

EMPEROR 1341

Chapter 1341: Grand Elder Valerian

Davis blinked at her injury, unable to believe that he had let an attack escape his sight and senses before realization abruptly dawned on him!

Grand Elder Valerian narrowed his brows, looking confused for a moment before it faded.

"As everyone can see," Shirley spoke out in a loud melodious voice, "My eardrums were injured because of top disciple Lauren's Burning Phoenix. Its screech was secretively and specifically targeted at me, making my eardrums burst before my healing capabilities restored it. Nevertheless, the blood is still there as evidence, so I suppose I can prove that my protector acted in mercy to just teach top disciple Lauren a lesson."

"However, it is sorrowful to think that top disciple Lauren would give in to hatred and actually try to kill my protector using his hidden protector."

Shirley shook her head, wearing back her veil to the disappointment and astonishment of many people as her crimson lips moved.

"It's a pity..."

Grand Elder Valerian's face was calm before he cracked a relieved smile.

"I see. So, you were truly injured. Then I made the right call in killing that hidden protector. Otherwise, it was unknown if he would've come after you after getting past your protector. We can't let you face trouble or die no matter what! Top disciple Lauren will be promptly investigated for making a move on you, and it would be made sure by us, elders, that justice is delivered to you!"

Hearing his impassioned speech, many disciples were inwardly shaken!

How righteous!

They all knew that Schneider Rein, who was said to be killed by Shirley, was Grand Elder Valerian Rein's youngest son! The matter was then dropped as the verdict that Shirley did not kill Schneider was declared by the Sect Master and many of the Grand Elders. Nevertheless, there should be some animosity for Shirley within Grand Elder Valerian for that concerning matter, but looking at him protect Shirley for the sect regardless of personal issues he faced, they were moved!

Grand Elder Valerian appeared young and charming. His attractive traits and features, including his confident posture, instantly moved the crowd into having a favorable opinion of him as they looked at him protecting one of the prized gems of the Burning Phoenix Ridge.

The crowd looked at Grand Elder Valerian in awe as he left, heading towards the battle arena before entered using another entrance that seemed to be open for elders and people with similar or more status.

Davis wasn't particularly bothered about Grand Elder Valerian as he had his gaze on Shirley.

He was inwardly shaken at Shirley's quick thinking. He didn't instruct her to injure herself, and he felt that it was unnecessary as he had other plans in mind, but the way she quickly took out her own eardrums without anyone noticing to fool everyone had him deeply impressed by her.

No wonder she could traverse and survive the harsh cultivation world. She really had it in her to act with her sharp and quick thinking. Even he himself was unable to notice that she was injured as he wasn't specifically surrounding her with his soul sense at that moment.

Shirley looked back at him. Even though the crimson veil blocked her expression, Davis could see that she widely smiling at him as her eyes happily creased. He lightly shook his head while they got off Freya.

Freya turned back to her human form, looking angry as well as frustrated that her Master got injured. Esvele looked the same, looking even mortified than Freya as if feeling that she should be the one who should've used her own body to protect Shirley.

The crowd still remained, looking at Shirley and the others with interest when Davis beckoned them to enter his protective range.

It wasn't until Shirley explained with a soul transmission did Freya blink but still kept looking angry as her eyes shone with an intelligent light. Esvele blinked in incredulity as well, but she had to lower her head to hide a smile that sprouted on her face. She felt that it was absurd that Grand Elder Valerian was fooled and sent back just like that.

As they made their way towards the battle arena's entrance, Shirley sent a soul transmission to Davis.

"Davis, you were rather hasty... They sent the lowest of the low, the weakest top disciple to provoke you and test your prowess..."

"Right..." Davis acknowledged, "I know they would come to provoke me, trying to garner my non-existent Essence Gathering Cultivation and Body Tempering Cultivation, so it's all the same no matter who it was..."

Shirley's ruby-like eyes appeared hesitant, "Still-"

"However, no one gets to be rude to you like that, Shirley. There are certain things I won't just let happen even if I have to die for it. Call it my obsession or my weakness, but I would rather die than see you be humiliated in this manner."

Shirley's heart skipped a beat. She had her mouth opened, wanting to say something, but she didn't and lowered her head as if wanting to be pampered by him more. She found this feeling fresh as well as addicting.

"It is the same for my other wives." Davis continued.

"To that extent, I tried making that hidden protector my slave so that I can force a confession out of him to know more about hidden enemies. Although it was a bit difficult as that fey's soul was at the peak of the seventh stage, I still managed to break his defense and enslave him. However, that Grand Elder Valerian is truly powerful and cautious. He instantly killed that hidden protector to hide himself and the related parties concerned but don't worry, I have a lot of qualms about this matter."

Davis oddly smiled while Shirley blinked.

"Well, let's forget about this for a while as I don't think that Grand Elder Valerian will make a move again, at least for the time being. I want you to enjoy your time here for as long as you can, Davis. Especially, watch me make you proud as I battle those fools and defeat them..."

Davis's odd smile was replaced with a heartened one as he simply nodded to Shirley's wish. His black eyes flashed in a strange light as they all entered the battle arena when once again, a burst of illumination from the pure white battle arena momentarily blinded their eyes.

What came into their view was a battle arena that appeared like an amphitheater for a better view of the battles that would take place, while the long and wide battle stage was square-shaped. The image of a big Burning Phoenix was deeply carved on the surface of the battle stage. It was not real-like but appeared to be the grand symbol of the sect.

The battle stage had four tall pillars on the four ends of the battle stage. They looked towering as they stretched a kilometer tall while also seeming to act as a powerful defensive formation.

Davis appreciated the design of this battle arena as it was entirely different from the ones he had seen before. He panned his gaze around and saw the elders were seated at the northern end of the second story while the disciples occupied the other three directions, aptly according to their statuses.

As for the Grand Elders, they seem to have occupied the third story of the northern side, while there was also an extra compartment above that seemed even more luxurious than the ones the Grand Elders occupied, but it was rather small.

Davis could see who it belonged to when the person of question appeared like a fiery fairy before everyone above the battle arena, looking magnificent and poised.

The whole sect suddenly jerked into motion as they stood up from their seats and bowed deeply towards the northern end of the fourth story, clasping their hands as they screamed.

"Greetings, Sect Master!~~~"

Their voice reverberated heavily as a solemn atmosphere befell the battle arena.

At the same time, Davis and Shirley, who did not bend their backs, stuck out like a sore thumb in the battle arena.

There were a few elders who saw it and was about to berate them when suddenly they noticed that it was top disciple Shirley who was in Sect Master's care. The next second, they cast their gaze down and continued bowing until a melodious yet soothing voice echoed.

"At ease, my sect disciples and elders..."

Only then did they straightened their backs and raised their heads, looking at the Sect Master who occupied the most luxurious space on the northern side of the battle arena.

Sect Master Lea Weiss nodded to the entire crowd gathered and seated herself in a noble manner on the epic throne, adorned with the wings of the Burning Phoenix!

Yes, they were real, crimson-feathered wings of an Emperor Beast Stage Burning Phoenix, making the Sect Master give off a grand and majestic vibe that humbled the hearts of numerous disciples and

elders. But at the same time, most of the men were in a daze as they saw their Sect Master's elegance and her beautiful crimson eyes.

Their blood boiled to obtain this high-above swan while their eyes flashed with a lustful glint before they hurriedly hid it as they lowered their heads.

Even Davis was a bit attracted as he saw Sect Master Lea Weiss sit there regally even when he understood that it was just the solemn atmosphere that made his mind muddled.

"...!"

Abruptly, his gaze connected with Sect Master Lea Weiss before she looked towards the side a bit, specifically at the person who seemed to have entered the battle arena in a hurry, currently flying towards her.

He seemed like a wizened old man, but he stopped at a respectful distance in mid-air before his ashen face made it obvious for everyone that the piece he was going to speak of heralded the arrival of grave news.

"Reporting to Sect Master! Top disciple Lauren Zucker has committed suicide on the way back to his crimson palace, leaving a note that says that he was put up to kill top disciple Shirley's Protector by Grand Elder Valerian!"

"!!!"

Everyone's expression froze while Sect Master Lea Weiss blinked as she just saw that disciple on her way here!

Many heads turned as their gazes all fell on Grand Elder Valerian while Davis's lips curved into an imperceptible smirk.

Chapter 1342: Beautiful...

'Think you can provoke and leave just like that?'

Davis's black eyes shone in a mocking light as he looked at Grand Elder Valerian seated on the northern side of the battle arena, precisely at the third story where the other Grand Elders were also seated.

He remained silent, wondering how Grand Elder Valerian would come out of the trap that he had created.

The crowd did not erupt in an uproar, but there was a blaring silence that threatened the hearts of many people. Even the sound of heartbeats could be audible in this battle arena, but not a single word was heard.

Everyone remained silent, keeping their gazes on Grand Elder Valerian as they wished to see his reaction. However, even when Grand Elder Valerian received the strange looks, his young face only possessed confusion before he stood up, his expression becoming tinged with a hint of anger.

"I don't know whose work this is, but it is clear that someone used the earlier situation to frame me. This is completely audacious! This is slander! Who dared to forge a letter like that while secretly killing top disciple Lauren for their own benefit!?"

Grand Elder Valerian's crimson eyes panned the other Grand Elders before he turned his body around, looking at the Sect Master as he possessed a solemn expression on his face.

"Sect Master, I want to know if Top Disciple Lauren Zucker had truly died."

Sect Master Lea Weiss nodded her head without hesitation.

She did not doubt the authenticity of this wizened old man's words as he was one of the three guardians of the Chief Life Tablet Hall. Not only were the life tablets of Top Disciples kept there, but also the life tablets of Elders, Grand Elders, and even her own life tablet was kept there!

Therefore, other than the three guardians, only she and the hidden ancestors had access to the Chief Life Tablet Spirit Hall. No one other than them can enter to tamper with the life tablets, so if Top Disciple Lauren Zucker's life table was destroyed, and the concerned guardian was here, it meant that he was undoubtedly dead.

Grand Elder Valerian nodded before he looked at the wizened old man.

"How did that disciple commit suicide? I told him to await a verdict from us Grand Elders, yet he decided to commit suicide while framing me? How could it be possible? Everyone, don't you find this all suspicious?"

"I don't..."

A Grand Elder suddenly interjected, and everyone saw that it was none other than Grand Elder Claus Strom.

He looked stern with his sharp crimson eyes and strict expression.

Grand Elder Valerian slowly panned his gaze to look at Grand Elder Claus Strom. They both glared at each other, seemingly locked in a mental battle of wits as the atmosphere became tense in a fraction of a second.

Davis recalled that this Grand Elder was the one who berated him for being overbearing in releasing his soul force to teach a lesson to disciples who were staring at Shirley with ill looks and intentions.

Nevertheless, Davis enjoyed watching the scenario play out, while Grand Elder Claus Strom's opposing statement made it even more interesting for him.

Perhaps, this might also reveal who is all on Grand Elder Valerian's side, or so he thought as he kept an imperceptible smirk on his face.

"I assume the guardian here has the suicide note... I want to read it..."

