

Chapter 161: The First Layer

When Davis reached the other side, a wave of discomfort suddenly hit him, causing his concealment to flicker, making him go in and out of existence to the sense of any observers nearby.

"Who's there?!!" A shout echoed in his ears.

Davis hurriedly used his Dark Concealing Shroud Art again and also held his breath out of slight nervousness. His mind hurriedly thought whether if he should kill this man without wasting a second.

A figure emerged from the entrance visible to his eyes.

Davis looked at the man who emerged from the entrance of the cave.

The man looked middle-aged and neatly dressed in white long robes tinged with yellow symbols and patterns.

Davis looked around to see that he was in a small cave opening.

He shifted his gaze behind and saw the distorted space in the middle of an ancient arch which resembled a gateway. He immediately guessed what this place was but was confused at another matter, 'Wait... Why is there only a single man here? According to mother, shouldn't there be a whole bunch of them on guard here?'

The man slightly surveyed the area before he shook his head, "I should've known, it was just my imagination. All their life tablets broke around the same time... Sigh, what kind of monster did they meet at that side? Or did they literally meet a monster? Or perhaps a mishap occurred?" The middle-aged man mumbled in a pitiful tone.

"Hey! Did someone return?" A voice echoed from outside, causing the middle-aged man to sigh again.

"No, I thought I vaguely felt a presence here but it was just my imagination..." The middle-aged man exited the cave as he went away.

Davis finally released his breath.

Coming out of nervousness, the first thing he noticed was that the heaven and earth energy in this place was of higher quality, making his cells experience bliss when they absorbed them into their pores.

But he hurriedly stopped doing that, afraid that someone might notice him.

His face slightly turned into a grin as he thought of how he didn't even need to lift his finger to escape from this place, 'Damn! I'm so lucky!'

While he was happy, he suddenly thought about what the middle-aged man said, 'Did he say life tablets? Woah, this is something we don't own. How do they make it?'

He suddenly got curious but immediately shook his head as he connected the dots and realised that he was not lucky.

'So those guards went away because they determined that there was no use for them to stay here anymore? Sigh, I'm glad that the massacre I caused was at least useful for this...'

Narrowing his eyes, he contemplated, 'Mother informed me that this place has Fifth Stage experts as guards and another cave which is above has Sixth Stage experts as supervisors... If I don't escape before the distorted space closes up, this place will be sealed soon with formations I couldn't possibly unravel making me stay here for another 15 years.'

He clenched his teeth and made a decision, 'I should be able to escape covertly if I use the people here who guard this place...'

His eyes flashed with ruthlessness.

Slowly walking to the entrance of the cave, he peeked outside and saw mountains that reached to the ends of his vision.

His mouth went agape as he thought, 'This is the Severed Mountain Stretches?' He blinked as the information his mother told, surfaced in his mind.

This place was as long as the distance between the Loret Empire Capital and the Ashton Empire Capital.

Coming out of his reverie, he glanced at the table that was on the surface of the hill and saw about 10 men sitting anxiously and restlessly fiddling with a jade stone.

'Are they sending long-distance transmission?' Davis guessed but felt that it was none of his business and, so he promptly used his Death God Eyes to see their names.

Even though Davis could tell that they were of the Fifth Stage, it looked as if their Soul Cultivation was lacking, making them unable to notice his probing.

Davis smirked, glad at the fact that those men had low Soul Cultivation and didn't somehow notice him miraculously. Otherwise, he would've had to kill everyone here and make his existence known to these so-called outsiders.

He wrote their names as he grinned hideously at his evil plan, though it was certainly good when considered from the other side of the realm, the third layer.

...

The white-robed middle-aged man sighed as he shook his head, "This is a huge tragedy, one that the Alstreim Family, Falling Snow Sect and the Towering Cloud Hall couldn't hope to afford..."

Another man beside him asked in a fearful voice, "By any chance will we be held responsible for their deaths?"

The area suddenly went silent for a few seconds before they wryly laughed at each other.

Suddenly, they all went stiff as their eyes turned dim.

.....

A few kilometres above from Davis's position.

"Kill!! Kill all of those bastards!!" A man with sharp eyes shouted angrily. Before him were many people with fearful eyes, their body trembling from the pressure the sharp-eyed man exhibited.

"Outer Hall Elder, We've already sent 180 5th Stage Experts to their deaths. Any more and our Alliance will suffer because of it!" Another man gathered his courage and answered as he closed his eyes.

The Outer Hall Elder watched him with cold eyes, his Peak Sixth Stage Pressure descending upon him, causing him to kneel, "There are still 20 more Fifth Stage Cultivators we can send. If we couldn't at least cause the other side to have losses, then consider your lives, forfeit."

"You, you and you. Go through the spatial tunnel and kill as many as you can!" The Outer Hall Elder pointed at some figures who were faintly trembling, causing them to break out in a sweat.

Even though they were told to go, they still held some vague hope that the Outer Hall Elder would let them go if they delayed.

"What's the matter? You people don't want to go?" The Outer Hall Elder asked coldly.

"Outer Hall Elder, we are not afraid of death! What we are afraid of is dying in vain!"

"Our cultivators who went in will undoubtedly die no matter how we strike!"

"The other side is defending their area since ancient times and never came to attack us!"

"It's clear that they have an absolute advantage in defense!"

The Outer Hall Elder's face turned ugly, "You all!! Very good! Now face death for turning traitors to the Alliance!"

These cultivators were nothing more than people who sought to gain benefits by joining the Alliance of the three powers in this region. As an Outer Hall Elder of the Towering Hall, he held utter disdain for them.

He waved his hands, intending to finish them off for disobedience when suddenly, ten figures flew up from below, causing him to get startled.

"Hmm? You all! Why aren't you guarding the place below!?" The Outer Hall Elder shouted with his eyes narrowed.

These ten cultivators were people who had contributed to the Alliance by being loyal and hardworking. In other words, they were people who were acknowledged by the Alliance, hence they had the opportunity to guard the place where the juniors of the alliance went.

"All of our Alliance's young elites have died! If we can't take revenge, we will have lived our lives in vain!!"

"Kill those bastards!"

"Kill them for the Alliance!!"

The ten cultivators shouted with an indifferent tone as if they were controlled by someone, but at that place, it seemed as if they were planning on sacrificing themselves.

The Outer Hall Elder's eyes glowed with admiration and watched those ten figures rush to the distorted space in full speed.

