

Creator 1591

Chapter 1591 Solved

Each section that has been written down is like a runic algorithm.

All the calculations are mostly based on the runic patterns and Sam started rotating the cube according to the first algorithm.

The lump of shadow elemental energy started raging over and a vast amount of spiritual energy in the surroundings gathered at the cube.

It is being absorbed into the cube at a rapid pace and Sam could see that it is turning into shadow elemental energy with his energy vision.

The converted energy is being consumed by the lump as it tried to expand its size. It is hard to believe that it is just a lump of energy at this point.

Sam felt his arms hurting as the number of shadow tentacles increased with every passing second and attacked him.

The bleeding increased and Sam could even sense that each tentacle is trying to inject shadow elemental energy into his body. The energy is extremely corrosive. Sam couldn't take it anymore and activated complete shadow elemental fusion.

But even now the pain didn't vanish wholly. The energy entering his body is being rejected and is still causing Sam a lot of pain.

Sam sighed and move to the second section. He endured the pain and rotated the cube based on the second section.

The shadow elemental energy which is already being constantly emitted out of the cube not just increased, but also started spreading to different spots around him.

All of the shadows that are cast by the faint moonlight that night suddenly seemed to have changed their nature and some humanoid figures popped up out of them.

These figures started moving toward Sam, but they didn't come too close the beasts around Sam reacted quick enough to completely destroy them within a few seconds.

But still, just to be alright he even called out his own shadow undead creatures.

All of these humanoid shadows that popped out of nowhere are not enough to cross these defenses and disturb him.

But they were enough to cause enough disturbance to alert all the powerhouses in the estate.

Demon soul swordsman was the first one to come out running.

He was horrified when he looked at the humanoid creatures attacking Sam and his beasts. Even though they are unable to do anything to Sam, he was extremely pissed.

After all, no matter what, even if Sam is a junior, he was still invited as a guest. And in his opinion, Guests should be shown the ultimate courtesy and respect.

He wanted to scream and kill the person that is responsible for this.

He looked at the overly flowing blood on the ground and thought that Sam was attacked. But luckily, he came back to his senses.

The beasts easily handle the shadows while the undead is barely even moving.

Sam ignored all of this commotion and kept on working. Within the net minute or two, the remaining powerhouses also came and saw Sam's state.

Time passed.

Slowly Sam kept on using patterns that he noted down on the ground and with the completion of every single one of those combinations, the shadow elemental energy is increasing.

The powerhouses started getting worried.

"Is he really going to be okay? You never said that the cube has this chaotic abomination inside. This is way too dangerous. His body is being corroded and consumed by the shadow elemental energy.

I think we should stop him."

Gail immediately asked the Demon soul swordsman.

The old man didn't bother with Gail or his outburst. He was amazed beyond belief as different types of reactions occurred.

He felt nostalgic and proud at the same time.

Until Sam finished half of the sections in the notes he has written on the ground, things went on like this.

By now Sam is completely coiled up with these shadow tentacles and one could see how hard he is struggling to maintain his energy. He had to keep taking the heavenly wine.

At this point, Demon Soul swordsman came back to his senses. His feeling of nostalgia is gone. Sam is suffering too much.

He almost wanted to step up and stop Sam from doing it. As he contemplated that action, all of a sudden, something happened.

At that moment, Sam who was suffering unimaginable torture smiled. A smile that looked peaceful and proud at the same time.

He rotated a side of the cube and as he was doing it, he felt a sharp pain rushing through his whole body. All of the shadow tentacles turned extremely with sharp points that are penetrating into his flesh.

They are trying to tear apart and destroy the elemental body of Sam. They are trying to hinder him from making that turn on the cube.

But Sam still kept the smile on his face as it slowly turned into a grin. He forcefully moved the side of the cube and in that instant, the energy changed. The tentacles that are drilling into Sam's body were pulled back into the cube.

Sam's pain was reduced by half in just a second and the surrounding shadow elemental energy and the energy absorption from the lump were reduced by half.

Every spectator was shocked at that moment.

Sam's grin widened as he proceeded to rotate the cube according to a different section he had written. Everyone can see that the lump of shadow elemental energy is actually acting rageful at the moment.

The tentacles are rapidly attacking Sam with dozens of stabs in a single second. The humanoid shadows that appeared from the shadows of various objects are all acting crazily as they went after Sam.

But they were all blocked by the beasts and Gail who was standing on the side even gave them a hand here and there when there are too many shadows.

Within a few seconds, Sam finished the next section and once again the energy was reduced by half. The tentacles became even shorter and now they can't even stab Sam anywhere else other than his forearm.

This pattern went on and on and after an hour or so, the tentacles are gone and the lump's absorption rate of spiritual energy has been reduced hundreds of times.

It is barely holding at the moment and the only reason its presence is still noted is that it still tried to corrode Sam even after all of that.

Sam took a deep breath as he started rotating the faces of the cube again this time, he is extremely slow with every movement and they could see that there is a lot of change in the behavior of the lump with every one of those movements.

And with every movement, the cube started glowing. Particularly some patterns on random sections of the cube. They started glowing with neutral energy as if the shadow elemental energy is being eliminated from the cube itself.

One move after another, one section after another. Sam was focused to the extreme as he recalculated every move in his head.

And after a long time. He made the final move.

CLICK

A clicking sound came from the cube as all of the patterns lit up at the same time. A white glow came out of the cube and followed by it came the thick and dense black smoke.

The smoke converged into a ball right in front of Sam.

He looked at me calmly. He is very familiar with it by now. So, there is no way he couldn't recognize it.

It is the lump of energy within the cube. The lump that tortured him for the past few days. As the lump formed in front of him, Sam felt a sense of relief and laid down on the ground. He deactivated his fusion and stretched his body a bit as he drank some heavenly wine.

The wounds started healing slowly and with the absence of the drilling by the tentacles, things went smoothly for him.

He just laid down there and looked at the lump of energy. It is trying to absorb energy from the surroundings again.

Sam's instincts told him that he should wait, so he decided to do that.

Meanwhile, the powerhouses are confused. Gail looked at Demon's soul swordsman and asked.

"What is happening here?"

Demon soul swordsman on the other hand is stunned with his eyes and mouth wide open. It is almost like his jaw literally dropped.

"How is this possible?"

He muttered to himself and Gail who is standing next to him had to shake him so that he could get back to his senses.

"What exactly are you talking about?"

"The cube. The solution. It finally happened. It is finally solved. I need to check something first."

As he spoke, Demon's soul swordsman ran back into the estate and went into the basement.

There is a dark room inside which he lit up with some light elemental equipment.

On the wall of this dark room, there is a large hexagram with runic patterns, and at the center of those patterns lies a large groove in which a glass cube was placed.

He carefully took that glass cube and ran back up to the spot where Sam was.

Chapter 1592 Legacy

Sam looked at the large lump of shadow elemental energy in front of him with confused eyes.

The cube still stayed in his hand and now there is no resistance to his observation ability now.

The cube is obviously hollow. The space inside, where the lump used to be is currently empty. And now that the cube is devoid of that energy, it is not glowing at all.

It looked like it was made of stone. A plain old stone. He tried to inject the energy to activate the cube, but it didn't work. The mechanism is in such a way that, it could only be activated from the inside.

He was really interested in the cube. But the full examination had to wait because he has to focus on this lump of energy.

At this moment, an old man came back with the glass cube and the lump finally reacted.

It started glowing with black light. The glass cube in the demon soul's swordsman's hand also started glowing and the cube that looked transparent without anything inside contained something.

It is a while glowing orb.

It opened up and the orb rapidly flashed towards the black lump. Both of them are two flexible masses of energy, at least felt like two flexible masses of energy merged together.

Everyone in the room was surprised and only after a few seconds, did both of those energies completely merged together to reveal a small humanoid figure.

Sam looked at that figure and felt like he saw him somewhere. But he couldn't put a finger on it.

"Hello, you must be the person that unlocked me from the Shadow cube.

Let me do some introductions.

