

RE-BIRTH OF A GENIUS. CREATOR/DESTROYER

Chapter 331: Battle-Spirit

Sanjay looked at the Ice dragon which trapped Sam.

But it is not as transparent as before. He could only see Sam's silhouette, which is surrounded by golden flames, and the surrounding ice has turned into water. Only the outer shell of the dragon was left, trapping the water which is turbulently moving within the shell making Sam's image extremely blurry.

Sam looked towards Sanjay and punched straight towards him.

The turbulent water current punched a hole through the icy shell and made its way towards Sanjay. The water is extremely hot as it emitted vapors.

Sanjay felt a sense of crisis as he looked at the jet of extremely hot water. He made some hand-signs and created an inclined ice-wall and continuously poured his spiritual energy into it.

The water which hit the ice wall was diverted upwards, even though the water is hot, Sanjay's continuous reinforcement of the wall with the ice elemental energy made it hard for it to melt.

The whole battle-ground suddenly turned damp as the water rained down.

Just when the stream ended, Sanjay couldn't even get enough time to relax as he felt a huge physical force hitting the ice wall.

The wall collapsed as he was blasted away.

When he was sent flying backward, he vaguely saw Sam making his move.

Sam squatted until his things are parallel to his ground and leaped into the air.

He extended his body to the full and arched his back as he placed the arms above his head and forearms facing the sky. He followed a parabolic trajectory and his whole body was covered with wind elemental energy.

He condensed all the wind elemental energy towards his arms and joined both of them as he smashed the elbows towards Sanjay's chest.

The wind elemental energy condensed into the form of an elephant and the dual-elbow strike represented the elephant striking with its trunk and Sanjay felt the full brunt of the attack on his chest and his ribs caved in.

He was crushed into the ground and a huge crater appeared.

Sanjay felt his bone crack and he felt extremely dizzy as he stood up. Before he could come to his sense, he felt a sudden sense of danger and became alert.

Sam leaped towards Sanjay to take the lead. The duo went through the exchange of blows just like the previous time, but this time, Sanjay was barely able to hold himself in place and he has to use the ice element to enhance his defense.

After this exchange, Sanjay took a step back and created a distance between himself and Sam.

He wiped the blood off of his lips and looked at Sam with trepidation. He was never pushed this far. He is gradually losing the upper hand and already taken some serious strikes.

He has a vexed expression as he closed his eyes and took a deep breath and tried to calm down.

Suddenly, the spiritual energy in his body turned chaotic, and slowly his body started turning into ice.

He is performing elemental fusion. Apart from that Sam also sensed another dense spiritual energy erupting inside Sanjay.

The energy is extremely dense like mercury, even though he couldn't sense it clearly, he knew that it is not good news for him.

At this moment, the faction-head, the ancestor, and Sanjay's uncle had solemn expressions.

"He removed the limiter." The ancestor said in an extremely frightful voice.

Sanjay completely turned into ice and he opened his eyes as he looked at Sam.

"This is the first time, I am using my full strength, I will use my strongest form to defeat you." He left those words and his whole aura raged.

The atmosphere became terrifyingly cold and the surroundings turned foggy. The fog started condensing behind Sanjay and it took a flood dragon form. A battle-spirit formed. The audience turned excited.

Some of the core members know about the limiter that was placed on Sanjay. The limiter acts as a reservoir that stores spiritual energy in a dense state.

This given excess energy for the cultivator for a short period of time.

Sam looked at Sanjay with a smirk. He could feel the energy rumbling within Sanjay. This burst of energy can give Sanjay enough strength to battle an Initial stage Nascent stage cultivator.

Even he felt his whole body trembling with excitement. Nicholas was the only rival he has in this world, but now he felt like battling an equal after a long time. The only difference being, he never wanted to kill Nicholas, but he wanted to desperately take that head off of Sanjay's body.

He wanted to battle until only one of them left. He didn't go through the elemental fusion, for him due to the unique nature of the bloodlines and the effects they caused on the elements they provided, it is not feasible for a long battle in his current level of cultivation, he has to master the control over the fusion if he wants to have any idea of using the fusion.

But he didn't think, that he needs to use these to battle the current Sanjay.

Sanjay made his move and the dragon battle spirit moved along with him.

The two chain sickles are also covered with the ice as he started making his move, but Sam didn't move from his spot, rather he changed his stance as he squatted a little as he made a claw with his hand and folded it to his chest making it parallel to the earth.

Just as Sanjay swung the chain sickles and the dragon spirit dove towards him, he struck with the claw straight at the chest.

The neutral spirit energy turned into a lion form and it struck the claw at the dragon spirit.

Both the attacks struck together and eliminated the impact as both of them were blown back by a few steps.

Sam's smirk turned into a grin as both of them started exchanging blows, and for every attack, Sam threw at him, the spiritual energy was condensed into an animal. Lion, tiger, fish, monitor lizard, horse, elephant.

Every move was inspired and adapted from the respective animal and none of them is a spiritual beast.

And none of them is a battle spirit. This is just the manifestation of his moves indicating the effect of those animals in his battle techniques.

As both of them are continuously exchanging blows, the whole battle-ground was filled with ice and frost.

Sam also started feeling pressure and this due to the sheer amount of energy behind Sanjay's moves.

But he didn't feel a little bit anxious, rather, the grin turned wider and wider. A spirit started manifesting behind his back and it slowly started turning into a human silhouette.

The face and the body are still a bit blurry just like what happened with his fight with Nicholas, the spectators all looked at him in disbelief. They never thought that they could witness a battle-spirit today and they happened to see two of them.

Even though one is a little blurry, they knew it is only a matter of time.

Sanjay, who also noticed the improvement in Sam which is making it difficult for him to land a clean hit, took a step back and noticed the blurry battle-spirit. The manifestation of battle-spirit for a single individual represents the person being in his best state.

Sanjay felt an intense sense of crisis and prepared to make a final move. But this time, his upper garments are completely gone and the situation is not that different for Sam.

Sanjay started condensing all the spiritual energy into his arms, Sam who is also panting with wounds all over his torso also started condensing the spiritual energy in both his claws.

The battle-spirit became clearer and clearer and there is only a faint trace of blur on its face making it hard to recognize whose face it is.

As for the body, they could clearly see a silhouette of the human, with a bare upper chest which is completely full of scars and wounds. There are metallic claws mounted on his fingers and he is wearing a pair of black pants.

Sam and the image are extremely similar, except for the taller build of the person in the spirit and the face, there is no visible difference. Even the stance was similar.

Only Sam could recognize the person in the battle spirit or maybe Ling Tian would recognize. This is the image of Sam in a previous life.

He himself manifested as his own battle-spirit. But the spectators are looking at in extreme confusion, they couldn't recognize the person, after all, they have never even heard of battle-spirits taking humanoid form, they might be in form of beasts, natural objects like mountains and trees, clouds and even some man-made things like musical instruments, weapons and so much more.

But the humanoid was never seen.

Sanjay was also surprised, but he was too focused on defeating Sam, that he doesn't have time to react to this. He kicked his legs off of the ground as he threw the two chain sickles into the air.

The two chains coiled together as they formed a dragon figure manifested by spiritual energy.

The battle spirit and the spiritual energy dragon, both made their way towards Sam.

Sam also kicked his ground as he leaped towards Sanjay.

His battle spirit tackled the two dragons and dug the claws into their heads and pushed them to the ground.

While Sam himself dug his claws into the chest of Sanjay as he tried to tear open the chest diagonally.

He looked at Sanjay directly in the eyes as the sickles were slashed into the shoulders and tried to enter the body.

He was bleeding like crazy, but there is not a single expression of hurt, his face is as bright as sunshine as he dug his claws to rip the heart off.

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As, Sam was about to finish off Sanjay, he felt a sense of crisis and dodged to the side. The chain sickles that are entangled to him were dragged away by him.

The huge flood dragon slammed its maw close as the chains at the other end got struck into its teeth.

As the flood dragon crashed into the surroundings, Sam felt his body being dragged away and only felt a little better when the sickle on the left side tore open the flesh and fell down.