He didn't stop them but felt satisfaction at their sacrifice.

"You all saw that! This is what loyalty is!" His tone changed incredibly bloodthirsty as he stepped forward, deciding to kill these cowards.

...

Chapter 162: The Hunt is Over

In the Second Layer.

A figure emerged from the gorge and unleashed a devastating technique, causing the formation to flicker with dense cracks at the spot that was hit.

"Reinforce the formation!" Emperor Ashton shouted, his voice echoing throughout the battlefield that was in their control through the defensive formations.

Individually, they were no match for these outsiders, but through the formations that their ancestors built, it was more than capable of stopping these Fifth Stage Cultivators.

Emperor Ashton and the other Fifth Stage experts were in the centre of a killing formation, destroying whoever showed up from the gorge.

Deep inside the gorge was where the spatial tunnel existed, connecting to the place where that Outer Hall Elder in the first layer was present.

"These rats! They're sneak attacking every time, trying to break our defence formation!" Emperor Ruth had an ugly expression on his face.

"How many have we killed?" Emperor Claymore asked with a solemn expression on his face.

"157 Fifth Stage Experts..." Emperor Ross uttered with a solemn voice.

The Four Emperors had a grave expression on their faces. No matter how many times they saw it, it would confer them a sense of inferiority and the feeling of being a frog in a well.

Their Grand Sea Continent only had a few 5th Stage experts while the other side sends them to their deaths like they were cannon fodder.

This comparison and their perspective were a little hard for them to understand.

Every time the invasion of the outsiders ended, it invoked greed in their hearts, encouraging them to plunder other Empires for their benefit and growth.

"Hmm? Take over the formation..." Emperor Ashton noticed a slender but lonely silhouette emerge out of the secret entrance in a wobbling fashion.

He gave the control of the formation to another expert and hurriedly flew to his daughter who was coming out of the secret entrance, "Shirley, why are you out so soon? Only half a day has passed..."

Shirley looked above, her fair face quite saddened, gazed at her father's figure with some melancholy in her heart.

She quickly changed her expression and smiled wryly, "The hunt is over..."

Emperor Ashton landed beside her and nodded his head, "I see, the hunt is over..."

"Eh? The hunt is over!?" Emperor Ashton realised her meaning and widened his eyes as he asked with a loud voice.

The other the Emperors glanced at them with confusion visible in their eyes.

Suddenly, a few more silhouettes emerged from the distorted space while experiencing the same discomfort when they first entered.

"Ahh... This is unbelievable! I can't believe how much spoils we gained!"

"Yeah, luckily, we have our family to protect ourselves..."

Following them, even more, young elites stepped out as time passed, making the experts guarding over the place, incredibly angry.

"Cowards! You are all cowards!"

"All of you value your lives that much?!"

"I didn't think the junior generation would fall to this extent..."

Various disappointed comments echoed out from above, causing most of the youth's expression to turn a little strange.

"Silence!!" Emperor Ashton shouted, making the experts shut their mouths.

He then gazed at her, "Shirley, quickly tell father what had happened!?"

Shirley opened up her mouth, causing the other experts to pay attention, "The outsider's geniuses are dead, not one of them is left alive."

Hearing her statement, the crowd went silent.

Jeering voices erupted around the area, "Hahaha, Emperor Ashton, It's not that I am mocking you or anyone else for that matter but, I didn't think that these youths would conceive such lies to save themselves pitifully." An expert spoke with a distrustful tone.

"Speak for yourself..." Shirley indifferently replied, not bothering to give respect to that expert.

"You!" That expert pointed at her with a fuming face.

Just when he opened his mouth to mock her again, no words came out of his mouth as he froze, gazing upon the sight that was placed in his view.

The elite youths all took out the corpses from their space rings and extended their hands.

Their hands held some space rings which did not look the same as the ones present in the Grand Sea Continent.

Some had many, and most had few while the remaining were empty-handed.

"..." Utter silence reigned on the area, making those youths unconsciously feel proud of being in the same generation of a certain person, but mostly proud of themselves for retrieving the spoils.

"This... What exactly happened?" Emperor Ashton asked with an excited expression on his face.

He could faintly guess what had happened because there was only one figure missing in this place right now.

The other emperors also left their formations as they handed it over to other experts and landed on the ground. They couldn't possibly stay while seeing those numerous space rings right in front of their eyes, an amount which could rival probably more than a single Empire's wealth.

"Royal Father, it's like this..." Kristo Ashton stepped forward as he slightly glanced at his little sister who seemed hesitant and explained.

He faintly could guess that his little sister was quite heartbroken from the earlier events, and to that, he could only shake his head.

Hearing his explanation of how they found only the corpses, their faces changed into one of pure disbelief.

"It is unexpected that Prince Davis's proficiency in Soul Forging Cultivation was this tremendous..." Emperor Ruth sighed as he shook his head, while his tone was one of admiration.

"What do you mean it is unexpected? If I had a master like that senior, I would also be proficient in Cultivation!" Emperor Ross replied in a disgruntled tone, quite jealous of Davis's strength.

"Then why don't you have one? It is because you don't possess the talent!" Emperor Ruth ruthlessly responded, causing Emperor Ross's face to change with a slight harrumph.

"So? Where is he?" Emperor Ashton asked excitedly.

"Probably left to the other side, his master should be probably waiting there..." Kristo shook his head as he told his guess.

Emperor Ashton's face went stiff before he made a slight sigh, "A pity... Truly a pity..."

He uttered that comment as he looked at Shirley, causing the latter to tremble sightly.

Chapter 163: Twisting the Truth

Emperor Ruth's face had an expression of regret.

If he had known sooner that Davis would reach the other side, then he would've requested him to take care of his daughter with the help of his master.

Emperor Ross and Emperor Claymore looked at each other, their eyes deciding to forget about that matter once and for all. They knew what was better for their enrichment, and they chose their decision accordingly.

They felt that their decision was one hundred percent wise.

They all knew Davis's personality, and they saw how he reacted when his fiancée was almost killed. What if they tried to target his family? Wouldn't they be exterminated once he comes back?

Besides, he had a master who could annihilate them with a flick of his finger! Wouldn't that master leave something to protect his disciple's family?

This was highly possible.

These were their thoughts and the reason for the change in their prior decision.

Emperor Ashton stepped forward and placed his hand on the shoulder of the trembling figure, "Royal Father does not blame you, everybody makes mistakes."

