

EMPEROR 1321

Chapter 1321: Entering The Burning Phoenix

Whoosh!~

A silhouette rushed past out of a Territory Gate as the omnipresent pressure receded from suppressing the body. The figure was draped in a pristine dark black robe with a few wolf patterns over the arm and behind the torso.

The figure seemed like a man with lush black hair stretching to the waist, tied up in a simple ponytail. He walked out, his face visible with handsome features as he looked around before checking out his own robes as his brows raised.

'Didn't think that I would find a robe on the journey that matched with Nadia...'

"Well, in any case, I finally made it to the Burning Phoenix Ridge..." Davis raised his head and saw the red-robed disciples lined up in a similar like the other hegemon's disciples at the previous gates.

However, unlike the Dual Lotus Manor's disciples who stood in pair, flirting with each other, these disciples had their heads a bit high, looking bored yet also possessing a condescending gaze as if they had nothing better to do other than judge the people that came out the Territory Gate.

"Stop... Show your face..."

A handsome, light red-haired Grand Elder who stood at the very front suddenly grasped the sword's hilt as if he was going to draw it out from its majestic-looking scabbard.

Davis blinked before he looked to the side and saw a masked man with a black robe.

The first thought that crossed his mind was, was remaining anonymous not allowed? But then, he noticed that there was an ominous air about this particular masked man, a blood-lust that slightly leaked, their presence even reeking with a putrid scent if he noticed closely with his soul sense.

'Ah, c'mon... I don't want to get into trouble right at the start for some other unrelated reason...'

He moved away while the other cultivators also did the same as they rushed back, seemingly defending themselves with a barrier in case a fight between the elder and this masked man ensued.

"Gehehe..." The masked man began to wryly laugh, "Ah, I was unable to hold myself back from sensing the fiery yang you all have... I hate it!"

He suddenly flew into the air, his mask coming off before revealing his pale features before the putrid scent became awfully bad as it spread to the surroundings.

"A corpse cultivator! Don't inhale the yin poison that naturally comes off of him!"

The elder from the Burning Phoenix Ridge warned the other disciples.

The disciples all directly summoned flames around them to protect themselves as they took up position in a formation, but they didn't seem to activate it as they left the mess to the elder. The flames around them lit up with a fiery crimson as it protected them.

However, the flames that these disciples released were quite dull when compared to the red-robed elder as he drew out the sword from the scabbard in a calm manner, his entire being looking majestic that it deeply attracted the eyes of the onlooking ladies.

"Which wicked path power are you from?"

"Uh... Don't know that myself... but you can try killing me, and see which power comes after your life, geheheh~" The corpse cultivator laughed wickedly as he took out a candle that instantly lit up with an eerie white-blue flame.

Ominous black-colored smoke rapidly churned out as it began to engulf the surroundings in a cloud of thin smoke.

Whizz!~

The air sliced, followed by a wave of fiery crimson flames that burned the black-colored smoke into oblivion!

The corpse cultivator's expression was rather ugly as he looked at the red-robed elder posturing with his sword released towards him.

"Surrender and await your rightful execution, you evildoer. But I don't think that you will obediently comply, will you?"

"Hahaha..." The corpse cultivator normally laughed, "I underestimated you a bit. Even though we are both at the Peak-Level Law Sea Stage, I thought I was only at a bit of a disadvantage with the formation here, but to think that your prowess is higher..."

"Of course, who do you think I am? I'm an Elder of the Burning Phoenix Rid- Activate the formation and trap him!"

The elder abruptly shouted as the disciples all reacted without a bit of lag as a fiery light began to shine.

Whoosh!~

"Seems like I must make my exit!"

The corpse cultivator had an amused smirk as he moved at the same time the elder shouted. Resplendent light that shone with a fiery red hue abruptly engulfed him and the other people surrounding him before it shortened into a mere few meters as it trapped him to a stop.

His skin began to quickly burn under the concentrated attack of the Mid-Level Emperor Grade Formation.

"Hehehe..." The corpse cultivator wryly laughed as if he had seen his death coming before he twisted his head, looking at the elder as he smirked.

"Is that all you got?"

Zumm~!

Space trembled as he suddenly disappeared from the eyes of all the people. When he reappeared, he was outside the range of the focused formation.

"Damned Space Laws!!!"

The elder gritted his teeth in annoyance as he quickly shot towards as intense fiery crimson flames wrapped around him and his majestic sword that seemed to be at the Low-Level Emperor Grade.

"Gahahaha! Move! Move out of the way! Or all you'll all be poisoned by my corpse yin fragrance!"

The corpse cultivator flew towards the side in a bid to escape as the black-colored smoke kept churning out of the white-blue candle flame. Obviously, it was an artifact like the Illusory Yantra King Bell, but it didn't seem to have the karmic property that had been poured into the Illusory Yantra King Bell by the people who had nurtured it.

It was just an evil yin artifact at the Low-Level Emperor Grade used by a wicked cultivator.

Swoosh!~

"AHHHH!!!~~~"

The obnoxious black-colored smoke closed in as the people began to scream for their lives as they tried to run away from it.

"Stop!"

The elder bellowed as his eyes became wrathful.

How could he allow innocent lives to be shed on his watch? It was a shame to his name as well as his power!

He released another crimson fiery sword wave that practically split the surface in half as a ditch was created while on its way to the corpse cultivator as it practically tore the space apart in an extremely thin line!

"Gahahahaha!!!"

The corpse cultivator crazily laughed as he unleashed his yin essence energy as it erected an ominous barrier that surged into yin flames before it pounced on the incoming crimson fiery flames as if it turned into a dragon's maw.

Boom!~

The two conflicting powers met and seemed to hold off each other as the corpse cultivator created even more distance between them.

"Gahahaha! See you long, mongrels of a phoenix and the vermilion bird!"

"Bastard! Leave your life behind!"

The elder was about to use his blood essence to make him stay when his expression turned from wrath into one of shock.

PaahhhH!~

A sudden yet resounding slap appeared from nowhere as it heavily hit the corpse cultivator's cheeks as it sunk while his body twisted and flipped in the air from the impact!

"Fuck! How dare you target me along with the others!? You're just asking for it!"

"W-What!!!?" The corpse cultivator became dizzy from the slap, but he noticed that the elder of the Burning Phoenix Ridge was quickly approaching him!

"Spatial Rend!"

Ripp!~~

It was as if space was torn apart by his hands as the corpse cultivator reached out his hand and clenched. The reality in front of him split apart into two in a single horizontal line as it headed towards the Burning Phoenix Ridge's elder!

However, the elder had a calm expression on his face as his flaming steps allowed him to evade the tearing line of space before he got under the blind-spot of the corpse cultivator as he muttered lowly.

"Such crappy use of the Spatial Rend Technique is a disgrace to all spatial law cultivators..."

The sword was once again drawn from the scabbard way before he finished his speech!

"Shit...!"

The corpse cultivator churned with essence energy as he sacrificed his blood essence, but fiery crimson flames abruptly engulfed him as he was set ablaze!

"AhhhH!!!~::~~" He screamed in pain before the formation once again locked onto him, trapping him in place!

"Die!"

The elder didn't hold back as he almost simultaneously unleashed a second attack.

Intense, fiery crimson flames churned out his left hand while his sword was already torturing the corpse cultivator with flames ablaze. The Peak-Level Law Sea Stage essence energy surged out before it transformed into a bright spear, shaped into a hook that possessed the talons of the Burning Phoenix!

Vrooot!~

It was as if a heavy crossbow was released as the spear flew and embedded right into the corpse cultivator's heart, blasting him into oblivion as bloodied flesh flew towards every direction, giving off a putrid stench as it was already rotten many years ago!

"Arghh!~~ Whoever you are, I will find you and kill you, refine your corpse and make it mine!"

A soul abruptly appeared from nowhere and shot towards the distance.

"You think you can escape from me!?"

The elder chuckled as he was about to signal the disciples to use another ability of the formation.

"Actually, no, you don't..." A lazy voice echoed, causing the elder to stop in his tracks from pursuing as he turned to look at the man who slapped the corpse cultivator into vertigo, allowing him to deal a killing blow.

Davis raised his hands and clenched. His seamless soul force surged and quickly caught up to the fleeing corpse cultivator's soul as it engulfed and made him stop!

"W-What!? This is!? L-Let me go!!!"

The corpse cultivator's hazy face became frightened as he struggled but was not able to release himself or cast a soul technique no matter how he tried. He was immensely pressured that he was unable to even lift that hazy finger of his soul body!

"You threatened me..." Davis lightly chuckled, "You really think that I would let you go?"

"Stop...!" The corpse cultivator's face was full of fright as he knew that he was doomed, "I'm from the-"

Tukk!~

The soul body twisted and churned before it was compressed and crushed under the immense pressure of the soul force that it popped like a balloon!

Everyone possessed a shocked look on their faces as they turned their heads towards the black-robed person who killed a Peak-Level Mature Stage Soul as if he was snuffing out a candle.

Davis grinned a bit as his lips turned into a satisfying curve, considering that was his first human kill as a King Soul Stage Expert!

Chapter 1322: Look At It Properly!

'Pleading...?' Davis knew that he was going to be offered incentives or perhaps threatened, 'Why would I release a wicked path cultivator who had offended me unless they can convince me...?'

He thought to himself after killing the corpse cultivator before he could even reveal his background.

'Poor corpse cultivator...'

'That's a Peak-Level Mature Soul Stage soul... Combined with his Peak-Level Law Sea Stage Cultivation, he's quite strong but not enough to match my prowess. Therefore, he must be an influential character in the wicked path, but I killed him just like that...'

Davis felt like he had once again experienced freedom after entering the wide world with an anonymous identity.

He was now in a state where he would experience little to no consequences.

It didn't matter to him if he was found out as he had his facial features changed. No matter who had seen him today kill this corpse cultivator, they would not be able to trace him back unless they tried really hard with a Mystic Diviner, or so Davis mused.

The atmosphere was dead silent as everyone looked at the black-robed person. Even the Burning Phoenix Ridge disciples appeared wary, not releasing the formation that had been activated. They stayed their hands, waiting for the command of their elder.

'I was not able to sense that soul attack... He must be an extremely skilled Supreme Soul Stage Cultivator or perhaps...'

The elder's heart trembled, but he denied before he adopted a cultured smile on his face as he clasped his hands.

"Esteemed cultivator. The Burning Phoenix Ridge thanks your assistance in eradicating evil. If it were not for your help, I would've been unable to destroy that vile spawn's physical body, and he would have escaped. Fortunately, you helped me while also exterminating his soul. The world does not need such miscreants, or it would suffer even more..."

Davis held his tongue, but then he changed his mind.

"I'm of the same opinion, but it can also be applied to the wicked people who wear righteous masks, hiding amongst the righteous powers, no?"

"Hehe..." The elder wryly chuckled, "That's something we can never get rid of... Human nature is not stable after all... Sometimes, we need peace, sometimes we crave for blood and battle to experience exhilarating emotions so that we could feel alive..."

Davis blinked as he felt a bit of respect for accepting it, "Elder's words make a lot of sense..."