He tried his best to balance himself to get away from this situation, but he could feel the flesh which was being gradually torn on the right side extend to his lungs, at this moment, he couldn't help but ask for help and just like that, a golden crow came out of nowhere as it landed its three legs on the head of the flood-dragon and crashed it into the ground.

All the ice and frost in the arena suddenly became water and there is not even a sight of a single snow flake.

The audience who were still in the shock of Sam's battle spirit and the awe of the finishing move of the battle finally recovered, they couldn't even recover early enough when their future heir was being forced to death.

But when they saw the majestic mythical bird which came out of no where and put the high and mighty flood dragon in place, felt their eye balls pop out in disbelief and all of them had goosebumps irrespective of their positions and cultivations.

The Golden-sun crow, the mythical beast which they had only seen in conceptual images has come to live right in front of them.

Many people in this planet might have some difficulty recognizing the beast, just like Arc who couldn't identify it immediately, but these people are from the

Beast faction and they have most valuable and extensive information in their hands about these mythical beasts.

If none of them recognized, Sam would have been surprised.

"Protect Sanjay." The Faction-head yelled and some nascent stage cultivators made their move as they brought Sanjay to safety.

The flood dragon is groaning as it looked at Sam hatefully. The claws of the golden sun crow made it bleed and the heat is making the dragon sweat and with those icy scales it almost looked like an ice dragon melting.

But the dragon is only looking at Sam, not giving a damn about Sam.

He let Yanwu, release the dragon and after that the dragon didn't take issue with Sam as it went towards Sanjay and started sharing its energy.

Dragons inherently have great healing and it started sharing the blood-line bond. The bleeding stopped and the bones slowly started forming, bit by bit.

Even with that it would take weeks for this genius to heal and no one knows how many months he would take to become as strong as before and no one knows whether he would be able to get over the loss.

But none of the members of the beast faction are concentrating on this aspect at this moment. The mythical beast is the only one in their eyes and they don't want to take them off of it.

Sam recalled Yanwu into the dimension and just as he was about to say something to Watt, a loud voice halted him in his tracks.

"How dare you try to take the life of our future-heir? This offense is punishable by death. Everyone, capture him."

Faction-head yelled at the top of his lungs and his voice sounded really concerned and one might really mistake him for caring, if not for the fact the greed that was present in his eyes is fully visible to everyone.

Sam looked at the Ancestor and said.

"Is this the worth of your promise?" He asked in rather sarcastic tone, the old man's face blushed as he didn't dare to make eye contact.

He doesn't want to lose face in front of a junior and added with the fact that he just said that he owed him greatly, made him extremely embarrassed. But he couldn't help but hesitate a little, when he thought of the golden-sun crow.

The Faction, head took advantage of the situation and was about yell and order, but Sam's next actions, made him forget to say what he wanted to say.

Sam took out a metallic cylinder and held it high up in the air.

This is the same type of metallic cylinder which was found by him in the Resting Place.

All the core members who has the cylinder felt a bad premonition as they felt their hearts skip a beat.

Before they could react, Sam injected a small amount of spiritual energy and the metallic cylinder popped open, but there is no scroll, spirit or anything, a small fog appeared out of it and disappeared into the atmosphere.

They were all puzzled at first and felt that Sam might have mastered the technique in the container, they never gave a thought whether the whole thing is fake or not.

Only until, they noticed the movement in the cylinder which was kept in their robes or pockets. After all, everyone is carrying the container, so that they could feed the spiritual energy to it continuously.

When all of them looked at the container, they felt their minds go blank as a black coloured vine suddenly crept out of it and expanded to all over their body and pierced straight into their heads, hearts and dantians.

They targeted the three main important aspects of a cultivator and a human. One of them is their heart, the spiritual consciousness and the final one the spiritual core.

The vine crazily started drinking the spiritual energy.

The faces of everyone turned pale. The only people who doesn't have this are the Ancestor, Sanjay's uncle, the non-core members and Sanjay himself.

The higher-level cultivators are barely able to resist it, but the spiritual energy was still leaking away, but the nascent stage cultivators, felt their world go dizzy, but they were forcefully stood up by the vines themselves.

All of this is Sam's trap. The fifth founder and the whole treasure and fortune is utter bull-shit he created from the info he was able to gather.

The vines are called Devouring vines. They devour the soul, the spiritual energy and even the blood. But these do have some drawbacks, they need any of the three to grow up and they have to come from a living being other than flora.

But in the stage of infancy, they wouldn't be able to hold their own against the beasts in the wild, so they are never the worries of any cultivators.

But Sam used this quality to his own advantage.

He created these containers with the same principle as the spatial device which was given to him by Vickers when bought the Crystal Bamboos.

The only difference being, the fact that they can grow in their level when they are still inside when the spiritual energy is injected inside.

For the week he stayed within the Resting Place, he created this place and only said this to Philip and Jack on the last day and lied to them about finding it.

He did so, because of the fact he knew that Arman is sending his info to the Beast faction with that special butterfly.

After all, he is the best when it comes to gathering info and he left a shadow mouse with him since the time he came to him with the thought of needing the thunder prison.

He felt doubtful, because he knew that there is no way for Arman to naturally know the importance of the thunder prison and after all, he only knew so much info because of the exchange he made with the Avatar Sanchez.

And he learned about the source being the spirit of the blade and made this plan carefully after he received the info about Arman trying to giveaway his location to the beast faction.

So, he carefully kept the fact about him plotting all this from Arman.

As for the vines, they are bred and grown by the cultivators of the beast faction themselves and now it is the same energy which they crazily and delightedly delivered to the vines, which is trying to kill them.

While they are trying their best to take control of the situation, they felt strong spiritual energy getting into a turmoil at the place of their residences.

The turmoil started spreading in different places in just a few seconds and that included the libraries, their beast farms, court etc.

The Ancestor who was about relieve the Faction-head of his pain, suddenly diverted his attention towards the other areas.

This is what Jack and Philip are doing.

Sam took out the harbinger while, Watt took out the silver wind, they both hovered outside in a blink of an eye, but just before they were about leave the Battle-ground, Sam three an destabilized energy cell in the middle-of the Nascent stage cultivators, who almost made their move on him.

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Chapter 333: Dark Soul Raven

Sam didn't dare to stay anymore. He knew what would happen if he dared to stay here.

His energy cells destroyed many nascent stage cultivators and even managed to damage some Pre-transcendent stage cultivators.

After throwing the energy cells, he took out a sniper rifle and aimed at the back as he moved forward. He didn't care what is in the front for now.

He started shooting energy cell bullets as he aimed at the cultivators.

Some Pre-transcendent stage cultivators and transcendent stage cultivators tried to resist the Devouring vines and started pursuing Sam and Watt.

The Faction-head who has the most resistance towards the Vine wanted to make a move as well, but Sanjay's uncle blocked him and looked at him and the Ancestor coldly.

"If both of you want to make a move, then you can do so after going through me."

With that, he raised his aura and got ready to battle.

"Hmph," The Faction-head snorted and said. "Do you think, just by stopping us, you can save him?"

With those words, he took out a token and crushed it.

Sanjay's uncle and the ancestor both widened their eyes and yelled.

"Are you crazy?" Both of them wanted to make a move, but the faction-head forcefully tore the devourer vines physically and spat out a mouthful of blood.

He closed his eyes and soon his body also started releasing dense spiritual energy. He released his limiter.

"Today, he has to die. No matter what price I have to pay, that bastard who has the same blood as 'that' person." His expression was twisted and he laughed crazily.

At the exact moment the faction-head crushed the token, the whole faction rumbled and huge spiritual energy started raising from the hunting grounds.

Sam and Watt who are running arrived at the residence area and reduced their altitude. Philip ran towards them and Sam let him into the divine dimension.

They increased the altitude again. There are two large formations active in the place and one of them is the formation arranged by Philip and Sam the night before and another one is the formation that was laid out by the beast faction to increase the spiritual energy.

The two formations are overlapping each other and that is the reason for the spiritual energy turmoil.

After increasing their altitude, Sam aimed the rifle at two spots and shot energy cell bullets.

They are the cores of the two formations and the spiritual energy started roaring.

And the whole area under the influence of the formations is under turmoil and all the infrastructure has been crushed and reduced to rubble.