"Father..." Shirley bit her lips as she held back her tears. She did not want to cry, especially not in front of this crowd.

"It's fine, he is out of our league and will probably have thousands of women considering his talent. You wouldn't want that, would you? Don't take it to heart, just let this be a valued lesson in your life." Emperor Ashton said as he patted her head.

He couldn't possibly blame her now that everything has been lost. If he did, he knew it would have the opposite effect on her development.

Suddenly, the distorted space in the gorge flickered, and a figure fled with a frightened face as a shout echoed out, "Madness! This is madness! Hahaha!" The man seemed to go crazy when he saw the distorted space behind him flicker and the multitude of formations which were placed in the front.

Another figure emerged and shouted out the words in a frenzy, "Glory to the Grand Sea Continent!"

Boom!

That figure self-destructed once he neared the man who went crazy, causing an explosion to blaze around that space, which slightly cracked the defense formation.

The experts who guarded over the place looked at the spectacle in utter puzzlement and disbelief.

Before they could even launch their killing formations, their enemy was killed by another enemy while glorifying their continent's name?

What kind of fantasy was this? They couldn't understand one bit of it.

A few moments passed before someone uttered in bewilderment, "Should we also attribute this event to Prince Davis?"

Most people's face changed into a weird expression before they looked at each other's face and shook their heads in all four directions as if saying yes and no.

Most of them felt that it was more likely Davis's master who did this mess, and not him. After all, they still believed that Davis isn't strong enough to control a Fifth Stage expert into self-destruction.

"Since Prince Davis was the one who hunted down all these 200 young elites, I think we should split up the loot into five parts. One part for the Loret Family, while the other four parts for our four families..." Shirley suddenly spoke up, causing the eyes of the youths to flicker in dissatisfaction.

"Who are you to say that?"

"Hah! The Loret Family didn't send any participants while Prince Davis left to the other side."

"Yeah, why should we give our hard-earned spoils to them just because you have said so?"

Dissatisfied voices echoed from the youths as Kennet Claymore stepped forward and spoke with a grin, "Princess Shirley, just because you want to get on his good side, you want us to sacrifice our hard-earned efforts?"

Shirley's face changed while the other youths agreed as they shouted indignantly, worried that they might lose their space rings.

"Right! This woman clearly has a relationship with Prince Davis!"

"Yeah! Her actions in the secret entrance were obviously suspicious!"

"She was the only one who was ahead of us! Could it be that she slept with Prince Davis?"

Hushed voices with mocking sentences could be heard, causing the members of the Ashton Family's expression to change!

"Who said that?!" Emperor Ashton shouted, his voice echoed out with incomparable anger, causing some of their earbuds to rupture!

He looked at the youths as his face trembled with anger. Those voices were mixed in with many other voices making it hard for him to exactly pinpoint the culprits.

He glanced at Shirley to see her tremble even more. He could see that she put her head down while her tears trickled to the ground.

"Emperor Ashton! Stop!" The other the Emperors hurriedly stood in front of their young elites, causing Emperor Ashton's face to turn ugly.

"If you do not give me an explanation, don't blame me for being ruthless!" He coldly spat out, not bothering to care about formalities anymore.

Suddenly, he felt his hands being grasped by a feeble hand, "Father, it's fine."

Shirley stepped forward with a determined expression on her face, "Whether I have a relationship with him or not, I can prove that I have none! But you people... You are all shameless!"

A slight grin on her face along with misty eyes could be seen before she glared at them.

"The spoils you all obtained were all thanks to Prince Davis's efforts! What hard-earned efforts? Twisting the truth? Couldn't be any more shameless, could you all!?"

"All your puny lives had been saved by him! Otherwise, could you even imagine how many of us would have died here?!"

"He could have taken it with him! But he didn't! It's all because he wanted our continent to prosper! If you can't even get that, then you should've just all died in that place!"

"And I... We... Shouldn't we at least repay his good intent by sharing an equal part of the loot with his family? Shouldn't we at least show our gratitude?" Shirley held her hands together as she described and asked as a matter of fact.

Hearing her speech, everyone was dumbfounded for a moment.

The youths felt something in their hearts but didn't want to part with the free spoils they gained.

So, they intentionally stayed silent.

Chapter 164: Sharing Wealth

Kristo Ashton who was by her side looked at her and rolled his eyes. He then sighed and stepped forward, taking out a table from his spatial ring.

"Here are all the free spoils I gained through plundering the corpses which were killed by Prince Davis!" He calmly and indifferently said as he looked at those youths while he took out 32 spatial rings and placed it on the table with a slight grin on his face.

Looking at the number of spatial rings, numerous eyes flashed with greed when suddenly an aura flared out with a solemn voice, "Place down the spoils or I shall have the heads of those who insulted my daughter!"

"Emperor Ashton, this isn't appr..." Emperor Ross faintly frowned.

"This is my ultimatum. You can choose whether to place the spoils or not!" Emperor Ashton indifferently replied, but bothering to see their reactions.

"Children, go place down the loots you gained on that table..." Emperor Ruth sighed and instructed which made the youths of the Ruth Family sigh in dissatisfaction.

But they still heeded his words and stepped forward to place their spoils one by one.

"What are your all looking at? Go place yours too!" Emperor Claymore coldly spat out.

He didn't like to do this but he certainly wasn't an ungrateful person. After hearing Shirley's speech, he felt like he owed Davis for some reason which he didn't clearly like, causing him to not bicker with this matter.

"You?! Why are you all listening to him?" Emperor Ross shouted in confusion.

Why did these old pricks suddenly become righteous and grateful all of a sudden? He couldn't understand, nor did he want to understand because his greed was invoked from having gained all those spatial rings which could only be probably earned in another 100 years through various means.

He certainly didn't want to give it up for some stupid reason such as being grateful.

"Don't bark, just give up the loots or you'll make us force you to hand over it!" Emperor Ashton added as he looked at Emperor Ross.

Hearing that, Emperor Ross looked at the other Emperors reaction and gritted his teeth while spreading his hands, "Fine! You all! Why are you still waiting? Go place the spoils!" He knew that if he did not comply, those three might forcefully take it from him, leading to more loss of face and members, which he didn't absolutely want!

The experts, who were the onlookers were filled with greed while looking at those 200 spatial rings. But they didn't take any action as they knew that their body would be filled with holes, caused by those four families.