Grand Elder Claus Strom reached out his hand, and the guardian sent a letter flying to him.

"It's a pity that he died." Grand Elder Valerian had his eyes narrowed, looking at the letter in Grand Elder Claus Strom's hand in interest.

Everyone couldn't help but nod their heads, but Davis almost laughed out loud.

Who was this fool talking about?

Top Disciple Lauren Zucker was merely a pawn who obediently went away with just a word from Grand Elder Valerian Rein. It had to be said that top disciples don't have to be necessarily respectful to Grand Elders as they are not required to do so by the sect rules.

However, with how Top Disciple Lauren Zucker acted towards Grand Elder Valerian, it was relatively clear where his allegiance rested.

He was merely a pawn, yet how could a pawn be truly pitied?

Davis couldn't help but find this laughable.

However, it wasn't only his opponents or enemies who could use pawns to accomplish their goals. He didn't even need to have pawns, but he could still do it too, and even more efficiently than them as he didn't have to worry about the ones he used acting differently than he had willed to with Fallen Heaven.

It was just that using people who didn't have anything to do with him, who haven't offended him, always had him hesitate, because to manipulate them using Fallen Heaven means killing them in the end.

That hadn't changed.

However, Top Disciple Lauren Zucker had precisely offended Davis, making Davis have no reservations or misgivings about killing him on his way back to his crimson palace.

Davis didn't even care if Grand Elder Valerian was truly the person who targeted him as he just manipulated Top Disciple Lauren Zucker to write a suicide note that Grand Elder Valerian was the reason that he acted to kill Top Disciple Shirley's protector as well as to injure her so that it could serve as avenging Schneider's death.

Grand Elder Valerian had a tremendous motive to scheme against Shirley and plot to use her, and everyone knew of it.

Davis couldn't help but smile as he precisely wanted to use Grand Elder Valerian's motive to his advantage!

A top disciple had committed suicide in broad daylight because he had been used and felt guilty? How insulting was this to the Burning Phoenix Ridge?

Everyone couldn't help but think as the letter was passed around the Grand Elders before it finally made it to the Sect Master. Even Grand Elder Valerian Rein had a look over it, but he absolutely couldn't find anything forged on it as he knew that it was undoubtedly Top Disciple Lauren Zucker's handwriting.

"A top disciple committing suicide is a big matter, and we only have a few minutes before we perform the ceremony to respect our ancestors, then starting the Top Disciple Battles that decide their rankings and rewards, but with this, I don't think we have the time or the rudeness to pay respects to our ancestors while we have let down a fledgling of the sect."

Sect Master Lea Weiss spoke up with her melodious voice as she addressed the crowd before looking at Grand Elder Valerian as she continued.

"How do you suppose we should treat this matter? Should we capture you?"

Eyes shot wide as everyone held their breaths.

However, Grand Elder Valerian couldn't help but chuckle, "Sect Master is surprisingly humorous."

"If someone commits suicide and writes your name on their suicide note, should we capture you too? I plead innocence regarding Top Disciple Lauren Zucker's suicide or planned murder as I would like to call it, so I request Sect Master Lea Weiss to thoroughly investigate this matter."

Sect Master Lea Weiss narrowed her brows, but before she could say anything, Grand Elder Valerian continued.

"For a start, I wonder what happened to his Burning Phoenix? Is it still alive? Wait, how exactly was Top Disciple Lauren Zucker found dead? What kind of state was he in?"

Sect Master Lea Weiss nodded as she had this doubt as well. The crowd began to talk amongst themselves before the guardian answered.

"It isn't confirmed, but initial checks indicates that Top Disciple Lauren Zucker's soul had collapsed. From his suicide note, we could infer that he caused his soul to collapse, cleanly killing himself."

"As for the Burning Phoenix, it is currently missing, but I presume that it is already injured as its blood was found nearby Top Disciple Lauren's dead body. However, I also think that the blood is not from an injury but the backlash from its master dying."

Everyone nodded their heads as they understood.

The Burning Phoenix Ridge uses a peculiar Magical Beast Taming Pact that connects the human and the magical beast's vitality. It is a blood connection where both parties use their blood essence to form a pact, making it possible for them to communicate just through intent as if they were a part of each other.

As time passes, the human and the Burning Phoenix would naturally be able to understand each other and form a bond as if it were natural. However, because of this pact that positively affects the bond, the magical beast would stay loyal to its human master. The human would take care of his magical beast with care, even with possessiveness, in return.

Therefore, when one of the two in the pact dies, the other directly receives a backlash to their vitality. However, that would mean the pact itself is a glaring weakness in the life of a Burning Phoenix Ridge disciple who owns a Burning Phoenix.

That was not good for the future of the sect.

That's why the amount of blood essence used to perform and nurture the magical beast decides the backlash's intensity, and to certain people, it was known that Top Disciple Lauren had a weak Burning Phoenix. He gave the Burning Phoenix significant amounts of his blood essence to nurture and support him to reach the top. Therefore, they mused that the Burning Phoenix could've been severely injured.

"Presently, I have issued a search warrant to every guard placed in the Burning Phoenix Ridge." The guardian spoke in a sorrowful voice, "They should be able to find it soon-"

Whoosh!~

The sound of wings tearing apart the wind echoed as a Burning Phoenix suddenly appeared out of nowhere near the northern direction. Many people didn't notice, but some who were close noticed that this Burning Phoenix seemed to have silently entered from the gates the elders used in its human form before it practically rushed off towards the direction of the Grand Elders!

"Valerian, you bastard, Because of you, my master committed suicide! Die!"

The Burning Phoenix shouted in a rather emotional tone before its head shone with a deep crimson light. The hollows of its crimson eyes and wide-open beak were shining blood-red as if it were heralding a calamity, and the expression of the disciples went pale as they jerked in their seats!

Booooooom!~

The magical beast core of the Burning Phoenix imploded, causing a fiery crimson explosion, and a shockwave that threatened to erase everyone below its prowess began to expand in range!

"How beautiful..."

Davis's lips moved as he subconsciously spoke while witnessing the scarlet explosion illuminating the northern direction. It was as though a mini supernova had erupted, causing everyone to narrow their eyes while Davis's words were muffled by the blaring sound.

However, Shirley, who was closest to Davis, had her ruby-like red eyes wide in incredulity as she cast a look at him.

Was this all his doing!?

Chapter 1343: You Have Gone Too Far...

Shirley recalled that Davis had these mysterious instakilling talismans that killed Emperor Tritor and Emperor Raven back in the day. So she felt that it was either Davis or someone else who killed Top Disciple Lauren Zucker.

However, till secretly killing and somehow making it look like a suicide, she understood as she more or less knew that his killing talismans had killed their souls since there weren't any injuries on Emperor Tritor and Emperor Raven last time, but how Davis or some other people had him write a suicide note, and that too something pointed at Grand Elder Valerian who had the most distinguished position in the Elder Hall was something she couldn't understand.

She was practically confused as she returned her gaze to the scarlet explosion that seemed to have stopped expanding, slowly revolving in reverse as if it was undergoing an unknown change before it receded into nothingness as layers of fiery illuminations suppressed it till the void could be seen.

It left a tiny, circular spatial crack that soon repaired itself.

The Grand Elders and Elders all had their hands raised towards the dissipating energy. They did not drop it as they thought back to what happened in these short four seconds, from the moment the Burning Phoenix entered to the spatial crack healing itself.

Almost all of their soul forces instantly reached the Burning Phoenix to suppress it from exploding, but there was no way they could stop it. It was practically impossible for them to stop a King Beast Stage Magical Beast from committing suicide, especially when it happened in an instant when the Burning Phoenix had already prepared itself to self-destruct.

Still, even with the explosion occurring, the Elders could protect themselves but not the disciples.

However, who were the Grand Elders?

They were all Ninth Stage Powerhouses, and at least thirty of them gathered at the third story!

Without even having the Sect Master make a move, they efficiently suppressed the terrifying flame waves as they didn't even let the shockwaves escape, quickly saving the disciples' lives as the blast radius could extend to more than a hundred kilometers, taking out all life that was below the eighth stage in this battle arena in an instant.

Everything was practically suppressed within that particular space, only leaving behind a tiny spatial crack, and even the pristine whites of the architecture didn't seem to be cracked or dirtied.

However, the Elders' and Grand Elders' expressions couldn't help but twist in an ugly manner. Even though they hadn't incurred any injuries, their emotions were not good.

After all, a Burning Phoenix had just died! What did it even feel to have committed suicide along with its master!? It should've known that it was futile, yet it had still done it!

"Valerian...! You have gone too far...."

A Grand Elder suddenly spoke, his male voice seething with intense emotions before he flew into the skies. A fiery crimson glow took over his body as he rapidly began to transform into a Burning Phoenix as his seventy-meter wide wingspan majestically spread!

Screech!~~~

A shocking cry erupted as the air intensely reverberated around the battle arena, even bringing cracks to the pristine white marbles of the third floor in the battle arena. Even though it was made from High-Level Emperor Grade Materials, it could not withstand the concentrated cry of a Mid-Level Emperor Beast Stage Burning Phoenix!

The other people seemed not affected at all as it was directed explicitly at Grand Elder Valerian.

"Hmph! Whatever happens, it's going to be your fault, Grand Elder Regis!"

Grand Elder Valerian's crimson eyes flashed with killing intent as he raised one of his hands. Tyrannical essence energy surged out as apocalyptic might gathered in his palms, ready to be unleashed in an instant as the air around him vibrated!

"Enough!!!"

A melodious voice echoed, seething with a dominant intent. It was as if a piercing blade ran through everyone's back, including the Elders and the Grand Elders, causing them to stagger as they turned their heads towards the source and noticed an extraordinary crimson crown adorn Sect Master Lea Weiss's head.

Davis saw this scene as he narrowed his eyes and sensed his party's condition. It seemed both Esvele and Freya staggered like everyone else, but Shirley didn't. However, Shirley trembled a moment later, reacting the same as everyone else before he noticed that she was acting.

He lightly shook his head in amusement and saw the suppression that crimson crown had on the people here. Not one of them had failed to react, meaning that it suppressed humans, magical beasts, and feys alike, but only if they had the Burning Phoenix Blood within them.

It didn't seem like it affected Shirley since she had the relatively superior Fire Phoenix Blood.

Nevertheless, how much it suppressed, Davis didn't know, nor could he grasp since he didn't feel anything out of the ordinary other than a bloodline aura unrelated to him radiating. It had no effect on him.

"Sect Master, there's no need to bring out the Grand Burning Phoenix's Crown to make us listen to your majestic self."

Grand Elder Regis seemed relatively calm as he transformed back into his human form. However, a hostile intent shone in his crimson eyes as he glared at Grand Elder Valerian.

"I request that Sect Master bring justice to my useless grandchild Zarus as well."

Sect Master Lea Weiss nodded her head, which then caused Grand Elder Regis to completely stand down as he returned to his seat.

Davis knew that Zarus was none other than the Burning Phoenix that had self-destructed now. Of course, he was the one who made Zarus die by manipulating his actions to self-destruct when he silently neared Grand Elder Valerian.