Many wouldn't even accept that the righteous powers are somewhat ambiguous in their stance towards treating the common populace. However, this elder precisely accepted that it would always be present and couldn't be rooted out.

'Mhm, I think I found a decent person from the Burning Phoenix Ridge... Maybe I can befriend this elder to find Shirley instead of grasping on empty straws...'

Davis had his eyes narrowed before it relaxed.

"I'll be on my way then..."

He floated, looking like he was about to take off when the hesitant elder suddenly called out.

"Esteemed cultivator, I would like to invite you to the Burning Phoenix Ridge as my guest for helping me deal with this corpse cultivator of unknown origins, but I don't know if you're receptive to my kind intentions."

'Yes, it came as expected...'

Davis wasn't completely sure if he would be invited at this moment. If he wasn't, perhaps he would have to shamelessly turn and ask about a few things to try and make friends. However, he counted on this elder to invite, and he really was invited.

This was basic courtesy if someone was helped, to call the aider or the savior back and treat them with whatever luxuries they may have. Of course, not anyone could be invited just because they helped. Davis felt that he was invited because of his mysterious prowess.

"Hmm? You want to invite me? I'm just an undistinguished cultivator roaming around. I don't have a background, you know..." Davis wryly smiled.

"Background doesn't matter in this case. Your prowess allowed me to maintain my face, so I will gladly reciprocate if I am given a chance to return the favor. Even if it is not now, esteemed cultivator can drop my name anytime in the Burning Phoenix Ridge, and I will gladly entertain you if I'm free at that time..."

The elder smiled as he flicked his hand, taking out a flat stone with a symbol embedded on it.

"My name is Karlheinz Strom. You can also contact me through this one-time messaging talisman if you need my help in this Burning Phoenix Ridge Territory."

Davis couldn't help but keep that wry smile.

Looks like face was important to this elder, and perhaps pride as well. He looked around and could see the disciples of the Burning Phoenix Ridge maintain a strictly disciplined posture, seemingly ready to react at a moment's notice.

Davis felt that if he were to offend them, they would not let him leave alive even if they came to know he had the Dragon Queen as his backing. It was more likely they would try to kill him and take the dispute to the four great righteous powers because they probably had the power to do so!

Nevertheless, he reached out his hand and took the messaging talisman.

"Perfect, now I can enjoy the sceneries and gaze at the beauties in the Burning Phoenix Ridge without having to pay a single spirit stone..."

"Hahaha!"

Karlheinz Strom couldn't help but burst out laughing at Davis's words.

"No one cares about staring, but I would advise for my guest to keep your hands to yourself. Otherwise, my face would be destroyed within an instant while I would have to go cry in a corner for inviting you."

"Haha, I'll try my best! My name is Feng Chu!"

Davis clasped his hands, looking excited to go while Karlheinz Strom's heart suddenly clenched a moment, feeling perhaps he made a mistake in inviting this character named Feng Chu.

"Hehe, great..." Karlheinz Strom wryly chuckled, "However, my mission of guarding this Territory Gate is not over yet. If you could wait half a day for this mission of mine to end until some other elder is posted, I would appreciate it. Heinous criminals like these corpse cultivators are rather running rampant in the Dual Lotus Manor Territory these years, mostly indulging in carnal pleasures before returning to their evil lairs in other Territories."

"I understand. I'll roam the Border Town here as I wait for you to finish your mission." Davis pointed towards the distance, gathering a nod from Karlheinz Strom.

"Alright, gather at the plaza half a day later. We'll go together, or I'll send someone to notify you if there are any changes."

"Sure..."

Davis nodded his head before he clasped his hand, taking his leave in a calm manner under the admiring gaze of the people and the Burning Phoenix Ridge disciples.

'I hope Karlheinz Strom doesn't find that I'm Chu Feng...' Davis couldn't help but inwardly lampoon as he began to head to the Border Town.

There's some information collecting to do after all!

As for the spatial ring of the corpse cultivator, that naturally went to the Burning Phoenix Ridge. Perhaps, not even Karlheinz Strom would be able to take something from it unless he applied to do so as he was just on a mission on the profitable Territory Gate.

Nevertheless, Davis didn't want that spatial ring. Aurelius's spatial ring had almost made him vomit when he checked, who knows what was held in this corpse cultivator's spatial ring. He certainly didn't want to see the skeletal remains and corpses of babies.

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"Hmhm~ hm~ Hhm~"

Sitting by the window under the luxurious ceiling of a crimson palace and the dusky sky, a red-haired woman was happily humming as she played with the letter in her hands.

The letter was stamped with the symbol of a grand tower embedded with a peculiar eye.

"Thank you for getting me this, Esvele!" She stood up and looked at the voluptuous woman behind her.

Esvele's face was full of smiles as she bowed, "Anything for senior sister Shirley..."

Shirley resplendently smiled, her beautiful face glowing with such joy that she truly looked charming enough to mesmerize Esvele, who kept staring at her in a trance because she had never seen her senior sister look this ecstatic before.

Nevertheless, Esvele came out of her reverie as she blushed a little, wanting to know what had happened.

"Senior sister, why do you want to know about the Dragon Queen and every little thing about that esteemed person? It took us so many spirit stones to gather the information from the All-Seeing Towers that we're now nearly empty..."

Shirley came out of her reverie as she looked at Esvele, a teasing smile appearing on her face.

"Esvele, do you really want to know...?"

Esvele pouted, "Senior sister, don't tease. Quickly tell this junior sister what made senior sister so happy... I'm dying of curiosity here..."

"Hehehe..." Shirley sneakily giggled, "Esvele, didn't you ask one day if I was in love with someone?"

Esvele became stunned, "Yes...?"

Shirley grinned like a fool as she pointed at the letter she held with her index finger, "It's precisely this person..."

Esvele became shocked and trembled as her bosoms heavily heaved while she took a deep breath. She couldn't help but look at her senior sister in disbelief!

She gulped before her lips couldn't help but move to confirm.

"Senior sister Shirley is in love with... Dragon Queen Isabella!?"

"You fool! Look at it properly!"

Shirley's expression became utterly red as she pointed at the letter once again, specifically at three words that said 'Alchemist Davis Loret'.

Esvele became stunned once again as she read the sentence.

[Her favorite subordinate Alchemist Davis Loret, who had just recently defeated the Zlatan Family's youth...]

[...]

[...]

"S-Slapped a near Martial Sage Stage Expert three times!? Moreover, this person who was slapped was the second youngest of the Zlatan Family!?"

Esvele felt faint at heart as her lips quivered when she read that particular line.

"He has come... He's really in the Alstreim Family Territory, Esvele..."

While Esvele remained dumbfounded by this Alchemist Davis's strength, Shirley bit her lips as her eyes moistened.

What she was searching for after making it to the Burning Phoenix Ridge had finally shown itself to her eyes!

Chapter 1323: Loyal?

Esvele remained absorbed in reading the contents of the letter.

The Dragon Queen suppressed an Aqua Flood Dragon at the Low-Level Emperor Beast Stage with her dragon bloodline alone when she had merely entered the Martial Sage Stage...

Her favorite subordinate, Alchemist Davis Loret, had many achievements like manifesting a Superior Law Manifestation, having a tremendous soul force quality that was capable of making a King Grade Pill when he was an entire stage lower in the basic requirement to concoct that kind of pills, and a body tempering prowess that crossed even the Zlatan Family youth's ability to cross levels!

A tri-cultivating genius with tremendous potential! It was noted that his name was currently in the wicked path's kill list from yesterday, somewhere in the twenties!

He was said to currently have two wives, namely Evelyn Loret and Natalya Loret, both said to exceed the small-sized Territories' youths in terms of prowess and potential. It was said that they were gems and highly envied by the women of the Alstreim Family Territory for their luck because it was rumored that they were not that strong in the beginning and only managed to become geniuses due to their husbands favor.

What's more, there were other subordinates, but other than their cultivations, not much was known about them.

"!!!"

Esvele came out of her reverie as she finally looked at Shirley's heartfelt expression.

"Senior sister... Who exactly is this person? Although his Essence Gathering Cultivation seems to be lesser than yours, his Body Tempering Cultivation and Soul Forging Cultivation overwhelms yours."

"Hehe..."

Shirley couldn't help but wryly giggle, her expression becoming nostalgic as her eyes moistened, "He still has that edge over me despite being eight years younger than me. In the past, I still had the superiority in Essence Gathering Cultivation, but he overwhelmed me with his soul's prowess, making me look like a helpless woman. It was the first humiliation I ever felt in my life, a disgrace that I felt that I would never be able to carve out of my heart."

"W-What...?" Esvele became both astonished and confused, "But senior sister just said-"

"Well, after our battle, you didn't know what had happened, but those few events after that humiliation made that disgrace disappear and instead made me feel that I might be in love with him. However, I had no face to strongly relay my feelings to him after I agreed in a flow to annul the marriage agreement we had."

Shirley's expression became exasperated before she pouted, "Sigh... what a stupid and impulsive young woman I was at that time... I should've been bolder and calmer, but I missed my chance."

Esvele's expression was pale as she looked at her senior sister.

They even had a marriage agreement, but they annulled it on a mutual agreement? What kind of love was this? One that had regrets?

"S-Senior sister Shirley..." Esvele gulped, "I don't think a man would marry a woman who rejected him..."

Shirley's eyes narrowed, "We parted on good terms..."

Esvele blinked before Shirley shyly replied, "... I think."

Esvele pursed her lips before she sighed, "If senior sister wishes to meet that person and marry him, it would be extremely hard. First of all, senior sister Shirley shouldn't have joined this sect if you're going to marry an outsider because you will probably be pestered or even forced to marry someone here. It is unlikely that those men here will easily let someone of your caliber go."

"Secondly, I don't think that this Alchemist Davis Loret will sacrifice the current people he has for offending the Burning Phoenix Ridge. Judging by his actions, it might be true that he really cares for his women, so if he doesn't care about senior sister, then we can be sure that he wouldn't go as far as to make an enemy of the mighty Burning Phoenix Ridge."

"Finally, it is possible that he-"

"Esvele, you're wrong about one thing, though..."

Shirley blinked before she low-key grinned, an amused expression filling her face.

'The Burning Phoenix Ridge can't possibly suppress me if I make my escape while doing one of the missions... Besides, they have no way to trace me back to the Grand Sea Continent even if they borrow the help of a Mystic Diviner or some other tracking expert...'

"What am I wrong about...?" Esvele reacted, "I don't want senior sister Shirley to be hurt..."

Shirley looked at Esvele with a solemn expression.

"Esvele, I want to know... Are you loyal to me, or are you loyal to the Burning Phoenix Ridge...?"

Esvele's heart tightened, but she didn't hesitate to reply.

"I will always be loyal to you, senior sister Shirley. I already made that choice when senior sister saved me from Schneider's vile hands and reaffirmed it when you killed Schneider in the mini-realm, the Burning Phoenix's Resting Valley."

"Good! I'm loyal to the Burning Phoenix Ridge as long as they don't force me to do anything that I don't like. Otherwise, you don't have to be worried, Esvele."

"What does senior sister Shirley mean...?"

