

Creator 1661

Chapter 1661: Bear

Sam is still within the first area of the forest.

Even though he killed a bunch of people here, they didn't cover the whole first part of it. They covered a large part of it, but there is still some area left for him to explore.

And he went to the right. Even though he didn't know what is awaiting him there, occupying that area will make it easier for the base camp or whatever he is building.

Only after he went there did he understand that it might not be one of his smartest decisions. Because there are a bunch of monkeys awaiting his arrival.

As soon as he appeared within their zone, they jumped off of their hiding places within the trees and started attacking him.

Their teeth and claws became sharper and harder to the point that one of the monkeys's caught the reaper's sword with its mouth and he was slashing at that time.

He didn't understand how these creatures are this strong. He wondered what would happen if he let them grow and unleashed them into the world. With enough time, they might change the hierarchy of power within the wilderness of the realms.

And he is sure of it not just because of the teeth and the claws, there is something else that baffled him.

As he slashed his sword to cut down a monkey, it was blocked by its bare flesh.

CLANG

That's the sound he heard when he landed a proper slash on the monkey. There is some sort of exoskeleton that is covered with the fur on these monkeys. It is so strong that Sam almost wanted to tear open the skin of the monkey to see what exactly is underneath it.

But of course, he cannot do that yet. He has to kill them first.

Sam activated metal energy fusion and once again threw a slash at the nearest monkey. The sword finally penetrated through the exoskeleton.

Of course, he didn't manage to reach the innards of the creature, but he did slash open a skeleton and the monkey started bleeding.

Once he got the opening, he didn't even waste a second taking advantage of that. He finished that off with three more slashes on the same spot. Finally, the monkey fell down.

By that time, three more monkeys already reached him from the back. He had to disappear from the spot and attack them.

After a grueling twenty minutes, he managed to deal with these monkeys with a lot of effort. He examined their armors for a while before he moved on. The next creatures are even weirder. They are deers.

They have a weird glow going on in their antlers. They managed to shoot energy beams from them. These energy beams are almost similar to the energy beams Sam usually uses.

When he tried to defeat these deers from long range, they always managed to shoot whatever attack is coming with the help of those energy beams.

They are fast, agile, and extremely precise. No matter what he threw at them, they are taking it pretty neatly.

He had a similar problem with the Crossbow squad. They are good with defending long-range. No matter whatever they come across they would be able to deal with them easily. Even in the past life, he had to narrow them down to a single place before making a move after reducing the distance.

Even now he did the same, using the space element to blink from one spot to another. The same thing went for the deer.

He blinked and slashed the deer one by one bit by bit. Of course, it is impossible for him to kill them instantly. As soon as he blinked and appeared near a deer, another one in the herd started attacking him.

With the precision they had, they managed to almost hit him in every attempt.

If the spatial blink is not fast enough, he would have been severely injured. So, Sam started to focus on wearing the deer down bit by bit. Instead of going to vitals, he was content enough to hit some normal spot.

He focused on cumulative damage instead of one-shot kills.

Sam's black silhouette was the only thing visible to the deer that gathered into a large group in the patch of the forests.

As his figure appeared at random spots within the herd with energy beams flying around everywhere, one deer after another collapsed due to the excessive bleeding, cut tendons, severed limbs, etc.

Soon, the whole area appeared gory with the blood dying on all the grass in the surroundings and lifeless deer corpses all over the place.

He went on to examine their bodies. Then he noticed something. All the deer are not the same. Over a couple of dozen of them belonged to normal deer kind from the earth, but the remaining are slightly off.

He has a feeling that they are normal deer, but their body structure is quite different from regular ones.

He just stored a couple of corpses to examine them later on and focused on moving forward. Now there is only one small area left before he completely cleared the first part of the map.

The place would then be his base. The base he would be using to deal with all the creatures that are present in the remaining three parts of the map.

He went to that last remaining area and met with a bunch of different snakes. Snakes of different lengths, abilities, and species.

Almost all of them are stronger than the snake Sam initially caught when he entered the second floor. He collected the poisonous snakes and started consuming their poison as well, as he improved his arsenal.

He collected all the secreted poison into different containers.

After a while, the first area of the map is completely under his control. He hovered around for a while, examining the terrain and the trees. After that, he started setting up his next plan.

First, he made a few changes to the terrain. The trees, rocks, the earth. He created a largely empty field in the middle. He then placed a bunch of formations in different areas.

He made preparations for an entire day. But it was still not over. It was just the foundation for the next step of the plan.

But before that, he has to go and visit the remaining three parts of the map.

He went to the one on the left. The second part of the map.

This area has a lot more vines and the density of trees is a lot lesser when compared to the first part of the map.

As Sam walked in further, he came across a bear.

A bear walked towards him while growling. There is a large scar on its face and it looked extra menacing.

Sam recognized the bear instantly. It is one of the creatures he was forced to fight when he was a teen. It was a cage match and only one of them could get out. Of course, it is not an ordinary cage match. The cage is as big as a mansion and there are a lot of things he could use at that time.

The match was a grueling one. In fact, the bear gave some of the most menacing scars Sam had on his body in the past life. He almost died that day.

He thought that he would come across this bear once again after he finished the first floor, but he didn't expect that it would be this soon.

Sam carefully stood on the spot as he observed the bear.

The fangs and claws are obviously strengthened. Apart from that, the fur of the bear looked extra lustrous. It is almost glowing which also caught his attention.

He looked for any other possible changes with energy vision. But there is nothing he could see. He took out the reaper sword and got ready to make a move.

As if sensing the intention, the bear lunged forward. It jumped straight at him with all the strength it had.

ROAR

It roared and swung its front claws at Sam's chest.

Sam took a step back and moved to the side. He got ready to slash the bear from the side.

But as the sword landed on the fur, not only was he unable to pierce through the flesh, the blade even slipped away. Even before he could digest the surprise, the bear turned to the side and attack Sam.

He had to use the energy barrier and took the brunt force of the attack. The barrier broke and he was sent flying a bit.

Sam used the shadow element to disappear in a puff of black smoke and reappeared in Bear's shadow.

The bear didn't act surprised. It just turned to bite Sam, which he was barely able to block with his sword.

The sword perfectly lodged itself in between the teeth of the upper jaw as he tried to push the bear back and he noticed the claw coming from the side.

Chapter 1662: Killing the Bear

Sam ducked the claw and moved inwards. He tried to get the sword deeper into the mouth while he moved deeper into the bear's area.

He controlled the sword with one hand while he hit the shoulder joints of the bear. It is like infighting in boxing. Trying to get into the personal space of the opponent and making it impossible for them to attack.

That is the only way for Sam to have a chance. Luckily, he is a cultivator now, and he has enough physical strength to match a bear if not more than what's needed. When he first fought it, he didn't have any of that.

He had to use a lot of tricks. But of course, he used this infighting technique even then, but with a different set of weapons and skillset.

He wore down the bear using all kinds of tricks before he managed to get in that zone and kill it.

Luckily for him, now he doesn't have to do all that and go through so much trouble.

As he struggled a bit, Sam finally got into the proper position he wanted. He used the void style with the sword and the blade vibrated a bit before it hit the teeth.

The teeth were shaken and the bear was stunned. The sword moves forward and hit the bear on the top of its mouth. Sam left the sword there and let the spirit take over while he physically went under it.

The bear that was swinging its claws caught hold of the sword with both of its paws and pulled it out forcefully. It was smart enough to know that letting a sword that is controlled by a spirit so close to its mouth is not an ideal scenario.

So, it acted immediately and pulled it out.

Meanwhile, Sam is almost hugging the belly of the bear. The bear threw the sword to the side and felt Sam's presence. In an instant, the bear hugged Sam and started crushing them. But that is not all, the fur on its body turned into extremely sharp needles.