The emotions that Zarus had for Top Disciple Lauren were true, and he took advantage of those emotions through Fallen Heaven to make Zarus naturally commit suicide. It was ruthless of him, but considering the relationship they shared with each other, Davis didn't hesitate to take down the Burning Phoenix.

When he had decided to kill Top Disciple Lauren Zucker, he was naturally not going to hold back in using whoever was closely related to Lauren Zucker.

However, he was surprised to see that a magical beast could be a Grand Elder...

A Mid-Level Emperor Beast Stage Magical Beast that had his eyes widened for a few moments.

But now that he closely looked at the Grand Elders, he could feel eight undulations of Emperor Beast Stage Magical Beasts and three strange undulations, which were undoubtedly feys who seemed to have hidden their wings under their robes while they wore masks.

He thought they were acting mysterious but to think that they were embarrassed or perhaps feeling shameful of themselves?

Davis didn't really understand how feys lived here, nor did he bother to understand, but their lineup of Ninth Stage Powerhouses sure had expanded his horizons.

Nevertheless, he looked at the atmosphere that was getting increasingly tense as Sect Master Lea Weiss and Grand Elder Valerian Rein glared at each other, making it rather obvious that they were hostile against each other. He couldn't help but ask Shirley with a soul transmission, to which she replied.

"Grand Elder Valerian is the head of the Grand Elders, and he was the preferred Sect Master candidate when he was a Top Disciple, that is at least until the Top Disciple named Lea Weiss suddenly entered the scene and took the reigns from him, successfully becoming the Sect Master years later."

"However, it is said that Grand Elder Valerian is still aiming for the Sect Master seat, as well as the Sect Master herself, and added on to the fact that their age difference is only about four hundred years, their union is rather encouraged by the general populace."

"However, when Grand Elder Valerian pursued Sect Master Lea Weiss in their top disciple years, it was presumed that she had ruthlessly rejected him, but no one knows the authenticity to this rumor. However, it is not entirely baseless as ever since then, they are said to be plotting against each other while Grand Elder Valerian's aim is to take Sect Master Lea Weiss as his woman while obtaining the Sect Master's seat for himself."

"However, it is a pity that his cultivation is not up to par with the Sect Master's or else, most of the Elders and Grand Elders might stand in his support as men don't like to be under a woman even if she is an immortal goddess."

"However, the feys, the magical beasts, and a few other Grand Elders like Grand Elder Claus Strom and Grand Elder Newgate Stein are in favor of Sect Master Lea Weiss's rule, so even if Grand Elder Valerian Rein became equal to Sect Master Lea Weiss in cultivation, it is questionable if he could obtain the Sect Master status unless he marries the Sect Master and made her voluntarily resign, which I say is impossible."

Hearing her lengthy explanation, Davis lightly nodded his head, understanding a few intricacies, he felt like he could use to his advantage. Right when he planned his next move, his expression changed.

"Grand Elder Valerian, I'll have to ask you to exit this exceptional battle exchange for the troubles and disruption you have caused. As for your innocence or guilt, it would be investigated with the help of a Mystic Diviner we would hire from the Heaven Gazing Sect's Branch that is situated to the west."

Sect Master Lea Weiss sat majestically on her throne as she waved her hand to one of the exits, her small lips moving behind her crimson veil.

"Leave~"

"..."

The battle arena became abnormally silent.

Everyone's gaze swam towards Grand Elder Valerian, but they all saw that his head was lowered, increasingly contorting in ugliness from the humiliation of being asked to leave!

Even though one may think it was polite, it was an obvious slap to the face! No different from being forced to scam!

Chapter 1344: Commenced

"But...!" Grand Elder Valerian raised his head and waved his hand, "Sect Master! I swear that I didn't do it! I can even sign a Blood Soul Contract to prove my innocence!"

"I see... However, I already made my decision? Are you trying to rebel in my Burning Phoenix Ridge?"

Sect Master Lea Weiss nonchalantly spoke.

"No...!" Grand Elder Valerian became stunned by this question, no, at her audacity, "I..."

"Should I have to repeat it...?"

Sect Master Lea Weiss narrowed her crimson eyes as her melodious voice echoed. It stunned Grand Elder Valerian even more before he deeply smiled.

"Good!" Grand Elder Valerian kept nodding his head, "Very good!"

"But I would like to say something before I leave..."

Grand Elder Valerian shot a good look at the Grand Elders, mainly the Grand Elders on Sect Master Lea Weiss's side, as he kept his icy smile.

"No matter who may have dared to frame me, I am not afraid. When the truth is revealed by the Mystic Diviner, don't expect any mercy from me, because we can't live under the same sky anymore! Hmph!"

With an enraged harrumph, Grand Elder Valerian Rein transformed into a streak of light as he left the battle arena in an instant. His speed left a trail of wind that had every hair dancing from the breeze.

Even the Sect Master's long crimson hair danced, making her look enchanting amidst the crowd's perplexed look.

Sect Master Lea Weiss took the crown off her head before it disappeared into her spatial ring. The disciples were in awe of perceiving one of the sect's Karmic Treasures, the Grand Burning Phoenix's Crown. Not only did it possess the ability to suppress the Burning Phoenix people like a ruler's crown, but it also had a powerful defensive capability.

This was all thanks to the numerous ancestors sacrificing their blood essence to nurture it for their descendants and maintain the sect's karmic luck.

However, they didn't know what to think of Grand Elder Valerian as the evidence was firmly against him. A top disciple and a Burning Phoenix committed suicide because of him. While the number of Burning Phoenixes was already dwindling, they were also currently experiencing the bloodline thinning-out problem, which remains extremely fatal to their sect's future.

They mused and began to discuss it amongst themselves when the Sect Master's melodious voice echoed again.

"Everyone, this day was supposed to be something that gave us delight as we would have seen the growth of our top disciples, but instead, we have witnessed the death of two treasured gems of our sect. While I don't have any kind of interaction with these two people, I mourn their deaths as it is a loss to our sect."

"We lost two potential future Ninth Stage Powerhouses, and hence this matter will be taken seriously by the two Grand Elders I will delegate."

"Grand Elder Claus Strom and Grand Elder Artur Schatz..."

Sect Master Lea Weiss turned her gaze towards them while the ones who were called stood up.

"You two are tasked to find the culprit who caused today's tragedy with the help of a Mystic Diviner. Moreover, no matter who the culprit may be, I will allow you two to use the resources of the entire Elder Hall and Disciplinary Hall to capture the culprit and bring him or her to the Beheading Grounds!"

"... Yes!"

Grand Elder Claus Strom and Grand Elder Artur Schatz bowed as they received their Sect Master's mandate. However, they both looked at each other, an unfriendly intent suppressed in their eyes. It was because Grand Elder Artur Schatz belonged to Grand Elder Valerian's camp that they were opposing, but in terms of investigation, everyone could see that the Sect Master was fair and just to have appointed someone from Grand Elder Valerian's camp.

Nevertheless, no matter which camp the investigators belonged to, as long as the Mystic Diviner revealed who the culprit was using their mystic arts, they would have no choice but to follow her words in capturing the culprit, or with the Sect Master's rightful authority, the rebellious individuals would be exiled and hunted down.

Both the Grand Elders did not bother to stay and quickly exited the battle arena to bring a Mystic Diviner. On the other hand, Shirley's red pupils shook in uncertainty and suspense.

"Davis, is it safe to think that it was you?"

Davis heard her soul transmission before he couldn't help but smile.

"Well, if we're thinking the same thing, then I guess it was me..."

Shirley couldn't help but giggle with a wide smile on her face.

It was absolutely hilarious for her to see that Grand Elder Valerian and the other Grand Elders fought against each other when it was relatively clear to her that her man was the cause for this whole mess. She felt that even the Sect Master was convinced that Grand Elder Valerian was behind it or she wouldn't have been so aggressive in making Grand Elder Valerian scam.

After all, Grand Elder Valerian possessed the topmost influence in the Burning Phoenix Ridge, only second to the Sect Master. It was not easy to tell him to scam just because Sect Master wanted to unless she wanted to risk an internal dissolution.

At the same time, she couldn't help but become worried for Davis as she felt that he would be found out by the Mystic Diviner, who the Grand Elders would call for aid. She bit her lips, feeling immensely worried, when Davis looked back at her and casually smiled.

"Don't worry, it is unlikely that the Mystic Diviner would be able to find me as the method I used to kill is absolutely untraceable..."

Shirley's ample bosoms heaved as she lightly released a sigh. She did not feel the need to doubt his words' authenticity as she had trust and belief that stemmed from her love towards him.

But indeed, Davis was confident that he would not be found out.

How was the Mystic Diviner going to find the culprit? He didn't know, but he sure as hell knew that it would be impossible for them to find a trace of Fallen Heaven's attack. Even if it was him who used Fallen Heaven to kill, unless they can bypass Fallen Heaven, he felt that it was unlikely that they would be able to find him.

Moreover, from Tina Roxley's divination, he learned that divining anything concerning him would probably lead to backlash from the heavens, perhaps because of Fallen Heaven's presence in him. For all he knew, a heavenly tribulation might descend like it did before in Tina Roxley's divination, acting to take them out if they dared to get deep into this matter.

Therefore, Davis wasn't distraught or anxious.

Of course, this was all his assumption, and nothing was verified by his own eyes and senses, so he remained cautious and left it at this matter. That was why he also did not directly kill Grand Elder Valerian as a Ninth Stage Powerhouse mysteriously dying or committing suicide for no obvious reason would be more heavily investigated than the investigation they were going to conduct for Top Disciple Lauren Zucker.

Perhaps, the Mystic Diviner would be at the Ninth Stage, even possessing more powerful mystic arts to somehow track him.

Mocking and looking down on them both because he had Fallen Heaven was all good, but if he forgot that they too had intelligence and reasoning abilities to pinpoint that he was suspicious, he would perhaps become like the previous owners of Fallen Heaven, ending up dead within a fraction of a second from their mysterious karmic attacks.

Davis knew that he was powerful enough to take on most Ninth Stage Powerhouses with Fallen Heaven, but he wasn't foolish enough to take on the entire world at this point in time.

If it weren't for all this, Davis felt like playing Grand Elder Valerian to death!

Nevertheless, he was somewhat satisfied, feeling that he had gotten revenge for Shirley as he had now successfully humiliated Grand Elder Valerian for the troubles he had given her. Besides, it wasn't his intention to start a war here as Shirley was still here. Unless it became do or die for him or Shirley, he had no intention to start a war and risk endangering Shirley's life.

If he could plan ahead, he would have her escape before doing something like that.

"Everyone..."

Sect Master Lea Weiss's voice echoed again, garnering the crowd's attention that numbered in the hundred thousands to become silent before her voice echoed again as she leaned back on her winged throne.

"I reflect that the ceremony to honor our ancestors is not required to begin the battle exchange. Does anyone prefer to say otherwise?"

Hearing the blaring silence, Sect Master Lea Weiss nodded her head before she lightly smiled behind the crimson veil.

"Let the Top Disciple Battles commence...!"

"Yes!!!"

The crowd erupted into an uproar as stunning Burning Phoenix Flames lit up the dusky skies! The Burning Phoenixes flying in the air also began to sky-dance with their brilliant crimson wings fluttering, leaving behind a trail of beautiful crimson flames in the air.

