam handed over the motorcycle designs to them.

"Will these people even be able to make these things?"

Gamin asked as he looked at the designs in awe.

Sam even gave a recording crystal with a virtual demonstration of what the final product will look like.

The couple is completely smitten with these designs. They liked it so much.

"I could make them myself, but I think my cultivation level would be a bit of a problem here. For you, we will need a metal like a meteorite sand that gets stronger with the exposure to spiritual energy, and metal that could handle that speed when you are using these things will be hard for me to forge.

Even with all the enhancements that I could make, it will still be difficult for me.

A metal that is not that strong will be easier, but you won't be able to use it for a long time. A really long time.

So, as long as you can find a decent artisan that can build this, I will coordinate with them to see to it that the final product is of decent quality without any hiccups."

The couple nodded in excitement. They didn't even lift their eyes up from the blueprint and went over to the side to take a look at the demo video again.

After that Sam met with Senior Elder Ma.

"Here to repay your debts?"

He asked Sam with a faint smile.

"Yeah. Tell me what do you want?"

"A discussion would be nice. I have been doing some really complicated research recently, I want your take on it."

"That is it?"

"That's enough. It is no use getting something physical or materialistic from you. I have no use for them. Your knowledge is your most valuable asset anyway, I would rather have a chunk of that one."

"I will be staying here for a few days, so we can discuss as much as you want."

"That would be great. I have something to do now anyway, so let's talk later."

Sam left and went back to meet Gail.

Previously Gail was busy with his own work, so Sam had to wait.

Now he got some time to discuss.

"You need info on Divine Formation Mountain?"

"Yes."

"Are you sure you want an enmity with them?"

"Yes, I do. They took Sivan away. Currently, they cannot do much even if they perform soul extraction on Sivan, but that won't last long.

They will figure out a way to get all of those memories and I don't want that to happen."

"But they are in the grey circle. In fact, the leader of that mountain is a key player. He cannot be underestimated at all. The worst part is, that he doesn't even need many subordinates and territories, because people who have those things directly come and help him voluntarily.

Half of the grey circle is trying to kiss his ass. You will be in some real trouble."

"I can understand that, but it is impossible for me to back down. I need to get as much info on them as possible.

I cannot just let them be. The memories are way too crucial."

"If you wish to know, I can tell you all that I know of."

"That would be great. We can talk when you are free. You can handle your work. I can wait for a while."

Gail nodded and went back to deal with his own work.

Meanwhile, Sam went back to his residence and took out the red-colored token Jack gave him. He put a few drops of his blood on it to see what will happen.

Chapter 1584 Surprise

The token started glowing, which didn't surprise Sam much.

But the next thing did. There is a projection that came out of it. It is comprised of many runes that are formed of bright red light.

Sam looked through these patterns and instantly understood what they were signifying. It is an energy circulation pattern through which he could access the stone for its real purpose.

He did exactly as the runes instructed and Sam felt like his mind entered some kind of new space. He found himself floating in a vast empty red space. He couldn't see anything else other than deep red.

As he was thinking about what the hell is happening and why he was there, he felt another presence.

He turned around to find a person who he is familiar with.

"You? What are you doing here? This is the surprise, those three told me about?"

Sam indeed felt surprised, because that is the last person he expected to see there. It is the Demon soul swordsman. Jack's teacher.

"You seem disappointed, kid. What are you expecting? Some really beautiful woman?"

"I wouldn't be surprised if it was really a woman. Those assholes are trying to set me up for a long time. But you, what the hell are you doing here, and what is this space?"

"This is a portable soul space. It is pretty high-level stuff. You will know when you reach the places that you are going to in the future.

As for who I am, I am the current leader of the League of Blood Iron."

Sam didn't even reply. He just looked at the old man for a moment and took a really deep breath before saying.

"What?"

"I said, I am the leader of the league of Blood Iron. And I apologize for the league's attempts on your life. The bounty on your head was placed before I took complete control over the league. As soon as I took over, I removed that and put you on the off-limit list.

That is why the attempts stopped."

"I thought they are scared because we dealt with everyone that came at me."

"Scared of what? Like your puny tricks are going to stop all of the league members."

"Not particularly me, I know that my tricks never cause fear unless they directly see it. I think Gail, Gamin, and Yuvana, that presence helped a lot."

"Oh trust me, unlike Divine league, League of Blood Iron mostly attracts assassins. They would have tried other ways, even if you had their protection. I stopped them from coming at you."

"Okay, if you are the leader of this league, why did you even bother with Five Great sects? That is such a low-level power compared to this spot."

"Well, it is a long story. Simply put, the League of Blood Iron was established by me and my friends who wanted to reign in the tyranny of the organizations a bit. If an autonomous organization with high-level assassins is not exactly a good thing.

Of the three, one of them is a Demon Soul swordsman, the other one is a Demon Shadow Swordsman, the owner of the original shadow sword and the final one is actually a healer.

He is my teacher at the Vardar.

He betrayed us and started working for organizations, so we killed him, but his teachings are passed to the Vardar who managed to stay alive because of his connections with the organizations and all the other favors he called in.

My friend died a slow death after Vardar's teacher used some kind of poison in their last battle. Then I left the league after making sure things are running as they should.

The shadow sword became extremely hard to control, I wasn't able to make it accept me, the only person who managed to at least control it a bit is actually Murali.

But that guy was also not really capable of fully reigning it in. For some reason, it ended up in your hands and we met here.

After you told me that the Vardar is getting involved in this whole shit show of controlling organizations across the realms, I came back to see how bad the things are here.

I took over the reign and beat the league back into order."

"That is a really long story.

Anyway, it is nice to meet you. I think I will stick around in this area for a bit, so we might meet in person."

"I came to tell you that only. We need to meet in person. There is something I found while looking through the old documents of the League. They are preserved in a special space here which I just noticed.

I think they will be helpful. They are some special traps created by my friend. And they use shadow elemental energy.