"I meant that I'm ditching the Burning Phoenix Ridge as soon as they want me to marry someone else, and that naturally means you'll be taken into custody to investigate my whereabouts after I escape. I care about you as you care about me, and that's why you also need to escape with me or face the wrath of the Burning Phoenix Ridge. Think carefully..."

"Senior sister, I'm not worried about myself. I'll follow you wherever you go... However... my family back in Yelan Town..." Esvele's expression became pitiful, "What about them?"

Shirley raised her brows as she contemplated before her sweet red lips moved.

"It is unlikely that they would target your family, but when considered what kind of an asset I am..." Shirley bit her lips as she realized that she forgot about Esvele's parents and her siblings.

She raised her head and spoke, "Just tell them things are looking bad here and that they need to relocate. Whatever immovable property they have to leave behind, I'll compensate all of them. Surely, your family's assets shouldn't even reach the worth of a Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragment, right?"

Esvele shook her head with a bit of shame.

"Where should I have them relocate...?" She embarrassingly asked.

"Tell them to relocate to the Heaven Gazing Sect Territory to the east of us, preferably close to the cities protected by the Heaven Gazing Sect. Surely, the Burning Phoenix Ridge won't dare to touch them there, or you can have them relocate to the far away and desolate regions like the Tripartite Alliance Territory. In that place, your family could live a better life without a doubt as long as they don't go overboard in offending the local rulers and hegemony."

"I understand, Senior sister Shirley..."

At this moment, a silhouette suddenly rushed into the room as the door creaked open.

It was a teenage girl. Her fiery red hair flowed down to her waist while she wore a red robe that was similar to the ones disciples wore yet wild and natural.

"Master!" A melodious voice echoed from the teenage girl.

"Freya! You're awake!"

Shirley happily reached out her hands as she saw the teenage girl fly towards her. However, her expression changed as she saw her change her direction slightly and jump towards Esvele.

"Ah!~"

Esvele gave a startled whelp as she was forcefully embraced by Freya in place before Freya buried her face in those thick, soft mounds before she began to rub.

"Ahh~ S-Stop~~ Freya~~"

Esvele experienced a shiver as she was unable to extricate herself from the hold.

"You! Esvele...! You have dared to seduce my Freya! What are the chances that you won't seduce my man with those big mounds of yours!?" Shirley pointed at Esvele in an enraged manner.

"Ahh~ Senior sister Shirley~" Esvele's expression was red as her body shook, "Save me from this little tyrant, please..."

"No, this can't be allowed to continue!" Shirley waved her hands as she flicked her sleeves, "If I keep you with me, he might really prefer you over me. I must throw you away while I have the chance!~"

"Senior sister Shirley! Stop teasing me and control this little tyrant! I can't take it anymore!!!~"

Esvele pleaded as her big bosoms were pleased by Freya's forceful rubbing while Shirley looked like she thoroughly enjoyed this as she began to giggle, resplendently smiling as she looked at her magical beast mount.

Freya was none other than the little Burning Phoenix that she had been given by the Burning Phoenix Ridge for becoming a top disciple, an exceptional one at that.

Freya needed sleep after consuming resources to quickly increase her cultivation. She reached the King Beast Stage, her cultivation base increasing so much after her trip to the mini-realm, the Burning Phoenix's Resting Valley.

Rumors had it that there was the Immortal Inheritance of a Vermilion Bird in this Burning Phoenix's Resting Valley. Apparently, Phoenixes waged war on the Vermilion Bird and conquered them in ancient times, leaving behind mixed blood descendants, the Burning Phoenixes, to multiply in this mini-realm.

When the Burning Phoenix Ridge's Ancestor found this mini-realm, he conquered the place and established the Burning Phoenix Ridge on their blood.

Nevertheless, Shirley wasn't sure about the specifics.

It had been more than a year since she entered the Burning Phoenix's Resting Valley, which is now mostly desolate with its resources scarce. Even then, she managed to make a ton of killing in terms of wealth and even managed to kill Schneider while she was at it!

That's why she also wasn't aware of the increasingly blaring reputation of the Dragon Queen. She had only heard about Isabella after she came out of the mini-realm a week ago and had been paying attention when suddenly she noticed the word Davis Loret!

If finding Isabella and relating her with the dragon because of the Ruth Empire was not enough for her to be convinced, finding Davis Loret's name made her extremely convinced!

She instantly had Esvele collect all information secretly, which took some time, and when she finally had the results in the form of that letter, the happiness and excitement she experienced were inexplicable.

Shirley cast her gaze towards Esvele and knew her worth other than her big bosoms as she was a loyal and endearing woman who would melt when treated right.

"Senior sister Shirley~" A pleading yet sensual voice echoed.

"Freya, stop it..." Shirley waved her hand, "You have teased Esvele enough..."

"Esvele, go see if there are any sect or miscellaneous missions near the Alstreim Family Territory posted. I don't care whatever level it may be; just bring the mission details over. I'll decide what to do..."

"Ha~" Esvele gave a sigh of relief as she was let go of by Freya. She breathed hard for a bit, her face flushed in a crimson hue as she answered, "Yes~"

Chapter 1324: Karlheinz Strom

Davis roamed around the Border Town that was practically filled with all kinds of items for sale. He bought a few goods, like maps and strange items, or unappraised items to check his luck, but then he was just ripped off all the same. Nevertheless, with the amount of wealth he possessed, he didn't bother sulking and continued shopping, taking in the scenery as well.

Even the Border Town here had floating abodes.

He didn't bother investigating about Shirley as he knew that he couldn't alert the Burning Phoenix Ridge, but with his soul sense spread around after he made it to the plaza and simply sat and waited, he did listen to the contemporary conversations of the people, taking in a lot of information at once.

However, his expression became a bit difficult as he noticed that most of the conversations were about doing women. He excluded these conversations as if he was deselecting them and continued to listen to other discussions, primarily those that were related to the Burning Phoenix Ridge.

'Mhmm? The Burning Phoenix Ridge has sent numerous core disciples and top disciples to the mini-realm that had opened more than a year ago? Many of the disciples died, and many made it out. There was even a top disciple who was suspected of killing another top disciple, but since there was no evidence, the Sect Master of the Burning Phoenix Ridge determined to drop the matter?'

Davis heard two male Burning Phoenix Ridge disciples who were in an enclosed restaurant room, spouting all this information as they were convinced that no one could hear them.

'This is a worthwhile piece of information... Go on, keep engaging in that particular conversation... Don't change the topic...'

Davis inwardly chuckled as he still listened, but then his expression changed!

'Senior sister Shirley...? The top disciple who is rumored to have killed senior brother Schneider...?'

Davis became shocked to hear the word Shirley come out of their mouth. He was about to continue hearing their discussion when a manly voice echoed.

"Fellow cultivator Feng. Let's go to the Burning Phoenix Ridge together..."

Davis's disguised black eyes shot open as he saw Karlheinz Strom descend a few meters away from him amidst the crowd. He couldn't help but blink in response, "Did half a day pass just like that?"

He didn't even recognize Karlheinz Strom coming near him as he was completely engrossed in their conversation that possibly concerned Shirley.

"Ah no..." Karlheinz Strom slightly chuckled, "Was fellow cultivator Feng immersed in cultivation? My apologies. Only a few hours had passed. I was relieved sooner because the elder who should take my post came here sooner than I thought they would."

Davis shook his head as he stood up, "So fellow cultivator Karlheinz told me a time where you would surely be able to take me to the Burning Phoenix Ridge?"

"Indeed..." Karlheinz Strom smiled before raising his brows, "Is there anything else we'd like to look after?"

"No, we can leave..." Davis smiled as he clasped his hands, "I'm in your care, fellow cultivator Karlheinz Strom."

"Ahaha! Since you're already my guest, we'd perhaps like to get rid of the fellow cultivator greeting and call each other by our names. Isn't that better, Feng?"

"Sure... Karlheinz."

Davis chuckled along with the other party, creating a cordial atmosphere.

Karlheinz Strom and Davis soon flew above the Border Town as they left the area in a fifteen-meter tall and thirty-meter wide flying abode, a Peak-Level King Grade Construct that looked as magnificent as a Burning Phoenix, except there were only three tail feathers.

Davis recalled that the Burning Phoenix possessed five beautiful crimson tail feathers while the Vermilion Bird possessed six tail feathers, and the Phoenixes possessed nine tail feathers. This was knowledge he gained from the magical beast compendium from the libraries he had visited before, so he couldn't be sure about it.

Nevertheless, he mused that a three-tailed Burning Phoenix Flying Abode was for people with comparatively lower status in the Burning Phoenix Ridge.

'As expected of a power that is said to have forty-eight known Ninth Stage Powerhouses... A Peak-Level Eighth Stage Expert is nothing more than a powerful gatekeeper for a Territory Gate...'

Davis's eyes flashed in an amused light.

He had his fair share of encounters with a few Ninth Stage Powerhouses and almost all of them were magnanimous enough to not attack him, but would it be the same here?

After all, with the information that senior sister Shirley was here, he was ninety-nine percent sure that she was in the Burning Phoenix Ridge as a disciple.

After all, she was the favored inheritor of the Fire Phoenix Immortal, so it was unlikely that she could stay the previous Shirley he had fought before.

Even though Davis had figured she could be in the Burning Phoenix Ridge as a disciple long before he had arrived here, he expected her to be more low-key, but it looks like she went straight for the bigger fish in the sea. Or, in this case, the bigger bird in the sky.

He felt that he should've expected this from her style, but he also thought that due to Ellia's other incarnation, Shirley could be somewhere else as well. That's why he had thought of using this elder's connection to pin down a number of people as if looking for something and then establishing a secretive connection with Shirley after he successfully found her.

He couldn't help but inwardly chuckle in happiness as he didn't think that he would be able to pinpoint her as soon as he stepped into the Burning Phoenix Ridge.

However, he couldn't help but also feel thankful for entering the sealed space, causing the Solitary Soul Avatar to return to protect the treasured flowers and family members. Perhaps, he wouldn't have been able to easily make acquaintance with this elder if he had gone over a year ago because this elder wouldn't have been in post, and Shirley wouldn't have been in the Fifty-Two Territories as it became apparent that she had been in the mini-realm.

'I also have to thank that dead corpse cultivator for making it easier for me to get into the Burning Phoenix Ridge... What a heaven send... Or my luck is still on the brighter side...?'

Davis kept musing in happiness as he thought that he was going to see Shirley.

'Perhaps, Ellia is also somewhere here or nearby? Mhm... I'll know if I ask Shirley when I meet her...'

Davis's eyes became a bit narrower as he recalled, 'But it's rumored that she had killed another top disciple named Schneider. Is that true? Or was she framed by someone else? I don't know, but I'll definitely look into it and see to it that she gets justice even if she rejects me...'

'That's the least I can do for making her suffer for my indecisiveness and conflicted emotions at that time...'

Davis inwardly swore that she gets a free pass for harming him a bit, only him that is, but nevertheless, he also thought that it was possible for her to kill as she had never stopped challenging and advancing through her own efforts.

'Enemies would be naturally created when we advance, so if Shirley killed this Schneider for whatever purpose it may be, I'd still protect her...'