I am Prakthas. You might not have heard of it, as it is not that popular. I was quite well known for some other name and its Demon Shadow swordsman.

I don't know how long has it been since I died.

I might not have enough energy to sustain this projection for a long time. So, I will just go straight to the point.

Congratulations. You have finally and completely inherited my legacy. When I learned that I was dying slowly but surely, I wanted to leave my legacy behind. But I also wanted to make sure that someone worthy of it came to pick it up.

I might sound narcissistic, but I believe in my legacy and love it way too much to leave it in the hands of some talentless prick, who lacks character and perseverance. So, I made an almost impossible puzzle to solve.

Unless they completely solve it, they won't be able to get the full legacy. The people who only know how to endure something that they can't solve. They can only get my swordsmanship.

Their will and grit to endure will be very useful for training and honing their swordsmanship.

But there is another part of the legacy, which is not exactly known to the world. The legacy of my creations. I am no artisan, but that didn't stop me from making things I wanted.

Just from the looks of the cube you just solved, you should be able to understand what I mean.

After inheriting my complete legacy, grow it, learn it, and play with it.

You can do whatever you want with it. If you are an assassin, use my skills to kill people. If you are a builder or a creator, make iterations over and over again. Throw my concepts into the trash if you think they are not suitable now or in the future.

Work with them, develop them, improve them, disprove them. My legacy doesn't consist of massive riches, it doesn't have highly valuable techniques, and there are no treasures and weapons. All I

have is the knowledge I gained over the years, an experience that I acquired by conducting various experiments, and the results that I gained along with it.

Even though I was never really popular for these things as my battle prowess overshadowed everything else that I had, this is what I was most proud of.

This is the quality of mine that I loved and admired. The greatest skill in swordsman and the greatest sword under heaven could never compare to this.

I hope it will be useful to you and you will pass it on to someone else who is as worthy as you.

Thank you in advance."

The fragment acted like it was a prerecorded message. There was no conversation. It was just a one-sided talk and it turned into a flash of light before it entered Sam's forehead.

The orb and the lump both disappeared into thin air as if they never existed.

The cube was still there though.

Sam who felt the soul fragment entering his head, suddenly felt a sharp pain shooting down his head, and with all the stress he went through in the past few days, he couldn't help but faint on the spot.

The beasts that were standing there suddenly got riled up as they all reached Sam. All of them trying to see if he is okay.

Demon soul swordsman walked forward and the beasts reluctantly had to give way for him.

"Don't worry. He is alright. He is just tired. He will be fine after he wakes up."

The beasts acknowledged him slightly as he carried Sam into the estate and let him lay down on a bed and sleep.

He came out with a smile on his face. Gail could literally see tears welling up in the old man's eyes.

"Is that the fragment of Demon shadow swordsman? Is that real?"

"As real as it can be. Right before he died, he made me cut his soul. First, his soul fragment that has all of the swordsman and battle experiences. The second one is the research he did with the shadow element.

The cube was made by the shadow elemental research he had done over decades. It was almost impossible to solve. But Sam did it.

I have been trying to find a successor for him and almost gave up. After so many years, I decided that it is better to just pass on his swordsmanship which was in the glass cube to someone.

I tested many people, but not a single one of them managed to endure this for three days. Much less solve it.

But Sam did.

He endured it and solved it. That is really unexpected. Even for me.

But I am glad that his legacy is being passed over. All this while, even the prick that betrayed us managed to pass down his legacy, while my friend didn't get to do so. Now it is fulfilled. I am just way too happy right now."

The old man almost started crying.

Gail and the other two didn't know what to say. They just left the old man to be alone.

That night, Sam slept like a baby. He didn't wake up until the next day.

He groggily walked out of the room and the beasts that are waiting for him finally felt relieved. Sam sent them back into the divine dimension after playing with them and went to meet the old man.

"You are awake. Finally. How are you feeling?"

"Still a bit fatigued. But I think I am fine. Where are the other three?"

"They went out for a while. They will be back in a few minutes."

"Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Your friend is indeed a genius. To create such a thing is no small feat and to think that all of this went away unnoticed by anyone. What a shame."

"I also feel the same, but he didn't feel that way. He just did the research for his own personal pleasure. He did wish that someone acknowledged it, but his swordsmanship is just way too good. It cannot be overshadowed by anything.

And his battle prowess is something that people could only dream of."

"Is he really that good?"

"You got his experiences, why don't you take a look at them?"

"I want to know your opinion."

"For me, his battling looked like a dance. It was fluid, appeared right in front of the eyes, but was intangible. It couldn't be caught, held, or imprisoned. It could be manipulated into anything and everything.

It is more fluid than water itself.

There are not many things I envy. But his swordsmanship is something that even brings me some envy.

That is why the shadow sword has such a stubborn spirit. Its compatibility with the demon shadow swordsman is otherworldly.

It never believed that there would be another swordsman that could match Prakth in versatility and strength.

And in a way it is right. Even if someone could reach his level, there is no way they could be a match for what he already accomplished.

It is one of a kind, there is never going to be a second.

At least that is my thought until now. But since you managed to impress both the sword and the swordsman, maybe, just maybe you might have a tiny chance of doing this.

Chapter 1593 Experimenting with Cube

Sam stayed for two more days within the estate before he decided to leave.

"So, what are you going to do? Rebuild the league?"

Sam asked the old man.

"Yes, I need to make this reach its former glory. Then I will hand it over to Jack before I retire into the Grey circle."

"Will Jack really take this though?"

"That is your job to let him take this."

"I won't have any objections of course. But you do know that Jack wouldn't just shift to this place right? I think he will ask to merge the league with the Dusk organization. Are you sure you want to do that?"

"Well, two out of three founders passed their legacy to you and Jack. Maybe it is destined that the legacy is going to be passed to two friends like this.

If you really think that it will help, just merge the organization. I am pretty sure even if the operational structure changes because of that, you will at least uphold what our goal is."

"Thank you for your trust."

Sam bowed to him slightly, before he and the rest of the powerhouses left the league. They went back to the Gaja clan.

"So, how did the trip go?"

Giyon and Grivon once again came directly to him with questions.

"It went well. I got a lot of information that I will need in the near future and I also gained something really cool."

"What is that? Show us."

Grivon asked with excitement.

"For starters, I got better at controlling my shadow elemental energy. I can now manipulate my own shadow really well."

Sam said as he activated shadow elemental fusion once again and manipulated his shadow around a bit.

"Is that it?" Grivon was underwhelmed by that performance and appeared disappointed.

"Not really, there is a lot more, but it will take some time for me to show it to you. So, you have to wait.

Anyway, how far has the construction come? Is everything going well?"

Sam successfully diverted the topic.

For the next week, he once again holed up in the lab. But this time, instead of just working on plans to deal with these subordinates of the Mountain Master, he also started digesting the research shadow monarch gave him.

As the Demon soul swordsman said, Sam was really impressed by the swordplay, but the research intrigued him even more. Even though it is mostly related to the shadow element, there are some interesting concepts.

The first concept that interested Sam is how the lump stayed in the cube and acted as this perpetual energy source as it can absorb energy from outside.

The reason it was so interesting is that Sam has used this concept himself before. It was similar what he used when creating a light chamber. The souls are merged with light elements and then became light itself.

But instead of light element, here the shadow energy was used and it was merged with the souls.

The soul fragment continuously attracted the energy and it then sent it to the cube.

Sam thought, he was the only one that thought of this weird method, but now that he saw it, he was surprised and excited.

He also thought of using this method with different elements, but he never got the chance to test it out. Now that he learned shadow element is also successful, it will save him a lot of time.

The second concept that intrigued him is the cube itself.

The cube is a very unique design concept for inscriptions and formations. He has seen many kinds of formation plates and formation carriers until now. In fact, even he made a lot of formations that are very unconventional and inscribed them in many unconventional means in unconventional places.

But this cube concept is on a whole other level.

It is a very intricate and detailed formation plan and the variants that Prakth even thought of are mindblowing.