You will love it."

"That would be great. I will definitely come and visit you. But when should I do that?"

"Three days. I will send someone to pick you up in three days. Be ready by then."

"Alright. I also need your help with something. Since you are a big shot, I am sure you will be able to help with what I am about to do next."

"Sure. We can talk when you get here."

"Thanks. Now, if you are kind enough to tell me how to get out of this place, I will take my leave."

"Just think and you will find the way.'

Sam did as he was told and he saw another pattern of runes that showed him how to get out of the space.

He came back to his body and Sam took a deep breath.

"The experience is good, but it is better to not use these things again for a while. Losing the feeling of my own body is not really a good one. Not after all the days, I spent without it."

Sam muttered to himself as he went out.

Gail is free now and it is a good time to get as much information as he can.

While Sam is on his way to get some information on his new enemies, the enemies are not sitting idle.

They are currently trying their best to retrieve information on Sam as well. The information that couldn't be obtained from enquiring and speaking to others. The information only lies within Sam's mind and couldn't be found anywhere else.

Of course, except Sivan who is currently lying comatose in the middle of a formation.

All three young men started placing some nodes and drawing inscriptions at different spots.

"Do you think this formation method will work? I still think we need to find an expert in souls. We can make them mend this faster."

"So, you want to go to a necromancer? Do you know how dangerous that is? We cannot let them get any of this info. This should stick with our mountain itself."

"But still, it will take forever to master these techniques. We cannot do a lot with our neutral energy techniques. To channel them to work for necromancy and any soul-related techniques is almost impossible at our current level.

We would need to create a massive formation that could act as an aid and catalyst for it." Brother Gold said with a sigh.

"I have a certain level of affinity with the soul. We will first do this test run and then make a larger formation even if it takes the whole mountain's area. I am not letting you guys let someone else be involved in this thing.

We can make things that are obviously not of our elemental affinities. We can fix things that shouldn't be fixed at all. So, I am making sure that we are doing this by ourselves, without any external involvement."

The other two fellow disciples are completely out of options. They didn't know what to do about their stubborn brother. They could just go with his plans for now.

They finished the formation quickly and activated it.

Sivan's body started glowing with spiritual energy and in the middle of that glow, some strands of spiritual energy moved from various sections of the formation. They looked like small strings that are flowing.

The energy strings all moved towards Sivan, they crawled over and entered the glabella as if they are accessing his sea of consciousness.

And in fact, they are doing it. They accessed his soul space.

Brother Silver closed his eyes and started making some hand signs.

He connected with Sivan's damaged soul space and inside he saw the strings moving around different soul fragments.

The strings looked like they are so many when they are outside in physical space, but here, they looked very small. They looked insignificant as they could barely cover one small fragment of the damaged soul.

These strings moved on their own and also moved the soul fragment to the main part of the soul. When they neared it, the strings acted as if they are sewing the small fragment to the bigger fragment.

Chapter 1585 Info

Brother Silver looked at the small soul fragment being mended back. The fragment is so small that it wouldn't make any difference in Sivan's current situation.

But he is really ecstatic.

The only problem is that ecstasy only lasted for a few moments. The threads that are coiling around the soul fragment and kind of stitching, exploded all of a sudden and destroyed the fragment.

The already small piece almost turned into small particles and dispersed everywhere.

Brother Silver's consciousness was also kicked out of the soul space. He looked at his two brothers and sighed dejectedly.

"This one failed. We need to work on a new formula."

"It is not too later, Brother Silver. We can still include a healer or a necromancer. Even though your fears are not too farfetched, we still have many trustworthy people that owe us some massive favors.

We can still handle it with almost no secrets revealed."

Brother Gold said trying to convince his brother.

"They are not ours, to begin with. We are stealing these memories from someone else. There is no need for us to go through all of this drama. So, what if some memories leaked out? We can still handle it very well."

Brother Silver looked at him coldly.

"Do you really think that less of these things?"

Based on Sivan's mentality, there is no way he said everything to us. And definitely, the most important and complicated parts of the memories are definitely left out.

Imagine, the scraps that Sivan wanted us to help him make, the ones that are meant to be instant victory could be this good, this dangerous. What do you think, the memories hold?

A few days ago, master told us to think of expanding the legacy of the Divine Formation Mountain. There is no way we could let this chance go.

Combining those ideas, theories, and techniques with our own concepts, teachings, and techniques, we can pioneer a new era with them.

A new era of learning and implementation that was never there before. We have to hold on to it. Not a single clue should get out about this situation.

We have to figure this out ourselves and make it ours."

"What you are saying is true, but there is no way we can gain much from doing things like this. There has never been a case of a soul being damaged this much.

There has never been a case of a person surviving after their soul is damaged like this.

Even this body exchange technique is barely practical. Sivan and Sam's scenario is already a very large anomaly, we need to start the research from the scratch and we don't even have any text subjects.

The only person we can experiment with is in a very delicate situation.

You have to think logically.

If you really want to talk about the mountain's legacy and master's legacy, then start with the first one.

Always take every decision logically. That is what he taught us."

Brother Gold went on an outburst with an exhausted expression.

"Don't tell me about master's teachings. If you really care about what the fame of Divine Formation Mountain should be once we start expanding, then you would be acting just like me. We are not doing this with other people's involvement."

With those words, he just left the place.

Brother Gold and Brother Black exchanged glances, they knew it is almost impossible to convince him. So, they can only follow along.

Back at Gaja clan.

Sam and Gail are drinking some wine. Since Sam got all of his resources back, he now has some incredible Heavenly wine to drink.

He shared it with Gail who seemed to have fallen in love with it.

"You want to go after the Divine formation mountain and need information. My advice is still the same. Don't mess with them."

"You know that is not an option at all. So, why don't you just go with it?"

"Alright. I just wanted to give it one last try.

Before you get to know the Divine formation mountain itself, I mean the personnel there and what you should be careful of, there are some things you need to that outside of the Divine Formation Mountain.