The pursuers who arrived a second later to the same spot felt their whole body under the loss of control and they fell off of their beasts and some Pre-transcendent stage cultivators even died on the spot.

He picked Jack at the next spot and some shadow mice in the next few places.

The same thing repeated at every place in the faction. The whole faction's infrastructure is being damaged.

In the middle-of-the streak, Sam suddenly felt a sense of crisis as he looked at the mountain in the hunting grounds.

The Space-gates are near that place and he has to go there, but an aura which is far more powerful than anything he has ever experienced was being released from that place and the aura seemed to have locked on Sam and Watt who are in the forefront and nearest to the place.

A huge bird flew up to the sky.

It is a raven and the dark elemental energy is being completely seething out of it without control.

It is a Consummate realm beast and seemed to be a higher level at that.

Its aura is completely locked at Sam and Watt. Sam halted in his tracks and dragged Watt into the dimension. He took out a transference scroll and activated it without thinking the direction is going to move.

He disappeared from the spot and arrived at a new place a thousand kilometers away from the faction.

He doesn't know where he is at, but it seemed to be an empty island within the Beast-faction's territory, but to his surprise and trepidation, he couldn't feel safe at all.

He still felt the same sense of crisis and this time, it came from above.

When he looked upwards, he saw a huge raven eye appear in the sky and it is locked on him.

This is a Raven of Dark element and soul attacks are its specialty. He used the transference scroll just because he doesn't want to get locked on by the raven.

But it seemed that he was too late.

He took a deep breath. The raven is creating its attack and he has to get ready for this. He took out the shadow sword.

"Oh? Dark Soul Raven? Kid, you seemed to have provoked the Beast faction too badly."

Sam didn't reply to that comment and said.

"I want your help."

"Kid. You are not strong enough to wield me. You have to reach the Transcendent realm to even fight normally, even now, because of my self-control, you are able to carry me. Otherwise, you would be dead for sure."

"I have an idea."

Sam took out the thunder prison and started modifying its structure and the thunder prison started changing its form into a metallic arm, he threw the shadow sword into the air and made the thunder prison catch it.

The energy within the thunder prison helped him take off the burden on him as he wielded the shadow sword through it.

"Not bad. But you won't be able to escape unscathed." The sword spirit said in a solemn tone.

"I know."

The might of the thunder prison mainly depends on his own power. The higher his individual power, the more he would be able to unlock the abilities of the thunder prison.

The current thunder prison is still not enough to eliminate the backlash of the shadow sword, he has to take some damage.

The thunder prison hovered in the air as it held the shadow sword, the sword is extremely small in the gigantic hand and to his surprise, the sword condensed the dark elemental energy condensed it into a sword shape in the middle of which the sword stayed.

The sword image fits perfectly within the arm.

Sam looked at the raven eye which is about to attack and Sam could feel his soul tremble to indicate the beginning of the attack.

He slashed his arm and the thunder prison followed his movements which made a dark colored sword ray fly towards the eye.

Sam felt his spiritual core tremble and a small crack appeared on it. He spat out a mouthful of blood. The eye disappeared but Sam wasn't completely safe from the attack, he felt a soul-searing pain.

He clutched his head with his arms and knelt down to endure the pain.

Meanwhile, the Dark soul raven which is in the middle of the beast faction spat out a mouthful of blood and it became extremely furious.

It closed its eyes again and an even larger eye appeared in the sky above Sam.

Sam's face turned pale and he couldn't help but feel despair, the raven is stronger than he thought and he is not strong enough to make another attack on the eye, so there is only one thing he can do and that is to find a way to escape.

He took a deep breath and sat down cross-legged. He endured the pain and made sure that he doesn't lose concentration. Since, he doesn't have any use for the transference scroll at the present situation, he only has one way for this.

He doesn't want to use this, but it seemed like he doesn't have any other way out of this situation.

His spiritual sense entered his spiritual core. There is a small crack in the transparent core, but the spiritual energy is not leaking out of it and he can see that it is healing slowly, it would take months to heal at this pace, but at least, he still has a way out of that predicament.

Now, his spiritual sense entered the dark element within his core and he could. The bloodline of the shadow mouse activated as he activated the bloodline technique.

The surroundings are completely filled with dark elemental energy as a huge shadow formed under him.

The raven eye which was about to attack looked at Sam in confusion. Before the raven could recover, the shadow's swallowed Sam and he disappeared from the spot.

Sam felt his whole world turn dark and every where he could see, there are only shadows present. This is the shadow world, he used the bloodline technique, the shadow world transference.

He didn't stay idle and the dark elemental energy started moving violently, all the shadows wanted to attack Sam who is an extremely foreign entity.

But he didn't care about that only focused on moving. The shadow element made him move like a flash as he moved from hundreds of kilometres in a second.

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Chapter 334: After Math

Sam never felt this overwhelmed in his two lifetimes.

As he moved within the shadow world, he saw the shadows of beasts, cultivators, and even some trees that gained sentience.

Every shadow exerted huge pressure on him and he could see the shadow energy corroding his body.

Even his soul and the spiritual core are under pressure.

After ten minutes, Sam finally exited the shadow world.

He reappeared at another end of the planet within some woods.

His body is bleeding and all the cells are corroded by the shadow element, but the spiritual core is absorbing the shadow elemental energy from the body, albeit slowly.

Sam, felt like the whole world is spinning, this bloodline technique is not something that can be used lightly, this took a toll on his body.

This is the price he had to pay for trying to use the power of the beasts. Entering the forbidden realm.

That is not the place or a position a puny human should tread on, but he broke the rules and made it, that is why he never used any of them. The shadow mouse is the bloodline with the lowest quality, he dared not to think what would have happened if he used the forbidden move of the other three beasts.

He was barely able to stand up. He let Philip, Watt, and Jack out before collapsing again, but this time, he lost consciousness.

Watt caught him in his arms without letting fall to the ground. The three of them looked at the surroundings.

They could feel that there is not a single powerful aura around. They don't know what exactly happened in the Beast faction, but according to the plan Sam said previously, they should have been able to leave the place safely and arrive at the vicinities of the thunder god temple.

But Sam suddenly sent a mental message when he threw Watt inside.

The Dark soul Raven is not in their plans at all, they don't anything about the presence of the Dark Soul Raven, so they didn't plan anything at all.

So, Sam said they might not be able to arrive at their initial destination.

They are glad that they are able to escape this. But when they saw Sam's state, they are extremely amazed to the point they don't know how to react to the situation.

This is the weakest Sam has ever been.

Nothing has forced him to this state in this life.

Watt carried Sam, as the three of them surveyed the forests, they need to find a place to stay, they could easily survive in this level of the forest, but Sam couldn't stay here in this condition, they need to find a clean place for him to recuperate.

Their first goal is to find the traces of any human settlements, and if it is not possible, they would create a small clean, and closed space within the woods.

Meanwhile, the Beast faction is a Complete Mess.

The whole faction is completely crashed and demolished, there is not a single intact space in the whole faction and no one would believe that this place is one of the six major powers.

Near the hunting grounds of the Faction, the Dark soul Raven is completely demolishing everything and everyone within its reach as if it has gone crazy.

It is extremely angry and furious because Sam got away.

The Dark Soul Raven is one of the trump cards of the beast faction, it is an extremely high- level beast, which was sealed in those hunting grounds with

painstaking efforts, a person who is not at the level of the head, wouldn't be able to control it.

The beast was to be let go only when the whole faction is under grave threat, where mutual destruction of the enemy and themselves would be a best-case scenario.

But now, the Faction-head destroyed the seal let the beast go just so he could kill Sam.

The Faction-head, Ancestor, and Sanjay's uncle. All three of them who are in the middle of a confrontation heard the intense roars of fury from the Raven and stopped their dispute.

They made their way towards the Raven only to see all the destruction happened in the way, there are many dead bodies on their way and some of them are in an extremely mangled state that they felt like puking just by watching them.

They are the bodies of the people who are stuck in the spiritual energy storm caused by the overlapping and destruction of two formations.

They felt their throats run dry as they saw the scene, the destruction of the whole faction which was painstakingly built for centuries, there is nothing left.

