

EMPEROR 1861

### **Chapter 1861: A Bit Of Exhaustion**

After the commotion died, the Mandate Emperor shook his head as he brought his hand to his forehead.

“Get some people to repair the battle stage...”

He sent a soul transmission to Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans, who then quickly had people appear and repair the battle stage.

The Mandate Emperor couldn't believe the amount of trouble these kids tended to make, showing off and whatnot. The Karmic Guardian Emperor also possessed a similar expression on his face.

They looked towards Myria and noticed that her eyes were misty for some reason before turning to look towards Davis, who hugged his first wife, Evelynn, making them wonder if this was a love triangle at the origin that had gone bad.

Nevertheless, he didn't think much of it. However, what was that lightning just now?

It was different from the extinction lightning he knew. The others also possessed the same doubt while also vaguely feeling that it was beyond understanding as its nature was so overbearing that it reminded them of the heavens, which just couldn't be possible.

The trace of the strange lightning energy left by the Emperor of Death seemed to be erased, leaving them further confused about what he was hiding.

Nevertheless, they each had their people investigate Myria's origin again. The Emperor of Death called her Ellia, making them think that was what she went by during her teenage years, so they ordered to investigate all people of that name and see if something would turn up.

In the Alstreim Family's seating area, everyone looked at Davis with a satisfied smile on their face.

He was back. The short time he left seemed like an eternity to them even though he had visited once and left again, just to bring the girls back safely.

“I assume you are done with your training?”

“The path of cultivation probably never ends, Evelynn. There are only limits... and I've reached my limit that is only temporary.”

Davis tapped Evelynn's nose, causing her to adorably smile at him. She was disinclined to believe him when he said that he had limits, for he was her everything.

He then moved aside and looked at the others, noticing everyone else, including the ones who participated in the competition, appeared safe and sound, which made his heart feel content. Most importantly, he noticed the palanquin that held two of his lovely wives and all three of their legacies.

Natalya, Fiora, Mo Mingzhi, Sophie, Niera, Tina Roxley, and lastly, he even grabbed Zestria and embraced her, causing her heart to skip a beat, her heartbeat becoming rapid and loud enough for Davis to hear it clearly. In the end, she even started to shed tears of disbelief, filled with happiness as she hid her face on his chest and trembled.

The crowd's eyes went wide with astonishment.

The Emperor of Death made Zestria Domitian his woman? Then why wasn't Bylai Zlatan, who was beside Zestria Domitian, hugged?

Weren't they both sent as slaves to the Emperor of Death as tributes to appease him for the wrongdoings they had committed against the Earth Dragon Queen?

Davis didn't bother with the eyes of the crowd, going ahead to hug every woman he loved as he made them blush from embarrassment and love as he whispered words of desire. He didn't even appear to think that it might be a form of acknowledgment to them as he just missed them and their familiar scent that he craved, wanting to make up the time he was away from them with a simple hug and a compliment, but his actions ended up bringing immense happiness to them.

By the side, there was some complexity in the eyes of the women who secretly loved him as they watched him hug every woman he loved except them.

How can he be so loving? It was different from the man they envisioned him, strong and stalwart, never even making a fool out of himself in public by flirting with women. However, he was so soft with them that he melted their hearts.

Would they receive the same treatment if they became one?

Not only them but almost every woman who felt like they had some chance had this thought.

In the distance, at the Burning Phoenix Ridge's seating area, Lea Weiss wryly smiled, wishing she was there even though she thought he was shameless to be giving every woman he loved a hug in public.

What kind of Emperor does that? The Emperor of Womanizing?

Davis patted Zestria's shoulder before heading towards the palanquin and saw the two beauties inside the well-lit compartment.

"Isabella... Shirley..."

"Dummy... we wanted to be hugged first..." Isabella uttered while looking aggrieved.

"Well, I'm going to spend more minutes here anyway."

Davis wryly chuckled before he walked inside and closed the door. He sat alongside Isabella and placed his head on her lap the next moment.

"Isabella, I'm so tired... Let me sleep..."

Isabella and Shirley's eyes went wide before they smiled at him, both of them reaching out their hands to caress his forehead and hair as though wanting to massage him.