They are related to the external connections that the mountain has.

First of all, the Divine formation mountain is an organization within the grey circle and it is some sort of a neutral force.

Obviously, there are strictly in the grey circle area, where there is not much of a normal civilization and ordered society.

And within that, there are some groups. There are forces with rivalries and some forces that are absolute evil and some forces that are fair and proper.

But there are some forces that are extremely neutral. They don't have any particular enmity with other forces and they don't get involved between the factions in the circle.

Divine formation mountain is one such organization. They offer services to everyone and if two organizations clash and they want the services of the mountain, they can bid for it. Whoever wins the auction with a higher price, gets that.

And there is a tacit understanding that the losing party should not take personal revenge against the mountain.

It is not like they can do it. But it is a general rule.

As for the winners, they are not just decided by some monetary compensation, the auctions could be anything.

For example, a life.

An organization promising that they would assassinate a person based on the mountain's request.

Some kind of favors by these organizations. Anything that is deemed valuable for the mountain, they can take the offer and decide on the winner.

The decision is solely based on the mountain.

And from what I heard, the mountain has around eight to ten dozen favors from organizations of all sizes.

That is just the external help. Some favors are small enough for the mountain to use those people as some thugs, a reserve of some valuable resource that they might need at some point and some are big enough to even an organization put in an effort, I mean the maximum effort to try and kill me.

I am saying this so that you would get a better picture of the situation.

With just this external help, you will have a really hard time dealing with the mountain."

"Okay, now that the external help is gone, what about the internal things?

Any flawed people? The people that I could take advantage of?"

"There is limited scope for that.

The organization has very few people, to begin with. The people are of a quality not there to just fill some numbers. That I am sure of. Very sure of it.

Anyway, I can't tell you any weaknesses that I am aware of, but there are six people other than the master and the disciples on the mountain.

But there are six subordinates that you need to be aware of. The rest of the subordinates are a piece of cake for you at the moment.

These six are powerful enough to make it on their own within the grey circle areas, but they chose to be the subordinates of the mountain willingly.

As long as you deal with these six, the rest of the subordinates don't even matter. No matter how strong they are, they are never going to be as good as these six people.

Once these six are defeated, you can say you have entered into a proper state of rivalry with the mountain."

"That is good to know.

Is there any more info that I should know about these six people?"

"Oh, there is a lot. You better get ready, this is going to be a long night."

"I am all ears. Go ahead."

"The first one..."

Gail went on with the information for a few hours. Even though Sam is surprised that Gail could get this much information about some subordinates, he was really glad that he did that.

He noted down every point that needs special attention or something that he could use to make his work easier. The more information he got, the more confident he became about figuring out a way to destroy the enemy.

After he was done about the six subordinates, Gail then shifted the topic to the disciples.

"The disciples are a bit weird. The three of them are the only ones the master of the tower ever took in and they are extremely talented with a lot of potentials.

But I think their constitutions of theirs make them even more special.

They have this natural affinity with energy that even trumps my own. It is almost like every particle of energy in the surroundings is speaking to them. Trying to communicate with them about how it wants to be manipulated.

No matter what kind of environment they are in, and no matter what kind of elemental energy it is, they always had an upper hand in terms of energy control which is not such a great thing for opponents.

They are almost invincible amongst their peers.

Chapter 1586 Mysterious master of the Mountain

"Their affinity is that high? What elements do they use?"

"Yes it is that high. As for elements, nobody knows any answer for that. Their attacks are mostly either physical in close combat or energy attacks like you were doing while you are in Sivan's body.

Of course, it is not exactly like yours, theirs are a bit too different. Even their movement techniques, defending techniques, in a way their control is one of a kind. I wouldn't say it is the best method I have ever seen, but it is definitely the best method for them.

They have this synergy and when all three of them are together, it is like looking at an art. They don't have a solid attacking method while they are fighting, at least not the direct attacks.

They have decent close combat expertise, but they rarely opt to it. It is just to buy themselves some time to make preparations when they are caught off guard.

Actually, they never let someone get that close to them. They fight with all kinds of tricks and trinkets they would have prepared priorly.

And the preparations are seamless and sometimes they even seem endless. They always find a way no matter how many people attack them.

I think you guys are going to be great rivals. The expertise in many fields, the knowledge and the tricks you guys could pull, that would be a fight I would like to spectate."

"We will see what we can do there. Now, let's talk about the master of the Divine Formation Mountain. The main character of this situation.

If I could get some more information about him. That would be really great."

"Of course, it would be, but there is not much you can learn about him from me.

First of all, nobody knows his name. At least not me and anyone that I am on good terms with. We all call him Mountain Master and he is actually popular with that name within the circle.

He looks like a normal man. He doesn't have that majesty of being a reputed individual within the grey circle.

In fact he rarely shows his face.

It has been years since he was spotted out of that mountain. Even the people who are buying the favours from him wouldn't be able to meet him. He is that hard to catch.

His subordinates just do all of his tasks, including conducting auctions, meeting with clients and even collecting the dues.

All we know about him for sure is that he is strong, he has many tricks up his sleeve, he has connections like no other person in the grey circle, he is filthy rich and nobody wants to be his enemy.

Of course, he is also a peak stage cultivator which is obvious."

"That's it? That is all the information you have on him?"

"Yes. He has been in the grey circle far before me. And after I entered this is the only that I learned about him. Over the years, his reputation only grew stronger, but not much is revealed."

"If you don't really know anything about it, why are you so sure that he is so strong?"

"It is because that I don't know anything about him that I believe he is strong. During my time in the grey circle, I have seen many people trying to get close to him and some people trying to kill him.

But neither group ended up good.

The first group of people had a massive backlash to their reputation. Everything that Divine Formation Mountain deals with is actually a business transaction.

If you want to make friends with me, you just have to make enough transactions. And the friendship would only be initiated by the mountain. Not the other way around.