The sight of it excited almost every disciple gathered here, numbering more than a hundred thousand as they jumped, shouted, and squealed in excitement! Everyone who stayed still continued to move to their seats.

Davis and the others had also moved to the northern direction before arriving at the first floor where the top disciples had been seated. The moment they arrived, he could see plenty of gazes being directed at him before they fell on Shirley, their intents ranging from awe to blatant desire.

"The one with the overly big sexual appeal, in case you forgot, this isn't the place for core disciples, you know..." A red-haired man commented in annoyance as he didn't even bother to look at the person he was talking to while the others had their lips curve into a mocking smile.

Davis experienced a sense of déjà vu as he recalled what happened in the Gathering of the Elites Competition back in the Grand Sea Continent before he shook his head. He couldn't help but smile as Esvele was like a maid, a friend to Shirley as Ellia was to him. It was just that he and Shirley had their roles reversed at this point.

He was interested in seeing how Shirley would react when Esvele turned around and flew away from them.

Davis became a bit bewildered by Esvele's actions before his lips slightly parted as he saw where she was advancing.

The gazes of many people landed on Esvele as she suddenly became the center of attention, not to mention her big rack managed to drop a lot of mouths to the ground at once.

Esvele directly landed on the very center of the battle stage, raising her head to pan her gaze around the battle arena before her determined gaze stopped at the place where Sect Master Lea Weiss was seated.

"Sect Master, I, Esvele Zelte challenge Top Disciple Arno Schatz to a battle!"

"..."

Everyone couldn't help but blink their eyes in incredulity.

What's she doing here in the event that was specifically planned for top disciples? Wasn't she just a mere core disciple!?

Chapter 1345: Esvele Steps Up

Most of the disciples had perplexed expressions on their faces. However, the ones who were in the know had amused expressions as they knew that this Core Disciple Esvele had received numerous benefits from senior sister Shirley as she was the sole follower.

Davis had thought that she had offended most people with their actions, but looking at the Elders and Grand Elders maintaining an indifferent face except the top disciples who seemed to be provoked, especially the one who opened his mouth before, now had a hideous, offended expression from being challenged.

It ultimately conveyed the meaning that Esvele was looking down on him for her to challenge him for a simple insult!

"To challenge a top disciple at this battle exchange, I assume you want to be acknowledged as a top disciple?" Sect Master Lea Weiss spoke in a calm tone, seemingly not offended by this small interruption, "In that case, you should have a top disciple or a grand elder recommend you, or else, you should forget about today and try your chances in taking the next top disciple trials."

"I recommend Esvele Zelte to the status of a top disciple!~"

"Very well, this challenge is now official." Without missing a beat, Sect Master Lea Weiss replied as if she knew that Shirley would bellow out at this moment.

Everyone could see that Top Disciple Shirley had one of her hands raised, seemingly supporting her follower to become a top disciple. The eyes of many female disciples instantly became envious as they turned their heads towards Esvele, but looking at her having those covetous goods that had the male disciples' eyes wide, their eyes practically began to spit flames.

Davis couldn't help but chuckle at Shirley and Esvele.

These girls definitely did not tell him their plan, so he felt that it was an impromptu one, but looking at Esvele, he reevaluated her as he didn't expect that she would have that much courage to openly land on the battle stage and challenge a top disciple to a battle.

She was rather brave when compared to how timid she acted in front of him, running away from him the moment Shirley leaves his sight.

'Or maybe, she was just a bit scared that my powerful claws might accidentally reach her...'

He casually mused as he looked at Top Disciple Arno Schatz, knowing that he was somehow related to Grand Elder Artur Schatz, who was in Grand Elder Valerian's camp. From this, he could infer that this top disciple was not friendly.

At this moment, Top Disciple Arno Schatz stood up from his seat while Davis and Shirley moved to their seats. As they moved to their destinations and arrived, an annoyed voice suddenly echoed on the first floor of the northern direction.

"Hey protector, don't you know that you are required to be seated amongst the elders and not among us?"

Davis looked at the source of the voice and saw a red-haired young man who was obviously also a top disciple. However, it was just a momentary glance as Davis didn't stop and seated himself comfortably beside Shirley.

The expressions of the top disciples abruptly became hideous as they saw him sitting beside Shirley a meter away. The seats were all a meter away from each other, but that was not the point.

They were mad because they saw him be seated between the two topmost beauties of the Burning Phoenix Ridge!

Davis looked to his side and saw another crimson-veiled beauty. Only her side profile, mainly her right eye, was visible, but the fragrance he could smell, no, sense from her was extremely attractive.

'Top Disciple Verona Stein...' This name came to Davis's mind, making him think that she might be related to Grand Elder Newgate Stein.

She did not turn to look at him while her crimson eyes were serene, her gaze and focus on the battle stage where Esvele and Top Disciple Arno Schatz were present, who were seemingly looking at each other at the moment.

"Do you want me to show you the way to your place?"

The earlier person who spoke up could no longer take it and stood up.

"Thank you for your hospitality, Top Disciple Vito Rein..." Davis oddly smiled, "However, Shirley was just attacked by the dead Top Disciple Lauren. I'm sure you heard what had happened, so I will remain here to protect Shirley even if it costs me my life."

As he said these words, he cast a shady glance at Top Disciple Verona Stein, causing the top disciples to fiercely look at him, their hostile intent blazing like a volcano.

'Fuck! This... bastard! He's looking down on us...!' Top Disciple Vito Rein possessed an angered expression when suddenly an Elder Soul Stage soul force appeared from the side and suppressed him, causing him to stop in his tracks.

"Elder brother...?"

Vito Rein looked to the side and saw his elder brother, who turned to look at him before removing the suppression.

"Calm down, little brother. He's on Shirley's side, and if she hired him with that much trust as it has been spoken, then it definitely means that she has told everything about us to him, so it is entirely possible that he is trying to merely provoke us into battle."

A soul transmission fell on Top Disciple Vito Rein's mind, but he was reluctant.

"Still..."

"You are not a match, nor is your protector. If you want to be humiliated, go ahead. Elder brother can only help you this much, but remember, Shirley is mine!"

"I know... We agreed that Verona is mine..."

"Indeed..."

Vito Rein's lips curved as he sat back, but he still radiated a hostile intent against the so-called Elder Chu Feng, warning him to not look at Verona Stein.

Davis looked at these two brothers' talk using soul transmission. He had no idea what they were talking about, but he could see that the elder brother placated the younger brother from making a move. He felt that it was a pity as he wanted to extremely humiliate them like he caused Grand Elder Valerian to be humiliated.

After all, they were none other than Grand Elder Valerian Stein's two remaining sons.

Top Disciple Vito Rein, the second brother, and Top Disciple Azzuren Rein, the first brother. They were right before him, trying to plot against his woman so that they could obtain her, so the amount of killing intent he possessed against them could be imagined, and yet, he held it in as he merely smiled.

"Shirley, can I kill them...?"

Shirley's expression froze before she sent him back a soul transmission.

"Of course... not! I mean, I want to, even more than you, but they're so close right now. We would definitely be suspicious even if we could not be traced back. What are you thinking?"

Shirley's heart abnormally pounded as she asked him, feeling part excitement and part anxiety. If he made a move on them right now, she would have to definitely escape, but that was more desirable to her than staying here to train.

Her maidenly feelings were begging for romance!

Killing enemies and escaping before hiding somewhere like a cave, slowly igniting themselves in a sensual atmosphere before they begin to make love in that narrow space!

How wonderful!

Pop!~

However, it was like a bubble had been popped as she came back to reality, realizing that he was in his soul body.

Shirley's eyes looked unamused as she turned to look at Davis before they narrowed. Noticing that his attention was taken by something else, she looked towards the source and saw that Esvele was about to begin her battle.

=====

Esvele remained floating, her slim, pretty feet embraced by high heels a few feet away from the surface of the pristine white battle stage. She was on the north side of the arena while her opponent went south. Even though the other party was a top disciple, she drew the most gazes from the crowd because of her big bosoms, making her conscious.

However, she ignored those unneeded feelings at this moment and glared at Top Disciple Arno Schatz, looking moderately offended, even vexed.

"You little, big wench. You're not actually bad... Sigh, if only you would allow me to embrace you tonight, I promise that I would give you my entire wealth..."

Soul transmissions like these kept falling on her mind, making her almost fume in rage. But she remained composed, not giving in to her opponent's provocation as she waited for the referee to arrive.

Abruptly, she heaved a sigh, looking at a middle-aged man appearing on the outskirts of the battle arena, raising his hands to signal the battle. The moment the referee's hands fell, she burst into action at the same time as the referee's voice echoed.

"Let the battle begin...!"

"Ahahah! That's right! Come to papa!"

Top Disciple Arno Schatz evilly laughed and spread his hands as he echoed. Along with his extended hands, burning phoenix flames erupted from his back, forming the impressive sight of a long wingspan that took him to the skies a bit before he stopped, seemingly waiting for his love to arrive as he possessed a blatant grin on his face.

Some of the Elders and Grand Elders had an unsightly expression. To be this crass to a woman in public, their faces couldn't help but twist, but it wasn't like these youngsters' twisted nature would change anytime soon unless their own elders taught them a lesson.

Esvele seemed unperturbed as she made her way to Top Disciple Arno Schatz, still not seeming to have put up a defense. It was almost like she was readily preparing herself to fall into her opponent's embrace, making the spectators bewildered as they watched with curiosity when she suddenly jumped twenty meters into the air when she closed the distance, aligning with him as her figure projected the silhouette of a burning phoenix before it shot towards him with a blinding speed!

"You... That's...!"

Top Disciple Arno Schatz hurriedly propped up a crimson barrier made of burning phoenix flames before he used the defensive flaming wings he had conjured earlier to enclose it, creating an additional layer of barrier in an instant.

Esvele shot towards him as her entire body was clad in her burning phoenix flames. Her black hair turned red from the illumination of the flames as she crossed her hands into an 'x' and waved, a low mutter escaping from her mouth.

"Burning... Phoenix's... Dual... Talon Blades!"

Ripp!~

Space did not tear apart, but the two barriers erected did as they shattered into feather strands before dissipating into the void! However, her slicing flames that seemed to become a burning blade did not disappear and headed towards Top Disciple Arno Schatz, who currently seemed stunned like a fool who could not believe his eyes.

He jerked and reacted an instant later, but the Burning Phoenix's Dual Talon Blades were already upon him so he became scared shitless and screamed.

"I surre-!"

Bang!~

Chapter 1346: Accept Defeat?

The talon blades struck a flaming wall that suddenly appeared in front of Top Disciple Arno Schatz!

Esvele looked at the scene in front of her and relaxed. However, she did not let her guard down and retreated, her crimson robes fluttering as she gorgeously landed on the burning phoenix symbols' head.

On the other hand, Top Disciple Arno Schatz seemed to have frozen as he looked at the flaming wall that protected him. He cast his gaze above and saw that the referee had saved him. However, the referee cast a contemptuous look at him, making him feel extremely ashamed of the cry of surrender that he had almost fully released.