The youths only consisted of these four families since the youths of Tritor and Raven Empire who were placed on the top 200 were killed after the Grand Sea Continent Meet. The four families took a decision and placed their own youths in this line-up, filling up the empty slots to explore the secret entrance.

"40 spatial rings of unknown contents for each family... I believe that this should be enough, no?" Emperor Ashton slowly said as he glanced at them.

The four emperors verified that all of those spatial rings were sealed, and even some people who were secluded cultivators came to verify those spatial rings as witnesses.

They emperors all nodded and randomly took 40 each, leaving only 40 spatial rings on the table, causing them to suddenly hesitate about a matter.

"Who will carry these to the Loret Empire? Who is trustworthy?" Someone echoed out causing the crowd to turn abuzz with discussion.

They started to concoct their own devious plans when suddenly a voice echoed out.

"Since I was the one who gave the idea! I will personally see to it that it will be delivered!" Shirley said with a serious expression on her face.

Emperor Ashton looked at his daughter with a shocked gaze as he thought, 'This haughty girl still didn't give up? How did that brat make her be like this?'

He was truly dumbfounded.

She stepped out bravely and swiped with her hand, making those 40 spatial rings disappear.

"I believe there are no objections?" She asked calmly, causing their expressions to change.

They promptly knew that they had lost the chance to do anything about it.

No voices echoed out, causing Emperor Ashton to nod his head in satisfaction because he was glaring at them the whole time while Shirley took the spatial rings.

"Since all of your spoils are safe with us, you people don't have to worry that someone will target you! Now go back and search for the entrance to the other side before the distorted space closes up!" Emperor Ruth shouted out, not bothering with their replies.

He wanted to find the entrance to the other side so he could verify the safety of his daughter as soon as possible.

Looking at the outsiders sending their Fifth Stage Experts to death like cannon-fodder left him truly insecure.

All the other youths reluctantly left while Shirley stayed because she had an enormous amount of wealth on her right now.

"Father will personally accompany you to the Loret Empire once this is over..." Emperor Ashton softly said.

Shirley nodded slightly and acknowledged, "Hmm..."

He sighed, not knowing what to think of her plight.

But as a father, he at least wanted to support whatever she wanted to do, on whatever he thought was right in her actions so that she might recover and move on.

After this, the crowd waited until the distorted space tunnel closed, but it made them frown as no new enemies arrived from the other side, causing them to be quite confused.

The opening of this realm was quite an avid experience for them, causing them to shake their heads as they thought of a certain person.

And naturally, the youths returned before the secret entrance closed, still not able to discover the path to the other side.

To this, they could only sigh again as they did so for more than thousands of years.

...

Chapter 165: Wariness

Lifeless bodies lay down over the surface, painting the ground red with blood as a raw stench emanated around the area.

"Hmph! Trash like these are supposed to enjoy the benefits of joining our Alliance? They sure do know how to dream..." The sharp-eyed Outer Hall Elder spat out in a cold tone.

His clothes were drenched in blood after he personally and cruelly executed these Fifth Stage experts when refused to obey his command.

"What a waste of resources... At least, they were useful for quenching our anger." Another Sixth Stage expert sneered as he cruelly laughed.

His clothing looked like it belonged to the Alstreim Family.

Ruthless and unreasonable! This was how the world works here despite the claim of Claire on how beautiful it was.

Compared to the Grand Sea Continent which has partly stabilized by reaching consensus, this world was still battling for supremacy which none had been able to take for themselves.

There were too many top powers, which in turn encouraged the cultivators here to scheme and plunder to enrich their own authority and wealth, even at the prospect of death.

Here, reputation was like a drug. They get drunk on it so much that they even sacrifice their own families to maintain their reputation; face.

People serve their masters with utmost loyalty! Just so that they don't get abandoned later on in their life. They wag their tails better than dogs to enrich their lives and won't hesitate to do their master's bidding!

This was a dog eat dog world! People were afraid to trust, cautious of each other, wary of everything, suck up to their superiors and maintain status quo with their acknowledged equals.

This was quite true in the Grand Sea Continent as well, but it was not quite as rampant as this world.

"I wonder if those ten guards managed to kill some of our enemies. They are pretty strong at their level if you consider their prowess." The Outer Hall Elder said as he touched his chin.

"Tch! Those ten guards clearly knew that they were going to be harshly treated when we return to the Tripartite Alliance even though it isn't their fault. So they cleverly planned and acted as if they went to sacrifice themselves! Only to return later on and tell the higher-ups that they did their best. If you don't believe me, then watch the entrance. The truth should be revealed then..." A blue-robed woman spoke as if she knew it all.

She looked innocent when she curved her lips with a smile on her face.

The other two's face twitched as they looked at her seductive silhouette. They so much wanted to have her but knew that appearances were quite deceptive.

It was especially clear in this woman's case who was known for her viciousness in dealing with men. It was rumoured that she ruthlessly dealt with men when battling, such as dealing them a generation shattering blow.

"Haha, if Outer Sect Elder speaks so, then it might be the case..." The two of them nodded and replied.

They didn't want to offend a person of equal status for no reason either, especially after they knew that this woman was favoured by an Inner Sect Elder.

Suddenly, the distorted space flickered, causing their eyes to narrow.

"Ahhh! Help me!" A miserable silhouette, drenched in blood ran towards them with a frightened face.

Their faces changed as they quickly asked, "What happened?!"

They could recognize him as one of the 180 Fifth Stage Experts they sent in the first wave.

The miserably injured man slightly rejoiced when the distorted space behind him flickered again.

A figure quickly shot towards him as the energy around the figure turned unstable.

"Not good!" This kind of feeling erupted in those three elders minds, causing them to back out subconsciously.

Boom!

The figure who rushed out exploded into hundreds of bloody chunks as the explosion levelled the whole area but didn't manage to leave a dent on the spatial tunnel.

The three elders had a look of utter confusion gleaming in their eyes.

The two of them looked at the woman and asked with a strange expression on their faces, "As you said, a guard really did appear, but why did he self-destruct?"

The woman had an equal look of confusion written all over her face, "How should I know?!"

The three of them were visibly confused and they could see the looks of each other, increasing their doubts about this event.

The three then secretly looked at each other suspiciously.

They couldn't tell who orchestrated this farce, but they absolutely couldn't see the motive to do so.