As for the people that belonged to the second category, the ones that wanted to kill anyone from the mountain, they disappeared like ghosts.

There are no traces of battles, no clues regarding any pursuits, they just disappeared.

Along with them, the people who wanted to snoop around for more information on them, trying to find their secrets, poaching the subordinates, they are also dead, but they died more openly.

They are so good at protecting their own info that I believe the mountain master is that strong. If it is this hard to just get some information, how hard do you think it is to kill him?"

"But you have some solid information on the subordinates. How did you manage that without getting into trouble?"

"Who said that I was not in trouble? In fact, I gained this info through the trouble. I battled with all six of them at some point in my time in Grey circle. While I was climbing the cultivation levels, I was a bit of a battle maniac. I went after everyone that could improve my skill. I didn't care about wins or losses, I just wanted to fight crazily.

I battled with these six multiple times."

"So, you guys are friends?"

"Not by a long shot. They hate me with sheer passion. I beat the crap out of them so many times, that I almost destroyed their reputation.

Many people thought that their reputation is not worth it. But too bad that some organization wanted to pull one over them and got brutally slaughtered. Thus, restoring their reputation back."

"So, that is how you got that. Now that you are stronger than them and literally at the level of their own boss, have you tried fighting with the Mountain Master?"

"Yes, I did. But there is no positive outcome. I tried visiting him, tried to make some deals, but no. He was not interested in any of this."

"Why is that? He is that uninterested in challenging someone like you? With all the reputation you have, I highly doubt anyone wouldn't want a win over you. He should be dying to fight you. At least after all the beating you gave his subordinates, he should at least try to erase that shame away."

"I thought so too. But he thinks otherwise."

"So, is that all? This is all I need to know about them."

"This all I can tell you about them."

"I bet this would be helpful. Thanks."

"No problem. But be careful. When you stir chaos in the grey circle, it doesn't end well. It is an area with utmost volatility. There are no particular set of rules. They change in every territory and they don't exist in a place that is no one's territory.

I know you can handle yourself pretty well, but you are going in there prematurely. You could grow some and try your hand there, but I believe that is not a plausible option.

So, be as prepared as you can be.

Just don't get into trouble."

"Alright, thanks for the advice.

Anyway, I wanted to ask you about someone else."

"Who?"

"Do you know a person named Demon soul swordsman?"

Gail was stunned by that name.

"How do you know that person?"

"Do you remember Jack? My friend. Demon soul swordsman is his teacher. I have met him a long time ago, before I came anywhere near Mari clan and Gaja clan.

Do you happen to know about him?"

"Come on, who in the Grey circle doesn't know about Demon soul swordsman? He is a legend there. But by the time I rose to prominence in the Grey circle, he already left. All I ever heard of are the stories about him.

You actually met him? That is incredible."

Gail almost started acting like a Fan-boy.

"You are this excited? That is surprising. I didn't expect this reaction."

"What do you know? You should see Gamin's reaction. He loves Demon Soul swordsman."

"Since you know about him, then you should know that was the founder of the league of Blood Iron?"

"Yes, he was. We heard that league went to shit after he left."

"Well, he is back. And he is actually the one who completely removed the bounty on my head. I am going to meet him in three days.

He said he has something for me."

"That is amazing. Can I come along? Gamin and I, both actually. Do you think we would be a bother?"

"Not really. I don't think he will mind it that much. But just to be safe, I will ask him tomorrow and see what he says."

"That would be great."

"Alright then, just wanted to know how big he was before he became a boring old man and from your reaction, he must have been huge. We will talk tomorrow. I need to digest all you have given and need to make proper plans."

"Go ahead. Bye."

Both of them went their separate ways.

Sam went back to the lab and started noting down the details on the six subordinates. He wanted to first target them, just like Gail suggested.

After he dealt with these six people, then he will go after the Mountain Master. But for that to happen as smoothly as he wants, he needs to think of a proper approach to take.

Chapter 1587 A gift

Three days passed.

Sam mostly stayed within the lab at that time. He brainstormed the plans to deal with the six subordinates and to a certain extent, he managed to come up with some tricks that he could use.

He had very little contact with the Gaja clan members outside the lab. Even the siblings just came to the lab to hang out with him. But of course, he contacted Demon Soul swordsman again.

To ask if Gail could come. The old man agreed without any resistance. But Sam wanted to resist when someone else asked to come.

Gamin and Yuvana cornered him to ask the old man once again, to let them come with him too. Sam didn't even know what to say at that time.

He was caught off guard and no matter how much he tried, he couldn't get out of it. So, all he could do is call the old man once again and ask his permission.

"I don't have a problem even if you bring the whole Gaja clan."

Even the old man was done by that time and Sam just decided to tag along with whoever comes next. Luckily for him, no one else tried and he was left alone.

After these three days though, Sam finally met with someone who came here to take him and others along with him.

It is a man in dark-cloaked robes and a walking stick. He walked slowly to the meeting spot outside the premises of Gaja city.

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Sam. I will be your guide to the Blood Iron league's headquarters. Please follow me."

On our way, if you have anything you need, whether you want to take some rest, want to hunt or eat something, all you have to do is inform me and I shall arrange it for you."

"Thank you."

"It is my task to make your journey as convenient as possible. No need to thank me for that. Would you like to start right away?"

"Yes, please."

"Then let's go."

The person was very polite and calm. He constantly asked Sam whether he is comfortable with the journey or not and tried to facilitate everything Sam might need to have a comfortable journey.

As for the three overly powerful people that tagged along, they didn't get the same treatment.

Half of the time, the man directly ignored the existence of these three people. He didn't talk to them, didn't ask them to follow him, and didn't even make any eye contact. But the three of them ignored all these and just followed.

They are way too excited to meet Demon Soul swordsman to care about these minor details.

After a few hours of a journey through hidden space gates that connected different realms, they finally arrived at the headquarters of the Blood Iron league.