"We know you worked hard, so rest all you want..."

Davis had his eyes closed while his expression was tired. However, his lips curved into a smile as he heard the words that made him feel relieved.

Absorbing the three drops of immortal blood essences, digesting two of them, and suppressing the other one took a toll on his psyche. Furthermore, testing the comprehension of heavenly lightning was another thing that battered him.

“Look at this cute baby...”

Shirley drew curls on his cheek, appearing to baby him and Isabella looked as though she was going to do a similar thing when suddenly he grabbed her hand and kissed her finger. A shock ran through Shirley as her baby also kicked inside in response as though displaying bliss, causing her to blush while Isabella giggled.

“Don’t be bewitched by his looks. He’s a naughty baby...”

Isabella lowered her head and placed a kiss on his lips and forehead, her eyes appearing to be full of gentleness as she caressed his blond hair.

“Right now, we have three babies with us that we have to protect...”

“Hehe~ Indeed.”

Shirley giggled before she went silent. The both of them just kept looking at his face, watching him fall asleep. They didn’t make a sound and even admired the rhythmic breathing that seemed to have been trained to the highest level that they could imagine even without touching him with their hands because they knew that he was circulating his soul force, healing, no, massaging his psyche to become refreshed.

After ten minutes of sleeping on paradise, Davis’s eyes shot wide open before he sat up from leaning on Isabella’s soft thighs.

“Uh? Why did you wake up so soon? Sleep more!”

Isabella berated Davis as she saw him wake up, but he shook his head.

“This is enough. I still have some things to do outside.”

“Davis... if this is about that girl Ellia, then it can come later.”

Isabella’s eyes narrowed while Shirley also looked hesitant.

“Third sister’s right. I recommend you confront her after completely raising your mental state.”

“Don’t worry.” Davis shook his head before he cast his gaze, “It’s not about her. I have finally had some time to myself in this competition, so I’m going to relax and enjoy some time with you all.”

“...”

Both Isabella and Shirley appeared moved, but they were too embarrassed to respond to his genuine gaze. However, Davis’s expression then turned into an irritated smile.

“As for that white witch, I’m sure that we’ll meet in the battle stage. At that time, I’m going to make her feel the frustration and helplessness that I felt when she took Ellia away from me without my consent.”

**Chapter 1862: Don’t Clash...**

Isabella and Shirley were taken aback over Davis's declaration. Then, they quickly wondered how he must've loved her back then to be still caring about her.

"After all, Ellia was the first friend I made in this world..."

"..."

Friend?

Isabella and Shirley's expressions fell as they heard Davis's utterance.

Was this womanizer for real?

"You... you do not love her?"

Shirley asked because when Ellia spoke to her, it certainly seemed like she liked him a lot that it could be translated to love.

"What... no...?"

On the other hand, Davis looked amused before his expression faded, even replaced with confusion.

"Now that I think about it... Ellia's certainly a top-tier beauty. I didn't think she would actually grow this beautiful."

"What do you mean?" Shirley narrowed her eyes, "I acknowledged her as a beauty when we met in the Gathering Of The Elites Competition even though I looked down on her because she possessed the status of a slave. Do you mean to say that you refused to acknowledge her as extremely beautiful because you can't stay friends with her otherwise?"

"You know... you might be right." Davis pointed at Shirley as he nodded, "I knew she would grow to be an extreme beauty but certainly placed a spell on myself to not see her that way because, as you two know, I was a grown man in a child's body while she was a beauty even as a child. Her beauty was the whole reason I got her as a personal slave from my mother, so I forced the definition of a friend upon her to maintain my sanity-"

"Wait... that little girl... it couldn't be that she..."

"... most likely loves you..."

Shirley responded with a nod, causing Davis to freeze before he sighed exasperatedly at himself.

These were things he didn't bother to think about because, at that time, he wasn't even a womanizer in his thoughts. He was wholeheartedly pursuing Evelyn at that time that he didn't have time to think about Ellia even though there may have been awkward conversations between them that openly screamed she loved him.