Even twenty years ago, when that person destroyed the place, there is not this much destruction within the faction, because the fight didn't involve the infrastructure and the weaklings of the faction.

Only the powerful people are either killed or severely injured making the faction extremely vulnerable, but now, the top experts are not dead completely, only the cultivators who are Pre-transcendent stage or lower are dead, some transcendent stage cultivators are dead too, but they are extremely low in number as many of them tried to get rid of the devourer vines.

But most of the transcendent stage cultivators and the Consummate cultivators are completely okay.

But all the things which represent their heritage and status were completely destroyed and there is no way for them to recover this.

Almost all the Nascent stage cultivators are completely dead, it is a huge loss and it would take years for them to recover this loss, only the grand realm cultivators who are still inside the colosseum are spared.

Apart from them, all the candidates from other places are killed.

The most bitter one is the Ancestor, he has never thought that this would happen, he never thought that there would be a day when he would have to see this type of situation in the Beast faction again.

Twenty years ago, he swore to his brother who died in the hands of that person that he would never let Beast faction reach the same state as it did that day when he was still alive, and within twenty years, he could only say that he didn't keep his word.

The whole faction turned upside down.

When they reached the raven they felt even more shocked because the left eye of the raven was gone, the socket is bleeding non-stop as the beast ravaged everything in its sight.

They looked around for the remains of Sam and his friend Watt, but they could find them, which made their hearts skip a beat.

They never thought Sam would be able to escape this situation, the raven has a habit of binge-killing, so when they saw the faction-head undoing the seal, they thought that Sam who is nearest to the spot will definitely die.

But from the looks of it, Sam not only escaped, but he also took out an eye of this Raven.

Now they understood why this raven is in so much rage. All three of them joined hands and controlled the raven before sealing it again, but this time, the seal was not placed with the Faction-head, because he is not the Faction-head anymore.

Sanjay's uncle became the new Faction-head, while the former faction head was relieved of his duties.

They focussed on dealing with the aftermath of this incident.

The news couldn't be kept under wraps. All the other five major powers got the news about the whole situation, a young man who came out of nowhere brought the Beast faction to its knees.

The other factions couldn't help but feel happy, they have an intense rivalry and that applied to all areas such as the number of disciples, elders, members, territories, and so much more.

They decided on the resource distribution by competing in all these aspects.

But now, a major power lost more than half of its power and all of that happened because they offended a young man.

This made them lose their reputation so badly. There is no way, the people under the beast faction would feel secure and join the faction as disciples.

Many people join the faction as disciples for their reputation, status, and the extra layer of safety that title provides, but now a young man took lives of elders and disciples all the same without any difference right under the noses of the four Consummate entities, there is no way they would feel secure joining this faction.

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Philip, Watt, and Jack searched for a few hours but couldn't find any traces of human life near them, even the beasts are not high in number.

Sam is still unconscious and his body has several black patches all over, they are oozing black foggy aura.

Except for the small patches, his skin turned pale and the worst part was, the wounds on his shoulders and the chest. He didn't get enough time to heal his wounds.

He entered the shadow world with those wounds on and the corrosive energy completely entered the body. They looked visibly dangerous. They didn't even dare to move Sam randomly lest they increased the damage. They couldn't understand his physical situation, but they do know that this is a life-threatening crisis.

In fact, they are right, if not for the presence of Shadow mouse bloodline, Sam would have already died as soon as he entered the shadow world, his current cultivation is nowhere near qualified to get him entry into that world.

He defied the rule and now this is the price he has to pay.

His current condition is indeed extremely bad and this is due to the combination of the damage he took.

First, the spiritual core was slightly cracked. Although the damage is light and it is healing bit by bit and the problem wouldn't become threatening until he overexerts himself, the problem is he did overexert himself, and that too he entered the shadow world immediately.

Just like any other body part, when injured, the spiritual core would also heal if it was given enough rest and nourishment.

But before that nourishment could reach it, the shadow world corrosion impacted his soul and body. Just like any environment, the shadow world also

rejects and repels the foreign entities, and the soul and body are the foreign entities for the shadow world.

Now, Sam's soul and body are somewhat corroded and the shadow mouse bloodline is slowly absorbing it.

If the spiritual core has been in its best state, this would have been faster and to make it worse, his spiritual energy reserves are almost empty with the battle, thunder prison, and bloodline technique.

The recovery of spiritual energy is taking a long time because part of it has to heal the wounds on his body which is taking longer with the shadow corrosion, it is almost a paradox and everything was linked.

Only time can make one of these aspects complete and break this chain. Until, then they can only give him some low-level spiritual energy recovering pills to make sure he would take in the spiritual energy.

They don't dare to give high-level pills in fear that his body wouldn't be able to absorb the energy and suffer a backlash.

Now, they are in middle-of-nowhere completely unclear of Sam's condition.

They decided to make a temporary residence in the forest and stay there temporarily and take turns in scouting the area to find any traces of society.

Meanwhile, the news about the destruction of the beast faction spread among all the major and minor powers. At first, only the higherups, knew about this, but now even a small servant came to know about it.

And the worst part is Sam's name and age are extensively publicized in the gossip.

There are many stories about Sam's origin and how much damage he really created. Some said, he came for his rightful place as an heir and some said

that he went to the beast faction purely to damage because of his ancestral feud.

Some even said that he went there to steal something and some said he went to steal a bride.

The stories got more and more ridiculous.

But none of the stories confirmed his death. Although many of them thought that it is almost impossible to leave a faction alive after creating that much damage, the fact that a young man can kill more the seventy percent of the faction members is also deemed impossible until they heard this story.

So, either for the sake of leaving a possibility of achieving that impossible feat or just for the sake of these storyteller keeping some sort of mystery, Sam's death was not confirmed.

Many people are dying to know whether he is dead or not. Some of them to make sure that he is dead if not make sure to make him dead, some of them try and recruit this guy and some of them are just curious.

But there is one person who is extremely worried.

That is Arman.

By now, his continuous and anxious speculations led him to believe that Sam knew that he is monitoring him and he was extremely anxious and afraid at the notion of facing his retaliation.

He started thinking and making preparations for his own safety and to his delight, he is still the genius of the thunder god temple and he is still trusting the temple to involve if push comes to shove

Then, he was hit by the news about the destruction of the beast faction and the names of the perpetrators.

When he heard the name of the main perpetrator who made the attack, he literally felt his legs shaking and he couldn't even utter a single word.

He felt so afraid that he a Grand realm cultivator almost caught a fever. He holed himself up inside his room and didn't come out till then.

He desperately wanted to know that Sam is dead.

If Sam is still alive, he couldn't feel safe, but at the same time, he doesn't want Sam to die. Because he needs the thunder prison.

If Sam is dead, then the thunder prison would go into the hands of some other person possibly some higher-level person in the beast faction.

It would make it hard for him to take it from his hands and that would only become more difficult if that person knows the significance of the thunder prison.

As he was contradicting himself and living in his own thoughts, he got a summon from the temple-head of the thunder-god temple.

He was shocked by this. He did the temple-head many times, but every time there was an occasion or a reason.

So, for the temple-head to call him at this moment, he has some bad premonition.

When he entered the private meeting room, the temple-head went straight to the point.

"You should have heard of the news about Sam."

Arman became nervous, but he did his best to hide it and nodded his head.

"Then you should know you might become his next target."

Arman shuddered and said.

"Wh..What do you mean Sir?"

"Do you think you are the only smart one in the whole thunder god temple? Do you think everything is safe as long as no one saw meeting someone else and secretly made a deal with Grand elder?"

There are very few things that are able to hide from me and even fewer people who are capable of hiding them. You chose the wrong spy. You should know that there are people called double-agents who do the spying job."

Arman felt his throat run dry, he doesn't know what to say or do.

Should he admit it? Should he make a run for it? Or should be blatantly denied it? Before he could decide it, the temple head continued.

"If I am not wrong, Sam is not as ignorant as you and would have already known about your actions and you being safe and sound means, he used you to serve his own purpose.

Now, you have outlived your usage, so you will be his next target.

I called you to say, that to deal with a person like Sam who could deal with this much damage to a major power just for the sake of genius is not practical, so if the situation arises, the temple wouldn't side with you."