Demon Soul swordsman waited at the entrance and welcomed Sam.

"Finally, you are here."

He greeted Sam with a smile and then looked at the three people that came along with him.

"The infamous powerhouses of Gaja clan. Gail, Gamin and Yuvana. Nice to meet you. I have heard a lot about you.

And it seems like the rumors and sayings don't do justice to your presence.

Come on in."

"It is such an honor to meet you, Sir. I have heard so many stories about you."

Gail said with a smile. Sam knows that smile all too well.

Gail is currently ecstatic that he has been approved and acknowledged by his idol. He turned to look at the couple and found the same smile on their face too their smiles and too broad and they are in too much shock to even talk to the old man.

"You had quite the name here, didn't you?"

Sam asked the old man casually.

"I kinda did have a great name back then. Now that I am out of the scene for so long, I am surprised people still remembered me."

"Maybe you stirred up too much trouble at that time."

"That is true."

As they made small talk, the old man led Sam to a certain place within the league.

"Here is a meeting gift for you. I am sure you are looking for this person."

They opened the door and inside the four of them saw someone they are familiar with. It is Butler Si, Sivan's most trusted aide.

Sam was taken aback.

He almost forgot about the Butler for a while when he was dealing with the Mari clan and Sivan, but when he was looking through the memories, he got reminded of the Butler again.

Butler Si is the most loyal subordinate Sivan could ever even ask for. He gets things done. He makes Sivan's life a million times easier. In fact, one of the reasons that Sivan lost this quickly, is because of Butler Si's absence.

He didn't want Butler Si to come after Sam in the name of revenge. A person this loyal can do some serious damage.

It is a point of concern and he was about to put up a search party for this guy. But now he doesn't have to go through the effort.

As he was thinking, the old man spoke.

"The snake bitch tried to catch him with a lot of effort. But he made perfect use of his space element and acted as a slippery eel. But we came across one day and I caught him after learning his identity.

I kept him here since you are already busy with the war yourself. I didn't want to add an extra-label.

If you want to kill him, you can do it or if you want to leave him, you can do that too. But I am sure he is not much of a problem for you at the moment."

"Thank you so much. That is one headache gone."

"Great then. We can keep him here, for now, you can visit him before you leave, you will have enough time to make a decision."

"That would be great. Thank you so much."

"Let's go and have something to eat. I personally went hunting something. You will like it."

"I also have something you like."

Sam took out the heavenly wine gourd and showed it to the Old man.

Both of them went to the dining room along with the other three who are completely silent.

At least until they reached the table. After making some small talk, the three of them got familiar with the old man and they started bombarding him with questions.

They acted like restless kids as they asked about various battles the old man has previously participated in.

Sam almost felt ignored. Even though he doesn't crave attention, it is kinda weird for him to be ignored, since he is the one who even brought them here.

But he didn't care much.

After a very long meal, they finally gave the old man a break.

"I would like to spend some time alone with Sam if you don't mind." The old man asked directly and the three of them didn't even dare to voice their opinion, they apologized for intruding and left.

"Seems like your name commands enough authority. To think that I would see these three behaving this well."

"Perks of being old I guess. The more I hear them, the more I realize that I am way too old and the world seemed to have just left me behind. So many things have changed."

"Well, not that many. For example, people haven't changed. That is for sure."

"Anyway, before I show you what I wanted to show you, why don't you tell me what you wanted to know?"

"Right, I want to ask you about the Divine formation mountain."

As soon as those words left his mouth, the old man's expression changed. He frowned and asked Sam.

"Why do you need to know about them?"

"Because they kinda are behind Sivan's disappearance? They just took him from right under the nose."

"The disciples took Sivan away?"

"Yes."

"And they have Mountain Master's orders to do this?"

"I don't know. Probably not, because this happened because of the personal rivalry in a way. Why?"

"If it is Mountain master himself, I would advice you to stop the pursuit right now, but since it is the kids, there might be a chance."

"Chance to do what? Mediation? I am not interested in that."

"Why?"

"They know too much already. Even the information they are holding against me will cause me great trouble if it was leaked to the rest of the world.

I don't want that looming over my head."

"But if you clash with them, you will have to clash with the Mountain Master. He is a dangerous person. You might not want that in your current state."

"As I said, I don't have any choice. That is why I need information."

"Alright, let's see. What do you know until now?"

Sam went on to say everything Gail said to him a few days ago.

"You really did have a lot of info. There is nothing much that I could add to it. In fact, you are well informed about the subordinates than I.

But I can tell you more about the mountain master."

Chapter 1588 Mountain Master's Mystery

"That is the information I am most interested in. Even Gail didn't have any info about the Mountain master."

"I can imagine why. That fellow has always been a very secretive person. He never wanted his name to be too popular."

"For a man who doesn't want to be popular, he sure has a lot of popularity."

"Who says he doesn't want to be popular? He just doesn't want his name to be known, but he craves attention and popularity.

It is just that his vanity in this category is way past normal to the point that he wants to be so popular and powerful that not knowing his name shouldn't even be a concern for the people to fear and respect him."

"What kind of stupid vanity is that?"

"He is eccentric.

You would be hearing that he is very humble, serene, and calm. Never ever believe that.

If anything, he is quite opposite of all of those things. He is proud and vain. He has an unending and insane amount of love for his vainglory. He appears calm. But a wrinkle on his robe makes him go crazy.

He has a serene expression on his face, but a single unpleasant thing that might even overhear will make him want to kill the person who said that.

He is a crazy psychopath. Nothing more than that."

Sam was stunned.

This is a first. All this while, he heard a lot of things about the Mountain master from Gail, but not a single one of them goes with the words that the old man is saying.

"Are you pulling my leg, old man?"

"Why would I do that? Do you think I am one of your friends? Why would I pull your leg for no reason?"

"Then what you are saying doesn't make sense at all. The image this mountain master has is mysterious, and powerful, he is a creature beyond a normal person's common sense. That is what even Gail said.