The needles directly pierced at Sam from all directions. The bear almost curled into ball around him. Of course, it cannot cover his whole body, but Sam was pushed to the ground and the bear covered as much body as it could.

Sam felt the stabbing pain in his back. The needles came in through the gaps of the feather coat. The needles stabbed into him. The spirit of the feather coat immediately closed up making it harder for the needles to stop a bit. Sam who was thinking of handling this with physical strength, stopped in his tracks.

The golden flames erupted. The Bear about instinctually got out of the grip. But Sam activated his earth element. The surrounding ground morphed as it protruded out before it caught the bear on the back from the sides. IT basically compressed and suppressed the back into that small space.

Sam is feeling a pinch of what is happening of course. He had to hold his breath. But he is really making some serious damage.

ROAR *ROAR*

The bear struggled with all its might and was trying to get out of the lock. Sam pushed it back of course.

As the heat of the flames increased, the struggle of the bear increased and at one point, the bear has broken the lock and escaped. It rolled to the side and tried to put out the fire in the most appropriate way possible, but rolling on the ground in the dirt

Of course, it didn't work completely. The golden flames are no joke. But the slight reduction of pain was enough for the bear to turn the rest of the pain into anger and frustration as it lunged at Sam who was about to stand up as well.

It didn't care about any of its injuries and just wanted to destroy him. Sam struggled to defend himself. Surprisingly when he met the blows of the claws with the blows of his own, he was pushed back.

Or in this case, he was crashed into the ground even harder.

The bear took the chance and started smashing Sam.

He has to manipulate the earth quickly and started defending the blows that are coming at him rapidly. As the earthen blocks took most of the brunt, he created an energy barrier to add an extra layer of protection.

"How the fuck is that even possible? How is its strength greater than mine?"

Sam muttered to himself in shock and frustration. He has been cultivating for years and in those years, he was always the best in within his cultivation level. There were times when he whopped the ass of the people who were stronger than him.

But now, a bear who has the same level as cultivation of him is actually dealing him some heavy blows.

BAM

GRRRR

BAM

The bear started growling as it hit the barrier again and again. It didn't even bother if it could hit Sam or not. It just bashed on the barrier continuously. Sam gritted his teeth and thought of how to proceed with this.

He took a deep breath and activated metal elemental fusion before he jumped right up. He went past the barrier and met the swing on the claw with his punch. The spiked fist was stuck back by the claw and Sam was thrown away.

"So, the long range it is."

Sam muttered and started throwing golden flames. The bear is agile enough to dodge most of the attacks, but of course, there were always a couple of hits that he could land.

He shifted to wind blades, lightning, shadow necromancy, etc. None of them worked. He even tried the spatial blink with wearing the bear down. Soon they realized that it is impossible to do that smash directly.

The only thing he can think of that might even chance of working is the spatial energy.

But he doesn't know the close quarters will favor him for the nth time.

Soon, he was overpowered once again and he has to find a way to get out of this deadlock.

After much thought, Sam decided to just fight back seriously. Of course, there is not much he can at this point. Except for the bloodline arts he doesn't see any other attack working to achieve goal.

So, he got ready. But while he was preparing, he was once again pushed onto his back.

Sam was under the barrier and started thinking about how he could make the situation better. He extended his hand and started gathering energy.

He felt pretty exhausted from all of the battle. Not just physically, but mentally as well. He just wants to finish it off now.

So, at the end of the extended hand, there is a lot of energy gathered to one single point. All the gathered energy is chaotic with one move.

BOOM

The explosion blew the barrier away and the bear that was constantly growling was blasted off to the side.

Sam walked to the bear and finished it off. He was panting hard and couldn't help but feel a bit content for getting through this. He didn't expect that one energy beam could do this much damage in such a close range.

As he was thinking about it. He noticed something entirely different.

Chapter 1663: Wolves

Sam ran in the woods like crazy.

He jumped around the trees covering the forest. He even used the shadow element to increase his speed to the maximum. He really wished he could use the space element right now. But it was not possible.

Because the things that are following him right now are very sensitive to the spatial element for some reason.

No matter what spot he picked and he blinked to, the creatures are catching up to it. The shadow element is the best shot he has for now, unless, and of course, he brings up the light element. If this shadow element is not useful, that is all he has for now.

As for the creatures that are chasing him, they are wolves.

They are definitely not all same, they are different kinds of wolves. Some of them are even created in labs in his past life, to bring back some extinct species. But currently, all these wolves formed a single pack and they are all hunting down Sam.

It seems like their senses are heightened beyond imagination. To the point they are being able to sense his location whenever he is using spatial blink.

The spatial blink covers a lot of distance, but it is not immediate enough. Between one blink to another, he has to wait for three seconds at least.

But the wolves are catching up to him in an instant. He should be able to move immediately. So, he picked this element. The shadow element is flexible enough for him to dodge instantly at any attacks that might come at him.

The wolves all seemed to have been blessed with the wind element. As they are running around trying to catch Sam, the wind surrounding them started cutting down the grass and the trees.

It is like a hurricane concentrated into a slash.

He looked at the dozens of wolves coming at him and took out his hand gun.

BANG

BANG

The bullets exploded at the targets, but the wolves escaped. Not even barely, they are completely out of the blast zone.

"Why can't I find beasts like you for my organization? Instead, you are in hell trying to torture me."

Sam muttered to himself as he halted in his tracks. He has no hopes on tiring them out. He has been running for over half an hour and they didn't show any signs of stopping until now. They are not running out of energy.

He could only grit his teeth and face them head-on. Of course, that doesn't mean, he is actually thinking of brute forcing it. He figured out a method to deal with them.

First, he shifted back to the spatial element once again. He blinked from the spot.

The wolves also stopped and changed their direction as they pounced towards a spot while throwing some hard wind blades. Sam appeared on the spot and had to defend against the wind blades with an energy barrier.

The barrier didn't hold the attacks perfectly, but it did buy him some time. A wolf already reached him which he made a move against. Spatial energy gathered at the tip of his fingers as he shot an energy beam at the wolf that opened its mouth at him to take a bite.

The beam was shot right into the mouth.

The wolf of course died as it took the full brunt of the attack with its innards. But Sam was bitten by another wolf on the side.

But when it was biting, his body changed a bit. He has activated partial poison fusion and he used the poison he gathered from the snakes here along with the hydra poison.

The wolf took a bite, but it wasn't able to tear it apart. Sam's flesh is also tough after all. He wrestled with the wolf to get out of the bite while defending against other wolves.

Meanwhile, the poison secreted is being released into the wolf that bit him. It is a bit dangerous as he needs to take a certain brunt of the attack for this method to work, but it is working at least.

The wolf soon saw the effects of the poison and Sam used the spatial blink to disappear from the spot.

Three minutes, one wolf bit his arm, two wolves. That is the current exchange he had.

And that is the only working exchange until now at least.

The injury recovered quickly as he used light elemental energy to keep on dodging the attacks that are coming at him.

Sam kept on fighting the wolves in this manner and he felt lucky that there are no other creatures within his surroundings.

And while he is doing that, in the other areas of hell, the other players are also fighting to clear the tower floors.

The few candidates who came before Sam already finished their first floors just like him and they are fighting in their second floors as well.

There are some people that came after Sam and they are also almost done with the first floor.

Everyone had different types of challenges, different opponents, and different experiences on the first floor of the tower.

But there is one thing in common for all of them though. They all hate this whole experience in hell.

The person who is monitoring this is enjoying it though and ironically it is Hel who is doing that.

At this moment, she is sitting along with the rest of the gods as they watched the endeavors of all the players.

They are all amused and entertained by this. Even the gods that lost their candidates are among them and they are even more entertained.