"The winner of this battle is Esvele Zelte. Therefore, according to the rules and her wishes, she is a top disciple from this moment onward!"

The Burning Phoenix Ridge's disciples were at the edges of their seats at this sudden twist. They were stunned at Esvele's rise.

The battle that just seemed to have started met a sudden end with the referee intervening to save Top Disciple Arno Schatz even though the challenger had the same cultivation as him.

It was a humiliating defeat!

However, all of their gazes were on the winner of the battle.

The burst in Esvele's Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage prowess was so tremendous that it felt like it could almost compare to Low-Level Law Sea Stage Experts, but they were deeply astonished to see her execute the Burning Phoenix's Dual Talon Blades, which is said to be one of the most dependable offensive techniques that boasted severe damage.

Some of them recognized it, while most others didn't. From what they knew, it was said that none of the present core disciples had comprehended this technique before as it was really hard for cultivators below the Eighth Stage to comprehend it that only the top disciples had managed to learn it.

This was the reason why Top Disciple Arno Schatz lost in an instant because neither he nor anyone saw it coming as Esvele closed the distance, almost as if she were defenseless only to display a brilliant offensive technique that practically had the knowledgeable disciples jumping in their seats!

If this was a life and death battle, Esvele would've instantly gained the upper hand, with victory leaning in her favor even if the battle extended!

Even the Elders and Grand Elders displayed a change in their expressions, looking at Esvele in a new light.

"I raised that girl..." Shirley pointed at the proud swan on the battle stage, looking proud herself.

Davis blinked, feeling another *deja vu* before he shook his head. He was about to reply when suddenly a voice echoed.

"Wait! The battle isn't over yet!"

Every disciple and elder heard the voice that perplexed them before they looked at the source and saw that it was none other than the loser himself. Almost all of their expressions turned a bit contemptuous, while some others possessed sympathy as they listened to what he had to say.

Surely, this defeat would remain the most humiliating defeat in this decade!

"This woman... She..." Top Disciple Arno Schatz's expression was shameful while he blushed. He pointed at Esvele as his lips quivered, "She told me that she would give me wealth if I would let her win and become a top disciple."

"...!"

Esvele became stunned, her two large black eyes blinking before she coldly tilted her head, looking at him as if she were going to kill him with her looks alone.

"But I didn't want to accept that and remained hesitant over harming a woman! But now, I want to battle her fair and square! This battle's result doesn't count, so she has to battle me again!"

Looking at Top Disciple Arno Schatz arguing as if he were throwing a tantrum, the expressions of the Grand Elders and Elders were so twisted that they couldn't help but feel second-hand embarrassment.

"Return back to your seat..." A Grand Elder spoke up as he stroked his forehead.

He was obviously feeling ashamed but had no choice but to speak up because he was in Grand Elder Valerian's camp.

However, it ended up making Top Disciple Arno Schatz even more humiliated as he shook his head despite the mocking and contemptuous looks he received from the disciples gathered in this battle arena.

"No...no! This is unfair... I want a rematch!"

Esvele looked at him, her gaze becoming more scornful by the second.

She knew that she won this battle fair and square.

It was Top Disciple Arno Schatz's fault for being complacent against her. If he had the urge to battle instead of gawking at her big bosoms, they might have equally fought, but his double-layered soft

defense wasn't enough, almost costing him critical injuries, perhaps even death if it weren't for the referee saving him in time.

She no longer bothered to stay in the battle stage and left, leaving a shameless top disciple who kept screaming that she had tried to bribe him, but he didn't accept it and wanted to fight her fair and square.

Nevertheless, she didn't look back as her gaze was towards where the top disciples were seated. Honestly, her reverence towards these top disciples was degrading with each moment as nothing was special about them other than their strength, and now that she had become one herself, she felt no need to give them respect anymore.

However, there was a hot and elegant crimson-robed figure reflected in her black pupils, who had her heart thumping in excitement. She wanted to prove to this person that forgiving her at that time wasn't a wrong decision. There was only respect and reverence in her eyes for this person.

Once she arrived, she opened her mouth.

"Senior sister Shirley, I won..."

"Excellent." Shirley smiled behind her crimson veil, "You did extremely well, especially when you defeated him in a single move. You made me proud."

Esvele's heart skipped a beat as tears welled up in her eyes. It would not be exaggerated to say that she had deeply craved these words from Shirley. She bit her lips, holding her tears from falling as she nodded her head.

"I want to stay as your follower, senior sister Shirley!"

Shirley did not seem taken aback, but her eyes seemed moved,

"Fine with me..."

Esvele sighed in relief while Davis watched the two of them bond. He was heartened that Shirley had a dependable and loyal friend, but would that extend to something else, even more intimate?

His thoughts roamed over to the debauchorous realm before he made it back.

He saw that Top Disciple Arno Schatz was still crying foul when suddenly a melodious voice echoed.

"When did our Burning Phoenix Ridge's Top Disciples become like this? Unable to accept defeat?"

Sect Master Lea Weiss sounded a bit angered. The Grand Elder, who sent soul transmissions to Top Disciple Arno Schatz to make him come back, froze before he no longer spoke. On the other hand, Top Disciple Arno Schatz had also stopped throwing a tantrum as his expression went stiff.

"This is unsightly..." Sect Master Lea Weiss narrowed her crimson eyes, "I think we have to add the criteria of character and attitude when we choose top disciples. Otherwise, even if they have strength, they'll just end up bringing shame to the sect and even possibly end up bringing a calamity while outside."

The faces of top disciples were fairly enraged now. However, their anger wasn't directed at Sect Master Lea Weiss but at Top Disciple Arno Schatz for making them seem like fools.

"Return to your seat at this instant or face punishment for disobedience and trying to frame a person. We all know that since Esvele Zelte can use Burning Phoenix's Dual Talon Blades, she is already fit to be a top disciple. She doesn't need to bribe you for letting her win as I presume that she can battle you in her current strength without losing an inch."

Top Disciple Arno Schatz increasingly trembled before he lowered his head and gritted his teeth. The humiliation of being criticized by the Sect Master made him feel like killing himself out of shame, but he withstood and flew back to his seat.

Only then did the Elders and Grand Elders nod their heads in approval.

At least, Top Disciple Arno Schatz didn't lose his mind from the humiliation and began arguing against the Sect Master. Otherwise, he might've found himself in the outer layers of the Burning Hell Valley for being impudent while trying to frame another top disciple.

At this moment, the four pillars on the four corners of the battle stage abruptly lit up, casting a projection on each edge. It seemed that the middle-aged referee was the one who was controlling the projection, but everyone's gaze wasn't on him but at the projection that came up.

[Top Disciple Rankings]

These words were displayed, causing the crowd to become excited as a list of names appeared one by one. It appeared from the very bottom, displaying Esvele's name at first before continuing to project the names of other top disciples.

Soon, the entirety of names was displayed.

Davis saw that Shirley was actually in twelfth place while Esvele was in the last place, making him discern that there were only twenty-three top disciples in the Burning Phoenix Ridge. There would've been twenty-four right now, but Top Disciple Lauren Zucker ended up dying to help him humiliate Grand Elder Valerian.

There would have also been twenty-five top disciples if one included the dead Schneider Rein, but who cared about that right now?

Their names were not displayed in any case.

However, he was a bit confused as to how the battles would take place. If he was not wrong, then the top disciples present now were of different generations. They did not have the same age, and the eldest could even have an age difference of two hundred from the youngest, so how they were going to conduct this competition in a fair manner was something that made him skeptical.

At this moment, a Grand Elder stood up from his seat, and Davis felt that he was going to likely clear that confusion as that Grand Elder opened his mouth.

Chapter 1347: Rewards

"Top Disciples..." Grand Elder Newgate Stein spoke with his eyes wide open as if he wanted to scare them when he intended to bring attention, "Some of you might be already aware of the Low-Level Emperor Grade Suppressing Formation that suppresses your Essence Gathering Cultivation base to the Peak-Level of Law Dominion Stage."

"However, the Sect Master felt that this was unfair to the top disciples who have worked hard, crossing countless tribulations to make it to this day with their high cultivation bases. Hence, in this Top Disciple Battles, we will not have every top disciple fight as it is completely voluntary to challenge your opponents and rightfully claim their ranks for yourself."

"You can even head back to your crimson palaces, as long as no one challenges you."

"Still, you can only challenge the person ranked above you and not further above until you can get to them by beating opponents in between. In the same way, you cannot challenge someone lower ranked than you as they are ranked lower based on their cultivation base and prowess seen so far."

Esvele smiled a bit as she heard Grand Elder Newgate Stein. The rules meant that only she could head home without a problem as she was in the last place. No one is eligible to challenge her, and it also served to protect her from other top disciples bullying her.

However, she couldn't help but feel that the Sect Master created these rules specifically to protect Shirley from Law Sea Stage Top Disciples even though their cultivation bases would be suppressed to Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage when they would battle.

Honestly, she felt that it was a pity because she wholeheartedly believed that no top disciple was a match for her senior sister Shirley. But of course, she wasn't blind and knew that her senior sister Shirley could not use the Fire Phoenix Flames to reveal her true prowess.

Therefore, she felt what Sect Master Lea Weiss had done was suitable and excellent. This way, senior sister Shirley wouldn't be forced into a situation where she would have to reveal her Fire Phoenix Flames.

Davis was also taken aback by these rules as they seemed advantageous to Shirley.

Was the Sect Master really protecting Shirley and not secretly plotting against her?

He felt like he would never truly know until he got to know more about Sect Master Lea Weiss.

"I don't get it..."

A melodious voice suddenly echoed, causing numerous people's eyes to lit up.

"Then how would the prizes be rewarded? Previously, only the top disciples who became first, second and third in the Law Dominion Stage category and the Law Sea Stage category would receive rewards, right?"

Top Disciple Verona Stein asked while still being seated.

"Yes, that hasn't changed, so you Law Dominion Stage Cultivators are not required to challenge Law Sea Stage Experts. You will still receive the rewards designated to you as long as you can get to the first,

second, and third place relative to your category, although the ranking is still unified. The collective ranking also helps you know where you are amongst your peers."

"I see..."

Top Disciple Verona Stein relaxed on hearing Grand Elder Newgate Stein's words. However, she shot a look to the side and saw Davis before her crimson brows frowned.

Davis also saw her and then realized that she wanted to see Shirley, but he did not move as he maintained eye contact.

Top Disciple Verona Stein frowned even more. However, she did not bother with him and slightly bent her body to look at Shirley.

"You are still not a match for me, so don't get cocky just because you broke into the Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage. You have not even stabilized your cultivation that I feel that it is unfair to battle you, but of course, that is if you have the courage to challenge me, the person who holds the first place in our Law Dominion Stage category."

"Why not?" Shirley smiled and raised her brows, "I'll challenge you right now if you want to experience my burning flames, but it is a pity that I can only challenge you after four battles."

"Hmph!"

Top Disciple Verona Stein leaned back, her gaze no longer on them.

Davis watched her before he turned to look back to see Shirley, who was silently giggling.

"What's up with her?" He asked with a soul transmission.