Arman started to panic; all the preparation he had made revolved around the fact that the thunder god temple would keep some resistance to Sam.

Even if they don't fight with him, they should at least hinder him a bit, after all, he believed that Sam wouldn't possess the same tricks, he used on the Beast faction all the time.

How does he know that? Come on, how can someone possess those kinds of dangerous tricks on them all the time?

But the reality slapped him in the face. The temple is not going to side with him, they don't even want to get involved much less hinder Sam.

As he panicked, the temple god said.

"There is only one possibility that you could escape this predicament, but I don't know if it is a definite possibility and it is a hundred percent feasible."

"Please do tell me. I will do whatever it takes to be safe."

Arman saw a strand of hope in that despair. The temple-head turned around and there is a faint smile on his face which Arman completely failed to notice.

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Chapter 336: Finding a Safe Place

The temple-head doesn't need to turn around to take a look at Arman to know how desperate he is.

He spoke casually and collectedly.

"There is a faint possibility that Sam is in his weakest state right now. From the information I got from the beast faction, this is the conclusion I came to.

There is no way for him to be unscathed after dealing so much damage, but there is nobody of his or his friends and any other remains that are found at the battle-field.

So, I am sure that he is alive, albeit weakly.

He has to recover after that and there is only one safe place for him. At this moment, the whole world has its eyes on him and it would be extremely difficult for him to recover to his health and even after his health is recovered to reach his prime and reload his arsenal, he has to find a source of income and resources.

There is only one place in the world which could provide him all this and that is the western continent.

This place is the only place where he can hide, recuperate, defend, and recover without any hindrances. He has many sources of income, information, and resources in that place.

So, for him to not have the previous amount of resources and arsenal, you have to stop his access to those resources.

If it is only him without any of his tricks, you can fight him directly and even the thunder god temple could help you.

But if he gets access to them, there is no way for you to escape." Temple said slowly.

Arman went into deep thought and said.

"What do I have to do?"

"Go to the western continent as an envoy from the thunder god temple. There are around fifteen months for the next palace of inheritance trails and we have to recruit a new batch of candidates anyway. The trials and competitions should have already begun a long time ago.

So, I will be helping you by sending you as an envoy from the thunder god temple to overview these competitions and candidates and this will be the only help, I am going to provide you.

This is also at the price of all your merits and credits you have gathered in the thunder god temple.

After going there, you have to work hard on your own, to slowly penetrate Sam's network and take over that, at least try to get a major part of it under your control, in this way you can stop Sam from accessing the resources.

If this succeeds you will live and if you fail, you will die and thunder god temple will completely refrain from taking any responsibility regarding your actions,"

Arman fell into a deep thought, he is too involved in himself as he bowed his head and bit his nails and failed to notice the crafty grin on the temple heads face.

But that grin is gone as soon as Arman looked up.

"I will go." Arman agreed and his tone sounded a lot calmer this time.

After that they discussed some more details, Arman left the room and soon Moriya entered the room.

"You will be accompanying Arman to the western continent, that is Sam's territory and they both seemed to have some disputes and Arman seemed to want to do something to Sam's things while he disappeared.

Generally, we don't allow this to happen if any of our members are in a situation like Sam, but our relationship with Sam is more of a business deal than that of an actual disciple, so leave him be.

Unless he involves innocents and heavy casualties, you don't have to interfere.

If Sam returns and a dispute arises while you are staying there, don't interfere no matter what happens. Arman should be responsible for what he is doing."

Moriya nodded his head and left.

While the temple head is plotting something against Sam's territories, he is still unconscious.

At dusk, when shadows are at its largest state, Sam's body started reacting weirdly.

The Blackness of the patches became intense as they oozed that black foggy aura even more.

Right at that moment, he is inside a cave that the trio dug on a hill.

They created a makeshift bed and Sam was laid down on that.

The trio is looking at him as the black fog oozed out intently as time passed by, they tried to control it by injecting spiritual energy, applying medicine to them, feeding some pills to Sam, and so on.

But there is no solution.

As they watched helplessly, the time passed and the night arrived. Only at that movement, the black fog receded and to their surprise, it became lesser than the morning time.

The next morning the fog returned to the normal state.

The trio examined Sam's body inch by inch to see any form of difference and they indeed noticed on.

At the tip of his left pinky finger, there is a small space where the dark patch was reduced a bit.

It is very minute and not more than a millimeter or two. Even the cultivators would ignore it due to the insignificant size.

But the trio was overjoyed. They are extremely afraid and anxious about Sam's condition.

All this while, Sam was in the lead and they don't have to face many problems, most of the times all they had to do is train and fight when the situation arises, this is the first time they are facing a serious issue like this and to their dismay the one who always there for them was now laying on the bed with no consciousness whatsoever.

They suddenly felt like they are bearing a huge burden.

Particularly Watt. He is the only one who got a glimpse of the Dark soul Raven. He also felt the huge pressure at that time and he knew first hand how terrifying it was.

He has no confidence in living past a roar of that beast.

But Sam is still alive, he might not be safe and sound and be in his prime, but he is still breathing and his heart is still beating.

On one hand, he is feeling extremely proud of the fact that Sam has escaped such a strong existence, one might argue it is due to the things he had on himself, but everything he had was a reward for the hard work he has done, even the cultivation technique he obtained from Ling Tian which was the main reason for his escape.

There is always a price to pay for everything and as for the price he has to pay for the things he got from Ling Tian...

Anyway, Watt really wanted to fly up in the air and scream to the top of his lungs and announce Sam's achievement to the whole world to know. He wanted to see Sam's very name commanding the respect of everyone for his acts.

But at the current state Sam was in, he couldn't express any of his emotions.

That day, Philip stayed with Sam, while Watt and Jack moved as they scouted two different areas.

They only came back after the day is complete. Watt covered more distance as he had the silver wing in his possession.

"I couldn't find any traces of humans, but there are some traces of beast tribes. There is a possibility that we can find any traces after crossing the territory of the beast tribe.

Our current location is almost like a dead place, there are no powerful beasts or barely any beasts that are considered strong for that matter."

Watt explained his situation.

"There is actually a dead-end to the side I explored. There is a sea and there are no traces near the sea for me to explore. I wanted to scout another way."

Jack explained his discoveries.

Philip thought for a moment and asked.

"Should we explore a bit more or shall we move towards the beast tribe?"

"I think we better move. Even if we don't find any human traces, from what I saw the beasts are not that strong and even their boss would be a Level-4 at maximum. We can still gather some information from them with the help of Falck." Watt replied.

"I agree too," Jack said.

"Okay, then tomorrow we will move in that direction first thing in the morning."

The next day, the trio moved towards that direction as they carried Sam over on the bed with two of them holding on both sides. Although they could carry him over their shoulders, they are afraid of hurting his wounds. Since they don't know his condition, they decided to take the utmost care they could take.

After traveling for a day and a half they finally arrived at the said place. It is a tribe of boars and Watt entered the tribe alone.

After an hour, he came back with a large boar on his shoulders and said.

"There is a village nearby, but from what they said, it is an extremely remote place and doesn't have any powerful entities there. We should be able to go there in three hours at this pace."

"We will rest here for the day and will move there tomorrow." They decided and made a small camp there as they waited for the night to pass.

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Chapter 337: Peculiarities in the Nation

At Dawn, the trio started preparing for their journey. The first thing they did was cover Sam completely. They wrapped his body in clothes so that the black patches would be invisible.

After all, they are visiting a village where people might be less knowledgeable, if they mistook Sam's situation for a disease, it would be hard for them to stay there. They have to keep low-profile at that, so they shouldn't use force to stay there.

Two hours later, they reached the village. Watt carried Sam on his shoulders as they roamed the streets.

The village is small and there is nothing special about it. It is just like any other village they visited, except there are an awful lot of cultivators in this village compared to any other village.

But they didn't think much about it.

It is also normal for a village to have more cultivators.

They found an inn and checked-in. Watt and Philip went out to ask about the information on the nearest city.

Actually, they have a lot of information to learn. First, they have to find out which empire or territory they are in and if they are still in Beast faction's territory, they have to be careful enough to hide from their search.

Apart from that they still have to find out a healer and show them Sam's condition.