Zeus looked at the rest of the gods with a blank face and said.

"I propose that we start the first task as soon as all the players clear their first floor. They got used to the operation of the hell and the tower. So, it is time for them to get introduced to the tasks as well.

Also, getting a break from the hell's corruption and suppression on them at the early stage could be useful for them."

"I think it is a bit too soon. We can wait for some more time. Our initial idea was to put the task when everyone finished their first two floors. That way, they will also have similar power levels. The competition would also be on even grounds." Kartikeya replied.

"As you have already seen, every person has a different number of floors in their towers. It was never an even ground. You also know that the towers are basically farming grounds. The strength that they can increase through these towers is completely dependent on the people themselves.

It is not going to be fair and equal competition. So, I don't see any point in keeping that balance at the start." Zeus retorted without any expression.

"I don't understand. Why are you so eager to let this competition begin? Is it because your candidate is in the lead and he has gained the most strength from the tower until now?

You just want to make him take a lead in the score while he still has the chance." Sun Wukong picked his ear as he lazily spoke.

Zeus looked at him coldly, but there is no reaction from Sun Wukong at all.

But as the glare intensified, he spoke.

"What are you looking at? Do you want to have a go right now? I am not Hou Yi, to be intimidated by you that easily."

Hou Yi who sat on the side without any intention of participating in the conversation couldn't help but grit his teeth.

Zeus frowned and his aura changed slightly. But he restrained it pretty quickly and looked away.

"That is good. It is not like I am one of your wives, to be intimidated by such glare and aura."

"One of these days, I will lodge my spear into your monkey face. You better keep your damn mouth shut."

"Yeah, I already told you. I am not one of your wives. I know you really like stabbing. You stabbed everything that is female with your penis. Half of Olympus' population is the result of your 'stabbing' only. So you better keep your habit in check."

Zeus gritted his teeth. He wanted to fight Sun Wukong there and then, but he knew that the consequences are not something he can bear currently.

He shook his head and came back to the topic at hand.

"As I told you guys. The competition is not going to be even no matter what. So, we are going to put up the first task right away. As soon as everyone cleared the first floor of their towers."

Zeus adamantly stuck to his case.

Hel who has been sitting on the side spoke up.

"In a way, what Zeus said is actually as fair as this could be. The strength each player could draw from their own tower is different and also the strength each player could draw from each floor is also different.

If you really want the first task to be fair, it is better to do it now. I am in complete support of this idea."

Chapter 1664: Meeting

"Seems like you got some support Zeus. Did you guys discuss this beforehand?" Sun Wukong of course didn't leave Hel behind.

"It's because my thought actually makes sense. You dumb monkey head."

"Yeah, sure. You are saying that because the woman who thought it was smart to rig a game that's being played by a dozen gods who are all at the top of the food chain, validated your idea. That is really smart of you.

Fucking idiot."

Zeus, clenched his fists and was really tempted to throw them at Sun Wukong's face, but he controlled himself pretty well.

"If you have a valid objection, then bring it forward. Otherwise, just shut the fuck up and let us make the decisions."

"Alright. I don't particularly have a problem with this. If you want to pit those kids against each other this fast, then do so by all means. I don't really give a fuck. But just say it as it is. Say that you want to pit them early so that your fucking player might get a head start with a win when the competition is still easy.

That is all you have to say. Why beat around the bush so much?"

"I already told you. Don't make those wild allegations. You might regret it later."

"Yeah, yeah. You and who else is coming to make me regret that? Just let me know. I am using a new solution for polishing my staff and I need to know how much I am going to need to clean my staff off the blood marks.

The blood marks from beating the shit out of you people."

Sun Wukong retorted nonchalantly.

As they are bickering, The Gambler hand enough and broke the constant bickering.

"Shut the fuck up. Both of you. I am fine with whatever you decide. My vote goes for both of your proposals. You want to start the task, let's do it. As far as I am concerned, no matter when this thing starts, my candidate is going to win.

Because he is always at a headstart."

His words silenced everyone. They all looked at him with blank expressions.

"Do you really need to throw that at our face, dude? You are a god for fuck's sake. You could have just been a bit more humble." Sun Wukong said casually.

"Yeah, whatever. The rest of you guys, just vote on what you think of this proposal and vote. I don't want to waste any more time here. I have things to do."

"Oh? You are working on something new?" Sun Wukong asked.

"Well, my player is going to reach the realms of gods soon enough. I need to prepare a place for him to rule."

"A new place? What do you mean? Don't tell e it is what I am thinking. It would be crazy."

"Well, it is what you are thinking. Why do you think I tamed the Void dragon? It to make the initial process easier."

"So, you are preparing for a realm war of gods and you are announcing it directly in front of all the gods from various factions? Are you crazy?"

"Maybe I am. It is not like I am scared of you guys. Maybe it is about time you know about this. You need to prepare after all. I might find a new purpose for all the troops you have been collection from all the people that are worshipping you over the centuries.

Anyway, you make your decision and just let me know. I am sure all the players can handle that shit. And if are doing this, you might as well, just send them to the task now. You don't need to wait for them to clear the first floor of the tower."

With that, he immediately left the room as if it is nothing important..

Hel looked at the whole scene with amusement. The rest of the gods are feeling a bit odd though. They heard what Sun Wukong and Gambler talked about.

A war is something they didn't have for dozens of centuries. Even the troops they gathered are for regular skirmishes and to manage their territories, explore new territories and just maintain their status as a powerful people.

It is like a cold war. Just to show off to other gods that they have the best troops, they have the best soldiers, they have the best generals.

They even put up some competitions now and then and wager on them.

But now Gambler told them that he is going to start a war real soon to occupy the territory of some other god. This is not new that they could digest easily.

Hel is the only one relaxed for some reason.

"We can think about other stuff later. I need to know if you want to start the task now or later. If you ask me, take Gamblers advice and do it now. From what I can see, this is the best time you can do it, particularly if you want to give Sam a bad start.

This is the only time you will have that chance."

Kartikeya and Sun Wukong didn't like this. Some of the gods are neutral. But there are some who are interested in this.

Hel knew they were interested and continued.

"I have been observing the towers since the start. Sam is behaving just like he always did. He is maxing out on the corruption before even suppressing it and he is storing the corruption in his body.

You do know what will happen if a person suppressing the hell's corruption comes out of the hell and stays in the living world for a while. The corruption is going to act up. His performance will be rock bottom.

You can just take this chance and a lucky candidate will get the first victory in the series of these events. If I were you, I wouldn't let this chance go."

"You really think so?" Hou Yi asked.

"Of course, in fact, he is currently battling with a pack of wolves in a suicidal way. As you have seen. If you pick a proper time, he will be high on active corruption within his body and also injured.

I also saw the list of limitations you are pulling for this task, so it is going to be a really good situation to put him in. Don't think too much and go with it."

"For a goddess who rules a good chunk of hell, you are awfully petty," Kartikeya muttered.

The bickering was about start once again, but Zeus interrupted and proposed a start of the vote.

The gods who lost their candidates also get to vote and with that majority, they voted that they should start the task immediately. Not even waiting until the first floors of all the towers are cleared.

Immediately, without any delay whatsoever.

They really took Hel's advice and decided to target Sam.

"So, are we going to pick lots to decide whose candidate gets to be on defense?"

"No, no lots. We are going to put Sam on defense since Gambler left the meeting in the middle irresponsibly."

"What kind of bullshit is that?"

Sun Wukong asked with a frown.

"Well, it is not bullshit. Generally, we would have presented a case and nominated different candidates, and mentioned why they should be on defense. The god in charge of that candidate will get to make a case against that.

But since Gambler is not here, he won't get to make a case and by default, he is going to lose. Sam is on defense by default."