Thinking back, it wasn't that he couldn't see but subconsciously chose to ignore them.

Isabella and Shirley looked at him but didn't blame him. Instead, they were shocked at the fact that he didn't lose his innocence to someone like Ellia despite having her as a personal slave.

After all, it defeats the whole point of bringing her into the imperial family as a personal slave.

As imperial princesses, they knew that even their own half-brothers lost their virginity at the age of eight or perhaps a bit higher.

Davis's expression became solemn as he looked at Shirley, the one who had most contact with Ellia in the past few years.

"Do you think that Ellia still loves me?"

"I can't say with confidence, but I can say that her voice was tinged with longing whenever she talked about you."

Davis narrowed her eyes as he raised his hand, "Say no more."

He was already going to get her back regardless, but if this was the case, the urge to get her back only grew stronger.

He stood up with a hint of coldness gleaming in his eyes.

"Ah...!"

Shirley suddenly realized that she should've kept her mouth shut. She hurriedly stood up and clasped his hand.

"No, you are not to clash with her at this moment."

"Jeez, calm down..."

Davis's voice became low as he grabbed her shoulder and made her sit back. He didn't want her becoming agitated for no reason.

"As I said, I'm not going back to fight with her." Davis lowered his head, aligning his gaze with her misty crimson-ruby eyes as he smiled at her.

"That old hag Myria maybe be your friend, and I promise I'll try my best to hold back, but as I said before, it all depends on her actions and words."

Shirley bit her lips, "She helped me a lot."

"I know."

"Saved me a lot..."

"I know."

"Became my star that shined my path to you."

"I..."

Davis was truly flabbergasted this time while Shirley brought his hands to her face and shed tears.

"Without her, I wouldn't be alive nor have been able to save you, so please don't clash and try to kill each other. I don't want to see that, but I'll accept whatever you decide to do."

Davis released a breath as his smile returned.

The women he loved were passionate and loyal to a fault that he couldn't really find that as a fault. Shirley wanting to save Myria from his wrath was what also made him feel endearing towards her, towards them, because they were all genuine in what they wanted to do.

"Why are you smiling...?" Shirley felt embarrassed.

However, a soft feeling instantly covered her lips, causing her to freeze before that feeling left. Only his smile remained in her gaze.

"Because I can't get enough of your preciousness and kind heart that even saved a dying man from unleashing his utter wrath over millions of people..."

Davis chuckled before he disappeared, the door clattering before it got closed, leaving behind a dumbfounded Shirley and a smirking Isabella who was ready to tease her.

As Davis came out, he saw that the scenario had already changed in the battle stage as four youths appeared to be staring at each other with intensity.

"Oh, the second round already seems to have started..."

"Yes, but it's just two Supreme Domain Law Dominion Stage Cultivators we don't have to pay any attention to..."

Evelynn appeared beside him as she smiled, leaning over him to place a kiss on his cheek.

At the same time, she sent him a soul transmission, filling him with the details of the first round.

Instantly, his eyes narrowed as he looked towards the Ascending Path Sect before he turned to look at the person in question before he headed towards them. When he arrived at the destination, he stood in front of his dazzlingly beautiful younger sister.

"Clara, you've become the first in the hearts of many, I heard?"

"Yes, brother."

Clara's voice sounded pleased that he asked her about her accomplishments. By this time, the people stopped yapping about why she wasn't the first to battle in the second round as they all wanted to see her battle again.

Davis nodded with a satisfied smile.

"I also hear that this Jambei is a powerful opponent, but you easily defeated him?"

"No, it was not easy." Clara shook her head before she sent him a soul transmission, "I was using my full defensive power, although I didn't use my Transcendent Truth Eyes. On the other hand, he didn't come at me with the intent to kill. His wind is strong, but feelings towards me were blocking his might from having the upper hand over me, not to mention that he was worried about offending you."

Davis's heart shook.

Evelynn said that Jambei tried to court Clara but failed, but if Clara had this kind of opinion about him, saying he was strong, then...

“Oh, what do you think about him?” Davis raised his brows, “Do you li-“

“Brother, I said before that I have no intentions to marry.”