How does anything you make any sense in that way?"

"I thought you are a calm and smart kid. Why are you acting like an ignorant brat?"

"Instead of scolding me, why don't you try explaining it?"

"Of course, scolding doesn't come in the way of explaining this stuff.

The reason Gail and others don't know about this situation is, that after committing the deed, the mountain master always cleaned the evidence with the blood of the witnesses. He always had people that did his dirty work.

He never leaves any trace of his presence and he never does anything that would show his involvement."

"Then how do you know so much about him?"

"Because I have seen while he grew. I have seen his journey until he became the person that has enough power to erase his dirty past.

He has one of the bloodiest pasts in history and now he is the saintly person that no one knows anything about.

Probably there are ghosts roaming around Divine Graveyard currently cursing him for all the deeds he did.

And do you know what the worst part about it is? Even if hundreds of people heard of these stories, no one connects them to the Mountain master.

Because there is no way they could ever connect the filthy name of the person to a being that is respected by the realms."

Sam stayed silent for a while.

"What? Having second thoughts?" The old man asked.

"No, feeling relieved."

"What part of this information makes you relieved?"

"The fact that I have information makes me relieved. I don't know if my friends told you this about me. But I believe that as long as there is enough information and the knowledge of how to use it, then nothing is impossible.

Particularly, when it concerns people and things that are made by people. Nothing is impossible.

Even if it is destroying a person that is feared and respected by millions."

"You really do believe that, don't you?"

"Of course, I do. How do you think I survived and grew until now? There is no reward if I don't go after the enemy out of my league. Not to brag, but I never competed with my peers. Because I always trusted my preparations."

"Well, with all those bad habits, you need to at least have one good habit, and being prepared is one of the better ones."

Great."

"Anyway, you continue with whatever you know about this guy. I want to know every little detail about him. The food he ate, the women he was after, the things he is ashamed of, the things he was proud of, his fetishes, tastes, strengths, weaknesses, humor, and cravings. Whatever you can think of, just tell me."

"Why do you want to know so much? You want to make a biography of him or something?"

Old muttered, but he still patiently explained everything Sam wanted to know.

They spent time just talking since the evening before they were done.

"That is all I know, even if you squeeze my brain dry, you won't find anything else."

"That is enough. More than enough. Luckily you were here, otherwise, I would have had a lot more trouble than necessary to deal with this guy."

Now my work is half done."

"I still think it is better to contact me directly. There is no point in making an enemy out of him. I will mediate the deal if you want me to."

"No need. Apart from this enmity, there is some other deal I would have to make with them."

"Don't tell me you have that organization in your weird list."

"Yeah, I have that one."

"So you are after the Bone horn he has in his possession?"

"Yeah, the Bone horn."

"That is a great treasure. You won't be able to get it unless you kill that guy."

"Well, then I will kill that guy and get it."

Anyway, enough of this bullshit. Tell me something about the secrets you left behind. I want to know what he did with the shadow element."

"I am not showing it to you today."

"Why?"

"For you to see those notes, you need to do one thing before that."

"What would that be?"

"Solve a puzzle. A puzzle was left behind by my friend. As long as you do that, you will be able to get all the notes you want."

"Okay, what is it?"

The old man took out a dark-colored cube and gave it to Sam.

It is in dark black color with a faint purple hue. It is full of shadow energy.

But that is not what surprised Sam. He kinda expected it. The thing that surprised him is the structure of the cube.

It actually looked like a Rubix cube. Same structure, but no colors. Instead, there are myriad patterns on each section of the cube. And instead of standard 3X3, it is 6X6.

He threw that to Sam and told him.

"Inject your spiritual energy into it and then check it with your spiritual sense."

Sam nodded and did as he was told.

He instantly opened his eyes and was stunned. He saw something like this before. There is a familiar yet unfamiliar feeling from what he felt inside and there is a myriad of thoughts running in his head and even more guesses followed by it.

"You would have seen a small lump of shadow energy inside, right?"

"Yes."

"That energy is unstable. There is a myriad of formations you can create with the runic patterns on the six sides of the cube.

In the current state, the cube is keeping the lump stable. If you use the patterns and make some shadow elemental formations on different sides of the cube, then you will be changing the nature of the lump.

Sometimes, it will spread out and corrode your body. Sometimes, it will try to access the shadow realm and drag you into it.

Sometimes, it works like a large-scale strangulation entity. Like that, there are thousands of possible outcomes.

But sometimes, there are also some positive outcomes. Some of them are, the energy being stable while the cube opens up by itself. If you can take that energy stably outside, without using your energy manipulation tricks, and close the cube back, then you will win.

I won't set a time limit, but you better do it as fast as you can.

I bet my friend would be disappointed if I had given out his legacy to someone who barely passed. I would also be embarrassed to know that my disciple has a friend like you who couldn't even finish a challenge like this."

Sam didn't even bother with this low-level taunt. He just took the cube and focused on it. He tried using the observation technique. But for the first time, even that didn't work.

He was shocked. He never expected that someone would even guard something against the observation energy. In fact, he didn't even know that there is a possible restriction for observation technique.

The interest in the cube just rose splendidly.

Chapter 1589 Unsolvable

Sam just walked out of the room they were sitting in and arrived at the large backyard of Old man's estate.

It is peaceful and there is not a single lifeform insight.

He looked at the large empty space and thought for a moment before he waved his hand and let the beasts out.

They were trapped for so long because of Sivan, so he has been trying to find time to let them out as much as he can.

Since he is going to stay here for a while, he decided he might as well let them loose.

As they are playing around like kids, Sam focused on the cub.

The first thing he wanted to do is figure out if this cube is just like a Rubix cube even when it comes to the solution. So, he examined all of the rune patterns on each block to see any similarities between the patterns that would go for one side to create a proper inscription.

Even though it is the simplest solution anyone could think of, sometimes, the simplest solution is the right solution.