"She's just probably mad that I quickly caught up to her when she is from the previous generation of top disciples, but I think she means no harm as we worked together for a short time in the mini-realm."

"Oh?" Davis became interested, "When were the previous top disciple trials?"

"The disciple trial happens every decade, and as long your cultivation and prowess reached a certain threshold, you'll be designated as one of the four, outer, inner, core, and top disciples. I managed to become a top disciple in a single try like her and quickly caught up to her, so she sees me as a rival, I guess..." Shirley patiently explained through soul transmission, finding it likable to be normally talking with her man.

"I see..." Davis nodded his head.

They might only have a generation of difference, but their true ages might be far apart.

After all, Shirley was only eight years older than him, around thirty-two years old, while Top Disciple Verona Stein was likely more than fifty years old, at the least. She could very well be around Esvele's age. They couldn't be spoken in the same length, but of course, Top Disciple Verona Stein wouldn't know that.

"As for the prizes..."

Grand Elder Newgate Stein spoke again after seeing that the top disciples have calmed down. He began announcing the prizes for the third and second places of the two categories before coming to the first places.

The top disciples looked eager as nothing was told to them, even the rules, so their excitement was valid. However, the other disciples who weren't even in this competition went crazy from hearing the prizes awarded to each category's second and third place.

Their eyes looked envious, while their faces looked forlorn.

"The top disciple who becomes first in the Law Dominion Stage category, or the top disciple who can defeat Top Disciple Verona Stein and hold her seventh place or higher will be able to obtain the reward, Infernal Core Flame Leaf, which is graded at Low-Level Emperor Grade, a heavenly resource that is capa-
"

Davis's expression froze at this moment.

"Ohhhhhh!!!"

Clamor broke out this moment amongst the disciples as they heard the prize, but it was more boisterous than the previous times as they knew its value.

However, Davis was still in his own little world.

Infernal... Core... Flame... Leaf...?

Wasn't that the heavenly resource the Blazing Thunderlight Kirin told him that he could obtain to temper his lightning-attributed revolving core to adjust to fire-attribute, making his revolving core possibly mutate again?

He came out of his reverie and had his doubt if he heard it right as he looked at Shirley to confirm but saw that she had her brows narrowed, likely having an annoyed expression on her face.

"What's wrong...?" He couldn't help but ask instead of asking about the Infernal Core Flame Leaf.

"I'm extremely angered right now... How dare they take the Infernal Core Flame Leaf from me and shamelessly give it back to me in this competition!"

"Are you saying that this is one of the resources that had been confiscated from you in exchange for points?"

Davis blinked as he recalled Shirley said something like the Emperor Grade Resources she had collected were taken from her upon exiting the mini-realm.

"Yes..." Shirley sounded with a bit of sorrow, "But I have been awarded more points in exchange, and I have more than enough points to claim it back myself, but I don't see the need to temper my revolving core more than it is required. I don't want to needlessly burst apart when my future is already grand enough. That's why I'm also angered that they've chosen to give this as the reward."

Shirley became annoyed again before she sighed, "Oh well... Guess this will become useful to Esvele, but I'm not sure if she could endure the berserk energy of the Infernal Core Flame Leaf. If she fails, that's practically suicide, and even if she survives, she would probably be crippled."

She trembled, "Heavenly resources are powerful but extremely scary..."

Davis nodded his head.

The nectar was a heavenly resource, but it was gentle. However, it could still cause people to explode when taken in many amounts as they would be unable to withstand the steep rise in their Body Tempering Cultivation.

So what needs to be said about this berserk type of heavenly resource?

Davis gulped, but his eyes were wide with resolution as he needed it!

"Shirley, I want it..."

Shirley's eyes went wide as her head swiveled towards him.

"What the...!? You mean you're going to use it on yourself?..."

She looked a bit skeptical as she saw him nod his head.

"Davis, you train in Lightning Laws and have absorbed a Lightning Elemental from a young age. I presume that your revolving core is already lightning-attributed. It is almost impossible to change unless you start from the beginning, and the least you can do is temper some of your meridians pathways to fire attribute so that it won't affect your lightning attribute much."

"I don't know what you're trying to do here by wanting to absorb the Infernal Core Flame Leaf, but what I do know is that you're practically committing suicide! I know that you won't completely die with your powerful soul, but that's not the point!!!"

Davis became taken aback by her outburst before he sent her a soul transmission, "Alright, alright... calm down, Shirley. I understand what you're trying to say..."

He soothed her as he saw her lightly shivering, obviously in worry for him. Shirley realized that she overreacted and leaned back on her seat, her eyes looking no longer bothered as she became calm.

"But the thing is, I have a cultivation manual that allows me to increase my success rate in tempering my revolving core..."

Davis spoke while Grand Elder Newgate Stein announced the prize for the Law Sea Stage category, which didn't garner his interest.

Shirley lightly shook her head, "Even if you have something like that, the success rate isn't something that could be increasingly increased. It is probably difficult to even raise it by one or two percent with normal resources, and even you have something like an Emperor Grade Manual, I doubt that you could increase the success rate by more than twenty percent max..."

A curve appeared on Davis's lips on hearing her thoughts.

"What if the cultivation manual is an Immortal Grade Manual?"

Shirley's eyes became wide incredulously before she recalled that an Earth Dragon didn't have lightning nor fire attribute. Only the Fire Phoenix and Ice Phoenix were left, but it didn't make sense either for him to have obtained a manual that could support two attributes!

"I found a vestige of an Immortal Inheritance of fire and lightning attributed magical beast, managing to obtain the Blazing Thunderlight Kirin's Firestorm World Ode."

Hearing Davis's shocking soul transmission, Shirley held her breath as her heart skipped a beat!

Chapter 1348: Domains

Shirley's red pupils kept trembling as she thought of the heights her man could reach if he so were to pull this crazy feat. She practically thought of his success rate on top of including his resources and felt that it was worth trying.

However, she still couldn't help but worry.

"I can get you the Infernal Core Flame Leaf, but are you sure that you want to use it? If you fail somehow and end up losing your physical body, I will be the one to feel miserable, you know..."

At this point, two top disciples stood up, looking ready to battle as they flew into the battle stage, but he didn't bother to look at their performance and continued conversing with Shirley.

"Haha..." Davis chuckled in her head, "You don't need to do feel miserable, Shirley. I must take risks to improve my Essence Gathering Cultivation to the very limit, or else, I must embrace mediocrity."

"Mediocrity?" Shirley rolled her eyes, "Manifesting Superior Law Manifestation is mediocrity?"

"No, but what about the further stages?" Davis questioned, "Do you think I can form this so-called Perfect Domain? Do you think I can conjure the Immeasurable Sea? Or the fabled Supreme Immortal Rune?"

"How do you know about the Supreme Immortal Rune...?" Shirley sounded shocked, "Even I only heard this term from Ellia's other incarnation. She warned me not to be hasty in rushing through the stages and told me of these realms, so I was rather careful and gathered resources to aid my diluted fire phoenix essence blood to assimilate within me."

"I was able to reach the peak of Level Six Intent when entering the Law Dominion Stage, only becoming eligible to form a Supreme Domain. After killing Schneider, it took me a few months in the mini-realm to find a relevant heavenly resource for me to reform my Supreme Domain to Perfect Domain, so no one knows that I have formed a Perfect Domain, not even Esvele."

Davis nodded his head in understanding and satisfaction.

"Excellent, Shirley. Your cultivation is extraordinary, so don't try to rush your cultivation anymore. You can take it easy now that I'm here with you..."

Shirley nodded her head in a shy manner. Truthfully, after they had confessed to each other, she no longer felt the panic that irked her heart, that told her to make haste in everything.

She felt like she could afford to relax a bit, at least for a while.

Davis recalled his knowledge of domains. There were five levels in forming domains in the Law Dominion Stage.

The first is naturally the weak, Flawed Domain, the basic domain a cultivator at the Law Dominion Stage could form. However, the requirement for them to form this domain is to comprehend Level Three Intent.

Without even comprehending Level Three Intent of a particular law in Essence Gathering Cultivation, cultivators can't step into the Law Dominion Stage as they would fail to form a domain.

Yes, other than requiring High-Level Spirit Stones to cultivate to Law Dominion Stage, the law intent remained a requirement as well. In the same way, to reach the Law Sea Stage, one must at the least have comprehended Level Six Intent and possess Peak-Level Spirit Stones to supplement their increase in cultivation.

The second domain that a human could form is named Mediocre Domain, and the requirement to be able to form it is to have comprehended Level Four Intent.

In the same way, to form the higher realm domain, the Impeccable Domain, one must have comprehended Level Five Intent.

And then comes the domain which Shirley had first formed; the Supreme Domain. She had learned Level Six Intent to form this Supreme Domain. It must be known that not one young cultivator in the Nine Western Territories is said to have reached this level, although there might be such figures in the past.

Nevertheless, Shirley patiently waited and reformed her Supreme Domain into Perfect Domain, for which Level Seven Intent is required.

However, it isn't that easy to form a Perfect Domain.

After all, just because a person reached a particular level in Law Intent doesn't necessarily mean they can form the highest domain possible, not to mention that for forming a Perfect Domain, comprehending Level Seven Intent is nearly impossible unless one steps into the Law Dominion Stage.

If they were to form a Perfect Domain, then they should comprehend Level Seven Intent the moment they step into the Law Dominion Stage. Even then, the chances of forming a Perfect Domain are relatively less than its counterpart in the Law Manifestation Stage.

The chances were less than manifesting a Superior Law Manifestation upon breaking through to the Law Manifestation Stage, and that's why people increased the chances of forming a Perfect Domain with the help of a heavenly resource but is obtaining a suitable heavenly resource that easy?

Either the geniuses had to try their luck in finding a suitable heavenly resource to increase their chances or try remanifesting multiple times with their own chances. Of course, they can try the latter method endlessly if they can withstand the backlash of the failure to remanifest the Law Manifestation every time because it affects their foundation in a harmful way.

Thinking of all this, Davis recalled his Lightning Law's progress.

It was at Level Six Intent, meaning that he was already at the peak of what he could reach in this Law Manifestation Stage. All that is left for him is to comprehend to the very limit of Level Six Intent and breakthrough to the Law Dominion Stage, hopefully comprehending Level Seven Intent with Eldia's help before forming a Perfect Domain, perhaps with the help of a suitable heavenly resource, that is, if he can even find one.

However, there were a few complications that he needed to address first before entering the Law Dominion Stage, like mutating his revolving core again to naturally accommodate Fire Laws!

Needless to say, those who have formed a Perfect Domain and have an Unblemished Foundation in Essence Gathering Cultivation could undoubtedly cross a stage to battle! This is what Evelynn was after, and this was what he was after as well!

"What's your current level in Fire Laws?" Davis asked with curiosity.

"I muse that I am at the very peak of Level Seven Intent in Fire Laws," Shirley answered without missing a beat.

"Furthermore, to materialize the Immeasurable Sea within my dantian when I break through to the Law Sea Stage, I have to comprehend Level One Abstruse Intent in Fire Laws, which is nearly impossible in this place. If I am like this, then I would probably be stuck in this stage for a few years because I muse that it would be extremely hard to find a suitable heavenly resource that could increase my chances in materializing an Immeasurable Sea."