Clara’s eyes instantly narrowed as she understood what he had to say even before he could finish.

“The path of a ruler is one bound to be alone. Even men with Transcendent Truth Eyes don’t bother with their women and merely see them as tools to extend their legacy. It’s written in the records of the Heaven Mandate Temple as well. Therefore, I’m convinced that I truly don’t care about romance that I’ve read in books placed in our family’s literature and cultural section of the imperial library.”

Davis’s heart fell on hearing her words.

Clara was convinced that she wouldn’t have romantic feelings as the records said so? Isn’t that even more of a curse than a blessing as she was born a human, a being with emotions to exude and love?

Nevertheless, he didn’t look saddened but instead patted her shoulder.

“Don’t worry. Your brother will accompany you in whatever destiny you decide to walk. Your physique might’ve decided one thing for you, but it is entirely up to you in how you want to live your life.”

‘After all, I found that I’m quite a fate-changer myself...’

Davis turned to look at the battle stage below as he watched the battle with an amused light in his eyes. But on the other hand, Clara appeared taken aback before she lowered her head and mumbled incoherent words ever so lightly that even a person listening to her wouldn’t be able to discover what she spoke, but, if roughly translated to, would sound like.

“As I said before, I will always be with you, brother.”

Except, this time, she wasn’t able to voice it out like she had always been able to for some reason as it confused her.

“Uh, did you say something?”

Davis turned to look at her with confusion as he felt like he heard something that was incomprehensible, but Clara nodded her head as she decided to try again.

“Me too. I will also accompany brother in whatever path of destiny you decide to walk on. My power will be of utmost use to you, brother.”

Davis’s eyes were wide with delight as he heard Clara’s gentle voice.

If a ruler can feel familial love, then being able to love romantically should also be possible! However, his excitement died down as quickly as it came because he realized that he would have to end up giving his innocent little sister away in marriage.

‘Well, I guess I could just pretend that this conversation didn’t happen selectively...’

He cast his gaze back to the battle stage, mindlessly watching their battle.

**Chapter 1863: Elimination Conditions**

Davis thought of the intricacies involved in the Transcendent Truth Eyes he learned so far.

It was a physique that is largely attributed to being a heaven-chosen ruler and receiving benefits in the form of an easy heavenly tribulation but also facing many dangers in the form of greed and desire stemming from living beings such as humans.

Perhaps, that is why they are born with an intelligence that is able to look at everything from an overall perspective.

Was it because they are terrifying from a young age that they don't get familial love and eventually stray away from feelings of affection, becoming cold and indifferent to a frightening degree?

However, he didn't allow Clara to become alone and always provided her warmth and affection despite the frightening intelligence for her young age that even shook their parents. Was that why she seemed different than the records on previous possessors of the Transcendent Truth Eyes, knowing to place trust and remain affectionate to others, starting from him?

It kind of made sense.

Otherwise, would she have even considered sacrificing her innocence to save him? Wasn't it more likely that she would've thrown him away after using him like a true, cold-hearted ruler would do?

All these thoughts caused Davis to inwardly heave a huge sigh, not knowing what to think about her. She was his little sister, and he would have to let go one day. However, she was so precious that he was unwilling to let go, not to mention that he had to return the debt he owed to her first before thinking about anything else.

He could only stop thinking about this matter because he didn't want to have these complicated feelings ruining his time with his family.

Soon, he saw the battle below on the battle stage coming to an end. However, he narrowed his eyes as he saw friendly fire.

"What is this? Betraying your teammate is allowed?"

"Mhm. There is a time limit of ten minutes to the battle. If the battle ends after reaching the time limit, the team with the lesser domain size will become disqualified. However, if one person out of the four is eliminated before the time limit could be reached, then the other teammate of the one who got eliminated will pass to the next round when the time limit ends."

"Oh, so this kind of rule allows one to backstab at the last moment, giving them the chance to continue."

Hearing Clara's explanation, Davis nodded his head.

"It's not like all of them choose their partners. Some are only together because they're the only ones who were left after everyone else was taken. However, this case is also different, and not everyone is going to understand..."

Davis panned his gaze of the crowd and noticed that the majority of them were disgusted with that person's actions.