If they are really in the Beast faction's territory, they couldn't even find a healer of a higher-level just in case the info will be leaked to the higher-ups and they would be in a goose chase.

They will be in a tough spot as it would difficult for them to even escape with Sam in this condition.

The two of them visited a lot of areas in the village where the people are gathered most.

They didn't go and straight-up asked these questions because they don't want people to get suspicious about them.

As they are getting as much information as they can get they noticed something weird in the village.

When people are gathered in a place, there seemed to be a scarcity of spiritual energy in the vicinity.

The bunch of people is hungrily absorbing the spiritual energy and it even seemed like a competition of absorption.

The second thing is, they have yet to meet a single thug. It might seem a little weird to think that the absence of thugs is a bad thing, but it is indeed peculiar that there are no thugs in the village.

In the inns, restaurants, streets even on the outskirts there is not a single thug.

That afternoon, they reunited in the inn and decided to leave the village.

They got their required minimum info and that is they are in the eastern continent at the moment and their nearest city is the Lock City. The only good news being, the eastern continent is under Usaine Sect's jurisdiction. Not under Beast faction

They have to move north to reach the city and it would take three days by walk. The three of them started immediately, they flew towards the city on their beasts. Watt sat on Falck along with Sam as they moved slowly.

They reached the Lock city in a day and checked in a luxurious inn.

This city is just on the same level as Star-wood city.

The City-lord is just a Novice stage expert, they have nothing to worry about, but they did notice a similarity with the village and that is something that made them uneasy.

The spiritual energy started becoming scarce within the city. At every place where people gathered, the spiritual energy is being absorbed by them, the atmosphere will generate spiritual energy continuously, but these people are absorbing it.

Particularly in the slums of the city, where the ordinary people live.

Generally, the spiritual energy variation in that place should be almost zero, because the non-cultivators live there, but they noticed that throughout the slums there is not a single non-cultivator.

Only the children below their awakening age and the elderly above fifty years of age are the non-cultivators left.

The people belonging to the rest of the age groups are all cultivators, they suddenly felt like their world view itself is collapsing.

The number of cultivators is too high. It is higher to the point it is causing them chills. Watt went out to look for a map to the nearby Count city. They decided to show Sam's condition in a Dukedom Capital because it is almost impossible for the people below the grand realm to examine Sam's body and they also noticed something else when they wrapped Sam's body.

There is a certain repulsion from those black patches that are threatening them when they tried to touch them.

So if people with lower cultivation touches this, they might get into trouble. They don't want that to happen lest they couldn't face the consequences.

At least, Sam is not showing any signs of deteriorating. For the next two weeks, they spent finding maps and moving from one city to another. They moved slowly to make sure Sam wouldn't be affected by the journey.

After they reached a dukedom capital which is called the Orange flame city, they finally hired a healer to look at Sam's condition.

The healer took a look at Sam and the black patches, but couldn't identify anything. He diagnosed the whole body and gave a report and that is although, Sam's body is weak and unconscious, it is more like a condition of sleep, even the wounds are not showing any signs of increasing or deteriorating. His vitals are fine and his condition is stable with no signs of life threats.

The Black patches are currently not showing any negative signs on his body. He advised them to take Sam to meet the head of the Pharmaceutical tower.

He even offered his help in booking an appointment. In this country, they don't have any influence. They only have their individual strengths and the boatloads of spiritual stones, there is no fame and people don't just attribute them to Sam and they couldn't access the connections they get from Sam's professions due to him being unconscious.

They took him to the head of the Pharmaceutical tower after another two days and the result turned out to be the same there is nothing they could do.

They couldn't understand Sam's situation. The tower-head gave some extra statements though.

That is about the presence of dark elemental energy in Sam's body which is the result of those black patches.

The tower-head couldn't identify why those black patches appeared or what effects they could lead to, but he did find out that the black patches have highly concentrated dark elemental energy.

The second thing is that he said Sam's body is recovering. He said that Sam's current vitals are stable but weak, they are not showing any signs of worsening but he is definitely recovering slowly and steadily.

Normal people might have trouble recognizing it, but the tower-head with his experience and expertise was able to discern it.

The trio felt somewhat relieved after hearing that.

They are not that experienced with the dark elemental energy and couldn't understand its concentration in Sam's body, but they do know that Sam does wield dark elemental energy which made them feel relieved.

They decided to stay in the same city until Sam recovered.

They bought a residence and stayed arranged for their own residence for the time being. They don't have any problems economically.

After a few days, they noticed another peculiar thing in this city too. As usual, this city is full of cultivators and there is an awful lot of scarcity of spiritual energy in some places. Along with that, there are street fights breaking out in every place and there are new hunters and mercenaries getting registered every day.

Almost everyone within the age group of fourteen to fifty is a cultivator, which is impossible to happen.

The most astounding thing is they saw more Grand realm cultivators in this city than in the thunder god temple or the beast faction.

This is something that is extremely overwhelming for them. By this time, they understood that something is extremely wrong with this country and it is not just possessing a high number of cultivators.

But they choose to ignore it since, whatever the situation that is wrong doesn't concern him for the moment.

Meanwhile, on the western continent.

Arman arrived at this place two weeks ago along with Moriya.

While the latter holed up in the room as he analyzed the candidates for the next palace of inheritance trials, he is roaming around the cities to see any way for him to penetrate into Sam's network to no avail.

He wasn't able to find any possible way to get into this network directly. After these two weeks of futile effort, he decided to try another way.

From the next day, there is news of Sam's disappearance that started spreading throughout the city he was staying in and soon in a week, the whole nation came to know about the issue due to the impeccable communication network Sam himself created.

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Chapter 338: Rumors

The word about Sam's disappearance spread like wildfire. Sam is kind of a celebrity within the western continent. Even though, not many people know about his involvement in killing Oscar directly.

They do know him by the wanted notice place on him by the former emperor of the Orion, his involvement in causing war, his rampage which destroyed almost half of the resources of the empire, and the most recent thing about him is his latest inventions in the communication device field and the railways.

Almost every person in the western continent has heard of his name if they didn't see him.

He has disappeared from the public scene over a year ago. But the commoners and low-level officials don't know that he went to the thunder-god temple, because they don't even know the existence of that place.

All they know is that Sam stays in that majestic skyscraper and there are not many people who can meet him.

At first, when the news spread out, the high-level officials didn't care much about this, but later even they felt panicked because they knew of the secret behind his actual disappearance in the Beast faction.

But unlike the six major powers, these people got second-hand news which mostly portrayed the impossibility of Sam's survival.

Many people in the higher positions of the working network Sam created are anxious for some reason and some high-level people went to Arc to confirm the news about this.

Arc who is also unable to access the first-hand information like the major power, couldn't help but feel uneasy and visited Moriya to confirm the news.

"Mr. Moriya, May I know if Sam is okay?"

Moriya stayed silent for a little bit and replied.

"He is not in the thunder god temple currently and we don't know where he is at. But from the information we received, he visited another major power named Beast faction and encountered an incident after which no one knows his current status."

Arc felt numb after listening to it.

"Is there no way to confirm if he is alive?"

"As of this moment? No."

Arc didn't know if he should publicize this news outside, but before he could decide on his next course of action, the news already spread out.

For some reason, some higher-ups in Sam's city who manage the factories and the communication network contacted him and asked whether Moriya really said that or not.

This left him quite puzzled. He was already wondering who spread this news in the first place and he is already troubled by this now such sensitive information leaked and he doesn't know if he can handle the repercussions.

The authority Sam held is not something that can be replaced and once its presence disappears there are a lot of people eyeing the piece of meat that he has left behind, the whole network and a source of income he created will be completely destroyed, there is no way another person can take over this

unless it is under the control of the empire itself, it is hard to maintain the balance.

But it is impossible for the empire to take over that, because the four major towers are extremely involved with this project and there is no way they are going to let the empire take away this piece of fat meat from their hands, particularly in this kind of situation.

While he was brainstorming on how to think of a solution in this kind of situation, the whole network is already in chaos.

The factions are already formed and the four major powers who are responsible for the most workforce are completely divided into four major factions to get a major share apart from that there are some other minor factions that are formed by people in various professions. Some management staff is already selecting which faction to suck up to.