Sam looked through them and wanted to test each one of them himself. He started with the most basic concept behind these cubes.

Each section of the cube is inscribed with a set of runes and whenever the cube sections are moved, they are obviously going to be a part of a new set of patterns. If these new sets of patterns form an inscription, then it could be activated from the energy within the cube.

And if all six faces that are constantly dynamic can have inscriptions, they can perform six things at the same time. And if all six of these inscriptions are six inscribed formations, then they could be a complex formations.

They could be attack inscriptions and they can land six attacks at the same time.

Sam wanted to test this a bit and started making a basic 3X3 cube.

Even though he is going for the simplest patterns, it is hard to figure out complex patterns like these. All the six faces have to be linked and when they are changed, even the changing patterns have to be linked.

And in both cases, they should be easy to make with the same set of sections. This is going to be difficult.

So, Sam decided that he would only use two functions for this cube. He picked a basic fireball inscription as well as a basic incineration technique inscription that just spews a jet of flames.

Both of them are very similar in nature and even the inscriptions are not that different. He started creating a bunch of inscription drawings on the scroll first to see if he can really manage to merge them both.

There is a small framework that Prakth left behind on how to calculate and differentiate the runic inscriptions on the sections and arrange them.

He followed the framework step by step and started inscribing the pattern on the cube.

This time, he didn't even want to make it very complicated.

First, he just inscribed the patterns and shuffled the cube a bit before all of the patterns turned to be fireball inscriptions.

He put up a small liquid energy cell in the hollow section of the cube and it was enchanted with a spirit. As soon as he finished the patterns, he threw it into the air.

BOOM

An explosive sound came as six fireballs were shot in six different directions.

He then took the cube again and started shuffling it until all four sides have the incineration patterns which also worked and then he started trying to have a few faces with the fireball pattern and the remaining with the incineration pattern.

This went pretty easily, but he had to take a lot of time to carefully understand and perform each step. Except for the long time it took, it is really not that complicated, because of the simplicity of the inscriptions he picked.

This cube is obviously useless now. Even acolyte stage cultivators in his school back at home can do better than this and doing so many calculations in his head and taking so much time for six fireballs is idiotic.

Currently, he is doing this just to get used to this.

Sam, then started putting on a bit more complicated inscriptions.

He kept going on like that as he crafted a bunch of cubes and kept on experimenting. He stayed like that for a few more days, while overseeing the construction and after he was done with most of his work in city construction, he decided to go back to Desolate.

"Why are you leaving so early? You can stay for a while. The city's construction is just getting to the interesting part. Don't you want to see the testing of each feature we are implementing?"

The formations, the attack systems, that would be really fun." Grivon asked.

"I am the one who designed them. Do you think I don't know how they will function?" Sam retorted before taking out his dimensional drifter.

"I don't know when we will meet again, good luck with your city and the progress. I already left behind a lot of blueprints for your development.

Grivon you got a clean slate on the Gaja clan. Build it up like a proper successor of the clan. I am really looking forward to the way you are going to grow up.

As for you Giyon. I want to see what kind of organization you will be establishing. So, at least for them, I will definitely come back."

"Why are you talking as if we are not going to meet again? It is not like you are leaving permanently. You are just going to deal with someone, aren't you?" Giyon sneered.

"Well, my journey doesn't stop after I defeat him. It is still a long way for me to stop and I don't know if I would be able to meet you much.

This might just be a goodbye. So, I wanted to do it properly."

"I am sure you will come back. If anyone can destroy that Mountain master, then it would be you. Just come back after you are done there."

Chapter 1594 First Target

Sam went back to the desolate.

His friends are waiting for him. By the time he met them, they are ready to move and already assigned all of the tasks to the respected personnel. In fact, at this point, they don't have much to do.

Over the years, they have been training people very meticulously and at this point, the organization could just run by itself.

Even the innovation side of things is not that bad. Of course, it is not as good as it was when Sam lead the whole invention and innovation side, but the students are improving and they churned out some really good researchers and creators in the past few years.

They didn't have as much trouble as they assigned people.

Sam was really content with this.

"So, are you guys ready to go now? I found the place that we need to go first."

"Before we go, we would like to do something."

"What is it?"

"Take us to the Gaja clan."

Sam frowned when he heard that.

"Why do you want to go to the Gaja clan?"

"Why? We are establishing a trade relationship with them."

"Since when was this decision made?" Sam asked in surprise.

"When you were in the Gaja clan. All three of us unanimously made a decision. So, you have to agree."

"When did this whole thing become a vote?"

"Since now. We are going to establish a proper trading agreement with them"

"Why though? Give me a reason. Even though I didn't have any restrictions on trade relations, I do have a right to know, don't I?"

"Actually, we should be asking, why you didn't approve a trade already. It is so unlike you. You got a massive organization that is regrowing as we speak. This is their most desperate time. This is one of the best business deals you could make and by the time we expand dusk enough to reach the realms, we would already have enough influence there to support ourselves."

"I wanted to leave the Gaja clan out of it for now. I wanted to see how those siblings will grow. That is it. But I still helped them a lot. If they really utilize what I have left behind for them properly, they will have some marvelous growth ahead of them."

"So, that is the reason. But I still think we need to make an agreement with them."

Philip insisted even after Sam's words.

Sam is confused. Why are you so insistent? That is so unlike you."

"I don't know. I kinda feel like we could enjoy the company of the Gaja clan."

Sam thought for a moment and suddenly smiled.

"Don't tell you liked someone? Who is it? It has to be Giyon. But do you know she is like fifty years older than us? I mean, age doesn't matter much with our cultivation level..."

"Shut up. What the fuck are you talking about?" Philip stopped Sam before he could go on. Sam smirked and looked at Philip's reaction.

Philip was sweating bullets. He is not panicked, it is pure fear.

"What are you so afraid of?"

"What else? Don't tell me you talked this nonsense with Giyon?"

"Why would I do that?"

"Good. I am afraid she will kill me. She is a way too strong dude. Anyway, all of the nonsense is just that, pure nonsense. I feel it is better to continuously foster a good relationship with the Gaja clan.

Since you already took in students and we are rapidly growing our cultivation and spread way too far, it would be not long before operational duties of the organization falls into your students' hands.

The Gaja clan takes a few decades to go back to its former glory of having a large number of powerhouses. So, if we foster a relationship now and aid them in their growth process for a while, by the time your students take over, they will have some backing and network.

Just think of the Gaja clan as our intermediary to get connections with the higher-level organizations."

"Do we really need to think that far into the future? I mean, it is not that we are going to die any time soon and they are my students, I am pretty sure they want to be independent."

"Well, being independent doesn't mean they can't inherit your organization. They are officially your successors whether they want it or not. It is kind of their responsibility and I am sure they won't want to let the organization their teacher establish go without a leader."

"Whatever. If you really think that it's a good thing, just go ahead with it. I am not going to stop you. But just make sure that you are not helping those siblings too much. A helping hand is fine, but don't make them lazy.

Let them struggle a bit."

"You are literally the only person that wants your friends to struggle."

"It is for their own sake. Let them struggle a bit. It is bad enough that everyone gets affected by the enemies I make, so the least I could do is to help them make some progress."

"Alright, we will proceed with the plans our way. Take me and a space gate team there. We will establish the route and we can leave after that."

Sam shrugged and did as he was told. He took Philip and the space gate team.

The Gaja clan obviously felt excited about this. They didn't dare reject cooperation with the Dusk organization.

That is way too valuable for them to miss.

Sam didn't participate in the dealings. He didn't even go to meet the siblings. He just accompanied Philip to the clan's leader and stayed outside the room.

After the agreement was reached which was already pretty fast, the space gate team stayed there to build a space gate, while Sam took Philip away and went back to Dusk.

After giving some more orders, they are finally ready to go on their endeavor. Dealing the Divine Formation Mountain.

And their initial small goal is to destroy one of the six subordinates.

Their first target.