On the other hand, Davis had no problem because the two of them were from Soul Palace, having Peak-Level Supreme Soul Stage, whose prowess was two levels higher. Although they were weaker, they had the speed to escape the powerful attacks of Supreme Domain Experts and could maneuver to whittle down their energy but time wasn't on their side, so he mused one of them sacrificed themselves to get the other one to continue with the competition as he could see little to no resentment in the party who was backstabbed.

They had probably talked about this beforehand because giving up most likely wouldn't allow the other teammate to pass ahead. The eliminated must be ousted by their own teammate for that to happen, or so they mused.

"Honestly, the rules are viler, but I guess this also helps us see a person's true character even if it were not for this battle. We would've been able to see more drama if they randomly teamed up the participants."

Evelynn appeared beside him and spoke out her thoughts.

"But it wouldn't be as emotional as betraying the teammate you chose."

"True."

Davis chuckled before Evelynnn nodded.

The first battle of the second round was then announced finished, leaving thirty-one people to still participate before the next participants were called out.

"Sophie Alstreim and Niera Alstreim. Hayou Azureclaw and Islenn Quars. Please come to the battle stage."

After Honorable Elder Julian Kruse's voice resounded, Davis and the others turned to look at Sophie and Niera.

Sophie straight away flew into Davis's arms as though wanting to receive his strength, but in truth, she just wanted to use this opportunity to hug him.

Davis smiled at this woman who had been waiting for him to marry her for such a long time. He caressed her silky blonde hair, wanting to reciprocate her love as he kissed her forehead.

"Go have fun..."

"Mhm~"

Sophie happily hummed in his embrace.

"Just a single Perfect Domain Expert. Not a problem to us~"

Niera confidently uttered as she came closer and brushed her hair with elegance and confidence. However, she was too shy to embrace him in public and blushed when he separated from Sophie and kissed her forehead as well.

"Yes, your flames will become only more powerful from here on out."

Hearing his compliment, Niera felt energized more than she should.

“Hayou Azureclaw has a five-kilometer domain like you two.” Clara’s stern voice suddenly resounded, causing them to turn to look at her, “Although it is unlikely that he would be able to win against the two of your destructive prowess, it is likelier that he would stay on the offense and lastly eliminate his teammate to continue on ahead if he couldn’t defeat you, so don’t give him that chance.”

Sophie and Niera raised their brows at Clara before they nodded.

“Mhm, we’ll be careful.”

They then took off to the battle stage before landing on it, staring at Hayou Azureclaw and the other guy they didn’t even see as a threat.

Hayou Azureclaw reached his hand out towards them before he clenched his fist, accentuating the sharp claws he wore as a gauntlet.

“Unfortunately, I hoped to face Mu Bing of the Mystic Ice Sect as I was unable to break her defense, but this is good too. Let’s see whose destructive prowess is higher, two strong ladies of the Alstreim Family.”

Sophie and Niera didn’t reply, but Honorable Elder Julian Kruse saw that they were eager to battle. He raised his hand and dropped.

“Let the battle begin!”

The barrier covering the edge of the battle stage instantly encompassed the entirety of the battle stage to protect the crowd from their undulations that exploded, seemingly enough to suppress Peak-Level Law Dominion Stage Experts into fainting.

Niera shot towards Hayou Azureclaw as her domain appeared while Sophie’s domain also appeared. One was in the front, and one was behind, their fiery domains intersecting and supporting each other’s to a fine state as they had similar Fire Laws stemming from the practice of cultivating the Alstreim Family Inferno Flameburst Manual, and it remained the same even after they interchanged it for new manuals, the Grand Skyfire Hammer Canon and the Destructive Golden Flame Canon.

Multitudes of armaments and wisps of crimson flames emerged with blazing intensity, seemingly capable of destroying a King Grade City to oblivion.

“Cover me!”

Hayou Azureclaw bellowed at his teammate before his eyes narrowed to a frightening as he struck out with both his hands, the sharp blades of his claws tearing apart the face of the void.

“Sky Cleaving Claw Strike!”