Arc almost fainted from the tension. Many people from these factions are trying to get in touch with him to get support.

They are trying to use his force to suppress the rest of the voices because Sam's presence is the only thing that hindered them from trying anything funny and now there should a similar deterrence and the emperor be the perfect one.

They don't want him to take over the whole network but they still need his strength to take over that themselves.

Anyway, Arc is not particularly enthusiastic to take over the network, because he has his own responsibilities and a lot of them as an emperor, he doesn't want to burden himself more.

But he still must find a way to get away from this pestering.

And this exact moment, he got a visit from Arman.

"I heard there are some problems caused due to Sam's disappearance. May I know the exact situation?" He asked with an amiable smile.

Arc who was being pestered every day wanted to vent and started telling everything to Arman.

After saying everything, he couldn't help but ask.

"Can you tell me what are the odds of Sam permanently gone?" He asked hesitantly.

Arman wore a sad face as he said in a heavy tone.

"I don't know, it is actually a very dangerous situation. Contending with a major power is no joke after all and it is even more so if they are hell-bent on killing them. I really cannot imagine what kind of situation Sam really is in.

We actually had a great relationship, since the last time he visited the thunder god temple for the competition. I tried to talk him out of this situation several times, but he still insisted on leaving like that.

He didn't even go directly, he actually sneaked out of the place and we only knew that he is missing after two days."

His voice and the expressions made his words feel extremely genuine.

After a slight pause, he said.

"He didn't tell me that he was going because he didn't want to alert the thunder god temple, you might not know this, but he never really joined the thunder god temple, it was actually a deal with the temple-head.

Since I and Nicholas are part of the thunder god temple, I think he didn't feel comfortable about telling us and now both of us are extremely worried about his situation. I just wonder if there is a way for me to help him out of this situation."

He left the room with those words.

Arc looked at the back of Arman with a scrutinizing gaze. At first, he felt really doubtful of his words no matter how believable they sounded.

Because, he knew Sam doesn't really make friends that easily and his circle of friends is extremely small, his three close friends are always with him at all times.

But he felt his words a little believable when he heard the words about Sam not joining the thunder god temple truly.

Because he knew of this situation. Sam has specifically told him this to make sure that neither he nor the members of the network will have any ideas of taking over Sam's place.

He went into deep thought for a while and just let the things be, for the time being, he decided to keep the thoughts of this network aside for a while and will deal with them when the situation turns desperate.

While the situation is like this, Arc suddenly encountered another situation. He was looking through the criminal records of the various places. He does so occasionally, from time to time so that he could analyze and improvise the way the city guard handles the law and order of the empire.

And to his surprise, the crime rate decreased a lot, there are not many robberies as before and there are at most some beatings in public and even these victims are former bullies.

He doesn't know how the situation suddenly turned this good, but he suddenly felt relieved as this is the only great news he heard in a while.

Another person who is roaming the empire in a while doesn't think so.

That is none other than Sirona.

Since she came to the western continent, she has been roaming all over the nation, to just explore and she noticed some peculiarities in the villages and lower-level cities.

And these peculiarities are similar to what Philip, Watt, and Jack saw in the eastern continent.

The unnatural absorption of the energy and an unnaturally higher number of the cultivators who are popping out of nowhere.

She has been observing this more than the trio because she doesn't have any tension attached to her and she who was curious discovered something they didn't.

Most of the cultivators who are having this strange condition are actually not cultivators at all, they are people who didn't awaken at the age of fourteen and are destined to live like commoners without any power.

But all of a sudden, they are awakening out of nowhere without any visible signs. A commoner a day is turning into a cultivator at the Novice stage the very next day.

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Chapter 339: The Church

Two months passed since the trio appeared on the eastern continent. They are having a peaceful life.

They don't have to deal with any arrogant young masters or any scheming old men. Sam is still unconscious. But his body showed some changes, the black patches are receding slowly but steadily and his complexion also got a lot better.

They are leading a pretty uneventful life.

The only thing that interested them in this boring routine is that there is a religion that entered the city.

It is called the 'Church of Guide.' There are surprisingly many people that are joining the church and most of them are the cultivators.

The weird thing is, this church appeared out of nowhere, but according to the news they heard from a trading union, this church appeared in all the villages and almost all the major cities in past two weeks.

There are an awful lot of people who joined this church and the number only seemed increasingly high.

There is even a rumor that, in a particular village, every single person became a follower of this church. That included the village-head, the guards, and even the street thugs. they became devout followers overnight.

Every church member wears a white robe and they travel in groups advocating their religion.

There is no certain hierarchy that was known to the public yet, but one thing they do know is that there is not a single person who came to contact with the church and came out like a normal person, every single person who came into contact with them will become a follower.

At first, the authorities didn't take seriously, only after they saw more than half of the villages are under the church's control and the rest are joining at a rapid pace.

The emperor was probably the last person to know about this church.

And there is a reason for that.

The church started as discreetly as possible and the operations of recruiting more people ran even more discreetly.

It all began in villages and soon slowly spread to the small cities and now within two months it already reached the Dukedom capital.

The city suddenly became chaotic. Every commoner in the slums who is supposed to be a non-cultivator has now become a cultivator and all of them became church followers. The only silver lining for the authorities is that being the church follower only seemed symbolic and there is nothing they have to do as a follower.

Every person is carrying on with their same daily routine

The same thing happened in all the empires of the other three continents except there is a small anomaly.

In the western continent. The Church activities are not able to spread at the same pace as the remaining three continents.

Because the people behind the church are having a hard time with the presence of the communication network.

Due to the presence of the communication network, there is nothing that was being hidden. The news is traveling fast and wide, so they cannot take any big movements even within the remote villages.

So, they opted for a different plan. At first, they started making people join individually, there are no mass gatherings or no large rituals. After making every individual within their target group join them, they started forcefully cutting the communication networks off.

Just like that five villages were isolated from the rest of the world in the first week.

In the same week, the other continent's church groups are already done with almost all villages.

But the church didn't give up, they felt that there is nothing wrong and proceeded with the same plan and by the end of two weeks, which is the present-day they are done with another fifteen villages, while the other continent's church spread to the Dukedom capitals.

The difference in progress was huge, but there are some internal reasons for that.

As they were thinking about proceeding further, they didn't know that the emperor of the western continent already started looking for the information regarding those twenty-one villages.

That is also due to the presence of the communication network.

Sam has created two major network hubs and one of them is in Sam's city and another one is in the Imperial Capital.

Both the hubs got a notification as soon as the communication networks are blocked inside these villages, at first, the operators didn't think much. They only felt that there is a problem with the tower and sent the necessary technicians.

But after two weeks the blockages only increased and the people who are sent to repair the problems disappeared with no way to contact.

On this day, while the trio is feeling wary of the church in the eastern continent and Sirona who finished her trip over the western continent is returning to Sam's city, Arc sent troops to the twenty-one villages that have their connections blocked.

There are twenty-one teams led by twenty-one Nascent stage cultivators as each team headed to each village.

While Arc is worrying about the anomaly in the twenty-one villages, there is another problem that knocked on his door and that is the people from the pharmaceutical tower are starting a dispute within Sam's network.

They are suddenly demanding to increase their share in the profits and are claiming that they are being underrated. They brought this issue to the emperor directly, who is waiting for the news from the troops he deployed.

The imperial court.

There are four people who are sitting in the guest seats while the emperor is in his own chair.

The four people are none other than the former tower heads of the four major towers of Orion.

The Pharmaceutical tower head is sitting on one side alone while the other three are sitting opposite him.

"I need the pharmaceutical tower shares in profits to increase by five percent. We are suffering a great loss in the hands of the other three professions."

The Pharmaceutical tower head said in an extremely solemn tone.

"What do you mean loss? The whole network is mainly working based on our three professions, while the pharmaceutical tower is only taking part in the business and administration. Our three professions are overseeing the manufacturing, maintenance, transportation, and all the other services.

Just how do you think you are suffering a loss?"

"What do you mean by saying we are only responsible for business and administration? You seem to have forgotten the employee welfare. We are the ones supplying the necessary pills and potions for all the employees and also, we have to provide rare herbs and medicines in the merit exchange.