After figuring out the patterns with certain similarities and making sure that there are six types of patterns that would form an inscription on the six different sides, he started solving it.

Sam never worked on a 6X6 cube. Even though puzzles are fun, he was never really a person who explored the normal puzzles that are popular in the world. But it didn't take too long for him to figure out how to solve this.

And as he started moving the patterns to their respective sides, he started seeing the inscriptions coming into the picture.

Along with that change, he also noticed another major change and that is the energy flow within the cube. Whenever he turned one of the faces of the cube, the energy inside reacted. It started becoming chaotic as if it is trying to find a way to escape.

Luckily for Sam, nothing of the sort happened as there are no anomalies until then. And the more he progressed towards the current goal of moving the same patterns to the same side, the more confident he became since there are no massive changes in the cube.

But right when he was on the last line of solving the puzzle, suddenly some chaotic shadow elemental energy come out of the cube.

The energy is so eerie and dangerous that Sam started sweating instantly. He didn't know what to do. The energy came out of the cube in the form of black smoke which seeped into his body.

Sam instinctually activated shadow elemental fusion.

The smoke started invading his body and even when he had the fusion, he still felt the pain. It is like the pure raw energy inside the smoke is trying to occupy his body. He gritted his teeth and tried his best to endure it.

He looked at the cube and still decided to try and finish the last line.

But as he tried to turn the face, he could sense the energy fluctuations becoming chaotic. Sam hurriedly activated the energy vision and he was stunned.

Under the guise of the black smoke, the energy mass inside the cube is slowly trying to slip out and not just slipping out, it is acting like some kind of live slimy creature that wants to devour him.

Sam instantly stopped turning it that way. He started messing up the cube again as even he felt the excessive shadow elemental energy invading his body is way too painful and torturous.

"So, the simplest one is not the right one, I should have guessed."

He muttered to himself and started thinking of different ways.

The first method that came to his mind is to try and see how many proper inscriptions he could make with all of these patterns. But when he thought of the number of possibilities based on the order of these inscriptions and how many iterations he would have to go through, he felt his throat run dry.

That would be an impossible task to do so. It will literally take years for him to go through every iteration there is.

He held the cube in his hands as he carefully examined it. This is just like a normal cube puzzle, but the only problem is that he cannot identify the 'colors' of the cube. As long as he has the colors he would be able to solve the cube pretty easily.

But identifying them is the problem.

As he was thinking, he took a deep breath and decided to just work on it as it is.

He didn't want to waste too much time thinking this time. He just wanted to do it and solve it as it comes.

As he tried random combinations, he let his thoughts wander. For the whole night, he didn't move from the spot he sat on and just stayed there. The beasts ran around and enjoyed the outside air for a while.

After that, they sat near Sam as he constantly messed around with the cube.

Time passed slowly and the next morning, the old man and the three powerhouses from the Gaja clan came out to see Sam still working on the cube.

He appeared so concentrated and lost in it.

They didn't disturb him and let him be. But by evening, Gail was concerned and went to ask the old man.

"Is it going to be alright? He is way too into it, isn't he?"

"Don't worry, it is going to be okay."

"Why is that puzzle so difficult though? Do you think he will be able to succeed?"

"I don't know. He might or might not."

"Even you are not sure about his success?"

"Yeah, if success means completely solving the puzzle then I don't know. But if all he needs is to pass the test, then I am sure he will."

"So, solving the puzzle is not the test?"

"No, enduring the shadow elemental energy is. The leakage of the shadow elemental energy along with the rest of the traps and a long exposure for all of these harmful things, that is the actual test."

"So, is it impossible for anyone to solve that puzzle?"

"I don't know. Maybe the person who created it can do it. I have never seen anyone else solving it. No one ever came close."

"Then why did you tell him to solve the puzzle instead of telling him what the actual test is?"

"Just for the sake of it. I wanted to see how long he will endure. If just say he needs to endure for a fixed amount of time, he might just pull it off through sheer grit.

I don't want that. Anyone can do that. I want to know exactly how long he is going to keep up."

"Then what if he doesn't give up and just endure it as it comes?"

"That is not impossible. Every person should feel exhausted at some point. The constant pain is not something that could be overcome just through the sheer grit."

"We will see then. I am also curious now.

But since it is going to take a long time anyway. Do you want to spar a bit?"

Gail asked with a slight grin.

The old man looked at him and chuckled.

"You are still in your prime and you can't control that rush for the challenge. I miss those old days. But I don't think I will be a match for you. You want me to be that big of a challenge."

"I doubt that."

Gail said as his grin widened.

"Your mouth says one thing and your expression says otherwise. Why are you feeling so proud, just because you got some compliments from a has-been like me."

"Go find some challenge from your peers."

"Please, sir. It would be an honor to spar with you. You will also be bored for a long time with Sam going at it."

After some thought, the old man sighed and agreed.

"Alright. But I am not going to go easy on you. Don't you dare complain to me if I really beat you up?"

"But you just said you are not my match."

"That is because I wanted to avoid fighting you. Don't tell me you really believed that."

"I mean, you already complimented, there is no use in taking it back."

They started bickering and arguing as they walked to an empty space within the Blood Iron League estate.

Gamin and Yuvana exchanged a glance and immediately ran after them to spectate and if they could, they want to get a chance to spar too.

Sam was left there along with the beasts who looked at him silently without disturbing him.

He just kept on going at the cube without caring for anything else in the world.

Hundreds of calculations are going on in his head at the same time as he tried different ways to figure out the best iteration of this cube.

Chapter 1590 Bleeding arms

The next day.

Sam still didn't get up from the spot and he has the heavenly wine gourd on the side.

He still kept on shifting the cube. But now his body is in partial shadow elemental fusion and his eyes are glowing with shadow energy as well.

He is using a variant of his energy vision. He enhanced it with shadow elemental energy so it would be more sensitive to the shadow energy. Particularly the lump in the cube that is fluctuating with every change in the cube patterns.