Even if Shirley actually decided to kill Schneider to plunder his resources, he was still bent on protecting her. He felt that he owed her that much, but it looks like she also had the Sect Master's favor, so was she really in need of saving?

"Feng, is something still bothering you?"

Hundreds of thoughts ran in Davis's mind when suddenly a voice echoed.

"If it was the spatial ring from the corpse cultivator, I'm truly sorry as even I have no jurisdiction over it. I must return this to the sect so that they could publically burn down the wicked path treasures before returning the spatial ring to the Treasury. Only from there will I be able to claim twenty-five percent of the treasure. If you can wait for a week, then I am willing to share more than half of what I can claim..."

Karlheinz Strom appeared extremely sincere as he spoke.

"Ah, no..." Davis shook his head, "A trip to the Burning Phoenix Ridge is extremely expensive and hard to come by, so it could be said that the trade was fair. Besides, I don't want to look into that corpse cultivator's spatial ring..."

Karlheinz Strom's face became slightly odd, "Believe me, you don't..."

"Haha, that makes me both curious and repulsed..."

Davis's face changed to a wry expression.

"I don't need the spatial ring, nor was I spacing out... I just thought if I could witness the magnificence of the Burning Phoenix Ridge with my very own eyes and feast upon its more than five hundred thousand-year-old histories."

"Haha... Isn't that why I invited you, Feng?" Karlheinz Strom chuckled as he served spirit tea to Davis as a sign of courtesy, "We're almost there..."

He took a sip and looked at the projection in front that displayed what the eyes of the ship saw, obviously the work of a formation.

Davis saw that the entire region was covered by crimson mountains. A crimson and fiery pathway lit up the road in grand fiery crimson flames adorning the ridge of the crimson mountains as it led to an

enormous floating gate. The surroundings seemed easily traversable, but a person could only enter and exit the Burning Phoenix Ridge through this gate!

Davis's eyes glowed as he kept staring at the projection while the scenery in it got closer and closer.

He was finally here!

The entrance of the Burning Phoenix Ridge!

Chapter 1325: Stopped At The Gate?

"Feng, see that huge gate?"

Karlheinz Strom proudly smiled, "That's the famous Crimson Ridge Gate. It is a top-quality High-Level Emperor Grade Formation that covers the surroundings in a huge, transparent barrier as well as acts as a deterrent to any invasions by the wicked path, although it is questionable if they would even be able to near us considering the impeccable advantage we possess in these crimson mountains seething with fire-attribute energy."

"Oh? How many Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources or Cores are there below?" Davis curiously asked.

He recalled that the Alstreim Family had only five or six Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources.

"Hahaha! The right numbers are not known, but it should be around a hundred or so..."

Davis kept his smile as he nodded his head. He wasn't surprised but knew these should be the publically known numbers. The small-sized Territories only had a little over ten, but the Burning Phoenix Ridge alone possessed more than a hundred, and this number was calculated not including their entire Territory.

These Peak-Level Spirit Stone Sources were purely from this place!

"Moreover, there's a Mid-Level Ninth Stage Powerhouse guarding it as well, so there wouldn't be any unforeseen contingencies." Karlheinz Strom smiled as he nodded his head, almost as if he was assuring Davis or perhaps warning.

Davis's expression imperceptibly froze.

He knew that he was screwed before he could even enter the Burning Phoenix Ridge at this moment. He felt that he would surely be scanned with the other party's soul sense, and his anomaly of having deep, hidden cultivation would be noticed even if the Ninth Stage Powerhouse could not determine his true cultivation that is at the Low-Level King Soul Stage.

Davis maintained his breath as he adjusted his Soul Forging Cultivation to radiate Peak-Level Supreme Soul Stage undulations. However, it was still seamless and concealed enough that Karlheinz Strom was unable to sense the soul force undulations, at least until he decided to actively scan Davis using one of his energies.

"Say, are the wicked path people more prominent in this Territory?" Davis asked in curiosity.

"Of course not..." Karlheinz Strom shook his head, "However, they are the most prominent in the surrounding southern Territories."

"The south of our Territory is the Soul Palace Territory. To the east of the Soul Palace Territory is where the two most notorious wicked path hegemonies exist, the Blood Reaper Underworld and the Infernal Lightning Palace. Moreover, the Poison Rift Valley exists to the south of the Soul Palace and the Blood Reaper Underworld. They all possess an equal amount of strength even though the Poison Rift Valley is situated in a small-sized Territory."

Davis nodded his head in understanding.

The Golden Dragon Valley Territory was also a small-sized Territory, but that didn't mean its resources were small because the number of resources in a Territory was determined by the amount plundered and established. Whether it is small or mid-sized was determined by the area of land the Territory occupied while divided by the fog barrier that is separating the Territories from each other.

"They come from these Territories to sometimes provoke us, head to the Dual Lotus Manor to engage in carnal pleasures or simply head to other places to wreak havoc and practice their unorthodox and cruel techniques. Occasionally, they even erase an entire city off the Territory map while the same can be said about towns, except in more frequency. Therefore, there is a Grand Elder posted in our South Territory Gate, the one that leads to the Soul Palace."

"A Grand Elder in the Burning Phoenix Ridge should be at least a Low-Level Ninth Stage Powerhouse..." Davis loudly mused as he nodded his head as if displaying his approval.

"That's right. Our Grand Elders are positioned to showcase that the Territory we rule and the people living in the Territory are of paramount importance to us! For a wicked path power to openly enter and slip past us through the South Territory Gate, they at least need a Ninth Stage Powerhouse of equal prowess."

Karlheinz Strom's hands excitedly shook.

"Otherwise, they're just fish on a chopping board!"

"Truly magnificent..." Davis commented, but inwardly, he was thinking about something else.

'Soul Palace...'

He narrowed his eyes as he recalled.

The Soul Palace was extremely reputable for their Soul Emperors, so he knew a bit about them after reading the Alstreim Family Library records. It is said that four out of the nine Soul Emperors present in the Fifty-Two Territories belonged to them, but it is also said that one of the four had fallen into the wicked path long ago. Therefore, that Soul Emperor was exiled as well as pursued with the intent of execution.

Other than the Soul Palace, he had beef with another power, and that was the Infernal Lightning Palace. As long as he belonged to the Alstreim Family, he had the responsibility of making them know their place for trampling on their Territory, right?

Davis imperceptibly smiled in anticipation to the day the Infernal Lightning Palace would come to provoke him, but he hoped that it would be more than a decade later as he was still growing.

At this moment, they neared the Crimson Ridge Gate and passed through it.

Davis and Karlheinz Strom were engaged in a conversation when Davis suddenly felt a soul force probe him. He reacted to it as he looked in a direction, his gaze seemingly passing through the walls of the flying abode and a few other walls before landing on a certain person wearing deeply fiery crimson robes, invoking a sense of majesticness within the spectators' hearts.

It was a middle-aged man with long crimson hair. He appeared to genially smile at him.

"Don't make a fuss in my sect. As long as fellow soul cultivator acts within the limit and not cross our bottom line, you will remain as our guest..."

A soul transmission fell on his ears, resounding in a gentle and friendly tone.

"Haha, did Grand Elder Newgate say anything to you, Feng?" Karlheinz Strom chuckled, seemingly aware that Davis would be warned.

Davis wryly nodded his head, "Apparently, I must act within my limits. Otherwise... hehe..."

"Right... Pardon our rudeness, but as our ancestors say, prevention is better than cure..." Karlheinz Strom chuckled in amusement.

"Hahaha."

While Davis also laughed along with Karlheinz Strom, yet he inwardly became truly relieved that this Grand Elder Newgate didn't find his King Soul Stage Cultivation. After all, the soul sense that scanned him was actually at the Low-Level King Soul Stage!

Fortunately, Davis had adjusted his cultivation while his true prowess was already near the Peak-Level King Soul Stage. Otherwise, the matter of displaying the simulated cultivation would've been found out because a bigger bird would've definitely noticed the discrepancy.

When they entered the Burning Phoenix Ridge, Davis felt like he had entered a new world as the entire region was full of floating abodes and sky palaces, each seemed to be present in four different colors, perhaps representing the status of the people living in it.

He discussed with Karlheinz Strom before they made it to a crimson palace which Karlheinz Strom seemed to own all to himself!

It was over a hundred meters tall and a quarter of that wide, seemingly floating in grandness, but it was actually dwarfed by other similar crimson palaces.

They both walked towards a huge hall that seemed similar to a throne hall, but when Davis saw the numerous disciples standing there, he recognized that this was a place for learning and teaching, imparting knowledge about cultivation to the disciples.

"Disciples, this fellow cultivator named Feng is my guest. He helped me kill an unknown corpse cultivator who is at the Peak-Level of Law Sea Stage by slapping him once before crushing his Mature Soul Stage Soul. He is probably a Peak-Level Supreme Soul Stage Cultivator, so see to it that he is respected and welcomed while I go report my mission to the Elder Hall."

"Yes, elder!"

The disciples seemingly all bowed their heads as Karlheinz Strom left the crimson palace while showing a wry smile to Davis.

Davis was rather amused to see Karlheinz Strom leave him here.

Was Karlheinz Strom that confident that he wouldn't make a ruckus like perhaps kill the disciples or take control over their souls?

Nevertheless, he looked at these twenty disciples who looked at him with a hungry light in their eyes. He felt a headache coming, and indeed, as soon as Karlheinz Strom left them, the disciples pounced towards him with excitement filling their eyes.

"What's your age?"

"Damn! Elder really killed a Peak-Level Mature Soul Stage Cultivator with a single slap!?"

"Can you enslave people easily?"

"Is it possible to do 'that' with souls? I keep hearing rumors that it is possible!"

"Soul Elder Feng, can I know what's your intent in coming to our sect?"

"You look quite handsome. Are you married?"

"..."

Davis blinked and chose to answer that one proper and valid question. He looked at the male youth who asked for his intent and replied.

"Well, I'm here to see the beauties of the Burning Phoenix Ridge..."

"Oh, you mean me?" One of the six female disciples pointed at herself.

"No, junior sister. He meant me..." Another female disciple pointed at herself before she raised her head in a proud manner.

"Oh, shut up, you two..." A third junior sister giggled as she shook her head, "We all know that elder meant senior sister Shirley and senior sister Verona. Why bother putting up pretenses?"

Davis's eyes inwardly flashed as he waited for this sentence. He had said beauties because Shirley was undoubtedly a beauty who could rival Isabella. If her bosoms were a bit bigger, pertaining to his fantasies, she would be on the same beauty tier as Isabella in his mind.

"Oh! You are all beautiful as well, but I also want to see these two dazzling beauties of the Burning Phoenix Ridge. Where can I see them, or wait, do I even have the chance to see them?"

Davis appeared excited that he almost disgusted a few female disciples if it weren't for his handsome face. Fortunately, he hadn't forgotten to compliment them, so like teenagers, they all seemed eager to answer when a male youth spoke up as if he was going to interrupt.

"Elder cannot see them as they are top disciples."

He paused amidst the silence before his lips moved again.