\*Boom!~\*

The blazing armaments and flames were cleaved into many pieces!

Both the attacks that were launched at each other struck, causing a resounding explosion that made them stay where they were as it tried to send them flying from the impact.

## Chapter 1864: Variation Revolving Core's Prowess

Davis's eyes were wide with astonishment as he saw the ensuing destruction in the middle of the battle stage as spatial cracks appeared a bit before they disappeared, stitching themselves back almost instantaneously.

Sophie, Niera, and Hayou Azureclaw's prowess had all definitely reached the Ninth Stage from three five-kilometer domains clashing at the same time. However, Davis noticed that Hayou Azureclaw was stronger than Niera in cleaving and lacerating prowess. It was just a bit stronger, but it made up for a ton of difference in their levels as it could cause Niera's attacks to collapse if it struck her energy at a vital point.

However, Sophie attacked at the same time, so their attack was able to overwhelm him before an earthen wall appeared before Hayou Azureclaw, protecting him from being blasted away.

'Well, Niera's flames have yet to become fully golden as she hadn't obtained the Golden Crow Flames nor its blood essence. Just having its manual isn't enough to go against a unique physique cultivator with a deadly offensive prowess while having a five-kilometer domain, huh...'

Davis thought before he saw the two groups regaining their balance. However, Sophie and Niera were already preparing to strike again. It could be seen that they still possessed the advantage.

\*Whoosh!~\*

Hayou Azureclaw rushed towards the other side, launching small yet terrifying claw attacks that seared through the air and lightly tore space to harass them, disallowing from making a big move like before. He could not allow them to store energy and strike together no matter what.

\*Whizz!~\* \*Whizz!~\* \*Whizz!~\*

Thousands of claws like wind strikes were launched at Sophie and Niera by Hayou Azureclaw. Each claw blade possessed the power to split an average High-Level Law Sea Stage Expert.

"Leave it to me."

Sophie smirked and conjured hundreds of shields that defended against his attacks. Some earthen spheres that were launched at them were also defended by her using hundreds of small shields, large shields, tower shields, and even giant hammers that struck the big boulders into smithereens, using offense as defense.

Some shields even had spears attached behind them as those shields were equipped with stab-through holes that allowed the spear to strike the incoming attacks and destroy them!

With a variety of armaments, Sophie single-handedly defended against the terrifying claw strikes and boulders, allowing Niera to build up enough energy.

"Ravaging Golden Tornado...!"

Niera spun in a diagonal arc using her body when it directly burst into a terrifying swirl of flames that shot towards Hayou Azureclaw, who orbited around them, harassing them. His scalp turned numb upon seeing the swirling waves of funnel-shaped flames blazing towards him.

Even though he was fast, it still curved and followed him, making him change targets.

“Sky Cleaving Claw Strike!”

Without much energy buildup, it was the most powerful instantaneous technique he could use to strike!

\*Boom!~\*

The emerging Sky Cleaving Claws struck the Ravaging Golden Tornado, whose flames were actually crimson instead of golden as the name implied and caused an immense explosion from the resulting clash, even leaving a spatial crack in its impact.

“Yesss!!~”

The crowd was full of excitement as they stood up and cheered.

Hayou Azureclaw was sent flying from the explosion. However, he didn't seem to have taken damage as he curled into the shape of a claw as he raised his hands, joined his palms and straightened his legs, and used the momentum to escape like he was a claw strike himself.

“He's good...”

Davis chuckled before he thought.

‘The golden crow is said to have three legs, and when it dances or spins using its three legs on the ground or two its wings in mid-air, it is said to bring the wrathful atmospheric phenomenon of fiery tornadoes to cause destruction in its wake... But when it is truly wrathful, it creates fiery hurricanes instead of tornadoes, causing destruction on a vast scale... Truly deserves its place as one of the beings holding the throne of the pinnacle of destruction in Fire Laws...’

Niera saw that her attack was countered and bit her lips. She had the same opinion as Davis and didn't think she would meet an opponent stronger than her. However, she didn't let it get to her as improvements can still be made, but on the other hand, Davis didn't think that she was weak.