'Could it be the guards went berserk and chose to self-destruct on us as an act of revenge instead of self-destructing at those enemies?'

They couldn't help but think that way since they couldn't realise the motive of the orchestrator.

The three went silent, warily looking around trying to gauge each other, but the atmosphere just kept getting worse.

"Say, let's report to the higher-ups..." The blue-robed woman said as she dispelled the hostility gathering around them.

"Let's do that..." The other two elder nodded their heads in agreement.

Although all three of them belonged to the Tripartite Alliance, they were of different groups after all.

So, fights to the death were quite common unless one is found out of their transgressions.

Still looking warily at each other, they sent word through the jade stone to their respective seniors and waited for further instructions.

They fiddled with the jade stone after some time and spoke some words unto it a few minutes later.

They looked at each other, slightly nervous, "Did you guys get called to the headquarters?"

The other two nodded their head slowly, indicating that they received the same instructions.

"Well, let's just hope that they'll let us go with light punishments..." The blue-clothed lady smiled.

The other two cursed as they knew that she had the favour of an Inner Sect Elder.

Chapter 166: Escape

,000 kilometres away from the mountainous region where the space portal to the Grand Sea Continent was located.

In the barren lands where there no vegetation, only a few drops of water scattered around the sandy plains could be seen.

"Did it recently rain?" A figure suddenly appeared out of nowhere while the hot rays of the sun showered the land with sizzling heat.

The silhouette that suddenly appeared looked as if it were an illusion that played tricks on one's eyes.

This 5' 1" tall black-robed silhouette was Davis, who managed to escape while distracting the Sixth Stage experts who were above him.

Even though he had the confidence to escape right under their noses, he didn't want to take any chances either.

He didn't know if his plan worked or not, nor was he interested in knowing the result. All he needed was to distract them and it was enough for him.

He looked above and looked at the cloudy sky which couldn't even block the rays of the sun as if they were too thin.

He chuckled and continued to walk ahead, a slight grin could be seen on his face as he stretched his arms wide, "Ahh, this is the feeling of freedom..." He momentarily felt that he was free of burdens, carefree as a free bird.

But instantly, he rolled his eyes at that thought.

He still had a lot of things to do.

His face scrunched up in dissatisfaction at the fleeting feeling of freedom.

"Freedom is an illusion, there's actually no such thing as freedom unless you're always alone, not existing in anyone's mind..." He muttered like a philosophical old man who had reached the end of his lifespan.

He suddenly stopped and looked back at the mountains which he came from as he shook his head, "I never thought I would feel so lonely after coming to this place. I am excessively attached to them..." His heart especially felt tugged with the feeling of needing Evelyn.

He turned back as he continued to walk, and this time, his eyes had a renewed resolve to become stronger.

...

Two days passed.

Davis could basically confirm that he had left their detection range as he had travelled over 10,000 kilometres speedily with his Silver Stage Cultivation.

But as far as his eyes could see, it was still the mountainous desert region that filled his eyes.

"Damn! I should have reached the Revolving Core Stage before coming to this place!!!!" Davis shouted out, not bothering to mask his voice.

He looked weary, and his eyes were a little sunken.

If he could fly high, he could've seen which direction leads to getting out of this place sooner.

Davis didn't dare to use his Soul Sense, afraid that he might be caught by an existence which he couldn't deal with.

Nor did he want to use his soul body to check it out as he was in an open area.

But this wasn't the problem at the moment.

He looked at the sky, 30 kilometres above and smiled wryly.

A huge flock of Ferocious Vultures flew directly on top of him for over a day, causing a huge headache which led him to this dilemma.

His eyes moved onto a specific Vulture.

It was a huge Ferocious Vulture with a 25m wingspan that looked horrendous with its sharp barbed beak, hooked on the end, and its back occupied with greyish white wings. This creature was especially the reason for his headache for more than a day.

"Why am I so unlucky!?" Davis shouted again.

He tried using the Dark Concealing Shroud Art but it was of no use considering that It just kept following and didn't lose his tail.

A Mortal Rank Species - Grand Beast Stage Magical Beast! A Fifth Stage Magical Beast!

These words kept echoing in his mind, making him cautious of its presence the whole time.

It didn't near him but kept quite a close watch with its intelligent eyes as if seeking for a blind spot all day long.

It didn't dare to near him because Davis was using his soul to faintly pressure it.

This method worked because Magical Beasts normally had weak souls.

Unless the Magical Beast is an existence that has a formidable soul constitution, or from a soul type race, it will not have a powerful soul.

"This is insane!" Davis said as he gritted his teeth. If it came down, then he would have no choice but to engage in a life and death battle with it.

Emperor Tritor and Emperor Raven had weak Soul Cultivation, so he was able to kill them despite their Fifth Stage Cultivation in the other two cultivation systems.

But this was a Magical Beast, and even if a Fifth Stage Magical Beast had a weak soul, its soul was still of the Fifth Stage, which rendered Davis's Death Note useless in this case.

From how he couldn't see its name by using his Death God Eyes, he could tell that it was at least a High-Level Grand Beast Stage Magical Beast.

"At least, it isn't an Earth Grade Magical Beast. Otherwise, I would've been more or less dead right now..." Davis muttered as he consoled himself.

He wasn't trying to joke but its presence and gaze gave him a heavy pressure that sent chills upon his spine, making him unable to even relax a little.

He could literally feel death looming over him, waiting to greedily devour his flesh and bones.

His mother had informed him about the difference in species rank of Magical Beasts.

As far as his mother knew, there were five types of species rank and a species rank difference vastly enhanced the chances of a higher-rank species to win against a lower-rank species.

Out of this predicament, he felt glad that this vulture was just a Mortal Rank Species, just like the Magical Beasts present in the Grand Sea Continent.

Suddenly, he felt the pressuring gaze upon him disappear, prompting him to quickly glance at it.

The Ferocious Vulture gave a low shout after it glimpsed in a certain direction. It then looked at him causing his mind to ring alarm bells of danger.

'It's coming!!' Davis instantly thought

Chapter 167 Danger

'It's coming!!' Davis instantly thought and without even waiting a single second, he ran in the direction of wherever it saw.

He didn't know what was in that direction, but he certainly knew it caused his avid stalker to go restless and attack him.

Davis gritted his teeth and summoned all his strength to run at an incredible speed. He slightly glanced behind to see it plunging down at him with numerous other vultures in a formation.