"Perhaps, with Elder Karlheinz Strom's help, elder would be able to receive a permit, but I doubt that it would be cleared by the other Elders, not to mention that their superior bloodlines are a far cry from what we possess, a few drops of extremely diluted blood essence. Therefore, no matter what you might say, it is extremely unlikely that elder will be allowed to meet them."

Davis frowned, "Is there-"

"However," The male youth had his lips curve into a smarty-pants smile, "You can see them in the Grand Burning Phoenix Top Disciple Battles that are going to commence in two days!"

Chapter 1326: Searching In The Name Of Sightseeing

"The Grand Burning Phoenix Top Disciple Battles, I see..."

Davis repeated those words as he smiled excitedly, but inwardly, he was not amused as he was in no mood to wait.

He instantly planned on sneaking out when no one was near him.

Nevertheless, he continued chatting with these disciples to gain more information.

Apparently, they were all newly-joined inner disciples, fairly powerful for their ages, but not older than twenty-five. When seen from his perspective, they were indeed teenagers who had just begun their cultivation journey, so he couldn't help but not hold any wariness towards them as he freely spoke.

He came to know many things, like the number of disciples the Burning Phoenix Ridge had that was in the hundred thousands. Their Eighth Stage Experts actually seemed to number about ten thousand, or perhaps more, while their Ninth Stage Powerhouses were already known to be forty-eight.

He became astonished at the number of Eighth Stage Experts and even more so when they said that most of the Eighth Stage Experts were still disciples and deacons. However, he instantly understood. After all, it seemed that to become an Elder, one must at least be at the Peak-Level of Eighth Stage or have a prowess similar to it.

They also told him that a disciple must be at the Low-Level Eighth Stage to graduate within the set time limit for their growth as a disciple and become a deacon. However, if the disciple could not reach the Eighth Stage within their designated growth period, it is said that they have the option to become workers or to leave the sect.

Even though they became workers, they would still be part of the sect and have certain privileges that are enough for them to lead a better life than the outside, so most disciples who were unfortunate enough to not reach the Eighth Stage chose the path of workers to serve or protect disciples during missions, or do menial tasks such as cleaning, looking after the businesses in cities, taking care of the disciples whom they were assigned to like nannies for some time. It was all part of their missions, whereupon completion they would receive rewards, but it was way less than what an outer disciple would receive.

However, it was still enough for them to lead good lives with the wealth of the sect while also being able to borrow its name outside the sect. It was a win-win situation for them even if they were unable to grow in cultivation anymore or only made progress slowly.

Davis knew that the other powers also had similar workings.

For example, the Falling Snow Sect and the Towering Cloud Hall. They were similar to the Burning Phoenix Ridge in treating their disciples, even after they graduate, while the Alstreim Family was different.

In the Alstreim Family, the talented ones are heavily nurtured while the others are left out. However, they are still taken care of in the name of their family and the branches they belong to.

Each power had its own functioning and regulations. He understood that very well, so he diverted the topic to core disciples and top disciples to know more about Shirley's days in the Burning Phoenix Ridge.

Apparently, she had a single core disciple as her follower, named Esvele. Esvele was apparently the envy of the Burning Phoenix Ridge because even top disciple Verona seemed to have ten core disciples as her followers while top disciple Shirley had only one core disciple.

Esvele was rather overly envied by most of the inner disciples and core disciples because it was said that she received many resources from top disciple Shirley that she was almost on the verge of becoming a top disciple herself after exiting the mini-realm.

Davis was glad to hear that Shirley found a friend in this place. After all, he believed that if Shirley gave Esvele this many resources, it meant she had at least trusted Esvele to a degree.

Moreover, it seems like Shirley was treated rather well by the Sect Master, with them sometimes being said to be even closer than other disciples considering the importance placed on her.

Davis frowned when he heard that, but when he recalled that the Sect Master was actually a woman named Lea Weiss, he nodded in ease. However, he thought back to Schneider, who was said to have pursued Shirley and annoyed her to no end along with his two brothers.

His expression quickly became unamused as he began to gather information about them from these green disciples. They blabbered everything to him while also gossiping about the events of the sect.

Time passed like this when...

"Feng, I didn't think that you would be receptive to these noisy brats..."

"Elder!"

The inner disciples all became stiff before they ran away and stood in attention as they saw Elder Karlheinz Strom approaching them from the entrance.

Davis smiled, "Why not? I don't mind who I am talking to as long as they don't disrespect me. I treat magical beasts the same as long as they don't attack me either."

"Haha... Feng is quite the unusual cultivator to treat all magical beasts the same. We only give respect to the Burning Phoenixes and its ancestors as their blood runs in our veins." Karlheinz Strom replied in a proud tone.

"Suit yourselves..." Davis shrugged, "How we live is something we choose to our liking until someone dislikes it and chooses to kill us just because they don't like it..."

"Ha! You got that right, Feng! Ahahaha!"

Karlheinz Strom looked amused as he burst into a fit of laughter before stopping after a while.

"Fine, fine... I still have to teach these brats a bit, so if you would like to rest after being pestered by them, this is your chance. Or else, I can disperse the knowledge session and show you around. You can choose. I'll wait."

Karlheinz Strom appeared carefree as he looked at the disciples, a teasing smile appearing on his face while the disciples froze, looking at Davis for help.

Davis couldn't help but inwardly laugh at their plight. He grinned widely, "I'll rest..."

Those inner disciples' faces went ashen!

"... afterward. Now, I'd like to see more of the Burning Phoenix Ridge..." Davis smirked.

Gasp

They looked at Davis with immense gratitude appearing on their faces.

"I see..." Karlheinz Strom shook his head, "It's a pity for my adorable inner disciples, but we'll have the knowledge session tonight. Are we clear?"

"Yes...!"

"Alright, you kids can go back to your designated abodes. As the host, I'm rather busy right now."

"Oh no, take your time, Elder. We'll wait until the calamity light shines its disastrous light upon us..." One of the women, who was rather blunt with her words, commented.

"Impudent brat! Begone!"

"Ahhh!"

Karlheinz Strom pointed at them as his expression became wrathful while the disciples flew away with their tails between their legs.

Davis looked at their backs, feeling somewhat complex. He didn't experience student life, nor a sect disciple life like this, so it could be said that he envied them a bit.

"Those brats... One moment you behave with them friendly, and they'll try to sit on your head the next moment just like the saying goes that when you give an inch, they'll take a yard..." Karlheinz Strom looked aggrieved before he looked at Davis.

"That's true..." Davis recalled many instances in his past as he smiled, "However, I only give a yard to the people I care about because I can also afford to give them that yard. Only they deserve it in my perspective..."

Karlheinz Strom looked at Davis, finding his words unique yet naive.

How could a cultivator let themselves be taken advantage of by someone else? That was basically cutting their own limbs to become immobile, sealing their mouths to remain mute unless they were forced to do so.

Karlheinz Strom shook his head, "Alright, let's go for a short walk in the dusky skies of my Burning Phoenix Ridge."

"Sure..."

=====

Davis went around with Karlheinz Strom, witnessing the spectacular and grand sceneries that the Burning Phoenix Ridge had to offer.

Green lands could not be seen, since the fire-attributed cultivators here preferred the hot, blazing environment, which seemed like nothing to them even though it could badly affect lower stage cultivators if they were not indoors.

But that intensity of the fire-attributed energy worked as a great boost for the cultivation of the disciples and elders. It was apparent to Davis that they also had Fire-Attributed Peak-Level Spirit Stones within their reserves to form a dignified and luxurious environment like this.

Davis looked as if he was basically like a child touring around the garden, but inwardly, he was trying to locate Shirley's accommodation as well as a few others which he would have to be wary about, like the Grand Elders and the Sect Master. They weren't the only threat, as there were probably true ancestors who gave the reigns to Sect Master Lea Weiss and secluded themselves deep into the Burning Phoenix Ridge to prolong their lives and act when they were needed.

He knew that Sect Master Lea Weiss was a relatively young woman who took charge of the Burning Phoenix Ridge when she was four thousand years old, and that was about one thousand two hundred years ago as far as he knew, so it could be said that she was young; far younger than the Falling Snow Sect's Ancestor, yet extremely powerful!

There were many things Davis needed to be careful about as he toured the magnificent Burning Phoenix Ridge. Nevertheless, he didn't meet any threats to his current quest as he only had encounters with other elders and came to know more about the sect and some of its intricacies, when he noticed a problem that was plaguing the sect.

The bloodline thinning-out problem.

Apparently, the Burning Phoenixes that they all respect and nurture while also using them as mounts were starting to have their bloodlines thin out from Emperor Grade to King Grade in a slow, passive manner. It seemed that they periodically put a bit of a stop to it with the resources obtained from the mini-realm they have but it could only be entered by Law Dominion Stage Cultivators and below to gather resources.

Even then, there were low-key talks by the elders about how the resources inside the mini-realm were dwindling at a rapid pace as they don't seem to be growing anymore.

Davis had to extend his soul sense to hear them talking about this while touring around. However, he wasn't bothered much.

At least, it wasn't of much importance to him until he suddenly realized that the reason Sect Master Lea Weiss treated Shirley well could be because of this reason because if it was the Sect Master, she could've certainly realized Shirley's uniqueness even if she was careful in hiding her Fire Phoenix Blood!

After all, it was not something completely concealable like Fallen Heaven!

Davis narrowed his eyes with a few conspiracy theories running through his mind, making him angered!

Chapter 1327: Crimson Palace Found?

Soon enough, when dusk fell and night came, Davis returned to Karlheinz Strom's crimson palace along with him before he was shown to his room there by a worker.

After some time passed where he laid low as if he was compliant, he looked at the exit of the room. His blank face now possessed an odd smile that said he would undoubtedly trouble the peaceful Burning Phoenix Ridge!

'Hehe... This palace's deeply firm walls, along with the formations placed, can surely stop even Mid-Level Law Rune Stage Powerhouses and Mid-Level Soul King Stage Experts from sneaking in, but unfortunately, I am a near Peak-Level King Soul Stage Expert with the addition of death-like energy's concealment prowess. Although it is not as potent as Fallen Heaven's, it still helps me stay concealed from even Peak-Level King Soul Stage Experts!'

'As long as I don't meet the Sect Master, or those old cronies, or perhaps a Soul Emperor, I should be fine. When I last checked, the Burning Phoenix Ridge didn't have a Soul Emperor...'

Davis inwardly rejoiced as he easily exited the crimson palace even while flying through the detection formation that was embedded inside the walls.

As he came out, he saw the dark sky lit up by a resplendent reddish light coming from the abodes and palaces, giving it a sense of grandness that he hadn't seen before.

The Burning Phoenix Ridge was not like a city as there were only members of the sect in this entire region. Their abodes and palaces were all built to float above the mountain ridges, looking scenic as well as magnificent when viewed from the sidelines. It was as if an entire city was one big and long road, while the buildings where people stayed were to the sides of the long and wide street.

Of course, as long as the mountain ridges intersected or separated, the brightly lit abodes and palaces will do the same, and in the night, they were spectacularly lit up like the sect had a festival every night. The sight was entirely dazzling that it mesmerized Davis of their wealth and extravagance.

'Hmm... If I recall correctly, one of the elders looked in that direction when mentioning top disciple Shirley's wrongful conduct about secretly killing top disciple Schneider, so it should be that way...'