To get to the level of creating a five-kilometer Perfect Domain without using blood essence spoke volumes about her comprehension ability.

Hayou Azureclaw swung in orbit around them while using his entire body like a claw. He spun in mid-air as he suddenly changed directions, charging towards Niera.

Niera narrowed her eyes before she started surging with energy for another attack. Hayou Azureclaw almost made it near to her, but she still didn't seem to take any precautions.

\*Clang!~\*

Hayou Azureclaw pounced and struck against Niera when suddenly a halberd appeared and struck against his body! At the same time, numerous spears and swords attacked him from the sides, wanting to pierce him into needlework.

However, Hayou Azureclaw noticed this and parried the halberd with his claws before funneling his way out, striking the armaments that tried to pierce him to no avail. When he shot away to a certain

distance, earthen energy appeared to protect him from the armaments, although it didn't seem to do a good job as they were repeatedly destroyed under the armament's barrage.

"Tch, useless...!"

Hayou Azureclaw cursed at his teammate. At this rate, could he even win?

Instantly, he changed his way of fighting as he adopted a defensive posture.

"Clawing Beast Stance: Thread Barrier!"

Numerous strands of thread began to appear wherever his claws passed as he spun, appearing to make threads of energy that formed a defensive hemisphere around him when suddenly two burning stars appeared before him and struck each other, causing an immense light to flash before the entire area exploded.

However, before the explosion occurred, one could see that the two stars were cut through by the threads, drastically weakening the force of the explosion that it even failed to create a spatial crack as the resulting explosion's impact was not concentrated but spread all over the place.

"Ugh, so annoying...!"

Niera clenched her teeth in irritation. With Sophie's defense protecting her, she was still unable to defeat him. Although she was causing Hayou Azureclaw to use his energy fast, making him rapidly exhaust himself, she knew that she couldn't defeat him in ten minutes at this rate.

"Let him fly around, Niera. I'm interested to know what he would do at the ninth minute."

A soul transmission fell on Niera's mind before she relaxed, her lips curving into a smile.

"You're right."

If the time limit was reached, they would win by default. After all, the size of their combined domains came up to ten kilometers, while Hayou Azureclaw's team did not even reach eight.

Niera still took care of the offense, and Sophie took care of the defense, although she was semi-defensive, only defending when needed. However, Hayou Azureclaw saw that they were not as aggressive as they used to be after battling them for three more minutes, suddenly realizing that they were aiming for the time limit.

'These two... they're not going after the weakest one on purpose...'

Hayou Azureclaw clenched his teeth and saw that they were not attacking his teammate, purely concentrating on him.

Did they want to see what kind of action he would take at the end?

\*Booom!~\*

A large explosion shook the battle stage as flames and claw strikes winded up together. Cracks appeared in space, but it became quickly healed.

Hayou Azureclaw gasped for breath as he suffered from their attacks all by himself, defending against them with the utmost concentration on his part. He had wasted forty percent of his energy already, and it was the ninth minute, causing him to turn to look at his teammate with wide eyes.

“You...! I protected you!”

Islenn Quars waved his hand as he retreated on receiving that kind of look.

“As if...!” Hayou Azureclaw’s claws began to brighten with yellow-colored energy, “The only thing you were in this place is being a useless piece of trash, unable to help me attack while surviving in the distance because of me.”

\*Whoosh!~\*

“Wait...! Help, two young misses! Please help me defeat him!”

Islenn Quars instantly put up an earthen barrier combined with his Supreme Domain to defend against Hayou Azureclaw. However, the earthen wall surrounding him was cleaved in half before a green-robed figure appeared before him, his eyes looking sharp while his expression was ruthless.

“You see how you’re lucky to be here now? Just give up. Don’t make me have to do something that might harm your future.”

Islenn Quars trembled as he waited for help to come. Even a slight disturbance from the two young ladies might allow him to escape. However, no help came, causing him to become aghast.

Was he going to lose?

“Too slow!”

Hayou Azureclaw waved his hand and struck against Islenn Quars’s neck, causing the latter’s eyes to dull as it rolled back, feeling like he had died.

“What!?”