Hel said and clicked something on a virtual screen in front of her.

Sam's image appeared and the word defense appeared right beside his image along with the task details.

"You are going to be in so much trouble. Gambler is in a mood for war, he might just start that with you."

"Yeah, it seems like you have forgotten that the rule between a celestial realm and hell-realm is not that easy."

"He does have a void dragon. It is going to make it easy for him. Even slightly."

"Let him try. I will be on defense at that time and let him wear himself out. No matter how good he is, hell is my terrain and I have a natural advantage regarding corruption. As long as I don't get out with my troops, I have nothing to lose."

Hel then casually started assigning the roles to the rest of the players at random.

"So, six people on offense and one person on defense. I will go and explain the task details to the candidates. Good luck to all of you."

Hel disappeared from the spot.

She reappeared in her realm within hell.

"We are going to have a lot of fun from now on Sam. I want to see how you will react after you are put in this position. With how much you hate being left behind, you are going to get a bunch of handicaps in this round. Let me enjoy your misery."

Chapter 1665: Limitations

Sam is currently sitting in the forest on top of a tree with his legs crossed.

He is suppressing all the corruption his body has absorbed since he started fighting in the second floor of the tower. Just like how Hel predicted, it is all maxed out. He needs to suppress it all before he can proceed further.

And he is also in the middle of hunting the wolves. They are tenacious. Sam thought he would be having an easier time if he defeated one wolf after another.

But as he proceeded further, he noticed that it is becoming harder. The wolves are getting more vigilant. They are going a bit defensive and they are becoming more dangerous.

He has to fight harder and plan more to get closer to the wolves now.

He got bitten way too much when he caught the last wolf he killed. The corruption is also making it harder for him to recover. That is why, he focused on the corruption first, so that the recovery will be easy.

He sat on the top of the tree and he completely erased his scent with a formation to mislead the wolves. They are also on defence, so he doesn't have to worry too much.

As he was meditating to suppress, he suddenly felt a suction force. He disappeared from the spot and he was brought to an empty space. He hurriedly opened his eyes and stood up. He took out his hand guns and got ready to fight.

Those are the things that put least stress on his body, so that is what he chose. He relaxed a bit, when he saw some other players along with him.

Arkiv who appeared next to him is also injured a bit. Sam goes for Noah and Kumar who are panting heavily. Kumar's spear is dripping blood. It is apparent that he was in the middle of a fight and was dragged here.

They were about to speak, before Hel appeared.

"Hello, everyone. Welcome to your first task.

I know you must be expecting this to be a bit later. In fact, originally we thought to have the first task after you broke through to the Divine Plane Cultivation. But unfortunately for you, we changed your mind.

We figured that it is better for you to get some experience while you are all weak and almost on equal grounds.

So, you are welcome.

Now, I don't want to waste too much of time on you guys. Let's just get to the point.

With this first task, you will be officially entering the Divine realms. Of course, you are going to enter the lowest one of them. People with your power level of Peak stage Astral Plane still mean something there.

The strongest people there barely broke through Divine Plane of cultivation. In the Divine Plane of cultivation, they are at the bottom of the hierarchy.

Of course, it would have been better if you could control some Divine Energy at least, but it would take some time. Best of luck with your efforts.

Before I announce the details of the task, I would like to tell you some rules.

Within this task, you have two types of roles. One of them is defense and the rest of them are offence.

One person among you is going to take the defensive role and they will be playing against the remaining six candidates.

Since the risk is higher for the person who is on defense, they are going to get double the reward.

There are some restrictions placed on all of you. One of them is, whatever your current state is, you are going to participate like that for the rest of the task.

The most you can do is recover your energy to your complete state. Your body wouldn't be able to recover from any injury, fatigue or pain that it is currently in. Whatever corruption you have on your body is going to stay like that.

Even the suppressed one.

You will not be able to use all of your arsenal as well. You will be given a choice to select very few weapons that you have in your possession and you have to stick to them for the rest of the task.

The weapons that you have will be evaluated by a system specifically designed for your competition. It will evaluate the weapons and it will try to find a balance between all of you in terms of weapons and equipment.

You can make weapons if you can. But the limitation is that you should at least be able to design the

Even your storage is going to be limited. You cannot extend your storage by acquiring storage equipment from outside. You have to stick to the ones you are arranged with. Of course, you can carry as much stuff as you can on your body, if they are not weapons of course.

You cannot rely on formations too much. The person on defense has much more leeway in this regard. Your individual allowance will be discussed with you.

None of you can use Divine Dimensions or Divine Dimension fragments. You cannot use the Divine weapons you got from the Palace of Inheritance.

You will get the full details later on when you are sent to the place. There are some minor restrictions left.

As for the task itself, before explaining it, let's go through how the reward system works.

Basically, you are not going to gain anything special for finishing the task, even the loot that you can collect from the task is going to be limited to your storage. The weapons, formations or anything else that you might acquire cannot be used.

You can use some wealth that you acquired, but there is going to be a limitation on that too. That is common for all the tasks.

And when you clear a task successfully, you are going to gain a badge.

The badges will be assigned with a numerical value. That is going to be your score. Of course, the number of badges you earned throughout the whole competition is also going to count.

Apart from the task clear badges, there are going to be some special badges in the middle for meeting hidden requirements.

You are going to be eliminated throughout the contest. For every elimination round, the person with the least number of badges will be targeted. They will have to challenge another player. The challenge is going to be randomly selected.

But most of them are going to be one vs one battle in a certain terrain, that would be discussed when the time comes.

Do you have any questions?"

"Why didn't you tell us about the elimination before? You only told us that we needed to clear the towers. There is no other information about that." Sam asked.

"You were also told that everything from now on is out of your control. If you are complaining about this, then you shouldn't have come here. Your gods already have you a chance to get out of this. From now on, there are no fixed rules. You are going to face a lot of spontaneous situations.

So, just shut the fuck up and follow it. You don't have any choice now."

Sam didn't reply to her. He looked at his own body. His situation is extremely dire. He is injured. One of his arms is bitten by the wolf. Some muscle fibers have been completely torn apart.

Then there is corruption. He was in the middle of suppressing it, but he couldn't do it. It is completely running rampant in his body. He is fatigued, exhausted and aching all over.

Most of the limitations are going to deprive him a lot. If he had all of his arsenal at his disposal, he would have been able to compensate with them for these injuries. But now, he cannot do that also.

For the first time, he is thinking that there is a chance that he wouldn't be able to win the task in this competition.

As if that is not enough, there is a chance that he might fall into a defense. If that happens, he would be in twice the trouble.

At that perfect moment, Hel felt the need to reveal the details about their roles.

"Sam, you are the lucky person who gets to be on defense now. And according to the restrictions, you would only be able to use your reaper sword and one of your hand guns. Even for that hand gun you can only use ten bullets.

Anything more than that is illegal.

You will be sent to an area near an organization. An organization that worships me actually. One of their core members will be blessed by me today with a healing technique.

A unique healing technique that uses dark elemental energy instead of light elemental energy. It a special use case for curses and it can be modified to kill people. It is one of the best techniques that I have ever created.

Your task is to make sure that technique doesn't fall into others' hands.

Chapter 1666 Brig

Sam frowned as he looked at the details that appeared on a virtual screen in front of him.

Hel's narration only irritated him more.

He doesn't know why, but it is very frustrating. But he cannot just stop listening to it. Hel went on.

"There are going to be many people who will try to get their hands on this technique. They might be the people from within the organization, or people from some other organizations.

But you have to make sure that for the time of the task, the technique wouldn't fall into anyone's hands. You are going to lose if anyone else even gets a part of that technique out of that person.

It cannot be stolen from him, copied from him or tortured out of him. You get the point. You basically have to infiltrate into his organization, meet the person, earn his trust and make sure he keeps his trap shut.