'Sh*t! Hunting in a formation?!!!' He extended his soul sense to the direction he ran in, and as he did, he sensed a group of people heading his way.

"100 kilometres?!" Davis's face changed! It would at least take him 5 minutes to reach that distance even with his current speed!

An unprecedented level of seriousness flashed across his face as he stopped running and turned to look back at the vulture as he stood his ground.

He summoned a black spear that shined with a purple glow at its end.

Lightning sparkled on the spear blade, crackling and roaring while he tightened his grip on the spear while a silvery aura spread around the shaft from his arms.

Upon using Tyrant Aura Amplification, he murmured, "Berserk Change..."

Blinding light erupted around his body as a silvery aura around him glowed with mighty valour!

The vultures were already less than 5 kilometres away from him, ready to surround and make him mincemeat in a few moments.

"Celestial Needle Ocean..." He murmured again as a sinister grin appeared on his face.

Swirling currents of a pure thin line which looked like needles formed above his head. The pure light of needles shot towards those vultures who were below the Grand Beast Stage.

Bird cries echoed miserably as the huge kettle of vultures had their souls miserably pierced by the needles.

The Ferocious Vulture angrily roared, easily blocking the area of effect technique and headed towards Davis with bloodshot eyes.

Davis shot towards Ferocious Vulture as he made a wide swing. His spear and its talons clashed as a metal sound rang out while he plunged down to the ground from the force as he spewed out some blood.

His body was heavily impacted while the spear flew out of his hands as a result of the torn muscles in his arm.

Boom!

As he crashed on to the ground while dust spread, the Ferocious Vulture roared in rage!

Davis had killed its whole family. How could it not be angry?

Blinded by its rage, it plunged down again as it extended its talons.

Davis could see it approaching with his soul sense. He quickly formed a Sacred Piercing Lance and threw towards it just when it was a few metres away from the dust.

The lance shot forwards, but it was blocked by the extended talons, causing it to shatter into nothingness.

"Sacred Soul Shield!" A barrier formed around him as he jumped sideways to evade its sharp talons.

Half of its momentum was struck down by the Sacred Piercing Lance, making it possible for him to evade it in the nick of time.

A grin slightly appeared on his face when a huge wing came behind him and sent him flying as it struck, causing his barrier to break.

Davis spat out a mouthful of blood as he flew, his soul force was spent upon from the two days of vigilance. His hair flailed wildly in the wind, and his face still had a slight grin on it that hadn't faded into the abyss yet.

...

In the near distance, those few people who Davis spotted with his Soul Sense were dressed in various robes and armours. They rushed across saddled on top of their mounts which looked like well-bred mighty horses.

The one leading the group was a woman who looked beautiful and appropriately curvaceous in the precise areas.

Her eyes looked sharp while below it was covered with a veil, making her features unknown. Her velvet-coloured hair graciously danced, giving her a dashing appearance.

She wore a black silky robe which accentuated her sharpness and mysteriousness two-fold when seen with the perspective of strangers.

"Big Sister! Our target has noticed us and it seems to be following a... child?" A man next to her commented with a bewildered expression on his face.

"Hurry! We have to kill it before it can devour that kid!" The woman shouted, her voice had a tinge of worry mixed-up.

She noticed the kettle of Ferocious Vultures plunging down on him in an attempt to devour him.

"Not good!" She jumped and glided through the air with her eyes narrowed up anxiously.

Below her legs, a hazy path of wind formed, making her quickly sped up to the distance.

Cries of worry erupted as the others all shouted for their big sister to return, but it was of no use. So they had no choice but to quickly follow behind her in pursuit.

Suddenly, their eyes widened as they all saw the numerous vultures, drop-down lifelessly onto the ground like flies that had been mysteriously attacked.

They were all startled, "Big Sister, stop! There is something weird about that kid!"

The woman stopped and hesitated for a moment. She looked at the Vulture who was maddened and the kid who was going to die under its talons.

She gritted her teeth and rushed towards the boy, "This is our chance to kill it!"

By the time she neared, the boy was sent flying by the maddened Ferocious Vulture.

The woman snapped get finger and made a subtle finger movement, causing the flying Davis to slow down from the impact.

Davis slightly relaxed, seeing that these unknown people were going to save him.

He used the barrier to defend while simultaneously using the impact from the wing attack to be sent flying almost 5 kilometres away.

Adding on their arrival, especially the veiled woman who quickly dashed towards him, his plan worked out.

Supported by the formless wind, he stepped on the ground as he spat another mouthful of blood while he felt his mind go slightly muddled from the backlash of the soul barrier being broken, though it mostly came from the exhaustion of constantly using his soul for over two days.

Chapter 168 Saved

Davis's eyes flashed with a weak light as he looked beside him. A woman entered his line of vision and placed her hands on his shoulders.

A second passed before he heard her say in a doubtful, yet worried tone, "You seem fine..."

He noticed her relaxed and bewildered gaze and had at least realised that the other party possessed no bad will against him.

But 'fine' was an understatement.

His soul felt incredibly weak, and he just wanted to take a rest and heal his damaged soul slowly.

This was the repercussion of using his own soul to block the physical prowess of the Ferocious Vulture.

The Ferocious Vulture loudly screeched, quickly approaching Davis even though it noticed the group. Its eyes were still bloodshot, causing it to be not at all bothered by the powerful group.

The woman stood up and pointed at the Ferocious Vulture, "Wind Blades!"

Ten formless swords formed around her, causing the air to vibrate from the sheer intensity of the blades as they rotated.

The Ferocious Vulture's primal instinct kicked in just when those ten formless swords shot towards it at an incredible speed.

But by the time it reacted, it was already too late to evade completely.

It dodged sideways when it was suddenly hit with five formless swords on its right side of the body.

The swords pierced through its large body while the blood gushed out in excess from the injury.

It screeched in pain as it rolled over the sandy surface.

The woman made some hand signs and pointed at the Ferocious Vulture again, causing those swords which missed their targets to change direction.

Just when it finished rolling over, and finally stabilized as it looked over the sky, seeing another five swords near its face.

Puchi!!

The formless swords which bore wind energy penetrated its eyes and pierced the brain. Copious amounts of blood flowed down its head like a waterfall for a short time as the Ferocious Vulture twitched till it died.

'So strong...' Davis looked at the woman who effortlessly killed the Ferocious Vulture without even breaking a sweat.