Davis mused as he flew in concealment around the Burning Phoenix Ridge. He flew towards the direction the elder had looked and arrived at a cluster of palaces and abodes seemingly arranged in a position that irked the juvenile formation master inside him.

Even though he was not versed and knowledgeable in formations that were above Sky Grade, he saw that the placing had something to do with defense. Nevertheless, when he saw the dense amount of disciples flying around the area, walking on bridges that connected the abodes and palaces, he knew that he was probably in the right place.

He flew around, looking for abnormalities for a while before he noticed an extremely peculiar crimson palace.

'This crimson palace... It has a lot more experts watching the outside than the others... There's even a Low-Level King Soul Stage soul sense brushing past me and the surroundings around this crimson palace every few seconds, but it has failed to sense me as expected...'

Davis felt that since Shirley was said to have killed a Grand Elder's youngest child, this was at least expected. He felt that this should be the palace Shirley stays in unless it belonged to the other famous beauty, top disciple Verona.

However, he knew that disciples wouldn't be this guarded or monitored usually, so he felt that this crimson palace probably belonged to Shirley.

He looked around, noticing that the surrounding of this crimson palace was mostly sparse in noise while the eyes that monitored it were many.

Nevertheless, he didn't fear being caught as he entered the crimson palace in a carefree manner, right through the entrance as he landed on the surface and walked through the pathway.

He looked around and noticed similar Burning Phoenix patterns to those present in Elder Karlheinz Strom's crimson palace before discerning that perhaps top disciples and elders were treated the same in terms of accommodation and privileges. It made sense, considering that the top disciples were the cream of the crop who would become Grand Elders while even a Sect Master might be born from them.

While Davis walked, heading towards the place where he found two Law Dominion Stage undulations to be present, he also sensed a fearsome presence of a King Beast Stage Magical Beast towards the other side. He was rather astonished, thinking if it might be a little Fire Phoenix like Isabella has Mira, the little Earth Dragon, but then he noticed that this magical beast's aura was similar to the Burning Phoenixes he saw outside.

He inwardly cursed himself the next second for even considering it, as if there really were a Fire Phoenix here, it would've been taken away from Shirley without her consent, without a doubt. If Shirley really had a Fire Phoenix egg with her before it hatched while she nurtured it, then she obviously wouldn't bring it to the Burning Phoenix Ridge but leave it at a safe place or choose to leave it in the Grand Sea Continent like Isabella.

Nevertheless, he hadn't seen any sign of a Fire Phoenix being present in the Grand Sea Continent, so it was likely that the Fire Phoenix Immortal hadn't given Shirley one yet as she had only cleared the King Grade Trial.

Davis soon arrived at the room that seemed to have its doors closed. There was literally no soul sense active ever since he stepped into the crimson palace, so if he removed his concealment, the people outside still wouldn't know that he was here.

Nevertheless, his expression was a bit complicated as he stood behind the door.

His hesitation wasn't related to 'if he got the wrong person', because even though the undulations he felt were robust, fiery, and strong, he could sense a tiny similarity with Shirley's undulations when he fought her before. One of the undulations was undoubtedly hers, while the other undulation probably belonged to that follower named Esvele.

He almost absolutely knew that Shirley was behind this door!

'Wait a minute... The last time I sneaked into her palace thinking that she had something to say to me, she was sedated with an aphrodisiac. It wouldn't be the same this time, right...?'

Davis amusingly mused before he shrugged and moved forward. He directly phased through the door as a soul body. The door's composition that even stops Mid-Level King Soul Stage soul sense from entering failed to stop him.

His face and body phased out of the door as if he was passing through the void before what became visible in his eyes was a dazzling beauty, sitting on a table that was full of scrolls, making his heart skip a beat!

=====

[Investigate the activity of the Tripartite Alliance near the Forsaken Phoenix Realm]

"To think there was a miscellaneous mission like this... But, it makes sense, considering that the Forsaken Phoenix Realm is widely known to be unconquerable and hence, forsaken by the world..."

"Probably, most powers who have fire-attributed heritage would send people to look after the Tripartite Alliance's activities every opening to see if there are any changes..."

As Shirley spoke while reading a scroll, her voice echoed proudly and melodiously before she took another scroll and saw its content.

"Senior sister Shirley is well versed about this dangerous mini-realm... However, we are unable to enter such a mini-realm as it is said that its requirement is rather low." Esvele wryly uttered.

'Heh... Of course, I am well versed. After all, I was born in that very same mini-realm...' Shirley simply smiled.

She kept looking at the scroll's content, which was full of garbage, not a worthwhile mention even to the workers. The points it awarded were so low, and even the previous mission of investigating the Tripartite Alliance's movements near the Forsaken Phoenix Realm was worth so few that no one bothered to take the mission.

If a top disciple like her took any of these missions, she knew that she would definitely arouse suspicion! And even if she didn't arouse suspicion, she knew that she would undoubtedly be followed!

"Tch...! These are all useless!"

Shirley became annoyed as she threw the scroll away, looking angered.

"How can I go see my Davis if I don't have a valid reason to excuse myself from this place!? Even those bothersome people are monitoring me ever since the trial ended while the matter about Schneider's death was dropped! How outrageous! Abominable! That Valerian and his wretched sons! I'll show them who I am soon enough..."

"Senior sister Shirley, please calm down. It's not like you don't know your limits. We'll quickly die if we go toe to toe with a Grand Elder like that, and even if you have the Sect Master's protection, we can't rely on it as it only takes a single wave of Valerian's hands to kill us!" Esvele panicked as she tried to placate.

Shirley took a deep breath before possessing a wry expression on her face, "Unfortunately, I'm a woman. They wouldn't kill me because I have other uses for them..."

Esvele's expression froze before she couldn't help but be angered on behalf of Shirley. However, her expression froze again as she caught sight of a... scroll.

Shirley noticed Esvele's shocked expression before she turned to look and saw that the scroll she threw was actually floating mid-air with apparently nothing holding it!

"!!!"

Her fiery red pupils instantly dilated into two tiny slits. It wasn't even an instant before her figure flashed and grabbed Esvele out of the way as she gained distance from the scroll!

"Who!???"

A talisman instantly appeared in her hand as she pointed towards the hanging scroll, her hand looking as if she was about to crush it!

Whoosh!~

Shirley had just landed when she could feel a tiny breeze rush past her. Her eyes moved to the side as she saw Esvele be safe in her other arm as she held her waist, but she noticed that the distress talisman that she held to summon the Sect Master was gone.

It was not in her hold anymore.

Her heart fell, but the next second, she saw the back of a blonde-haired, black-robed figure appearing in her view, turning to look at her with a relieved smile on their face.

"Shirley, your reaction speed was so impeccable, even I had sweat rolling down my face..."

A charming and attractive voice echoed, causing Shirley to freeze in shock as she found this voice awfully familiar. Her heart skipped a beat while her body felt an immense chill that her body went stiff. Her eyes swiftly began to churn with moistness while her lips became slightly agape with intense emotions causing her heart to begin rapidly beating.

"Davis...?"

A voice of intense longing echoed, causing Davis to awkwardly smile.

"It's been a long time, Shirley..."

Chapter 1328: True Feelings Of...

Davis looked at the red-haired beauty who remained gorgeous and alluring, perhaps even more mature than the last time he had seen her since she seemed grown-up, her features becoming more womanly. Her skin was pristine as if it was sculpted out of white jade, pale and dreamy.

Shirley remained stunned, but her heart was filled with numerous emotions that couldn't be said by her agape mouth. Two tears uncontrollably fell out of her eyes as she placed both palms on her mouth as if suppressing her joyful emotions.

She inevitably moved forward as her legs moved. However, she jerked to a stop as a voice echoed.

"Senior sister! He can't be your Davis! This person is extremely strong and abnormal enough to silently pass through formations that even King Soul Stage Experts would find hard to pass through!"

Esvele appeared in front of Shirley as she blocked her from moving forward with her hands as she reached out. Her revolving core seemed like it began to strangely give off a low hum as it rumbled!

Davis's eyes narrowed while Esvele sent a soul transmission to Shirley.

"Senior sister, please escape! I'll use my death to hold him off for a few seconds...!"

"Wai-!"

Before Shirley could even warn her, Esvele shot towards Davis, her revolving core rumbling towards the path of self-destruction.

Bzzzz!~

"Forgive my rudeness..."

Davis moved at the same time as Esvele and appeared by her side. Even before he got to her, his overwhelming soul force surged out as he used the Soul Suppressing Art. It directly caused Esvele to faint within a second of it reaching her forehead, penetrating her soul sea before it suppressed the soul essence as if it was going to crush it.

However, he held back plenty, and the result was that Esvele cleanly lost consciousness as she lost her footing and collapsed, but before she could fall even a bit, Davis gently supported the big-breasted beauty as he held her in his arms.

Shirley ran towards him before taking Esvele from him, looking panicked.

"Don't worry. I just made this woman unconscious. It is nothing of concern..."

Shirley looked relieved as she heard Davis's speech. She tried to calm her rapidly beating heart as her lips moved.

"I'm sorry... She doesn't know you, and she had enough of men trying to take advantage of us through foul and deceptive means.."

"It's fine." Davis shook his head, "I mean, she is in the right to make a move against me considering that I'm extremely suspicious, but to think that you found a friend who would die for you."

"I'm happy for you, Shirley." He smiled.

"A friend..." Shirley wryly smiled as she brought Esvele towards the sofa and gently smoothed her over it, "She probably thinks of me as her benefactor and savior, perhaps even her Mistress..."

Looking at Esvele's eyes that were covered with tears, Shirley knew that she had truly decided to commit suicide to buy her time to escape. A smile appeared on her face, an endearing smile that looked very caring towards the one it was directed at.

Esvele stood like this once before when they faced Schneider in the mini-realm, and that's why Shirley had shown no mercy and killed that vile creature, burning him to death with her true prowess. Among the disciples, there were only two who knew about her Fire Phoenix Flames, one of them was the person in front of her, and the other was Schneider.

However, how could a dead person say anything?

Her Fire Phoenix Flames didn't even leave Schneider's ashes as it made him disintegrate into thin air while his spatial ring was left behind in the mini-realm, except the spirit stones and a few other items because those weren't traceable.

'Still, it looks like both of them went through some difficulties to react this quickly to danger... This Esvele had even begun to inversely divert the flow of energy to self-destruct while she was carried away by Shirley while Shirley had practically broken what seems to be a spatial talisman...'

Davis knew that it took some time to self-destruct as he looked at the life-saving spatial talisman he held before he extended his hand.

Shirley moved her head towards the side as she saw him give the spatial talisman back to her. Her eyes couldn't help but tremble a bit as her heart constricted.

She reached out her hand as she stood up and took the life-saving spatial talisman. However, her hand brushed past his as she felt otherworldly, confirming that he was really here. There was a bit of warmth from that hand, causing her to shyly move her head as she returned her gaze to the unconscious Esvele.

"You came here to see me...?" Her crimson lips moved, her heart feeling overly expectant even though she knew the answer.