A very interesting one and he ranks third in terms of strength among all six people. He is neither the strongest nor definitely nowhere near the weakest.

A late-stage Consummate cultivator of Astral Plane.

The reason Sam is so interested in this person is that he is a person with both wood elements and light elements and on top of that, he is also a warrior mage.

His constitution is not exactly a special one. He is just a dual elemental warrior mage, but the combination of these elements makes him a special target.

He is the default healer of the whole Mountain. All of the other subordinates, and the disciples come for him to get healed.

He is also the lead on their poison research and people even say that he is on the same level as the Vardar in many medical-related fields.

Sam wants to deal with him first because of that. But that is not the only reason. He is also kind of an easy target because of his character.

From what Gail said, he is a very prideful person and he is so full of himself because of his ability to heal others his battle tactics are also very powerful and reckless. His special elemental combination offers him a regeneration ability which makes him fearless. He is also an expert in formations which he often combines with healing abilities and poison abilities making him a well-rounded person in this cultivation world.

He has a reputation of his own to improve his faith and has some really good connections because of the healing assignments he occasionally accepts from some powerful people.

On top of all of these qualities, he is a bit of a gambler. He likes to put wagers on the challenges he makes with people and he is always known to honor them. At least in public.

But every time he loses a challenge, he uses any means to find out why he lost and not only does it make him go crazy to correct it, but he also goes after the person who won over him secretly to kill them.

As long as he doesn't kill them or he wasn't convinced completely he cannot kill them, he will lose his mind.

He becomes a psychopath on edge and literally goes crazy. He becomes sensitive about everything that goes around him and feels like everything is targeted at him.

The character is actually very similar to what the Demon Soul swordsman described the Mountain Master.

Sam wants to make use of this guy. They are not really going to kill him immediately, but they are definitely going to deal with him in such a way that he will create the necessary chaos to disturb the rest of the Divine formation mountain and people affiliated with them.

Sam and the trio got into a dimensional drifter and disappeared from the desolate once again. This time, it is time for another adventure and now they are doing it like how they did in old times.

Only four of them.

Chapter 1595 Behavioral Change

"Sam are you sure, you want to deal with this guy with only four us?"

Philip asked as all four of them are walking in a forest.

It is very dense and they are walking a certain direction vigilantly. It has been a while since they were this vigilant.

They are currently within a plan that is part of grey circle.

Within Grey circle, there are very few territories. Some planets are complete wild zones without any signs of civilization or establishments and some planets barely have a couple of cities.

Even those cities are not exactly proper establishments where people aim to reside permanently, they are just there to act as group headquarters of some small organizations and as exchange and trading points for people within the grey circle.

Now they are searching for one such place. The only clear coordinates Sam got are for the planet and there are only three such cities or trade points on this planet where their first target might appear.

So, they are currently travelling there.

As for Philip's question...

"I think we are enough. And this will be fun. Just the four of us, like at the start of our journey in Desolate."

"I am really glad about all of that, but still don't you think not using your team is a bit of a shame. I mean, Night Ghost got really stronger. Saber Monarch, Vidyut and Paras are also very close. They will be really useful in such a powerful place."

"Nope, let them help with the organization. I think their journey with me might just be done. At least when dealing with the Divine Formation Mountain, they are not going to be involved as much even if they are involved in the first place."

"Why?"

"It is because of their presence beside me that I got too complacent about things and I fell in the hands of Sivan."

Of course, I am not blaming them, but I was relying on them too much. Since we were going to desert city at that time and there was supposed to be no one stronger than Night Ghost, I was pretty lax with my preparations.

I didn't disguise, I didn't hide my steps, I didn't even take measures to have some contingencies.

So, I learned the consequences hard way and I want to stay on the edge for a while."

"But to this extent? Even the beasts that are roam around in these forests are either same level as you or stronger.

We are even weaker than you. We could barely be considered anything in these realms and you are bringing us to take down one of the powerhouses in this realm. I don't think this is an appropriate plan."

"Well, it is too late, you should have thought of that before you decided to dive headfirst into this as soon as I asked.

You should have asked all of these questions and considered all of these before you just tagged us along in the Dimensional Drifter."

"I didn't think this through at that time."

"Whatever, just tag along and do your part. You won't be doing much anyway. Treat this as a vacation. Most of the time we are going to hunt some stronger beasts and have some fun.

As for destroying these targets, we at least don't need anyone's help when dealing with this guy. So, don't worry about it at all."

"If you say so. But still how far is the city exactly? Do you have any idea?"

"I don't know. We need to reach the mountain in that direction first and from there we can find something that leads to the city."

They walked in the forest a few hours before they reached the mountain. On their way, they acted extremely vigilantly. Sam actually used crystal table in his every step to avoid the beasts and some times even people that are roaming around.

They used all kinds of things to hide their presence from their basic senses including the spiritual sense to move as stealthily as possible.

It is working and the most important advantage they have is that even if they are accidentally under someone's senses, the other party wouldn't believe it.

There is no way people like them, particularly the trio would be roaming around in the forests of this planet this freely.

Sam carefully avoided every possible confrontation with people and beasts before reaching the mountain successfully.

While doing so, he managed to observe what kind of creatures are living in this wilderness, both the flora and fauna and got an understanding of what kind of resources could be available in the surroundings.

Resources that could be used for both his short term goals like dealing with the Divine Formation Mountain and the long term goals like growth of his organization.

He was as thorough as possible and got some important data.

After visiting the mountain, Sam just directly estimated the coordinates to the top and used the dimensional drifter to transfer all of them.

From that spot, they looked in all the directions and Sam finally pointed at one spot.

"See that river stream far away? That leads us to one of the cities. Gail told me that there are three major river streams three continents of this small planet and every single stream passes by one of the three cities.

We can just follow it and we will get there."

"But how do you know to follow this upstream or downstream?"

"Simple, we camp here for a while and let our water creatures decide where the city is."

"Water creatures?"

"Yeah, the creatures you guys unleashed on a bunch of Mari clan territories. One of the batches even took up a whole planet that was used as farming ground by the clan.

I let the subordinates get a few for me.

If it was a normal time, we could have explored the place ourselves, but we won't be able to do that now. We need to make sure that we stay safe only battle tactically when necessary. So, for now let's rest here and wait for them to come back." Sam replied.

Sam estimated the location of the river and used the dimensional drifter again. He dropped over two dozen water creatures in the stream. Half of them swam upstream and other half swam downstream.

The water creatures can disguise themselves very well in the water, so not many people will notice them and even the other water animals that are staying won't normally attack them. They can pretty much survive on their own when they are in water, so he is not worried.

Sam felt that it is better to camp within a hollow cavity of the mountain and took them back immediately.

They waited for a few days before some of the creatures returned. They swam the stream up to the sea and they didn't see any other establishments and there is not even much of cultivator activity.

So there is only one other route. The upstream.

The team came out and started moving along the river path carefully. Of course they didn't stay too close for that. They just made sure that the stream is within Sam's crystal table's range and moved carefully.

After two days, they are still nowhere near the city. But they came to their first proper halt. Sam saw some traces of a beast and decided to stop there. He checked all of the surroundings and smiled.

"Boys, we have our first prey ready. We are going hunting."

"Hunting? What kind of beast is it?"

"A Boar. But an Astral plane consummate stage boar. Of course it is in its Initiation, so you don't have to worry too much."

"Sam, tell me you have gone nuts." Philip directly retorted.

Sam looked at him with a frown.

"We are barely at the late stage of transcendent realm. You know how hard it is to fight an Astral Plane Consummate stage beast. It will be a fucking nightmare.

And even you are peak stage of transcendence only."

"Since when did you become such a weak ass bum? I thought you were the more daring one."

Sam said with a frown as if he is talking with utmost seriousness.

Philip looked at him coldly and asked.

"How dare you say that?"

"We literally grew together Philip. We have been constantly punching above our level all this while. We always fought people stronger than me.

Fuck, Watt was kidnapped by a Nascent stage cultivator when we were barely at Great realm stage. Don't tell me you forgot all of that. Is the power difference more dangerous at that time than now?