Good luck with that.

With your current condition, I think you need it a lot."

Hel paused and gave him a slight smile. Sam shook his head and didn't bother to reply and just went over the details of the organization.

Meanwhile Hel continued to talk with the other candidates.

"The remaining six of you. You are going to be dropped off in six different organizations within the same regions. The six organizations are worshipping the gods within the game. The gods will inform these organizations about the technique that I am going to release.

They will have plans about acquiring it. So, your task is to join the organizations, earn their trust, help them acquire technique.

No matter how much your contribution is there to it, as long as your organization wins the technique, you will win a badge.

And there is not just going to be one winner. The first person to get it will get a badge with higher score. There is a possibility for all six of the teams to obtain it. The badge will remain the same, only the score will be increased.

As for Sam, the score of your badge will depend on how many organization you are going to stop from getting this technique. And since you have an unfair disadvantage against six opponents, you will get double the total score you have.

You have the details of your organizations on your screen, along with a basic explanation of the scene revolving around all these organizations.

Since this is the first task, the first person to get a badge will be given a special badge. And also their score in the first task will be doubled. Those are the details.

You have fifteen minutes in this place to recover as much energy as you can and you will be leaving after that.

"There is no time to prepare?"

Dayus asked in surprise. He is very pleased until now. He was in the middle of clearing his second floor and he was also taking a break. He is in perfect shape except for the slight corruption.

Compared to the rest of the candidates, he is perfectly fine and he can win this with his eyes closed. All he needs is some extra preparation just to make sure that his opponents are going to mess this up. If he has some preparation time to think of a plan, he is pretty sure that he will win this.

While Dayus is thinking of how to win this without any preparation, the other players are running wild with their own thoughts. They don't know how to react to this.

Particularly Kumar and Noah who were in the middle of battles and were dragged here. If they can, they would have slapped the shit of Hel for doing this.

Sam sat crosslegged and started recovering his energy slowly. He cannot afford to think about other players. He is in a very dangerous situation right now. He is injured, his body is corrupt with the hell's energy and he is put on defense.

He cannot use harbinger, his feather coat, his executioner sword, his hand guns, energy cannons, energy beams and even formations.

He is with a major handicap. He highly doubts that the double points and extra badge are worth the trouble he is going to go through.

With those thoughts running in his mind, he felt the suction force again along with the rest of the players. He reappeared in a forest on a rock.

He looked around. It is an empty patch without any living thing in his sight. He looked at his finger. There is a storage ring on it and he doesn't even know how it came there. Inside the ring, he found his sword, his hand gun, ten bullets and the rest of the space is filled with spirit stones. Which are not exactly much.

At one point Sam is sure that he spent more on a single meal. He is flat broke. He felt poorer than when he appeared at Lava rock village. Then he barely had a dozen or so spirit stones. He felt richer at that time that he is now.

Along with those things, he also got some information in his head. The location he is currently in, the route to the organization he needs to visit, the information on the person who is getting the technique.

There is also a bit of information that was not revealed before. He cannot use his beasts. For some reason, he felt that there is some emphasis on it. He looked around in the surroundings. He has some extra clothing in that limited storage. He tore off one of the robes and bandaged the wound on his arms.

He then slowly started walking towards the city where the organization is settled. While doing he went through the other task details once again.

The time limit is seven days and there is an invisible timer in his head and it is already running.

The person who he is meeting is actually considered a middle-aged man. He has a daughter who is a full blown adult and even considered one of the prettiest women in the whole region. The guy is named Brig and his daughter is Yana.

Brig has some really great reputation in that area. He is the best person with curses. He can make them, remove them, he even created some of his own curses. He is a force to be reckoned with.

He is a nightmare to the rest of the rival organizations in the surroundings. Not just for his fighting prowess and the curse ability, because he is also a great teacher. He trained some great students. They are part of the organization he is currently in and they have some mean reputation as well.

Over the years, many people from the other organizations in the surroundings. There are many people who wanted to be his students too. But almost all of his students stayed in the organization, there are very few people who he trained and left without joining the organization. But still, they are considered honorary members of sorts and help the organization out whenever their teacher asks for it.

Now a days there is a third scenario that is happening constantly that is related to the old man. That is people coming to him and asking his daughter's hand for marriage. In fact, the six organizations, are constantly sending the prospective candidates to woo her.

Brig didn't want to go through all the shit with these suitors and left the decision to his daughter. Yana is currently trying to pick one suitor and one of the main things she put out there is that she doesn't care for the status of these six guys and she is open for anyone to try and woo her.

This gave some courage for a bunch of guys in the region. Anyone with a notable status, notable talent in the dark elemental energy and anyone with a shred of ambition and greed came to try their luck.

They all have their own intentions. But one thing in common is that they all want to get the advantage of being the son-in-law of Brig.

From all of this information, Sam understood a few things. The target is a very well known person. He is a peak stage Astral Plane cultivator and he can utilize Divine energy, on the verge of breakthrough to the Divine Plane cultivation.

Most of the suitors are in middle and late stage of Astral Plane Consummate.

There are a lot of people revolving around Brig and Yana. It is not going to be easy to deal with all of them.

This also gave the other players another advantage. They can use the suitors as an excuse to make their way near Brig and Yana. With the news of the technique being released reaching to the other clans, they are going to become aggressive with the wooing approach while trying some other methods behind their backs.

He has a lot to plan. But a lot less time and a lot fewer resources than he wants.

Chapter 1667 Information

Sam felt a bit overwhelmed thinking about all of this.

On top of that, he started feeling the raging hell's corruption in his body. He could feel the energy running rampant and hurting every single cell in his body. Every body part suddenly became painful to extreme.

They also became very sensitive.

In fact, as he is walking, his body is hurting with every step and his feet felt like they are being pierced by a thousand hot knives at the same time.

He gritted his teeth and endured the pain as he slowly reached the city, even though it would have taken much lesser time if he used his spiritual energy.

But he didn't do that, because he didn't want to find out what will happen, if he uses his energy with all the corruption running rampant. With the way things are, he only wants to use the energy whenever it is absolutely needed, which he assumed is going to be a lot.

By the time Sam reached the city, it has already been a couple of hours since he came and the challenge started.

And as soon as he arrived, he saw that the whole city is in chaos. Everyone is running around. Except for some regular citizens and some shopkeepers, most people are running toward the most luxurious estate in the city.

The estate of Sura Clan. The place where Sam needs to go and find a way to get in touch with the star of that clan Brig. He doesn't know how he can do that though. He needs to get more information before he can do that.

He slowly made his way towards the inn to see if he can fish any information out of a waiter. But when he estimated the costs, he knew that he wouldn't be able to afford the price for the information.

He can barely order a meal. For a waiter to give out the information, Sam needs to appear a bit wealthy, carefree, and powerful. And that image only comes when Sam can order a table full of food and be able to leave a generous tip.

With his current state, it is impossible.

But he still wanted to try his luck. He wanted to see if there is any inn where he doesn't have to spend much money but could still get some info.

There are basically two options for that. An inn with too many people that it would be impossible for people to not slip some info, or an inn that is way too cheap. His preference was the latter one, which seemed to be an impossible thing to find.

So, he moved to the former one.

He went to the inn that was closest to the estate. The restaurant of the inn is bustling with the crowd. There are many people who went in and came back with a disappointed expression. Sam got in. He walked around a couple of times as if he is trying to sneak in as soon as the seat is available. But he couldn't find any.

He came out and along with some basic info.

One of the pieces of information that could help him is that the clan has gathered for an emergency meeting. Every clan member in the surroundings of the city has rushed for this meeting and it was announced two hours ago.