Although, we are making money from the things that are selling and getting a fair share from them, everything else that is going for the employee welfare and merit exchange is not fair exchanges at all.

We are losing a lot of money."

The argument went on back and forth and so on, they completely forgot that they are in the emperor's presence.

They completely started hurling curses at each other and the whole thing is almost out of hands.

After more than an hour of chaos, the artisan tower head loudly declared.

"Old man, you can dream about getting a higher share in profits all you want, there is no way we are going to let you take our share of profits."

The pharmaceutical tower head snorted in contempt as he replied.

"If you are not going to give out your share, so be it. There is still Sam's share. We will take it out of that."

The atmosphere turned solemn as soon as he said these words, he is looking at the emperor from the corner of his eyes.

Arc finally understood, what this old fox is up to. His main aim is Sam's share from the start.

He gritted his teeth in anger as he said.

"Sam is currently not here. How can you decide?"

"I think the emperor should ask Sam about this after making a visit to the thunder god temple. Don't worry, our pharmaceutical tower will bear the expenses of the trip."

Arc frowned. He was still thinking about how to handle the situation about Sam's disappearance, but now these guys are in an even more hurry to confirm Sam's disappearance.

Once they confirm his disappearance, there is no way for them to stay amiably in the network. The whole organization is going to be torn apart into pieces.

He thought long and hard for a moment and took a deep breath before saying.

"I will be visiting the thunder god temple. But not right now. I have an issue at hand at the moment and I need to deal with it as soon as I can.

I will inform you back in ten days until then I expect you to maintain the whole organization peacefully.

If you guys are having problems with dealing and another dispute arises, I believe the tower heads of the Imperial Capital, will be more than happy enough to take care of the organization while you guys step down and sort out your issues before taking your positions back."

RE-BIRTH OF A GENIUS. CREATOR/DESTROYER

Chapter 340: Escape

A week later.

The troops reached the designated villages and started investigating it. They found the peculiarity as soon as they sneaked into the village.

There are a lot of people who are wearing white robes and even the village guards who are responsible for keeping a watch at the entrance are doing the same.

The whole village seemed eerily silent as the only people who are roaming around are the white-robed people. The troops sneaked into the village at night, in order to not alert anyone and it turned out to be a great thing.

Because at night they witnessed something that blew their minds away. A fifty-year-old man who is a complete commoner entered a newly built large house and came out wearing a white robe. But this time, his body is releasing spiritual energy waves and at the same time absorbing the spiritual energy frantically.

Apart from that the rest of the normal cultivators are in a dazed state lying around in their houses. Some of them are killed, some of them hypnotized and some of them are completely tied up with restrictions in place.

The situation is the same in almost all the villages and in every place, there is a person who is wearing a white mask who is feeding pills to these commoners.

The Captains of the teams knew that situation is anything but good. They immediately left the village and informed Arc about the situation.

Arc suddenly felt his head go numb. He was feeling relieved that the crime rates in the villages have been reduced completely but it seemed that something major is going on behind his back and he doesn't know what it is.

"Capture the leaders of all twenty-one villages. I need all of them alive. As for the rest, try to arrest them and release the normal cultivators.

If they dared to resist, cripple their cultivations. There is no such thing as becoming an overnight cultivator and if there is something like that it is definitely not a good thing.

There seemed to be someone hatching a huge plan behind our backs.

After arresting them, place them in isolation, don't even let them talk within themselves.

Bring back the leaders as fast as you can."

With those orders, the very next night, the troops took action and arrested the leaders. They put the rest of them in captivity and completely sealed their senses within the village. The troops were left behind to monitor them and the leaders were escorted by the Nascent stage cultivators.

The communication towers are also unlocked.

Arc who was supposed to go to the thunder god temple two days later didn't even think of going until he investigated this matter.

While he was waiting, something else is unfolding on the other side of the world.

In this week, the activities of the church were escalated to a new height within the eastern continent.

And slowly, the people are reaching out to every door and advocating the church of guide. They are preaching equality, fairness, impartiality which will be only granted once they joined the church.

The trio felt extremely vary. From what the healer said, Sam's health will get better in around three months.

So, they have to be wary for the next three months. But these church followers are making too much of a ruckus.

Watt sent the only shadow mice that he had in the beast pouch. It was sent to Watt when Sam infiltrated the beast faction. He sent the shadow mouse to the streets where the church followers campaigning door to door so that they could understand the situation.

When the mouse entered the house, it saw that the church members who are wearing the white robes walked inside directly without knocking.

The one in the front, held the commoner by his neck and forced a pill inside his mouth.

There are two more people inside the house, one of them is a lady who seemed to be in her forties and a son who just awakened barely.

They seemed to be having a feast at his awakening.

But the intruders made it completely hard for them to even smile. They forced the same type of pill in the lady's mouth and forced a completely different pill in the boys' mouth.

After the three of them fainted, they even left a statement.

"It is hard to explain the situation to the ignorant. So, we took it upon ourselves to show you the correct way.

The 'Guide' is the only one who can lead us to a true and fair world. Please forgive us."

The mouse didn't leave the house immediately, instead, it stayed till the three of them woke up.

The first to wake up is the couple. After waking up, they seemed to be in a daze but soon left the house.

After that, the boy also woke up and he also seemed to be in a daze.

He mumbled something incoherently, about why he was there and why is he wearing those clothes and what his name is.

He seemed to have completely lost his memory.

The next morning, the mouse returned to Watt, who got the gist of the information through Falck's translation.

He suddenly felt chills, he didn't know how the whole church worked, and they couldn't understand, how it prospered so quickly, but now it made sense.

They are forcing their numbers to grow and for some weird reason, they are not targeting cultivators, their only target being commoner people.

He suddenly thought of something, all the grand realm cultivators he sensed in this city previously are now wearing white robes.

Which means, they all belonged to the church. He connected the dots and immediately felt chills run down his spine.

He doesn't know what exactly is going on, but he does know something big is about to happen and it is not safe to stay here anymore.

He explained the situation to Philip and Jack and the trio decided to move to the imperial capital the same day.

They made their arrangements and started moving discreetly at night.

But to their surprise, all the city gates are completely blocked.

The city guards vanished and all that stood there in their place are people in white robes.

They too noticed the trio's movements and stopped them at the last gate.

"We need to go to the Imperial capital immediately. Our friend is not feeling well and we have to take him to the healer as fast we can, can you please give way."

Philip said in an extremely worried tone. Watt and Jack exchanged a glance as Watt tied Sam to his back and took out Silver wind immediately.

The two of them took out methane grenades in both their hands and blasted straight at the four people that are blocking them.

They took out the beasts from their beast pouches and made their way into the sky.

Watt looked below, only to find out that the four people who are in the middle of the explosion and got all their bodies blasted away were recovering rapidly, their skeleton was completely intact and only the flesh seemed to have been affected by the blast.

They still had a smile on their face as they wore another pair of white robes. They didn't seem to have any beasts on them, but two of them are running towards them.

"While two of our fellow believers follow them and teach them the correct way of truth, we shall calm down the chaos caused by them within the city.

There is only a week till the big day and we shall be finishing the spread of faith by that time.

The two people are running behind as they flew, they didn't even wear any footwear as they made long and strong strides.

They are using nothing but pure physical force like brutes.

They didn't take any turn or diversion while chasing.

They crashed into rocks, boulders, and even trees.

The trio led them deep into forests and this turned out useless as they started using the trees as their footing to jump and even sometimes to try to reach their height.

The trio is attacking rapidly from the front and some attacks are even cleanly landed which led them to observe something.

The bodies of these people are different.

The spiritual energy waves coming from them are giving off the same vibes as that of a Grand realm cultivator at peak.

They cannot use any form of elemental attacks and could only rely on physical force. They couldn't even control the absorption of the spiritual energy of manipulating it at their free will.

In fact, they seemed quite oblivious of everything that regarded spiritual energy.

They are completely brainwashed and they don't seem to have any form of sanity left, their words are calm, but they are utter nonsense.

Last but not least, their extremely peculiar healing ability.

As long as their skeletons are intact and completely joined, they seemed to have no problem with healing no matter how serious their injuries are.