What are you being constantly afraid of? It is almost like you have softened. What happened to you? Why are you being like this?"

Sam asked with all the seriousness.

Philip who stood there coldly and was about to retort suddenly stopped.

Watt and Jack also looked at Philip waiting for him to answer.

They also noticed this change, but they didn't want to call it out. In their minds, they are equals, at least the trio, they will be there for each other and try to understand each other, but they cannot put each other down, just because of a hunch.

But with Sam, it's different.

Chapter 1596 Boar Hunting

Philip wanted to retort.

But he didn't have a proper answer. When Sam said it out loud, even he cannot deny the fact that he is indeed acting that way. Still, he doesn't want to admit it.

He wanted to be stubborn and deny everything.

Only if he had the strength.

Without giving any chance for Philip to think of some random bullshit story to cover this up, Sam started speaking again.

"I know you are scared that something like before might happen again. But this is not the way to go. We cannot shield ourselves from every danger that comes at us.

We cannot just go on with trying to find an easier way out. As I said, this experience only increased my vigilance and my approach to the dangers that we will face in the future will change. But I am sure that it won't include running away and finding excuses to escape.

That is not a good practice.

Now, do you want to come with us to hunt the Boar or not? It will really help you in your cultivation."

Philip stayed silent for a moment and just nodded.

"Alright. That's more like it. First, we are going to weaken it, to get it to our level, and then we will slowly chip its strength down.

Don't tell me that you slacked while I was away. Show me what you have and don't disappoint me."

"Same goes for you. You are away from that body for so long that I think that even we might kick your ass if we gang up now." Jack said as he took out the Black Meteorite sword."

Sam smirked and made his move. He jumped to the tallest tree nearby and climbed it to the top as he looked into the horizon. After checking various spots, he nodded and contacted the trio through communication token.

"All three of you, hide in a triangular formation around this tree. Don't make your move prematurely. I will lure that Boar here and you attack after you get a signal from me."

"Alright."

The trio went to hide in three different trees around the tree that Sam was on.

Sam took out his bow and five arrows that have some special tips. He looked in the direction where the beast is at.

There is a large black-colored Boar on the horizon and it seemed to have been grazing on some weird grass.

Sam nocked an arrow and shot it at the boar.

The Black boar that was grazing seemed to have sensed the danger before the arrow stuck and an energy barrier came out of nowhere. The arrow hit the barrier and exploded.

BOOM

The explosion is fierce with spiritual energy liquid. But it is not exactly large. It only exploded in a very small space since Sam put up a very small amount of liquid in the arrow tip. The barrier broke down...

SWISH

Boar heard some more whistling sound before it could come back to its senses and an arrow managed to brush past its hind leg.

It didn't injure the hind leg completely but when it was going past it, the arrow exploded.

BOOM

ROAR

The Boar roared to the sky as it looked in the direction of Sam and started running angrily. Its hind leg has an injury. The flesh was torn apart and a portion of it is missing.

It is bleeding profusely.

But the boar didn't care as it ran towards them.

Sam shot the third arrow at that moment and this time, the Boar didn't react. Because the arrow was shot into the sky at a spot and it exploded before it could even reach the boar.

But as it exploded a large splash of black cursed liquid occurred. The Boar was caught off guard as it took the full brunt of the splash.

It felt like the body burning with an extremely painful sensation and the worst part is obviously the wound on its hind leg.

It couldn't see it, but the flesh actually started rotting in that particular area.

Sam held on to the remaining two arrows and said.

"The Boar is injured and cursed. I think you guys can manage from here. When it reaches twenty meters away from us, Philip will attack first.

Use your best-ranged attack. Don't hold back at all and don't need to target anything sensitive. You just need to target a leg."

"Alright. I am on it."

"Jack and Watt, both of you get ready with your attacks. Whether Philip's attack fails or not, you should land your next blow right after his attack is dispersed. Don't miss it. Because no matter what happens, with Philip's attack, there would be an opening in the barrier of the boar.

And if you land your attacks at that exact time on the legs, you will have a better chance at dealing with the beast."

"Okay."

"Alright."

When the Boar is at a considerable distance, Sam suddenly stopped concealing his presence and aimed his arrow at it once again. This time it is a normal arrow as it was just shot with pure spiritual energy.

The Boar blocked it pretty easily and roared at him before charging with an increased speed.

Meanwhile, Philip is gathering energy with his attack which the Boar seemed to have sensed as soon as it reached the twenty-meter mark. It instinctually activated a barrier.

Philip who is hiding in a tree could be clearly seen now as flames and rocks moved around crazily. The whole tree was destroyed. He activated partial fusion as the flaming rocks revolved at a high speed.

They are so fast that they could only be seen as some red flashes in the air and the Boar felt a bit tense as it made its barrier denser.

Sam didn't want to lose its attention and shot his fifth arrow. This one has the largest amount of spiritual energy liquid inside making it most lethal.

The Boar seemed to have sensed this and changed its direction of movement to dodge it. Which successfully happened as the arrow landed to the side.

BOOM

Even though the Boar took some force from the explosion, almost everything was blocked by the barrier.

But the Boar didn't feel safe, instead, it became even more vigilant as it sensed danger.

Philip who was gathering the energy and rotating these flaming rocks stopped in his tracks and slammed his arms into the ground.

BAM

It sound like thunder clapped in the sky as he slammed his palms. The rotating rocks suddenly zoomed into the ground as they disappeared. Philip closed his eyes and all of a sudden, the surrounding temperature started increasing.

Not from the wind or the sun, they could clearly sense that it is from the earth. The soil lost all of the moisture within seconds and the grass rapidly dried out as if everything is being sapped out of them.

Even the trees lost their lushness before they rapidly dried out bit by bit.

The Boar appeared confused. It could sense the danger, but its senses are confusing it as it looked in all the different directions.

It could sense danger from all the directions, but he couldn't see anything or feel anything. And it didn't believe that danger could be coming for it from all directions.

It couldn't make sense of a situation just based on the instincts and even though it is very powerful it is useless when it doesn't have anything to attack for.

After some thought the Boar went crazy and started stomping its legs. Each stomp created an energy wave that destroyed the surroundings. Everything within a certain radius was uprooted and even the earth cracked.

Only at that moment, did it notice something from outside.

A large red rock that is covered with flames is moving at it from underground and after looking at it, the boar finally started focusing on it as it tried to defend itself.

But what it didn't notice is that its senses are right when they picked up the danger from all of the sides. When the Boar started focusing on this one rock that was coming at it, what it didn't notice is five more rocks are coming from different sides.

All of them are focused on that one hind leg that was already injured and they popped up just a few feet away from it only they did Boar see them and it also noticed something else. The rocks are actually not large. The large size is just an illusion created by a large amount of earth and fire elemental energy clubbed together.

It is just a coincidence.

But the Boar couldn't do anything about that information it just got. The five rocks targeted the boar's leg.

The barrier is still intact so, the first tree rocks didn't do much and the fourth rock on which the Boar was initially concentrated was also destroyed by the barrier, by the fifth one the barrier was destroyed and it landed on the leg with some residual power.

But the last one landed and clean hit on that leg.

BOOM

Chapter 1597 Merchant Group

BOOM

ROAR

The explosion made the Boar roar in agony. The pain and frustration could be clearly seen its eyes. It looked at Philip coldly and almost forgot about Sam's presence. It wanted to make a move, but it could sense that the hind leg is severely damaged.

It cannot just move around now.

"Oy, you better save me, that attack took almost all of my energy."

Philip yelled at Sam in the communication channel.

"Don't worry. It will be fine."

As Sam replied, Jack and Watt made a move. They directly went after the legs of the boar.

A bunch of cards flying around with wind blades directly went after the legs followed by the sword rays.

The Boar which was already caught off guard by the explosion and was about to charge at Philip took a few hits before it came back to its senses and protected itself.