"That's why I'm also a bit indecisive as to what kind of step I should take next. Settle for the highest level Immeasurable Sea, or settle for one level lower and then try to rematerialize the Immeasurable Sea as I did for my Perfect Domain? However, the latter would be even harder than materializing in the beginning! What should I do...?"

Davis couldn't help but smile at her questions.

"Damn it! If I weren't aiming for the Immortal Grade Trial, I would've already returned and cleared the Emperor Grade Trial as I feel that I'm already powerful enough to do so!"

Hearing Shirley's outburst, his widened lips went agape as he couldn't help but chuckle.

"Is the trial that hard?"

"Not really, but I'm afraid that my will isn't up to par..." Shirley sounded annoyed.

"Oh, your Soul Forging Cultivation..." Davis realized and recalled that the Fire Phoenix Immortal had a test of will as well.

That's how Clara had heard that Shirley was crazy about him in the first place.

Will wasn't just a matter of willpower, intent, and conviction, but that these three had to be backed by powerful cultivation for it to be genuinely robust and more substantial.

"Right now, I'm at the Elder Soul Stage from the absorption of numerous resources and my diluted fire phoenix blood essence alike."

"What?" Davis already knew that Shirley's soul was at Low-Level Elder Soul Stage but, "That diluted blood essence also helps with Soul Forging Cultivation?"

Shirley giggled at his astonishment, "A little bit, but I've already exhausted the diluted blood essences, so there's no way I would experience a drastic increase again, and I muse that I need to get to Mature Soul Stage to clear the test of will. Therefore, I decided getting to the Eighth Stage in the meantime would be pleasant as well."

"Honestly, without being obsessive towards you, I don't think I could have cleared the test of will in the past..." Shirley's eyebrows quivered ever so lightly, "You were my goal in the past, and now that I obtained you, I'm rather afraid that I lost my drive."

Davis blinked, "It's not the end-"

"I know..." Shirley's breasts draped by her tight crimson robes heaved, "But still, it does cause a dent in my will. Moreover, I'm a bit.... dissatisfied that we are unable to... make love..."

Looking at Shirley's ears that went red in embarrassment, Davis returned his gaze to the battle stage where the two random top disciples fought. The boisterous cheers from the crowd and the explosions from the battle were rather blaring that only a few were looking at them exchange soul transmission, looking curious as to what they might be talking about.

"Of course... I'm not blaming you for being in your soul body..." Shirley hurriedly explained, "I'm blaming myself for-"

"As I said..." Davis interrupted as he turned to look at her again, "Don't be hasty. Take it easy as we have all the time in the world to become one."

Shirley looked at him from the corner of her left eye as her stiff shoulders relaxed. After being told a second time, she realized that she was still overly hasty and worried over nothing, perhaps even appearing annoying.

However, looking at him possess an affectionate light in his disguised black eyes, she inwardly melted as she nodded her head.

"Mhm..."

A sweet sound of agreement and deference echoed from her closed lips.

Chapter 1349: Satisfied...?

"Elder brother, don't you think that those two are acting overly familiar?"

Top Disciple Vito Rein narrowed his eyes as he continued, "The amount of soul transmissions Shirley is sending her protector is rather over the top. What could they be discussing secretly? If it's about the battle, then there is no need to be so secretive about it, right?"

"What are you thinking?" Top Disciple Azzuren Rein furrowed his brows, "You know how Shirley dislikes men as it is rather clear that she openly avoids them, right? That protector must probably be her family, perhaps her relative, if she trusts him that much. After all, we don't know her true background, right? Not that it matters, I guess..."

"True... If she is here, then that means her background wouldn't be any greater than our Burning Phoenix Ridge itself..." Top Disciple Vito Rein snickered.

"In any case, she must face me before facing my beloved Verona. I think I won't let her harm my beloved, so I might get rather violent with Shirley. I hope that elder brother won't mind it, right?"

Top Disciple Azzuren Rein turned his head to look at his little brother, his flaming crimson hair floating in the air as his eyes flashed.

"You want to die?"

"Of course not!" Top Disciple Vito Rein also matched his elder brother's gaze with his fiery eyes, "We're both fighting to claim our women. Why would you want to harm me, brother?"

"Hmph! Don't act like you're ignorant." Top Disciple Azzuren Rein returned his gaze to the battle stage, "You're not allowed to take advantage of Shirley when battling. You can wound her a bit and make her surrender, but that is the limit. If you dare to overly injure her, I will kill you!"

"Ah, I'm so scared. I better call our father to protect me..." Top Disciple Vito Rein made a funny face as he taunted.

"You...!"

Top Disciple Azzuren Rein almost stood up in anger as he let out an angry shout. However, realizing that all the surrounding gazes were on him now, he sat back and harrumphed.

"I said my piece, and it is up to you to follow it."

Top Disciple Vito Rein looked at his brother with an odd look in his eyes before he too returned his gaze.

Davis looked at these two brothers having some differences in the soul transmission conversation.

He could listen in on them through brute-forcing his way to their conversation as he knew that he could do so from Old Man Garvin's King Soul Stage Records. However, he also knew that the other Soul Kings present here would come to know if he were to intrude on their soul transmission, most likely because the intrusion would create disturbed soul waves that might alert them, not to mention that the victims might also realize if their souls were just strong enough.

If their soul conversation could be compared to a messaging app from modern Earth, it would be like the app suddenly announced that an unknown person had joined the chat.

But in this case, Davis felt that it was unlikely that these two brothers could find him peeking on their soul transmission, of course unless they had a protective soul talisman, charm, or an artifact that protected them from such meddling and prying.

Even Shirley had one, so it was obvious that they had it too.

However, Esvele did not have something like a protective soul artifact, making it clear to him that it was only for the privacy of top disciples from the Grand Elders. After all, since they were also Soul Kings, they could obviously listen in on their soul transmissions as well.

'I wish Old Man Garvin left me some techniques that might help me listen to soul transmission. Perhaps with my darkness or death-like laws overlaid with the technique in a fused manner, I might be able to conceal my intrusion. Mhm? Now that I think about it, there's still something left with my friend Alexi Ethren...'

While Davis wished, the battle on the stage was over with the challenging top disciple winning and moving up the rankings. However, his ranking was about fifteenth. In Davis's eyes, not much could be said as he didn't even bother to remember his name feeling rather bored yet excited, perhaps because he did not get to fight for the former and was waiting to see Shirley battle for the latter.

The two top disciples returned to their seats with contrasting reactions when a person suddenly stood up.

Davis looked towards his right and saw that Shirley had stood up. It garnered a sigh from the crowd as another person stood up as if it were natural.

He turned to look at Shirley and clasped his hands, "Please go easy on me."

With that unembarrassed voice, he leaped back and flew towards the battle stage.

Davis looked at that person and saw that he was at the eleventh ranking, named Rudolf Mair.

When Shirley stood up, Top Disciple Rudolf Mair knew that he would be challenged as she needed to get past him to defeat others and reach first place for the Law Dominion Stage category. Hence, he didn't tarry and quickly made his way to the battle stage, which made Davis appreciate his instantaneous response.

He was like an emperor, gazing with a 'you better give respect to my woman or face death' look even though he was aware of what kind of arrogant person he was becoming with the constant increase in his cultivation.

He couldn't help but recall that Shirley was the one who told him not to be humble and act arrogant like the crown prince he is, making him inwardly chuckle before he once again couldn't help but feel what kind of gem he had missed until a while ago when he finally reunited with her.

Esvele, who had seated herself on the opposite side of the same row, clenched her fists in excitement. She didn't care about her new image as a top disciple as she opened her mouth and screamed loudly.

"Senior sister Shirley, make everyone know the difference between heaven and earth!"

Shirley landed on the same place where Esvele landed before. She turned to look back, a smile hidden behind the veil while her red brows curved joyfully. Esvele's screech made the other top disciples frown while the others began to cheer like crazy over the battle.

Shirley could hear numerous cries and applause for her. It was deafening, even, and it made her aware that her popularity was perhaps the topmost amongst the top disciples, perhaps only second to Top Disciple Verona Stein as she mostly didn't show her face to the public and acted mysteriously, not really socializing.

She looked at her opponent and recalled that she didn't have any trouble with him, and neither did he disturb her in the name of pursuing her, probably because he was aware of his limits and was in a neutral position, not really aligning with Grand Elder Valerian or Sect Master Lea Weiss.

In fact, he was more like Esvele, where he had a life of humble beginnings, comparatively as it seemed like he was a crown prince of a humble kingdom situated in this Burning Phoenix Ridge Territory. Except, she knew that he was a top disciple from many generations ago.

'Well, I think I'll go easy on him as he requested...'

Shirley clasped her hands and slightly bowed, giving the cultivator's classic greeting yet something that denoted basic respect. Top Disciple Rudolf Mair looked rather honored and deeply bowed to her bow as if he possessed immense respect and admiration for her.

Once the referee saw them exchange greetings instead of provoking each other, he nodded in approval before he raised and dropped his hand.

"Let the battle begin...!"

Whoosh!~

Shirley instantly darted off with a tremendous speed, closing the kilometers of distance in half in an instant.

'Fast as a burning phoenix...!'

This thought ran on everyone's mind, even on Top Disciple Rudolf Mair's mind, before he began retreating in an instant. However, instead of forming a defensive barrier, he clasped his hands and bellowed with all his might.

"Burning Feather Domain!"

Abruptly, fiery crimson flames burst out as the surrounding one kilometer radius was instantly encased in a translucent reddish-brown barrier that was filled with little feathers all over the place.

The crowd was instantly over the edges of their seats as they saw Top Disciple Rudolf Mair invoking his Impeccable Domain. They saw Shirley entering it, defenselessly leaping into the domain, making their faces congeal into an ominous expression.

"No!"

"Don't!"

Screams echoed from the crowd, afraid that Shirley would be injured. The sight of a red-haired beauty's flesh tearing apart welled up in their minds, causing a cacophony of worries to echo. They didn't want to see such a sight as they all kept shouting like mad people.

Top Disciple Rudolf Mair also saw Shirley entering defenselessly, but recalling how Esvele won her match, he gritted his teeth and pointed his hand towards her.

"Excuse my rudeness, fellow disciple Shirley!"

Harmless feathers floating in the domain suddenly shone with crimson light as they all shot towards Shirley in an instant! The feathers looked endless as they kept congealing into existence and ruthlessly shot towards the target!

Boom!~

Crimson feathers caught up to Shirley as they exploded!

It was just a single moment before she was besieged by tens, hundreds, and thousands of feathers as they exploded, causing the expressions of numerous people to change.

Boom!~ *Booom!~* *Boom!~* *Booom!~*

Top Disciple Azzuren Stein stood up, his expression looking ugly as he saw 'his' Shirley be blown to smithereens by the ceaseless explosions. The crimson feathers still kept flying towards her, her figure stuck inside the domain as countless of Top Disciple Rudolf Mair's attacks kept exploding on her.

"Do you want to die, Rudolf!?"

His enraged bellow reverberated throughout the battle arena as the surroundings became silent.