It was a Grand Beast Stage Magical Beast! But it was so easily killed by this woman who looked younger.

Davis found it hard to believe that he met someone this powerful. He had such luck in this land of nowhere?

For a moment, he thought he was some kind of protagonist of a novel for having a plot armour like this.

He then sighed as he didn't think his life would truly be in danger in a short time, even though he just escaped from the Severed Mountain Stretches.

In short, he understood that he overestimated himself, but knew that events such as this was inevitable and not his fault.

After all, he didn't go provoke or attack that Ferocious Vulture.

He wryly laughed as he thought, 'Having a piece of flesh in my body also invites disaster?'

He shook his head ruefully.

What could he expect from a beast? To let him go?

'Wishful thinking...' Davis mocked himself for his complacency.

The woman gave a few commands to her men and looked at the boy with an inspecting gaze. The men followed her commands and proceeded to store the corpses of those vultures.

Davis stood up and looked at her as he narrowed his eyes, ignoring the pain that clutched his soul.

If he didn't deal with this properly then they might become his enemy, but he was not afraid. Honestly, even though they were quite powerful, their soul cultivation was quite weak.

All this time from having the death note, his soul could vaguely feel whether the other party's soul was stronger than him or not.

He clasped his hands as he said, "Young Miss has saved me from the clutches of death. I, Davis, owe young miss a favour..."

His voice echoed out childishly causing the woman and some men to blink their eyes rapidly.

Davis could speak crisply but he decided to act like the present him.

A 12-year-old boy with a height of 5' 1". He thought of hiding his name but no one here could recognise him here in any way.

As he looked at their reactions, it seemed as if the woman and the men communicated through soul transmission.

'They seem to be cautious of me...' Davis thought, then he didn't understand, 'Why did they save me then?'

The woman finally opened her mouth, "Where do you come from?"

"I just left the mountains after I mourned my master for 3 days and 3 nights." Davis didn't bat an eye as he lied.

He unceremoniously killed off his non-existent master.

His voice was childish yet solemn, causing one to take his words seriously.

He continued with a wry tone, "I just didn't think that I would be so as unlucky to be targeted by a powerful magical beast..."

The woman narrowed her eyes in suspicion. After what seemed to be like a long time of observing, she sighed gently, "It seems you really are a human child..."

A few question marks appeared behind Davis, causing her to laugh gently.

The others also laughed at the comical sight as they saw the lightning-attributed question marks.

"You surprisingly know how to be humorous? Unexpected..." The woman continued, "You see, I thought that you were either an old monster disguising or the child of a Sky Grade Magical Beast... or even possibly the child of an unknown Spirit Race."

"I checked your cultivation while you were injured and verified that you were a human child, but I just couldn't believe that as you are quite powerful for your age."

"Silver Stage, Peak Energy Condensation Stage, and I couldn't see through your soul, undoubtedly meaning that it is stronger than mine... stronger than Peak-Level Young Soul Stage..."

The woman had many questions she wanted to ask, such as how he cultivated the soul to that boundary before reaching Revolving Core Stage but knew it was rude and could quite possibly worsen the situation.

So she just opened her mouth as she returned the respect by clasping her hands, "My name is Su Hualing, and I am one of the three vice heads of Cloud Spring Mercenaries!"

Chapter 169 Su Hualing

"So young miss is Su Hualing... Good name..." Davis murmured.

He was quite astonished to see someone having a similar Chinese name, but was their origins Chinese in the first place?

In the Loret Family's library, he did read about quite some people who had a similar kind of names but never got to see one. He had no idea how these persons distinguished from themselves, or how they named themselves either.

'Did the existence that the Death Note mentioned, brought some people from here to establish the ethnicity of the various racial group on Earth?' He thought, still not able to understand what happened in the past.

Still, it was of no concern, so he just pushed the thought away, and said, "Can I travel with your group to a safe place? This place seems to be lurking with powerful beasts that I don't want to meet... In turn, you can take all the vultures I killed."

Su Hualing smiled and murmured, "Young Miss is not young..."

She came forward and patted his head gently, "Don't worry, elder sister will take care of you..."

A slight vein erupted on Davis's forehead before he pushed her hands away with an excuse as if throwing a tantrum, "Don't touch me! I am an adult and know how to take care of myself!"

"Hahaha, how cute..." Su Hualing looked at him as she laughed.

She now quite came to believe that he was a child without a doubt.

"Young Miss Su Hualing... Don't tease me..." Curling his lips in dissatisfaction, he uttered.

"Haha, you're the only one who calls me young miss... Who taught you ethics and manners? Was it your master?"

Davis went silent and looked down as if he mourned for the loss.

Su Hualing realised that she had touched upon a distasteful topic.

She quickly opened her mouth, "Sorry, it's just that I'm over 100 years old and no has ever called me young miss before..."

"Hmm? Someone as powerful as you hasn't been called young miss before? Why?" Davis asked curiously with a genuine face. He was quite shocked to see someone this old look young as he thought, 'Cultivation does do wonders...'

Su Hualing looked at his expression and vaguely had an urge to talk about her past. She had almost let down her guard she maintained in front of other men as Davis had an innocent face.

She smiled and shook her head, "It's just a distasteful past. It's isn't of any concern now... Moreover, I am quite happy with this life, being married to the love of my life as well as having two children who are of your age right now..."

Davis was astonished that she was married and had kids, but not surprised seeing that she was over a hundred years old.

He didn't let the astonishment show over his face as he said, "I see... Shall we get moving then?"

Su Hualing nodded and mounted the horses, while Davis sat behind a man who called himself Jake.

...

The horses were fast and they travelled for 15,000 kilometres north in 5 days before they reached a plateau that consisted of flat sandy terrain and steep slopes.

During the three days, Davis became more familiar with the members Cloud Spring Mercenaries.

He gained a lot of information from the idle banter they engaged in from time to time.

Such as, they compared him to the elite geniuses who were known widely in this region, and couldn't help but acknowledge his talent in Soul Cultivation.

Some spoke sarcastically, and were openly were jealous of him but they meant no harm. To this, Davis could only shake his head. If he saw someone better than him, then he felt that he would get jealous as well.

There was already a precedent in his previous life anyway. He had felt jealous of kids who had a loving and caring family, but now he had one, he didn't feel jealous of them anymore.

He gained a copy of the map of this region and was greatly astonished to see that this region was 3,500,000 kilometres long.