Only a few attacks landed, but some of them went for that one particular hind leg and the remaining went for the rest of the legs, making the boar a bit unstable on its limbs.

Sam took a bunch of normal arrows. He didn't take out the liquid energy ones and started shooting the Boar. But he used his spatial element along with the energy manipulation techniques he learned while he was in Sivan's body.

The strategy is simple. Philip is the bait and when the Boar is running towards him, Watt and Jack are attacking the Boar from the rear while Sam is attacking with arrows from the top.

He is responsible for making sure that the Boar doesn't reach Philip, while Watt and Jack has a responsibility of diverting its attention.

The Boar obviously has to shift the focus to someone else. Either Watt or Jack.

When Watt was targeted, Sam and Jack assisted in changing the direction and the diverting its attention.

Philip wasn't able to do much. He was just a bait most of the time.

Time passed slowly as all four of them kept a fair distance away from this creature.

They are nicking its energy and strength bit by bit and the curse is also doing its part. Soon, the Boar didn't have any strength left to move and stood on the spot. It wanted to scream to the sky in agony, but before it could do that, all of them attacked it at the neck to finish it off.

In three more minutes, the Boar died on the spot.

Sam jumped off of the tree and hastily picked up the Boar into his storage

"Come on, let's go. It's not safe here anymore."

He took out the dimensional drifter and all of them left that spot in an instant. They appeared a few dozen kilometres away from that spot.

After checking the surroundings, Sam set up a camp there and took out the Boar. He purified the curse first and removed all and any of the rotten part, before preparing it carefully.

All four of them soon started feasting on it. They replenished their energy and could see the slight improvement in their cultivation, even if it is so minute that it is negligible, they still felt it.

After the content meal, they rested for a while and left the spot resuming their journey. For the next three days, this is their itinerary.

They started the day with slowly moving forward, hunted a couple of beasts that are not too strong for them. Ate them to their hearts' content and finally move on. But they made sure to rest at nights.

They didn't want to move at night.

They didn't use hoverboards or beasts. They carefully walked while watching every step.

Only after these three days, did they finally come near the location they wanted to come. One of the three cities.

The city doesn't have any particular name, they are jumbled City 1, City 2 and City 3.

From the looks of it they arrived near city 2.

"City 2.

Our plan is simple.

Our target moves around these cities on every week. He accepts challenges, gives out medicine and treatment.

He is pretty generous in a way in all of his good deeds.

It to maintain the perfect clear image they built up for the Divine Formation Mountain.

This is our step by step plan."

Sam said as he took out a scroll and he walked everyone through the plan.

"Don't you think it is a bit too risky?"

"Well it is. But these exchange points are also safe points. In a way this place is an indirect territory of the Divine Formation Mountain.

Everyone can kill each other or anything else on the planet, wholeheartedly, but they are not allowed to act rashly and cause any commotion in the city.

Also, there are no space gates here. With the danger and volatility of the nature in mind, they decided it is better not to connect the cities with an easy access.

So, even if we go crazy over at one spot, we don't have to worry too much about it.

Anyway, we need to hide our cultivations very carefully. If anyone finds out our true cultivation, they will slaughter our asses and loot everything we have.

They don't even care about the status and background. This is Grey circle after all. Think of all of the people here as a bunch of low-life criminals that have great strength by chance."

"Are you sure you want to execute this plan, while our target is not here?"

"Yeah. I am very sure of that."

"Then I don't have any more questions. Let's go and bait that guy."

All four of them used the best cloaking equipment they have to completely hide their strengths and faces. They didn't leave a single clue in terms of appearance as they entered the city.

And luckily, it seems like a very normal thing inside the city. There are many people using various means to cover their cultivation up.

Sam and the trio didn't even stand out in this place.

First, as usual, they went to a bar to see if they can find any information. After some great deal of spending in the afternoon, they indeed got some valuable information.

For the next three days, their target won't be coming to this place. They have three days to perfectly execute their plan.

And they also got some information on where they could find some assets to their plan.

At the Trade square.

It is a large building at the centre of the whole city where all the people post notices for missions. That is also the place where the majority of the trade in the city happens. It is like an open market fair.

Sam and the trio went there directly and looked for one particular group.

"Need a fire elemental mage. Astral Plane Consummation Initial stage. For hunting, Tri-elemental Porcupines."

"Need a Warrior skilled in close combat. Hunting Gold fisted ape."

...

Many people are yelling as they stood around the building at various spots. Of course, Sam and the trio ignored all of them and walked into the building. Here it is not as chaotic as outside and the whole building seemed to have different stores.

They walked around for a while and stopped at one of the stores.

Even the store keeper inside is wearing cloak with his face covered.

They walked in.

"Welcome to Chaos Merchant Group.

What kind of service do you want? Post a mission? Join a Mission? Buy or Sell items?"

"Post a Mission. I would like a mission with a full team conjured with only Chaos Merchant group members. All of them should be at Initial stage of Astral Plane Consummation."

"Okay, what would the mission be?"

"To hunt the next of Vermillion Hawks at the cliff nearby."

The shopkeeper looked at Sam for a moment as he paused writing.

"You want to hunt the whole nest?"

"Yes. I would like everything inside the nest. The beasts, the eggs and all the resources they hoard."

"That costs a lot. There is a major risk factor involved and the only reason nobody ever thought of hunting it down is that there is no guarantee it will succeed and if they didn't succeed, the losses outweigh gains by a very large margin."

"I understand, but I have some tricks up my sleeve. The majority of the battle would be done by the mercenary group. Me and my friends will provide support without interfering with the activity.

I will pay 1.5 times the regular market price."

The shop keeper once again paused and looked at Sam again.

"So, you want a premium service? That is possible. But you have to pay half of it in advance.

How would you like to pay? Resources, herbs, medicine, metals, weapons, artifacts, blueprints, techniques, we will take all kinds of things here."

"How about spirit stones?"

The shopkeeper was taken aback."

"You want to pay all of that huge amount in spirit stones?"

"Yes. I want to pay all of it in spirit stones."

Chapter 1598 Medicine

The shopkeeper was beyond shocked.

At their cultivation level, any menial transaction involved dozens of billions and with the requirements, Sam mentioned just now, the price reaches hundreds of billions.

Nobody wants to have that much of spiritual stones, because the energy from spiritual stones can do little to nothing to them at their level and they also need to have unlimited patience to go through all of those stones.

But still, they are the hard currency. They can be exchanged for anything and everything.

"Okay, if you are comfortable with paying with spirit stones, then do so by all means. Fifty percent now, please."

The shopkeeper continued with the transaction and Sam took out the spatial ring and handed it to him.

The shopkeeper briefly glanced through it for a couple of minutes before he started drafting the contract. After entering all of the details that Sam wanted they finally signed it and that too in presence of a Gandharva where they took the oath.

It is kind of a common practice here. Since there is not much of a structural jurisdiction in this place, they have to resort to different ways, and having a Gandharva oath to be the witness of their contract is one of the most common ones.

Both parties wouldn't want to betray each other if mother nature itself is directly after them as a consequence.

So, after the contract was signed, Sam and the trio were taken to a special waiting room, where they waited for the team members to gather.

They were served with some refreshing wine and snacks made of some rare delicacies available in the surroundings.

They waited for over twenty-five minutes and the team was gathered.

It is a team of twelve people all at the Initial stage of Astral Plane Consummation.

The Vermillion Hawk nest also has over a dozen Astral Plane Consummate stage Initial beasts, but Sam is perfectly sure that this would be enough to deal with these beasts.

But there are some modifications in the contracts since the shopkeeper didn't want to risk losing their men.

And of them is for three middle-stage Astral Plane cultivators of the Consummate stage to accompany them.

They won't participate in the battle unless there is a definite danger to the group and if the situation leads to their interference then Sam has to pay for their fee too.

Even though these birds are pricey, they are not worth it for three middle-stage cultivators to attack. They are only suitable for people who are breaking through most of the time.

And since there is little to no organizational culture within the Grey circle, there are not many people who desire these birds unless they are looking for one to make it their ride.