He has a feeling that this is related to the technique and the task. The second piece of information is the reason that all the people gathered here is also to gather info.

They want to know what the emergency meeting is about. Apparently, the Sura clan has different types of emergency meetings. They are categorized based on how they are handled and how secret they should be and how important they are.

The meeting that was announced right now is a very important one, but it doesn't need utmost secrecy, it is good news and there is a possibility that they might announce this after the meeting is over.

When these kinds of announcements are made, even if people don't get all the information, there is always something they could get from the people that exit the clan immediately. Particularly the young masters.

If the announcement is about some task, treasure, war, expedition etc, the young masters will need some extra personnel, the clan might recruit some new members, and these kinds of offers might just fly in.

So, for that reason, people don't want to miss the opportunity. They just come first and try to occupy the nearest place for the estate.

The only reason they are not blocking the road and the front gate of the estate is because the clan made very strict rules about it.

Sam pieced this all together from just a couple of rounds around the restaurant. He understood one thing from this. As long as the information is top secret, he can get almost anything he wants to know, based on these people's reactions.

The last piece of information that helps him at the moment was the information regarding the gathering spot for the late comers and the poor people who cannot afford the restaurant and other establishments around the estate.

It is an alleyway right beside the road leading to the estate. They stay there and swoop into the main road as soon as the young masters come out.

Sam went to that spot as soon as he learned and tried to find some people who might just slip some information to him.

He scouted the location of the whole alleyway before he went to a corner. There is a guy who seemed to be in his late teens standing with a sword in his hands. He is extremely nervous and looked around all the time.

He is fidgeting his fingers over the sword handle. He is trying to calm down and might have thought that his sword helps in that.

Sam could sense a very refined sword aura from him. He could also see that the sword is a work of art.

He walked towards him casually. But his body is emitted a faint sword aura that is refined, pure and sharp to the extreme.

The young man noticed Sam instantly and was dumbstruck for a while.

Sam looked at the young man and the sword.

"Nice sword."

Sam said casually and stood beside the young man.

"Th,, Thank you."

Sam nodded without saying anything.

"It seems like you are interested in swords, do you have one yourself?"

The young man asked. His nervousness has died down a lot. He looked a bit calmer and more natural.

"I am pretty sure, you know the answer to that. Sam said as he waved his hand and took out Reaper."

The young man looked at the reaper sword in awe. Not just him, there are a few people in the surroundings who came to take a look at it.

"Oh my god. Is that blood iron and meteorite sand? Where did you get your hands on those? They are very rare and expensive to afford.

Are you one of the six clan members?"

The young man's voice went really down to the point that it seemed like he doesn't want anyone else to hear it.

Sam smiled and shook his head.

"No, no. I am just a wandering cultivator. I came here to rest for a few days, but it seems like the town is going through some commotion. So, I just stopped by to get some info. At first I went to the inn near Sura estate. But it was full and I came here after I heard someone saying that many people gather here."

"Oh, so you are new to all of this? You don't know about the Sura clan traditions?"

"Sura clan traditions?"

"Yes, the clan has a very rich history. The tradition of the clan is that no matter what new thing they are doing, starting new businesses, expeditions, hunting, war, or anything else that impacts the clan, the rule is for the clan to send out the youngsters to take the lead and finish the tasks to make the Sura clan's name proud.

All of the youngsters need to find some people that are needed for the task. They have common core teams of course but based on the terrain, speed, and risk of the mission, they always hire some external people.

The reason why people hold on in the inn is that there is more than likely a chance that most of the youngsters are there.

The youngsters are likely to go there to clear their minds and get some chance to meet some new people who might be helpful.

The second ground is the place we are right now. The place where people get access to the main road. They will look at the path taken by the youngsters and guess where they might be heading.

After getting some idea about that, people will try to fix some appointments and butter them up."

Chapter 1668 Kach

"So, you are also here to figure out where some of these young masters are going and butter them up?"

"Yes, but my goal is different. I am actually here to take something one of the young masters owes me."

"A young master of the Sura clan owes you? That is news. Can I ask what it is? If you don't mind sharing of course."

"No problem. It is not big deal. There is a small conflict between the young master and my clan. It was partially my clan member's fault as they behaved a bit out of line. They should have treated him accordingly when he visited us.

But we are located deep in the woods and we don't have much interaction with the rest of the world. The young master should have explained his identity well.

The dispute went overboard and the young master used his subordinates to overpower the clan before taking a sword from us. I am here to apologize to the young master and get the sword back. That sword has been in our clan for generations. It was the sword our founder used to establish our clan.

It is something we worship and it should only be wielded by a member of our clan."

Sam didn't speak for a second. He looked at the young man who had a nervous smile at the start. There is a sense of purity in his face that didn't match the refined sword aura he had.

With the sword aura that was definitely built by endless practice and numerous battles, there is no way this guy is a nervous young man and along with his cultivation, there is no way that this guy let a young master of the clan walk all over his clan.

When someone is this pure with his mind and this good with battle, he would kill anything and everything that comes at the things that he truly loves if push comes to shove."

"Were you not there when this incident happened?"

"No, unfortunately, I was out training some of the kids from the clan. If I were there, I wouldn't have let this happen. I would have just apologized to him then and there and resolved the issue."

"Yeah, I am sure you would have done that."

"Where are my manners? I forgot to introduce myself. I am Kach. Nice to meet you."

"Nice to meet you too. I am Sam. May I know which young master it is that you have to talk with?"

"The Ninth young master of the clan. The latest student of Brig. He is also a Dark elemental swordsman. I can understand why he took our sword."

Sam couldn't help but smile. It seems like even with all the drawbacks he had, he still has some luck left.

The person he spotted is linked to Brig. Even though it is a long and far-fetched way. He is sure that there is a chance that he would be able to get in touch with Brig.

As far as he is concerned that is going to be a tough and time-consuming part at the start. He needs to infiltrate and meet the guy one way or the other. Now, if he sticks to this guy, there is a chance that he could easily meet him.

It might be a rocky start based on how this situation goes. But at least he will have a starting point.

As they waited, some people started coming out of the estate. The young masters exited the gates one by one along with their entourage.

And as they passed by the gathering points, the people from the entourage started yelling something.

"We are looking for a Healer. Anyone who is an all-rounded healer. Comfortable with poisons, injuries both internal and external, curses and infections. Meet us at the young master's guest house."

This is the announcement made by one of the subordinates of the third young master.

"We are looking for a curse specialist."

Another young master's subordinate made an announcement.

The announcements are even done in the alleyway Sam is waiting in.

With every passing announcement and bunch of people immediately left and followed the young masters right away.

Sam didn't expect this kind of scene. Even when Kach was explaining this, he was very skeptical. After all, with all the experiences he gathered across the realms, he has never seen a city full of people trying to be lackeys of one clan.

Not a single clan gathered this much active attention from so many bootlickers at the same time.

He couldn't help but feel amused by all of this.

As the time passed, the entourage of the ninth young master finally came. The young master is riding on a horse-type beast. The horse is not really much bigger than a normal horse, just a tad larger. Sam recognized the horse right away.

It is the Blood Demon Horse. A very high grade one. The rest of the subordinates also followed with different horse-type creatures. But they are all not that higher grade in terms of bloodlines.

They made announcements as they passed by and when they reached the alleyway, Kach immediately made a move.

He didn't battle of course. He just went and stopped the entourage.

"Ninth Young master. Kach from Meadow clan greets you. I would like a few minutes of your time."

He introduced himself loudly catching the attention of everyone around them. The subordinates, the people who want to bootlick the young master, and the people who are just waiting for a scene, are all looking at this.

Ninth young master looked at Kach and frowned. The name Meadow clan brought an unpleasant expression to his face. That is a bad memory he doesn't want to revisit.