The map was not detailed but only had widely known places and organisations marked on it.

There were three major powers in this region, and he knew one of them since it was his mother's family.

This region was known as Desolate Continent and the three major powers were the Alstreim Family, Falling Snow Sect and Towering Cloud Hall.

The three major powers were outside forces. They joined together, forming the Tripartite Alliance and conquered the Desolate Continent

These three were High-Level Emperor Grade powers which have Ninth Stage experts at their helm.

Under them were various Mid-Level Emperor Grade powers which had Eighth Stage experts at their helm.

And under them were King Grade influences which had Seventh Stage experts at their helm. Likewise, the King Grade influences had Sky Grade influences under them as well.

But no one bothered with Earth Grade and Mortal Grade influences as they were too weak to vie for the important resources.

Though that doesn't mean that the lower influences will not submit themselves to higher influences but instead, they are eager to curry favour with them.

Davis felt that this was natural and logical. He felt that to survive, people would do anything, much less subordinating themselves to a higher power.

After the Tripartite Alliance conquered the Desolate Continent, most people started calling it Tripartite Alliance Territory.

In this place, there was a restriction imposed upon by the three major powers.

That is, the powers present in this place should not exceed Seventh Stage, and to follow this rule and convince the people, the three major powers established a headquarters at the north end placing Seventh Stage Experts to control it.

He looked down the plateau and saw a huge camp with that looked like a small town with many people clad in different types of armour roam around the area.

His brows narrowed as he saw the various array formations surround the huge camp. He could see that some of them were defensive formations used to protect their base.

"Welcome to our Cloud Spring Mercenary Headquarters, Davis." Su Hualing uttered with a gentle smile on her face.

Chapter 170 Cloud Spring Mercenaries

Davis's face twitched as he looked at the sight around him.

In this barren desert, they named themselves Cloud Spring Mercenaries? He felt that there was no connection between the name and the place.

Still, Davis nodded his head in acknowledgement.

He could travel alone, but he knew nothing about the intricacies of this region, so he had no choice but to gain more information. To learn that, he decided to stick with them for a short time before leaving.

They jumped down the slope and approached an entrance which looked like a small gate.

There were some people in front of them. They had smiling faces as they looked at the approaching figures in the near distance.

A man with a halberd stepped forward and bellowed, "Big Sister Su is back!"

The people inside the gate were suddenly startled and some of them came running upon hearing the shout.

Cheers rang out as they openly welcomed their Big Sister Su Hualing. They had incredible respect for her because some had been saved by her in this hot desert region when they had no one to rely upon.

Not only did she save them but gave a place for them to belong. Naturally, they were grateful in their hearts.

A woman stepped forward from the crowd and glared at Su Hualing as her eyes turned misty. The crowd turned silent upon seeing her trembling back.

"We have avenged your husband, Lily..." Su Hualing uttered, causing the woman who stepped out to break down in tears.

Almost everyone looked at her with a sigh on their faces.

A few weeks ago, her husband and a few other mercenaries perished in the talons of the Ferocious Vulture.

At that time, she was with them but escaped as her husband protected her will all he got. It rended her heart into pieces when she saw her husband being eaten alive as it pecked on him while tearing his skin apart.

Having witnessed that gruesome scene, she fainted, only to be found by another team who had secured her safely.

She later found out why she was alive and not eaten by the Ferocious Vulture.

It was because she was saved by Su Hualing, who had more than enough power to make mincemeat out of that Ferocious Vulture.

Almost everyone knew of these two popular love birds as they joked of how attached they have been, but now seeing her breaking down in tears left them with a bad taste in their mouths.

Some of the men even felt pity and wanted to protect her subconsciously.

A few people suddenly arrived in front of the crowd, causing the crowd to disperse automatically with some reverence glowing in their eyes.

"Husband! Second Sister! Third Sister!" Su Hualing eyes automatically turned warm as she dismounted and ran into a man's embrace.

The man had two women follow behind him causing Davis's to narrow his eyes in astonishment as he thought, 'Triplets!?'

Their faces were more or less the same as Su Hualing. However, their figures were different and each of them had their own charm, causing one to unconsciously fantasize about them.

Davis was no exception, even so, he still managed to quickly remove all impure thoughts as it quickly came.

He then thought wryly, 'I still have a long way to go before I become completely immune to beauties...'

"Leader Daniuis, please kill me!" The woman who shed tears for her husband's death suddenly uttered as she looked at the man causing the others to be startled greatly.

Davis looked at the woman and narrowed his eyes. He could somewhat feel the sorrow that was currently possessing her heart.

After all, he was just a hair's length close to losing Evelynn at that time, but instead, she just lost her right arm. He then shook his head as he didn't even want to think about it.

"I no longer wish to live..." The woman uttered again causing a sigh to break out from the man who was called Leader Daniuis.

He wore an azure coloured mercenary-like attired robe. He had a precise toned body that stood out with his sculptured abs and pecks.

This man was called Daniuis and was the leader of the Cloud Spring Mercenaries

He wore a gentle smile on his face always but now, it changed into one of compassion and lament.

He had long black hair that reached till his chests that were currently waving in the air, and his eyes had a hint of tiredness to it.

The man took out a sword and pointed at the woman.

"Husband, no! You can't do this..." Su Hualing's expression turned awry for a second.

She didn't want this to happen.

Daniuis narrowed his eyes and glanced at his first wife, Su Hualing. He slightly opened his mouth and shook his head, "Convince her then..."

Su Hualing turned hopeful before she went forward to the woman.

"Lily, there's no need to die, is there?" She uttered.

Lily had her eyes focused on Daniuis in a deadpan manner. She slowly swept her gaze towards Su Hualing and asked, "What do I need to live for?"

Su Hualing got startled before she answered, "You need to live for yourself..."

Hearing her answer, Lily's expression didn't change one bit but instead asked a question, "Would you live if your reason to live died?"

She then gave a short glance at Leader Daniuis.

Hearing her question, Daniuis faintly frowned but didn't stop her as he too looked at his first wife, wanting to know her answer.

Su Hualing got startled again. She wanted to say that she too will take her life, but couldn't as that would be same as saying that there's nothing wrong with Lily wanting to die.

Narrowing her eyes, she replied, "If my husband dies, I still have my children to take care of..."

Thinking of how cleverly she replied, a faint smile bloomed on Daniuis's face as he shook his head.