So, unless Sam is willing to pay an exorbitant amount of money in case they needed a backup for surprising events, they are not really into taking this mission.

Sam didn't refute or renegotiate, he directly agreed to all of their terms.

The shop keeper was extremely skeptical about this. Rightfully so.

The three middle-stage cultivators also felt that Sam's confidence is unfounded.

They all went out to the hunt without any delay.

Sam assumed the command and started guiding people to attack after they reached the vicinities. Of course, the three experts that came are standing by. While the trio is in charge of shooting some guns. Even if they are not exactly the sharpest shooters, Sam only needed an approximate landing.

So, whenever a Hawk tried to take one of the team members, it was shot down from various directions with a lot of paralytic poison inside.

The hawks slowly stopped moving. The team of mercenaries who came for one of the most annoying battles in the world was dumbfounded.

Vermillion hawks are one of the most stubborn and lethal creatures. They are so nimble in the air and the speed is completely off the charts. They prepared for a long battle, traps, and all kinds of other stupid stuff. But they were not needed. Their preparations are pretty much useless.

Even the leader of the Hawks that was at middle-stage was slowly taken down by the bullets that the trio shot and the attacks Sam guided the group to make.

They simply won the battle by evening and are not the way to go back to the city.

When they were about to reach the city, Sam suddenly stopped them a few hundred meters away from the gate.

"What do you need? I think our services are over with the death of Vermillion Hawks. Why did you stop them?"

It is one of the middle-stage cultivators who spoke coldly as he looked at Sam.

"It is not a task. I was contemplating whether I should do this at all or not. But I am really impressed with your performance today, so I will gift you with these things."

As he spoke, he took a few injectors, but they are different. They are not the kind that looked like guns, rather these are only six inches long. They are as big as a pen.

All they have to do is injected that into their bloodstream.

At first, the group members obviously refused, but Sam insisted.

"Even if you don't want it, just keep it so that you can help out your friends or family members if they need it."

That is what he said and made them take it. One of them who was injured was really curious.

He just injected it into his arm and all of a sudden, he felt some kind of weird energy that he is not aware of until now coursed through his veins, and before he knew it, we already started gathering requests.

The person who took the shot was stunned.

He didn't expect such an instantaneous result. He looked at Sam in shock.

"How is that possible? What happened to me just now?"

"It is a healing medicine we are developing recently. It is actually pretty useful as the results are instantaneous and it works for injuries, poisons, and curses. At least most of them."

"Are you selling it? If you are, then our merchant group is the nicest place for you to do so.

You can really get a great deal and our boss has connections with a lot of people across the Grey circle. Your product will definitely make people queue up to buy it."

One of them directly pitched the idea to give the supply to the merchant group. But Sam's message was clear. He is not negotiating this right now and the healing medicine for one shot is all they could get at the moment.

They just went to the shop where Sam finished the closing procedures of their agreement and paid everything he needed to pay.

"Pleasure doing business with you. I hope you got what you wanted from this trip."

"Not everything. Bu that is still okay."

Sam replied with a smile casually and took off.

As soon as he left, the shopkeeper hurriedly ran deeper into the shop as he went to check the effectiveness of the medicine himself.

If it is really that good. There is no way he is going to let Sam go.

Chapter 1599 Boss

The shopkeeper took a few shots of medicine from the team as he tested them on himself and on others to see if there are any side effects.

As soon as he realized there are none and the healing effect is indeed that good.

He even checked it against the Poison and curses and the more he tested the more the team members felt aggrieved. They are losing one shot after another for the tests when they could use it in a very perilous battle situation that could even save their life.

They didn't want to waste it.

But the shopkeeper was pretty insistent on testing it out again and again.

Some of them even steeled their hearts and dared to ask him to spare some shots. But he fumed back at them like a dragon spitting fire.

"What the hell do you guys need this for? I am testing them, aren't I? I have to check if they are all worth it before I make a business decision and if they are really worthy, do you really think I will not reward you guys enough?"

Why are you all being misers with just these few shots?

Now, all of you. Give me everything you have."

He forcefully took every shot they had and kicked them all out.

He went on to perform more tests before he came to a conclusion. He needs to find Sam and make a business deal with him.

But even before that, he needs to find their boss and give the message. That healing that is better than anything they have ever created has hit the grey circle.

And he did exactly that.

He went into a different room where a large formation was inscribed on the floor. He sat in the middle of it before activating it.

It is a large-scale communication channel that connects various places on the planet.

He connected with someone through it.

"This better be important. If you are disturbing me for something trivial, then I will fucking kill you."

"No, sir. This is definitely not trivial. This is very important in fact."

"What is it?"

"A group of young men came to our shop today and took a dozen Initial stage Astral Plane Consummation cultivators.

They hunted down the Vermilion Hawk nest nearby.

In the process, our group members got injured and the leader of the young men gave out some medical shots that could be injected into their bodies."

"Somebody gave us medical shots. That's funny." The other voice chuckled as if the person found this amusing.

"Actually Sir, it is not. Because the medicine that he gave us is extremely potent and it is instantaneous. It only took three seconds for it to work and heal the wounds completely. It is so potent and multifunctional that it can be used for wounds, poisons, and curses.

It is actually the best instant medication I have ever seen."

"You can't say those words lightly. You do know what I can do to you if your words are proven wrong right?"

"Yes, Sir. But I did my homework. I took all of the shots from the team and tested everything myself. Poisons, cuts, bruises, and even minor fractures and curses. Almost everything could be cured as long as it is not too lethal and critical.

I am sure that this is the best instant medication that has ever appeared on our planet and in the realm."

"Then, tell me that you know how to contact the person that created this. Because as you already know, on this planet and in this realm. There should be no other person that defeats us in a medical field."

"Yes, sir. I have left a tracker spirit with him."

"That's good. At least you used your brain properly this time. Do you have any other information on this guy? Do you think he is related to that bastard Vardar?"

"Unfortunately, no sir. We don't have any information on him. He deliberately hid his identity and it seems like the means he used are of pretty high quality. I wasn't even able to see his face beyond that cloak even with our formations.

He definitely has some deep background or excellent skill to have something like that in his possession. As for his relationship with the Vardar. We cannot say for sure sir. But there is a possibility that he might be related to him."

"Keep an eye on him. Try to buy the manufacturing method off of him. If he is the one that made this, then make him sign a Gandharva oath that he would never be using this method after he sold it to us."

"But Sir, I think it is better to reach a proper cooperation instead of doing something so drastic."

"What did I hear my dear shopkeeper? Is that advice coming from you on how to handle my business?"

The shopkeeper felt his throat run dry. This is one of the problems with his boss and he instinctually crossed the line without even knowing.

He gulped nervously and tried to remedy the situation.

"Boss, what I mean is that guy would be more beneficial to you if he works for you. You can take away the product but you can't take away his mind. As long as he is under you, he can make new products that are beneficial to you.

In that case, you can also keep better control of him and make sure that he doesn't gather more attention than necessary. You can monitor and influence his growth in the way you want and need."

The Boss stayed silent for a moment and replied.

"That sounds reasonable. We will give your method a shot.

I will be coming in two days. So, track the guy meanwhile and make a conversation with him. Try to make him agree to the deal. You can use my name if you want.

As long as he agrees to the conditions you just mentioned without any resistance, then it is okay. Otherwise, just kill him and take the methods off of his soul."

"Can I allow him any conditions sir?"

"As long as they are not major or too demanding, you can grant him some slack. But not too much. Otherwise, you will have to bear the brunt of it."

"Yes, sir. I will keep that in mind."

The connection was cut and the shopkeeper finally heaved a sigh of relief. He has been panicking the whole time he was talking to his Boss.

He doesn't know how his boss would react as his mood is pretty unpredictable.

"For such a guy to be known as some saintly being. Just how stupid is the world that we are living in right now."

He sighed and stood up to carry out the tasks that his boss told him to do.

Meanwhile, within the city in another corner. Sam and the trio took residence in a property that he just bought.