But he has to keep his dignity as a young master.

"If you have anything that you want to talk about, reach out to me through the proper channel. You cannot just interrupt us like this."

"I am sorry, young master, but I have been trying to reach out to you through proper channels for a month now. But it seems like your subordinates are not doing their jobs properly. I was unable to meet you no matter how hard I tried.

I hope you can understand why it came to this."

Everyone became silent. It is a perfect definition of the pin drop silence. Except for the growling of the horses.

Sam crossed his arms and stood there calmly as he watched the scene.

"There must have been a mistake. Manager, what do you have to say about this?"

The ninth young master asked one of his subordinates. I will investigate as soon as possible, young master. It hasn't come to my notice yet. I will also schedule an appointment with Sir Kach this evening."

"I hope you are okay with it."

"No need for an appointment young master. I am here to apologize to you. So it is better if I do this in public."

As Kach spoke, he knelt on the ground, while he offered his sword up with both of his hands. The most servile manner a proud swordsman could behave.

Ninth young master was stunned.

"This is the first sword forged with the lava from the Western Volcano. The sword is made of Dark Adamantine, a perfect metal for dark elemental swordsmen like you. It has manifested a spirit naturally and has seen countless battles.

When you visited my clan a few weeks ago, you had a slight scuffle with my clan members. I understand that my clan members might have crossed a line with you. In the scuffle, you have brought back our heirloom which is justifiable since we caused your anger.

I apologize to you on my clan's behalf now and I would like it if you can be forgiving enough to give our sword back and in return please take my sword as a token of my apology.

For generations, the heirloom has been passed on from one clan head to another and it is our duty to protect it as a homage to our ancestor's sacrifices.

Please, find the kindness in your heart to accept this."

Kach bowed his head and offered his sword.

Sam is a bit surprised, but he is also impressed. It is hard for a person who dedicated his life to a single art to bow like this. Particularly, a swordsman giving out his sword like this.

It has been a while since Sam came across a person like this. But when he looked at the Ninth young master on the horse, he didn't have the same feeling.

Because he came across the people like the Ninth young master all the time.

"I don't know what you are talking about. I have never visited the Meadow clan. In fact, I barely heard of you guys. I think you are mistaken. I am not the only Ninth young master in the surrounding cities. It must have been someone from another clan.

Please verify who it is. But since Meadow clan's forest comes under our territory, I will assist you in any way I can. Please make an appointment for that though. If you don't mind. I have to leave now."

Chapter 1669 Battle

Sam was not surprised by the reply.

He has expected this completely. In fact, this is the most generic reply he could think of. The behavior, the fake smile, the diplomatic attitude, everything is expected of a young master.

He looked at Kach to see how he would react.

The young man still had that humble smile on his face.

"Ninth young master. You might have forgotten, but exactly three weeks and four days ago, you visited the Meadow clan.

One of our youngsters who has been practicing nearby has caught your eye and when you tried to make some conversation, he made some snide remarks. You wanted to punish him, but he retaliated.

Which is indeed a bit out of line.

The dispute escalated and you were angered because of the situation and brought the heirloom along with you. I have confirmed the story again and again and I even saw the memories of the person who started the dispute.

So, I am sure that it was you who visited the Meadow clan.

I can understand why you might have forgotten it though. Meadow clan is indeed not one of the major powers and we stay secluded. So, there is a chance that you might have forgotten about us. It is understandable.

But please return the sword.

I have a responsibility to bring that sword back to the clan as its guardian."

The manager whispered something to the ninth young master.

The young master looked at Kach and said.

"So, you are the Guardian of the Meadow Clan. From what I know, the Clan guardian is a core member of the clan and responsible for the security of the clan leader and the reputation of the clan.

That means you must be careful with the claims you make. If you bring a disaster because of your accidental mistakes like accusing someone of something that they didn't do. So, please be careful and for any other help, make an appointment as I said."

As soon as he said these words, he prompted his horse to move forward.

Kach stood up and his aura changed a bit. The horse looked at him and sensed something is wrong which made it halt in its tracks.

Kach put his sword and the sheath back on his hip. He lost the servile attitude he had before.

Sam smiled and looked at the Ninth young master.

"You can only play for so long with a nice guy. I wonder how large this is going to blow up. Would you be able to handle it?"

He muttered to himself and waited for the show to go on.

"Ninth young master. I heard your reputation. Being a talented star of the Sura clan, with a blessed and resourceful life, you are the student of Brig one of the most talented and reputed people in the whole realm.

That is why, I bowed my head, surrendered my sword and pleaded you with absolute humility. But you, denying that the incident ever happened, makes me question your reputation. The fact that you stooped so low as to threaten me just reinforces that doubt.

I hope you can give our sword back. I am telling that I will not be leaving this place without sword and I will take it by hook or crook. Whatever means necessary."

He held the hilt of his sword and looked at the young master in eyes when he finished that sentence.

His aura changed, His face became blank. There is no hint of smile that was there a second ago.

The sword aura is raging, but in a controlled way.

"How dare you threaten the young master?"

There went the idiot of the group. The idiot that is always in a group. He impulsively made a move to fight with, Kach.

Kach drew his sword. The dark black blade created a sword ray that went for the neck of the opponent. But it disappeared right before it made contact.

"This is a warning, sir. Don't attack me. Or I will be forced to make a move as well."

His voice became colder and he held the sword in an attack stance. The surrounding air turned.

Ninth young master looked at the surroundings. Everyone is staring at him while whispering among themselves. He felt humiliated. It is embarrassing. By now he believed that everyone of them thought that he did whatever Kach claimed he did.

Even if that is true, he is obviously not going to admit it. The things he did at the Meadow clan are not something he is proud of. And most of it happened because of his pride anyway.

Actually, the way Kach approached this whole issue gave him a lot of face and a proper way out. All he had to do is gracefully say that he accepted the apology and the Meadow clan is off the hook and return the sword.

He would be viewed as generous and kind. And might even have had a chance to recruit a good subordinate. Just from the looks of it and sampling that aura, Ninth young master clearly knows that this guy is really good.

Sam looked at the changing colors of the young master's face and smiled. He knew the situation would turn out this way. These young masters always make the stupidest decisions because of their pride.

As if proving his point, the ninth young master ordered his subordinates.

"Call the city guards. Arrest him."

One of his subordinates called for the city guards while the rest of the subordinates made their move. Finally, it is time for Kach to reveal his cultivation completely.

The peak stage cultivation of Astral Plane Consummate level and there is a hint of energy that Sam vaguely experienced before. The energy that he sensed when he was fighting the Divine league members. The Divine energy.

The person in the peak stage of Astral Plane Consummate stage would get to sense the Divine energy bit by bit and when they finally and the amount of Divine energy their current body can handle before they broke through kind of indicates the potential and the strength they will have in the Divine Plane of cultivation.

When Sam sensed the Divine energy of this person, he felt overwhelmed in a way. He came across Divine energy when the divine league tried to infiltrate and damage his soul network.

Even Gail has activated some of his Divine energy, but this one is pure, denser and more powerful.

Ninth young master's face changed. He never expected that a clan who he pissed off at random has an expert at such level. That is very close to his teacher's strength. Now he is really regretting not taking the easy way out.

An expert of such level would have a high position in any large clan, if he wants. For such a person to be on his knees and begging him was already a great thing. Compared to the stupid pride of the

Young master, it is way too much of a step down and now he is sure that things are going to get out of hand.

Kach held his sword and pointed it at the young master.

"I would like to avoid a fight if I have to. Please cooperate and give me my sword back. We can put this behind. I will apologize for my impudence and leave."

Ninth young master contemplated for a moment and wanted to take the deal. He just got accepted as the student of the Brig. There is a lot at stake. He doesn't want to risk it for a sword. Even though the sword itself is quite special in many ways.