Sam just turned the cube on a whim. He just observed the energy flow of the cube carefully with his energy vision. Soon he got a hang of this observation and also started to understand what the pattern on each section is doing when energy is flowing from inside of it.

He is currently looking at each section like an individual machine. A machine that gives out a certain output when the energy enters it in one state.

So all he needs to do to solve this whole cube mechanism is to figure out what kind of nature or state should the energy reach so that the cube's lock would be gone and the lump would be stable.

After thinking up till this point, Sam suddenly had new ideas.

Since he cannot just leave this up to iterations, he decided to eliminate some of the options he had and decided to reverse engineer the whole thing.

He started randomly moving the cube to create different patterns as he observed the change in the energy lump.

He took mental notes of all the results he could possibly get at that time. After he understood what kind of state the lump should be constantly in for him to successfully unlock the cube, he then started thinking of iterations to do so.

He cannot just magically resolve this whole thing. But he could see that he is getting somewhere.

At least as he eliminated one possibility after another, the number of possibilities is becoming lesser.

The only problem is the side effects of every wrong iteration he did. The lump kept on chaotically attacking him with every turn. He couldn't just endure it no matter how much he tried. The full elemental fusion with shadow energy is taking too much energy out of him.

Even though it helped him reduce the pain of the invading energy, he still has to use the same amount of energy as he did for the partial fusion to eliminate it.

The only difference is that the partial fusion is a lot more painful to endure the shadow elemental energy that was invading him.

But he didn't care. He just endured the pain as he proceeded with it.

So, currently, Sam is maintaining his partial fusion, injecting the energy into the cube so that he study and understand each runic pattern on every section of the cube, expelling the foreign energy that is hurting him and on top of all of that, he is calculating dozens of iterations at a time in his head.

And he did this without a change in expression. The only time he slightly diverted his attention from the cube is when he had to take a sip of heavenly wine.

The next day.

This is already the third day and by now, the beasts are a bit concerned. It is not abnormal for Sam to get lost while studying something. He did that many times and it is considered a very normal occurrence by now.

But the problem is just fixated on this one thing and didn't even bother to move.

There are no crazy thoughts that used to come out loud. There are no crazy experiments that Sam used to do, there are simulations, and large scrolls with calculations he did by hand.

They are all used to watching this, but now that everything is happening inside Sam's head, they couldn't help but be confirmed.

If not for Gail's repeated insistence, they would have just beaten Sam back to his senses. They were that worried about him.

But Sam seemed to have not noticed any of these changes. He just sat there, unmoving like a rock as if he is the only person left in the world.

The only silver lining to the situation is that Sam started muttering something by that evening. He is slowly talking about some principles, calculations, and energy flow.

If anyone saw him now they would think he has gone crazy, but the beasts are actually relieved. This means, Sam is just in his usual research mode and there is some progress happening. Just staying silent about what bothered them.

The next day.

When the powerhouses came back to see Sam, they were dumbfounded. Because they could see that Sam's arms are bleeding. There are some deep cuts here and there on his arm as a bunch of very thick dark strands came out of the cube.

They looked like hair strands in a way, but they are clearly not. They are from the lump within the cube.

Demon soul swordsman looked at Sam and felt surprised. He is also a bit concerned. Looking at him, Gail also got a bit confused and went to ask him.

"What happened, sir? Is something wrong? Will Sam be alright?"

"He is alright. For now at least.

But as for what happened, even I don't know. I have messed around with that cube for a while, and I have seen my friend do that all the time, but I have seen the lump extend out like this and damage the person who is using the cube.

This is the first."

"So, this was not supposed to happen?"

"No."

"Then maybe, he is on verge of solving it."

"Have you seen the puddle of blood at his feet? Do you really think he is on verge of solving it?"

Gail didn't know what to say about that.

"So, how long does he need to endure the pain."

"From a pure time point of view, he needs to stay for another day. But his pain is obviously more than what a normal person would suffer by now. If I have a choice, I will consider this a pass."

"What do you mean, if you have a choice? You conducted the test. You can just consider this a pass."

"I can't. The cube has a very special mechanism. Particularly for this test. It only calculates time and unless the cube has been in his hands for enough time, it won't consider it as a pass. Unless the cube passes, there is nothing I could do."

"The cube should pass him?"

"Yeah, it doesn't calculate the pain, just the duration. So, it is impossible for me to intervene and pass him now."

"Is there no other choice?"

"There is. Making him give up. Do you think it will work?"

Gail looked at Sam and sighed as he shook his head.

There is no way Sam would just give up after this. He is just working way too hard with this and just from his expression, anyone could guess that is way too involved in this situation.

That sheer involvement is something that he cannot wrap his head around. Because he was never obsessed with something so much.

He could only watch and see how things go.

That night, everyone went back to rest or cultivate. Sam is just sitting there even then and is still working on it.

At this moment, the corrosion of this external shadow elemental energy started spreading into his body and there are lines dark enough to be visible even on top of his body that is under partial shadow elemental fusion.

Sam's eyes are wide open as he endured the pain and looked at the cube.

Currently, he is not rotating any side of the cube, rather he is just looking at the cube as he rotated it in his hands.

The lump is extremely chaotic. It is almost on the verge of breaking out of the cube and the most interesting part is, that there is not a single complete inscription on any side of the cube. All the faces are currently just lumped with runic patterns that don't make any sense and the energy flowing through them is just being neutralized and expelled out of it.

Sam smiled after confirming this.

Because the only time something like this happened is when the cube was given to him.

Except for that, the whole cube always had at least one inscription on any of its sides. But now they are all gone and the patterns are not in the same position as they were in when the cube was given to him.

He quickly calculated a few things and started writing them down with his finger on the floor. He just manipulated the shadow a bit and carved it on the stone floor. He created something that looked like a flow chart that covered the whole area he was sitting in and he focused on the first one as he started moving the cube according to it.