They are currently sitting down as Sam waved his hand in the air.

A small sphere of dark elemental energy enveloped something that looking a puff of smoke and he started playing with it.

"What is that? Why are you playing with bubbles like a kid?"

Philip asked as he looked at it curiously.

"It is not a bubble. The one inside is a spirit placed on us by that shopkeeper. It seems like he wants to track us."

"So, the bait worked?"

"Of course, it would. I already told you, the boss of that shopkeeper or more accurately, our current target is a massive egomaniac. He wouldn't let someone else roam around in his own territory with a product better than his in his own field of expertise.

He would rather die than let something like that happen."

"So, what if they come in aggressively? After all, if he is that much of a maniac, he might not even reach for a business deal as you wanted.

He might just come for a fight and try to take this force."

"That is a possibility and I am prepared for it."

"How?"

"Making a run for it. That is a late-stage guy, without massive preparations and the Sky tower, there is no way we could beat him at the moment. So, if there is any sign of danger or aggression, we leave this place without a second thought.

But I do believe that there is a chance of them offering a deal."

"Why do you think so?"

Even though the Boss is a maniac like this, his business is still running properly. That means someone is there to make some rational decisions. If that someone convinces him then we would have a chance."

"Let's hope so. If we run away on our first mission after we met again, that would be an embarrassing story for the future."

As he was thinking, Sam suddenly sensed something and said.

"Maybe, your hopes did come true, someone is coming to us and it seems like they are coming in peace."

Chapter 1600 Challenge

Sam stood up and walked to the entrance.

He looked at the shopkeeper who just arrived at his residence and smiled.

"I thought the transaction was complete. Is there any error? I am pretty sure the Gandharva oath would have left me alone if that was the case."

"Of course the earlier transaction was canceled. I am here on a different business here."

"Business? What business could it be? Do you want to buy the Vermilion Hawks from me?" Sam asked as if he is really surprised.

"Can we discuss this over a meal? We have a restaurant that is owned by our group. The chef there is excellent."

"Sure, I can do that. Let me just tell my friends about it though."

"Okay, I will wait here."

Sam walked in and came back after two minutes.

"Let's go."

They both walked leisurely and reached a restaurant. They were taken to a private booth. The shopkeeper ordered the best dishes there and waited calmly until the order came.

He only spoke after they started eating.

"Do you plan on selling your medicine shots?"

"Selling? I don't have a particular plan, the selling and stuff are mostly done by my organization. Why? Do you want to buy some? If you tell me how many you want, I can think about it. If it is not a large amount, I can think of a way for you to get some."

"No, no. I am not talking about a few shots." The shopkeeper smiled awkwardly. He doesn't even know what to say to Sam's enthusiastic and considerate reply.

"Not a few shots? Do you want too many? I can only manage around a thousand or so. If you want more than that, you have to contact my organization directly."

"No, we are not looking for a trade deal for medicine shots. We are looking to buy off the design and manufacturing method of the medicine shot. Including the mechanism of the injector and the medical formula.

Everything."

Sam suddenly stopped eating and looked at the shopkeeper.

"I am really sorry. It seems like you are wasting your time. It is not possible. I can't give it to you."

"Why? Is it because of the organization you talked about? If you don't have enough authority to make a decision, you can just introduce me to someone who can make a decision."

"Well, actually I am the one who can make that decision, but still this trade is not possible."

"Why?"

"For starters, if I sell this to you. I mean a big IF, I am sure you don't want us to make the same product, right?"

"That...."

"I guess I am right. Of course, a product that unique can only be made by one organization. And I can't approve that, because I already approved my own organization to manufacture them. They are well on their way to mass production."

"Mass production? How big is your output?"

"At least fifty thousand units a day."

The shopkeeper took a massive breath as he tried to calm down.

"How are you guys producing that much?"

"As a merchant, you should know better than anyone that you cannot reveal your trade secrets out in the open. That is very unnatural and impolite of you to ask me that question."

"I apologize.

But can you reconsider this offer? If possible, not only would we buy off the products you have developed until now and even if there is any special equipment and personnel you must have prepared for this.

We will bear all of the costs and a profit for you on top of that."

"Mr. Shopkeeper, don't you think you are promising sun, moon, and stars to me? Do you even know what kind of development costs we incurred in the development of this product? Do you think it was easy?"

Do you know how many test subjects died in the process?

Do you know how long our organization had to suffer because of the losses incurred by the research time we could have spent on this? Do you even have enough capital to do that?"

"Of course. I am not just the shopkeeper for that one shop. Currently, I am the most trusted aide of the ruler of these lands.

You must have heard of the name Saint since you have come here, right? He is my direct boss and he wants to buy this from you."

"Oh, Saint? He is actually your Boss?"

"Yes. Please consider selling this to us. I am sure my Boss would like to collaborate with you in the long term if you do this."

Sam stayed silent for a moment and replied.

"I am sorry. But I can't do that."

"Why?"

"This all seems a bit fishy to me.

Why is your Boss, who is known as the greatest healer in these lands, trying to buy something off of me like this? And that too, to take away all of my rights to produce them. Even his nickname is Saint, but why does it seem like an idea of a regular money-grubbing merchant?

As for the long-term collaboration, I don't really have any particular interest in doing it. Because, from what I can see, I don't have anything to learn from your Saint. Clearly, I made medicine that even he couldn't make.

So, even if we could collaborate, I will be on the losing end, constantly."

Hearing those words, the atmosphere turned tense.

The Shopkeeper stopped eating and looked at Sam with a solemn expression.

"You cannot make a claim like that. Saint has been the most competent healer this land has ever seen and he maintained that position over the years. You don't have the right to claim that you are a better healer than him and you cannot gain anything by collaborating with him.

That is nothing short of provocation."

"I stand by my words. I wholeheartedly believe that there is not much your boss could offer me.

What are the things he does have?

Spirit stones? I have a lot of them.

Resources? I don't have a shortage of them.

Background and Strength? We might not be as famous as the Divine formation mountain, but our strength is nothing less than theirs.

Medical expertise and knowledge? I don't know how Saint became known to be such a great healer, but I am pretty sure I have better expertise than him in terms of healing and pharmaceuticals.

The medicine shot you have in your possession is a real-life example. I made that from a scratch and it works so well that even your boss wants to make the money off of it.

You tell me, what do you think he has to offer me?"

The Shopkeeper became stumped. He didn't know what to say. He started moving his mouth, but no sound came out. He is completely lost.

"But I can't have someone just doubt my expertise like this. Do you want me to prove it to you? I can do that.

Let's have a competition. A competition that covers all kinds of healing. Just me and your Boss will deal with it in a civilized manner. As long as I win, he needs to admit that he is not the Saint people call him to be and just a merchant who is trying to make some money off of his fame and popularity.

And if I lose, then not only will I forfeit the rights for the medical injector, I will also give you blueprints for these special instruments I developed in the past few months."

As Sam said, he gave out three scrolls, that had basic description and functionality of three more healing products."

When the Shopkeeper saw this, he suddenly raised his hand and waved it.

"What are you doing?"

"Oh, nothing. It is something that I do when I get excited. That's it."

The shopkeeper looked through the designs and nodded.

"I will inform my boss and get back to you after he made a decision."

"That would be great. I will stay in the same residence."

"Thank you."

Both of them departed. The shopkeeper looked at Sam who leisurely walked away as if there is not a thing in this world that could bother him.

But what he doesn't know is that at this moment, Sam is gulping down hard and sighing right after.

"That would have gone nasty really fast."

He muttered as he went back to the residence. The situation was very dire at that moment because when the shopkeeper raised his hand, it is not just to show his excitement, it is to stop some of the troops that were about to barge in and take care of Sam.

Sam noticed them. Even though they are stronger than him and they are very stealthy, they cannot hide from the crystal table, so he found them and immediately improvised.

As soon as he reached his residence, he waved his hands and his friends came out of the Divine dimension.

"It seems like you were pretty shaken. Why are you so nervous?"