Why would Davis cross so many hurdles and dangers in the Burning Phoenix Ridge, bypassing many formations if it were not to see her?

Could it be that he had something important to attend to in the Burning Phoenix Ridge?

"Yes, I specifically came here to see you and also find Ellia." Davis wryly smiled, "She's not here, is she?"

Shirley's heart skipped a beat when she heard, but when Ellia was mentioned, she blinked and nodded.

"Sorry, I know where she is as I later found out, but I swore to not divulge information on most matters like her location and cultivation on her behest..."

"I see..."

Davis decided that it was best if he talked about this later as he closed his eyes and opened them again when Shirley quickly opened her mouth.

"Uhhh... How did you come here?"

"Well, I became acquainted with Elder Karlheinz Storm in the West Territory Gate while aiding him to kill a wicked path's corpse cultivator."

"Oh..." Shirley blinked before she shook her head, "No, I mean, how did you enter my crimson palace? It is practically impossible even for a Mid-Level Soul King to sneak in..."

Davis smirked and asked a question instead, "Isn't the answer rather obvious?"

Shirley's red pupils trembled as her mouth became agape. Her body shivered from understanding that he was probably a High-Level King Soul Stage Expert!

How could it be! This cultivation speed was practically unheard of unless Davis found an Immortal Inheritance that aided his Soul Forging Cultivation. But even if he had that immortal existence as a master, it shouldn't be possible to have this kind of cultivation, right?

Nevertheless, her imagination and her horizons were limited, so she didn't ask him.

Instead, she wondered out loud.

"What if you got caught by the Sect Master or other experts? You would've been killed for trespassing into my crimson palace like this, irrelevant of my opinion. Do you not care for your life?"

Davis placed his hand on his chest, "Shirley, this vessel is kind of like my soul body, an avatar."

"An avatar...?" Shirley blinked.

"That's right. It's another body conjured from unique resources. It is of one mind with my main body and disposable. Therefore, I can be in two different places at the same time without having to deeply worry for my life unless I meet enemies who can use karmic attacks."

"That's... wonderful..."

Shirley became rather awed by the soul techniques that Davis used. If possible, she wanted to learn this from him. Anyone who heard of this technique would want to have it for themselves. After all, it is akin to having a second life!

"Then... then what about Evelyn? I heard that you have a second wife? Are they doing all right?"

Davis blinked. He was about to answer her question when he noticed her peculiarity.

Shirley's red eyes were adorably dodging him with every question she asked while she maintained a humble posture in front of him, seemingly taking care of Esvele.

Indeed, Shirley's thoughts were all over the person in front of her that she was grasping random topics to relieve her awkwardness. She didn't know what or how to speak at this moment that all she could ask about were contemporary things to calm down her rapidly beating heart. It annoyed her to no end because she felt that she wouldn't be this chaotic when she met him in the future!

Reasonably, she was taken by surprise at this moment when he suddenly appeared and found it extremely difficult to calm down that her heart was possibly screaming for her to confess!

"Shirley..."

"Yes...!?"

Looking at her react abnormally, Davis also felt infected by her and felt more awkward than ever. The red-haired beauty made Davis's invisible heart thump, leaving him speechless, but he erased these hesitant thoughts and stopped mulling over it before he spoke what he wanted to say.

"Shirley, I'm sorry for not heeding your words when Evelynn was hurt. I was confused, perhaps even egoistical at that time, that I didn't want to blame myself overly for that matter so I put more than half the blame on you and hurt you even though you had no part in it."

Hearing his heartfelt words, Shirley's eyes went wide in shock and gratification. Her eyes became moister by the second as she shook her head.

"No... I was at fault for getting caught in a wicked plot contrived for me. You merely saved me, even going as far as to save me without taking my innocence... while as a result, I wasted your time. I was at fault for you not being able to return to Evelynn's side in time, and I wanted your forgiveness for that... "

Shirley uncontrollably sobbed as she was unable to hold back her emotions or maintain her calmness.

Davis became rather moved by her understanding while also feeling a bit exasperated.

"Does that mean that we currently want each other's forgiveness?"

Shirley blinked, her moist eyes reflecting his sapphire eyes as she couldn't help but nod.

She walked towards him, holding the hem of his robe as her crimson lips quivered, looking as if she wanted to say something but was unable to as her eyes shone with an endearing light.

Davis stared at her red pupils that were full of emotions for him while he also felt invigorated by her nod that he couldn't help but feel confident and assertive. Even without using Heart Intent, he knew that this woman still possessed one sided feelings for him.

"Shirley, I feel sorry for hurting you, but I can't describe these emotions that I have towards you as only sympathy, since they also make me feel different, almost like I had developed these other complex feelings for you unknowingly."

Shirley became shocked as Davis delivered his last piece of confession.

"I love you and want to make you mine, Shirley."

Chapter 1329: The Two Of Them

Shirley's mouth went slightly agape as she dumbfoundedly stared at Davis. She couldn't believe the words that came out of his mouth that she felt it was like a dream. Her lips kept quivering as she held the hem of his robe with her trembling hands while her face changed into one of heightened expectation.

"Really? You really love me...? From when...?"

Hearing Shirley's longing voice made Davis unable to endure feeling affection for her. It was magical, different than what he felt for Tina Roxley. It came from his heart, not at all strange or unnatural, invoking a joyous emotion in his soul rather than the hysterical confusion he felt for Tina Roxley.

That made him feel unreserved and more open that he couldn't help but resplendently smile.

"If I had to say, that would be when I left you at the secret entrance, afraid that I would stain your reputation as I have already kissed you once when I pinned you down on the bed to heal you of the aphrodisiac. I was rather afraid of hurting you as I had already acted like a prick towards you."

"However, after I went to the First Layer and returned, the little things you did, such as returning the spatial rings that I actually gave to you as compensation for hurting you, taking care of my little sister during the trials, and other possible things I wouldn't know that you had done for me made me moved."

"Still, I tried to replace those emotions with hostility until I learned from your royal father that you left the Grand Sea Continent to pursue your ambition."

Davis averted his gaze in shame, coming to realize that he had denied these emotions he had for her for a long time before he looked at her, his eyes peering at her in a solemn light.

"Say, am I your ambition? Or am I delusional for thinking that it should be the case?"

"No!" Shirley shook her head as she bit her lips and smiled, her eyes tearing up again, "You are not wrong. I wanted you to turn around and look at me, and to that end, I considered strength was the only option left..."

She was extremely moved by his reasons. It made her believe his words, further making her aware that it was not said with ulterior motives in mind.

Davis remained standing, feeling excitement well over him. She was not anyone's but his, and his alone contrary to what he previously thought. He thought that she would've been exasperated with him and moved on with her life after becoming a bit powerful and arrogant due to the Fire Phoenix Immortal's support, but she had not and remained thinking about him, making him feel intense emotions for her, wanting to make him reciprocate her feelings.

Shirley suddenly lowered her head, her cheeks becoming flushed in a crimson hue, stunning Davis with her sudden shyness.

"Davis~ I... I don't think that I can indulge in... bodily pleasures, but I guess... a kiss would suffice...?"

'Cu... cute!'

Davis found her extremely adorable that intense emotions welled up within him to kiss her, but unfortunately, he was merely a soul body, and he had determined himself to not be callous towards his women when sharing love. He couldn't help but wryly smile.

"Uhhh... Shirley... I am in a soul body. Did you forget?"

Shirley's body shivered before she lowered her head even more and completely looked down, gazing at her feet. Her pale face was bright crimson as she knew that she messed up even though she had gathered her courage to confess by asking for a kiss! The strange warmth radiating from him even though he was a soul-body had her fooled!

A kiss wasn't new to her as she had already been kissed by him once. However, it was vague.

She merely wanted to experience that again, now with all her sensations being bright and clear because she craved it herself since not a week passed by without her thinking about the time she could've made love with him on that fateful day!

Davis couldn't see her expression as she was looking all the way down. He became amused as he reached out his hand and placed his finger on her chin, lifting it up as he saw her embarrassed expression, her fatal beauty looking alluring to him that he had the impulse to take her crimson lips on the spot.

He felt regret for not bringing the main body, but the main body was in its own way deeply craving Evelyn as it indulged in her voluptuous body. He really couldn't complain as he now possessed the best of both worlds.

Shirley couldn't take the embarrassment anymore as her eyes caught him enjoying the look on her face. She grabbed his shoulders and buried her face on his chest, feeling a bit of warmth generating from him almost as if it were really a fleshly body. It made her feel content as she tightly wrapped her arms around him.

She was planning on leaving this place to look for him, but he came to her, which made her feel extremely joyous and felicitous. Unlike what she initially thought, he hadn't forgotten her and kept her in his mind.

"Davis~~~"

Shirley called out, feeling her heart rapidly beat like a maiden's.

"What?"

"I always loved you~~~"

Hearing her heartfelt words that were filled with euphoric emotions, Davis satisfactorily smiled, "I know... In comparison to you, I'm rather cowardly as I only dared to confess after knowing that you still held feelings for me..."

Shirley raised her head, looking at him with a frown on her brows.

"Yes, you're cowardly... If you were forceful with me, I wouldn't have been stupid enough to annul the marriage. You should've just shut up and married me along with Evelyn if you were going to take a second woman...!"

"Wha...!?"

Davis became flabbergasted at the sudden downpour of her aggrieved feelings. But her words, they were rather telling him to become quite the brute.

To be forceful with her...? What was the whole point of gaining consent then?

Was it a joke in the cultivation world?

Nevertheless, how could he make her understand that his aversion to having a second woman was vigorously broken by Natalya's forcefulness towards him?

When he needed an impetus to overcome that line, how could he even dare to take advantage of Shirley at that point in time?

However, his expression became filled with awkwardness as he felt that he must tell her what she was getting into.

Would she still accept such a person like him who had many wives?

Davis felt more nervous than ever before. However, he saw her face become stiff.

"Ahh...! I'm sorry...!" Shirley shook her head, "I didn't mean to say that..."

"I desired you because you were gentle, not because you were forceful... Uh... Why did I even say that?"

She felt upset and puzzled at her own feelings as she fumblingly looked at him, "I'm truly sorry... I have gone stupid again..."

Davis looked at her panic, realizing that she was probably afraid that he would've become angered at her. He couldn't help but chuckle.

"Well... You're not wrong, as it was my wrong decision that brought us apart."

"No!" Shirley cried again as she shook her head, "It was I who willfully and rashly brought the topic of our marriage in question and allowed us to mutually separate. I'm stupid, hateful, loathsome!"

Davis looked flabbergasted before he narrowed his eyes.

"Stop blaming yourself. Didn't I say that the key lay within me? If I hadn't said okay to annul our marriage agreement, this wouldn't have happened!"

"But-"

"No buts!"

Davis wrapped his arms tightly around her, appearing as if he would never let her go.

Shirley became stunned as her red eyes stared into his sapphire pupils, but then, a smirk appeared on his lips that caused her to blink.

"I think this much forcefulness is enough, right?"

Shirley blankly stared, not knowing what to say other than becoming moved. Her problems were too much so she acted like a spoiled and unreasonable woman in front of him, and yet, he didn't get mad at her and instead even placated her.