As he was thinking, someone already made a move making this last chance go away.

One of his subordinates got down from his horse and attacked Kach.

"I already told you. I don't want a fight. But you are adamant about this. I am not going to stop until I am done with whatever I am tasked with."

Kach stabbed at the opponent. The sword seemed to have ignored the attack that came at him and directly went for the kill. The opponent is killed and Kach didn't stop there. He jumped forward with no intention of stopping.

Ninth young master's manager got off the horse and blocked the attack along with four more subordinates. The four subordinates and the manager are all at the peak stage. The manager even had a hint of divine energy.

All five of them surrounded Kach as they attacked together.

Kach blocked their attacks and went on a bit defensive. He is stronger than five of them individually and if their teamwork isn't so good, then he would have already won.

At least that is what Sam saw from the side.

But still Kach is handling himself pretty well.

Ninth young master was horrified as the battle went on. More and more people are gathered around and soon the city guards he called also joined into watch.

Chapter 1670: Help

Kach was very confident until the City guards came.

He was also holding back a bit. But once they came, he didn't bother holding back anymore. His divine energy riled up and he slashed at the manager that came at him and it seemed like it is a special move.

Sam looked at the slash in surprise as it cut through the air leaving a black line behind and by the time it reached the manager, the black line spread into darkness.

The surroundings seemed to have dimmed a little. The light at the immediate surroundings of the black line was devoured by it as the dark layer spread.

The darkness then manifested into a sharp sword that followed the sword ray and stabbed at the manager.

The manager looked at the dark sword that came it and felt the death gripping his throat. He could almost see his grim reaper following behind that sword to take his soul away.

He was lost in that daze and was about to die.

Everyone stopped their breaths for a second as they looked at the manager. They all thought he is going to die. Even the other subordinates didn't attack. The spectators all held their breath in and looked at this with amazement.

They never knew that a person who could perform a move like that, a person who could wield power like that is within this region. And a person who doesn't even have any fame.

The more Kach revealed his abilities, the more surprise people became about how he begged Ninth young master. With this strength, he could directly fix an appointment with the clan leader of the Sura clan and get this settled.

But he was humble and polite enough to give the Ninth young master so much respect, which he obviously didn't deserve.

As all of these thoughts passed in everyone's mind, nobody moved. Except for one person.

BOOM

When everyone thought that the sword will pierce through the neck of the manager, some external force came out of nowhere and stopped it.

Sam and Kach looked at the city guards who just arrived.

The only person who made a move and didn't stop in awe after looking at Kach's attack.

The force destroyed the sword.

Kach held his sword and looked at the city guard.

Ninth young master also came out of his daze and looked at the City guards that came.

"Fucking hell."

He couldn't help but curse at his bad luck. The city guard squad that came is the one squad that he wish that didn't come. Because the squad is under the payroll of a different young master. And both of them happened to hate each other's guts.

He is sure that any chance of this dispute being resolved peacefully has gone out of the window.

As he thought this, the city guard squad captain yelled out loud.

"HOW DARE YOU CHALLENGE THE AUTHORITY OF SURA CLAN AND ITS YOUNG MASTER? HOW DARE YOU START A FIGHT IN THE CITY. I DEMAND YOU SURRENDER ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY GUARD AND THE SURA CLAN.

OR GET READY TO FACE YOUR DEATH."

The squad captain's voice resounded around. The rest of the city guards stood beside him with their hands crossed. They are all looking at the whole scene with amusement.

They are confident and from the looks of it quite powerful. As for how powerful they are, one can judge from the expressions of the people around.

The leader himself is a peak stage expert with divine energy, while the subordinates also seemed to mostly peak stage with some of them being late stage.

Sam thought that peak stage cultivators would be somewhat uncommon even if they are not too rare. But they are way too many. He came across too many people within a few hours.

Kach looked at the City guards coldly. Any trace of humility and respect he had was gone. He is enraged. But even that rage is refined and suppressed. He is cold and calm. Which means he is dangerous.

The battle became intense. Sam watched as the dark sword rays flew everywhere and cut down the opponents one by one. First the small fries were eliminated. The city guards are obviously unable to protect those small time subordinates.

But soon Kach started feeling a bit overwhelmed with all the people ganging up on him. Particularly two opponents with peak stage cultivation and divine energy.

And all the extra subordinates are not exactly pleasant for his eye.

Squad captain and Manager started cooperating to subdue Kach.

But Kach himself is a tough opponent and he started caring less and less with each passing second making him a bit hard to deal with.

"Squad, eight wall prison." The squad captain spoke all of a sudden and all of the squad members changed their movements. They all ran away from Kach and reached eight specific spots. Some spots are occupied by just one person while others have been occupied by multiple people. But all in all, they gathered in eight points.

They all held their weapons while making some weird handsigns and stabbed them into the ground. Everything happened in a flash while the manager and the squad captain kept Kach busy.

Blade rays formed from the eight points and created walls around a certain area. Within that area, the manager, squad captain and Kach were stuck.

The blade rays moved continuously maintaining the wall as it is. And from it came a blade aura that surrounded Kach and tried to suppress him. Even the air within the formation became sharper and Kach already felt the difference.

The spiritual energy within that area seems to be completely out of control. It seemed like it directly went under the control of the blade aura creating the formation.

When Kach swung his sword, the sword ray didn't form as densely as before and it definitely didn't pack the same power.

On the other hand the swords of the manager and the Squad captain became powerful.

"Seems like this guy needs to take out some of his hidden cards, otherwise, things wouldn't be good."

Sam muttered to himself and as if he is on cue, Kach stopped his movements. An energy barrier formed around him as he looked at his opponents.

"I didn't want to use this technique. You brought this up on yourself. You should have just given my sword and I would have already been on my way back home. Why do you need to make this worse than it actually is?"

He spoke out loud looking at the Ninth young master.

His body slowly started blowing with dark energy. He activated Partial dark energy fusion and this dark elemental energy also surrounded the sword.

The sword seemed to have grown in size a bit as the dark elemental energy raged uncontrollably.

"Dark Sword Arts, Wielder of Death."

He muttered as he swung his sword.

It is just a casual slash, but it contained the power that even made Sam vigilant that far away. The sword ray is manifested out of pure death energy. The surroundings seemed to have been sucked out life.

The rocks on the ground deteriorated into sand, the grass on the side was dead in a second, people in the surroundings felt like their breaths are being taken away from them.

The two opponents of course also felt something on a whole different level. Both of them took out tokens and broke them.

A large energy barrier formed around them and they managed to block it. The barriers are broken completely and they were barely able to stay unscathed.

Kach didn't stop there though, he lunged forward and started fighting back. He became aggressive, with the black sword. He looked like the death has manifested into human form and started dancing in front everyone.

The two opponents who suppressed him until then were suppressed themselves.

The spectators were glad that they stopped for the show. The city guard squad and the personal security team of a young master are both being dealt with a noname guy who doesn't have any fame to his name.

They knew that whatever the outcome that day is, this whole thing is going to blow up into a large matter that is going to be talked for a long time. This is going to be a black mark in the history of the clan.

Meanwhile, the news started spreading. People started gathering more and more. Soon it reached another squad that made its way. Ninth young master looked at them and finally heaved a sigh of relief.

A squad that is completely neutral without any influence from any politics. He ran to them and asked for help.

"Captain, the matter is blowing up too much. Too many people have died. Please stop this. You don't need to arrest that person. Just suppress them first. Make them stop fighting. Please."

"That cannot be, young master. We need to arrest him. No matter what the reason he started this, we need to arrest him and investigate the matter. I understand that your reputation is at stake here, but rules are rules.

Squad, suppress them all and arrest the person who is causing a ruckus."