Boom!~ *Booom!~*

Only the incessant sounds of crimson feathers exploding on Shirley could be heard in the dead silence of the battle arena.

While the Elders, Grand Elders, and even the Sect Master didn't say anything, the referee looked at him and frowned.

"Shut up and watch..."

Top Disciple Azzuren Rein became stunned at the blatant disrespect while hearing it made Top Disciple Rudolf Mair feel a terrible chill climbing up his spine. The fact that the referee and the others didn't say anything about Shirley's safety instantly made him doubt if Shirley was even there in the first place!

'Could it be... An afterimage!?'

He took back his hand and stopped using the feathers, gathering it all around him for defense in an instant.

'It's fine... I'm the one with the advantage. Fellow disciple Shirley hasn't even released her domain yet. If she did, I might instantly lose as her Supreme Domain isn't anything to laugh about...'

Top Disciple Rudolf Mair felt his heart pound like crazy. However, his expression froze when he saw a figure in the slowly receding explosion, wrapped in an enormous yet beautiful manifestation of two burning phoenix wings, revealing her fiery yet fairy-like figure as they spread open.

Shirley stood elegantly in mid-air while her figure looked unharmed. Not even a speck of dust could be seen on her crimson robes as she possessed a smile in her eyes.

"Satisfied...?"

Her melodious voice echoed, causing Top Disciple Rudolf Mair to become dumbfounded.

"What...?" He subconsciously let out a voice of dismay, not really understanding what she meant.

She was there but unharmed? Not even a single scratch when their cultivation bases were the same!? How could it be!? He was in a state of wretched disbelief!

At this moment, Shirley lifted her arm and extended her index finger as if she was going to touch something when she suddenly tapped the empty space.

Crack!~

The reddish-brown domain let out cracks and instantly crumbled, causing the look on everyone's faces to become dumbfounded while Top Disciple Rudolf Mair's practically froze as his body went stiff like a statue!

A crimson sword radiance was already hovering in front of his forehead, making him know that his life was in fellow disciple Shirley's hands!

Chapter 1350: Next...

Top Disciple Rudolf Mair's expression turned exceedingly ugly at the abrupt realization of his defeat.

Blood was dripping out of his mouth, seemingly the backlash of having his domain broken in an instant. The next second after having his domain broken, a crimson sword conjured from her concentrated burning phoenix flames was resting on his forehead, threatening to exterminate his soul.

One move!

It was a single move if one excluded the fact that she used a single finger to break his domain into smithereens.

His face couldn't help but twist with diverse emotions! He knew that he was going to lose one way or another, but how can it be that he was defeated in a single move even though he was wary of it!?

He wanted to avoid what happened to Top Disciple Arno Schatz from happening to him!

He found it difficult to digest as his entire body kept trembling from humiliation and shame. However, the shaking stopped, and after what seemed like a long time of contemplation, he let out a long sigh and spoke.

"I accept defeat..."

"Excellent!~"

Shirley's melodious voice echoed as she waved her hand, the burning phoenix flame sword dissipating in an instant, allowing Top Disciple Rudolf Mair to relax as he plunged to the ground, taking in deep breaths to calm himself down before he clasped hands and left.

The crowd was utterly dumbfounded as they looked at the scene, not knowing from right to left as they failed to comprehend how Top Disciple Rudolf Mair could've lost so easily. He had numerous female disciples as his fans as well for his amicable character, and his conduct was known to be the easiest to socialize amongst top disciples.

For such a person to have been instantly defeated and humbled, they couldn't help but feel intense pity welling up within them, that is, until a voice echoed.

"Winner of the battle, Top Disciple Shirley Ashton!"

At the next second, Shirley's name moved up in the rankings as she entered the eleventh rank!

The crowd's atmosphere shifted, making them raise their voices for Top Disciple Shirley as the battle arena once again became filled with boisterous cheers.

"How powerful!"

"Senior sister Shirley is extremely beautiful!"

"So this is what senior sister Esvele meant when she said for senior sister Shirley to showcase the difference between heaven and earth... Truly, senior sister Shirley is a fairy who had descended from the heavens with this kind of prowess..."

A pretty female disciple absentmindedly spoke, causing the people surrounding her to nod their heads in approval and awe. The thought of instantly defeating an opponent who had been ready and poised for aggression was exhilarating for them!

It was different for Top Disciple Arno Schatz because he had totally underestimated senior sister Esvele and got defeated, while Top Disciple Rudolf Mair had attacked with his full prowess and still lost easily. The two of their battles couldn't be spoken of at the same length.

And indeed, Esvele's eyes glowed in fervor as she witnessed the one-sided battle, still reveling in it.

She knew that she couldn't easily break that Impeccable Domain with her current prowess. However, she wasn't disheartened as she believed that she still had some room for growth in the Law Dominion Stage. It was just, it was going to be more expensive than she could afford, but since she had become a top disciple, she mused that she would be able to get more points and, in turn, boost her growth.

While all this was happening, Shirley stayed in the battle stage, immersed in the loud applause of her fellow disciples. However, her gaze and focus weren't on anyone else but Davis, wanting to garner his reaction to her victory.

Seeing him smile and nod gave her the greatest satisfaction as she felt elated with this easy victory.

Indeed, Davis felt that her posing was so cool, especially when she used a single finger to break the Impeccable Domain. He didn't know how she did that but still had an idea as he knew about her prowess.

The Elders, Grand Elders, and Sect Master all possessed contemplative looks on their faces. Some were even frowning a bit, wondering how Top Disciple Shirley could have managed to shatter an Impeccable Domain with just a tap of her finger.

Of course, if she overlaid Top Disciple Rudolf Mair's domain with her own Supreme Domain, it was possible that the sheer pressure of her own complete domain could break it without a doubt. However, she didn't do so unless...

A few Grand Elders and the Sect Master instantly noticed the discrepancy when she broke her opponent's domain. It was as if a tiny hole had formed at the point of her finger tap.

The first thought that came to their mind was the legendary spatial collapse technique that the spatial cultivators used to threaten their opponent's attacks, rendering them useless as they could be pulled into the void, but then they noticed a flicker of powerful essence energy, almost like as if a domain had formed in that tiny space, causing the outward domain to be shattered by its sheer pressure.

If that was the case, then...

Sect Master Lea Weiss's brows were narrowed as she silently muttered in confusion and disbelief, "Perfect Domain...?"

A few other Grand Elders also thought the same, but they didn't say anything as they couldn't see through what happened in that instant. Their hearts skipped a beat even while they maintained their calm.

As the battle stage calmed down, everyone noticed that Top Disciple Shirley did not return to her seat and was looking towards her next opponent.

That person possessed a contemplative expression on his face before he reluctantly stood up with a sigh.

"It is obvious fellow disciple Shirley has become extremely powerful after exiting the mini-realm, so I don't want to waste my essence energy on a battle I can see myself losing without a doubt. I need it to defend my position that would become eleventh. Therefore, I accept defeat."

With a clasp of his hands, he sat back.

At the same time, Shirley's name moved up a rank as she occupied the tenth place! Rising up two ranks in an instant!

"Woah!~~~"

Another tumultuous uproar began to echo in the battle arena as the spectators became utterly astonished. They didn't expect a top disciple to surrender before the fight even happened. Of course, it was something understandable if their cultivation bases are too far away, but their cultivation bases were basically the same at Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage.

No, it couldn't even be said the same as it was obvious that Top Disciple Shirley's Essence Gathering Cultivation was quite unstable from the looks of it. They all knew that she hadn't even consolidated her foundation yet. Therefore, it became a surprise for them to see the tenth place readily give up his position. However, his reasoning made sense.

After all, the entire competition would be over within a day, at least, if the top disciples didn't intentionally drag it in the name of exploring their strength.

Nevertheless, another person's expression became ugly.

Naturally, it was the top disciple who was in ninth place. He didn't expect for the tenth place to give up just like that, making him be caught off-guard as he was now the center of attention.

Top Disciple Shirley's beautiful ruby-like eyes were now focused on him, beckoning him to step up on this battle stage. However, his legs didn't move as he didn't want to be the sacrificial lamb to test her prowess. He was hoping for the tenth place to test her prowess and move, but it was unexpected that he would give up without even putting up a fight.

"Evald, could it be that you are afraid?"

A sound suddenly echoed, causing Top Disciple Evald to come out of his reverie before he noticed that almost all the gazes on the battle arena were now gathered on him. It was such intense pressure that made his heart skip a beat. Nevertheless, he looked at the source of the voice and saw that it was none other than the top disciple who was in the eighth place.

Top Disciple Vito Rein, the second son of Grand Elder Valerian Rein!

Top Disciple Evald's expression froze. The enraged words about to come out of his mouth were suppressed in his throat before they faded into nothingness. He forced a smile and spoke.

"Of course not. I was just flabbergasted at how much of a coward the one who gave up could be..."

The previous tenth-ranked top disciple looked at him before he smirked, "Go ahead. Show me how cowardly I was..."

Top Disciple Evald's face slightly twitched. He reluctantly stood up and flew towards the battle stage, possessing a feeble smile on his face. He arrived at the northern area while Shirley took the position in the southern area, maintaining her position from the previous battle.

The battle arena became silent as the crowd held their breaths.

"Fellow disciple Shir-"

"There's no use talking, Evald. Just be prepared for the worst..." Shirley's eyes coldly flashed as she readily raised her hand, her fingers spread out as if she had the entire space under control.

Top Disciple Evald's expression twisted under her provocation. His manliness took a hit as he growled, "Don't become arrogant just because you took down Rudolf in a single move. His domain is trash compared to mine, while he didn't even utilize his other two cultivations! You can't easily defeat me like you defeated him!"

'No matter how fast you may have grown, your Essence Gathering Cultivation is unstable. You will make a mistake somewhere, so watch out because I won't hold back when I get the chance!' He inwardly thought as he readied himself.

Top Disciple Rudolf Mair had a frown on his face, but he didn't say anything. The crowd couldn't help but nod their heads as they knew that Top Disciple Evald's domain was way more powerful than Top Disciple Rudolf's.

For a Law Dominion Stage Cultivator, their domain was the most versatile and dependable ability that they could rely on. Their uses could range from support, defense, and offense, depending on the type of domain they conjure. Of course, if they had a technique that allowed them to emerge with even more power than using a domain, it was well and good, but those who did not have and could not use their powerful techniques relied on their domains to win their fights.

Therefore, they could understand why Top Disciple Evald had confidence that his domain wouldn't easily get broken. A few top disciples already figured out his plan was likely to exhaust Top Disciple Shirley and take advantage of the flaws of her unstable cultivation base.

However, Shirley's eyes were a bit icy.

"You're merely a dog growling for his master, yet you dare to talk as if you're a confident man who can hold his head high among the hundreds and thousands of disciples. If it weren't for the rules, I would kill you and rid this world of vermin!"

"You...!"

Everyone became flabbergasted at Top Disciple Shirley's words.

Could it be that they had a feud?

"Start the battle..."

Shirley uttered, to which the referee instantly raised and dropped his hand.

"Let the battle begin!"

Top Disciple Evald's crimson eyes went wide as he instantly summoned his domain!