Her moist red eyes began to ripple again with intense feelings.

"Shirley, I'm going to marry Isabella in a month or so after returning to the Grand Sea Continent..."

Davis suddenly spoke, wanting to use this so-called forcefulness that she wanted.

"I see..." Shirley blinked before she brightly smiled, "So you have managed to conquer her as well while all that mistress-subordinate relationship was a farce to fool the hegemonic powers..."

"Hehe, you managed to already figure it out..."

"I just know... You managed to topple me into being this crazed for you, so why can't you topple that glorious dragon woman? It's simple as that..."

"I see..." Davis braced himself as he displayed his shameless smile, "There's still Fiora, Sophie, Niera, and another woman called Tina Roxley waiting to marry me, and I already made love with even on-"

"You...!" Shirley's expression changed.

It contorted into one of anger as she raised her head and snarled at him!

"You're not collecting me just for the sake of adding me to your flowery harem, are you!?"

Davis blinked, feeling her fiery anger flying at him as his heart clenched, but he snapped back at her.

"Of course not!"

"Then why!?"

"Because I love you!"

"Then fine!~"

Davis became dazed at her quick, fiery answer that he couldn't help but blink thrice.

"Shirley..." He called out her name and slightly paused, "... Do you still love me even when I have all those beauties to myself?"

"You're asking me this...?" Shirley squealed in a low voice as she looked at him endearingly with a smile, "I was okay with you having Evelyn and other women as well in the past. My worries were whether you would leave me one day as nothing but a decoration, and even if you didn't, your immortal master might arbitrarily take you away and... I absolutely reject such a future!"

Shirley's expression became obsessed as she stared at his sapphire eyes while her arms tightly held him.

"This was why I decided to step into the First Layer by risking my life along with Ellia and become an Immortal-level existence with my own power in the second place, while the first reason being attaining your love!"

Davis became stunned at her outburst before he felt incredibly moved!

When her whole reason to cultivate had become him on top of him possessing love for her, what was there left to stop him from making this alluring beauty his woman?

None!

Davis's expression returned to normal before he satisfactorily smiled.

"I'll ask you once again, Shirley..."

"Become mine!"

Shirley bit her crimson lips as she looked into his sapphire eyes that seemed to only have eyes for her.

"Gladly~"

Chapter 1330: Can't Hold Back?

Davis and Shirley kept staring as if they only had eyes for each other.

Forgetting Davis, the satisfaction that Shirley experienced was beyond what an immortal inheritance could make her experience. Her heart was full of joyous emotions now that she had confirmed her relationship with her love. It made her feel the extreme peak of ecstasy as a healthy blush filled her face without her even having to experience something like an orgasm.

Her heart and mind were in a state of euphoria. She felt wonderful and satisfied that a deep smile continued to hang on her face for a dozen seconds as they admired each other's charming features.

"Wait..." Shirley raised her brows after she calmed down, "That was not a question, though..."

"Weren't you the one who told me to be forceful...?" Davis equally raised his brows.

Shirley blinked her reddish eyebrows as she shyly smiled, lowering her head as her crimson lips moved.

"I don't dislike it..."

Davis found her even more adorable as he didn't expect her to be the submissive type when flirting and making love. Nevertheless, she was still keen and fiery enough to pulverize him when she got angered.

"Senior sister..."

At this time, both their faces turned as they saw that Esvele had her black eyes wide open, looking at them with deep disbelief filling her face.

"!!!"

Shirley reacted as if she was a cat who had its tail stepped on as she jerked and separated from Davis, turning around to look at Esvele with a wry yet shy smile on her face.

"Oh, Esvele, you're awake..." She walked towards her, "You can go to sleep again~"

"Ah!~ Wait! Senior sister! I understand! understand that it's your man! Don't knock me out cold, please...!" Esvele pleaded as she retreated to the far end of the sofa, her huge bosoms bouncing along with her movements.

Shirley stayed her hand that she lifted up before she narrowed her eyes and saw Davis, catching him looking at Esvele's bosoms.

"You were staring, weren't you?" That same hand lit up in flames as it was directed towards Davis.

Davis blinked before he took a step backward, "Wait... Those are natural attractors! I can't do anything about it..."

Esvele blushed hard upon hearing those words that she couldn't help but hide them with her arms. She didn't mean to, but men would always end up directing their gazes to her bosoms rather than her face.

Shirley stopped before she teasingly smiled at him, "You're rather honest while I'm magnanimous. I'll forgive you..."

Davis blinked.

"Shirley, it's not like I'm in a physical body to feel lust for her, so it doesn't matter if I stare or see her naked, right?"

Shirley's expression became confused before it became contemplative.

Is staring at a woman without feeling lust okay for a man?

She felt like it was, but then she realized that his main body was still connected to him as Davis said that they had the same mind, so it mattered even more!

"You peep! You shouldn't stare at her, much less see her naked!"

Shirley came forward and beat his chest with her delicate hands, her attacks feeling like a massage to him as Davis closed his eyes and enjoyed the light trembles reverberating on his soul body.

However, she imperceptibly smiled, feeling happier than ever in being able to tease each other like this without any reservations, although she felt bad for making fun of Esvele. She stopped, looking at Davis with an amused light as she asked.

"How's Evelynn?"

She realized that he still hadn't answered her question yet.

"Evelynn's extremely fine even though I hurt her when I took Natalya. That affected her a bit, but they share a relationship as deep as sisters now. Oh, right. Can you guess what she trains in?"

"I already read a few things about her after I had Esvele collect information about you recently." Shirley nodded her head, "I thought that she would train in Wind Laws or something similar like fire or water, but it is unexpected that she took the route of Poison Laws."

"Well," Davis wryly smiled, "I encouraged and supported her since we found out that that was the law she was a bit talented in..."

"A bit talented..." Shirley couldn't help but sigh, "Do you realize the discrimination and the looks she would receive?"

"I'll just kill as many as necessary if they can't keep their botched opinions to themselves and come to force them on us." Davis arrogantly answered as he interrupted Shirley.

Shirley wasn't offended but instead deeply smiled as if approving even more of him, "That's the answer I expected."

"Want me to kill this Valerian?" Davis's sapphire eyes flashed in a cold light.

"What? No..." Shirley narrowed her red eyes as she shook her head, "Don't go killing that vile abomination just because this avatar is disposable. I finally have you. You are more important to me than some-"

"Just say the word. Even if you don't, the moment that old retard makes a move on you, I will kill him. Just the sight of the people monitoring you outside makes me mad, so what about them? Are they with that old retard Valerian as well?"

Shirley's expression became exasperated as she reluctantly nodded her head, "Presumably, but one of the Grand Elders might also be protecting me on behalf of the Sect Master, so I can't be sure."

"You might want to ask your Sect Master, lest I accidentally kill that Grand Elder as a mistake..." Davis shrugged.

"You...!" Shirley didn't know what to say.

If they were talking about killing, she was the one who undoubtedly wanted to kill Grand Elder Valerian the most! However, it wasn't that simple. If an outsider like Davis killed Grand Elder Valerian, then regardless of if he were in the right or the wrong, the Burning Phoenix Ridge would pursue him for answers, and even if they found that Grand Elder Valerian was in the wrong, they would still punish him for putting a stain on their face.

"I can literally hide my identity, you know..." Davis suddenly spoke, "My name is Feng Chu here when I entered along with Elder Karlheinz Strom..."

"Oh..."

Shirley blinked, wondering why she was thinking this hard when Davis already seemed to have made preparations and acted to enter here anonymously.

"Still, I don't want to see you die..." Shirley shook her head, "You may be able to assassinate, but you would not be able to escape."

"It is fine either way with me..." Davis shrugged as he thought, 'It's not like I'm going to use my own prowess to kill a Grand Elder at the Ninth Stage... That's basically suicide even for me...'

However, his expression became a bit hesitant.

"What would become of this expert who invited me if I killed a Grand Elder-level character?"

Shirley blinked before she pursed her lips, "Most likely executed..."

Davis possessed a difficult expression on his face, but it turned ruthless almost instantly.

"Blame your own sect for making my Shirley suffer, Karlheinz..."

Shirley gulped while there was another character who listened to all their words, feeling her mind spin over the gravity of the meaning.

Kill a Grand Elder?

Hidden identity in the name of Feng Chu?

A necessary sacrifice of an Elder?

What? What? What!? Who was this young man who dared to spout all this bullshit, yet it sounded rather convincing when it came from him!?

It wasn't like Esvele didn't know his true name but so what of it!? Even Dragon Queen Isabella, who was his superior, wouldn't dare to spout such nonsense!

She was unaware of their true relationship because she had just woken up when Shirley and Davis were looking at each other in love.

However, Shirley didn't doubt Davis's ability to kill unnoticed as she still remembered the soundless, painless, and invisible killing talisman he possessed to kill Emperor Tritor and Emperor Raven. Even after entering the Fifty-Two Territories, she still hadn't found a talisman like that, which made her think that it could only be obtained from his immortal master.

She felt that it should be extremely more powerful than what she had seen before!

Shirley pursed her lips, appearing intensely moved as she possessed a complex expression on her face. It hadn't crossed ten minutes yet, and here she was, feeling already protected.

"However, Shirley, I also understand enough to not disturb your cultivation here. Do you want to stay here in the Burning Phoenix Ridge or come with me back to our home next month?"

"I..." Shirley hesitated as she lowered her head, "I want to cultivate here..."

"I understand..."

"Wait, don't get me wrong...!" Shirley shook her hands, "I want to come with you, but with the way I am, I don't think I can hold back..."

Davis blinked, "What... do you mean?"

Shirley's expression became tinged with a crimson blush as a soul transmission appeared on Davis's mind.

"The Fire Phoenix Immortal warned me to remain chaste until I reach the Immortal Stage for my own good..."

"Oh..."

Davis uttered a word of comprehension as he wryly smiled, but some part of him was greatly disappointed because the only woman Evelyn, Natalya, and Isabella allowed him to take other than Fiora was Shirley Ashton.

He was sure they wouldn't be offended if it were just a kiss he shared with the other women as they're magnanimous, while the promises he exchanged were just that he couldn't take other women, meaning that he couldn't bed them.

That was why he was so daring in kissing Sophie and Niera while also exchanging promises with them that he wouldn't leave them. It could be said that he was shamelessly taking advantage of loopholes while even managing to gain approval from Evelyn and Natalya.

The only thing remaining was to gain approval from Isabella, but if she were here, he knew that she would've already given approval as a woman born in the Imperial Palace of the Ruth Empire.

She was probably the most accepting of him having a harem to himself!

Nevertheless, Davis frowned.

The Earth Dragon Immortal didn't seem to have said something like that to Isabella, and that was why they had agreed to marry and spend their marriage night in love, so why did the Fire Phoenix Immortal say that to Shirley?

He couldn't help but find it suspicious as he sent a soul transmission to her.

"I have no problem with not being extremely intimate with you, although it still stings a bit, but why does the Fire Phoenix Immortal want you to stay a virgin while the Earth Dragon Immortal didn't say such things to Isabella, who is about to inherit?"

Davis narrowed his eyes while Shirley reacted normally as she blinked twice in contemplation.