The crowd stood in an uproar, thinking that Hayou Azureclaw had beheaded Islenn Quars. However, they saw that Islenn Quars head was still stuck to his neck, causing them to breathe out a sigh of relief.

“Hayou Azureclaw used the brunt of his palm to knock Islenn Quars out...”

“Right, he had only fainted...”

They nodded their heads to each other, looking relieved.

Hayou Azureclaw turned around and saw that Sophie and Niera didn’t interfere with his actions as he expected. They only had a smile on the corner of their eyes, looking like they were amused with his actions.

Feeling insulted, anger swelled within Hayou Azureclaw’s heart. However, he suppressed his anger as he knew that there were only forty seconds left for the battle to end. Taking a defensive posture as he extended his claw gauntlets, his eyes became sharp before he bellowed at them.

“Come!”

## Chapter 1865: Scrutinizing Gaze

Hayou Azureclaw's voice resounded with gusto, causing people to feel the tremble even on the outside.

However...

"No thanks..."

Niera shook her hand in a disinterested manner, causing Hayou Azureclaw to become dumbfounded. Not only him, but the excited crowd's shoulders dropped as though they were a balloon that had been deflated.

"You...!" Hayou Azureclaw came out of his reverie as he pointed at Niera, "Are you insulting me!"

"No, unless I sacrifice my blood essence, I don't have the confidence to defeat you in thirty-eight seconds." Niera appeared solemn before she smirked, "I'd rather face you one on one, having enough time than having to defeat you in ten minutes. Then, we can compare whose offensive prowess is truly strong. Yours or mine but the next time we meet out of this competition, I assure you that you wouldn't be my opponent anymore."

"Big words... young lady." Hayou Azureclaw's eyes were narrowed before he turned to look at Sophie.

"This is also fine. I'm not interested in comparing offensive prowess but ripping apart people who pride themselves in their defense."

"What are you looking at?" Sophie narrowed her eyes, "I don't specialize in one thing and have overall prowess in offense, defense, and support. So go look for someone else. Shoo~ Shoo~."

She waved her hand like she was chasing away some dog, causing Hayou Azureclaw's brows to twitch. He waited for a few seconds and saw that they really were not interested in engaging in a battle with him.

"Ah! This sucks! Honorable Elders! I want to be matched with Mu Bing!"

Having nothing to do but stare at empty air, Hayou Azureclaw looked above and bellowed, turning to look towards the Mystic Ice Sect.

"..."

"Oh..."

Silence filled the space in the New Era Battle Arena before they all belatedly understood. For a moment, they all misunderstood that he was asking Mu Bing's hand in marriage, but it didn't seem to be the case as they saw his claws pointing at her.

"Maybe we'll meet in the last round if luck allows us to meet in the battle stage. Until then, please refrain from addressing me in such a way."

Mu Bing had her eyes narrowed, looking offended, while Hayou Azureclaw looked clueless, wondering if she wasn't interested in battling him.

A few more seconds passed when suddenly he felt his scalp turn numb. He quickly shot in the opposite direction and gained immense distance in a few seconds as he appeared near the edge, but then, when he turned to look around, he saw Niera where he was before.

“You little...”

He clenched his fists in anger.

“As I thought.” Niera grinned, “Your battle instincts are tremendous. No wonder my powerful concentrated attacks were not able to catch you. You always slipped through or lacerated them before my attacks could harm you.”

Hayou Azureclaw clenched his teeth, looking unamused.

“Why did you attack me when you said that you wouldn’t?”

Niera’s eyes rolled.

“I have no recollection of saying something like that. I just declined your invitation to battle and said that I do not feel like winning against you without using my blood essence, but if you kept your back turned against your opponent, then I’m going to try my chances anyway.”

“You’re needlessly provoking me...!”

Hayou Azureclaw tried to suppress himself, but he could no longer keep his calm and shot forwards, wanting to retaliate, when a voice suddenly resounded.

“Enough, the battle is over.”

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse’s voice caused him to stop mid-air before he hatefully looked at Niera for insulting him before he turned around and left.

Niera and Sophie also naturally left the battle stage and returned to their seating area. However, they didn’t look smug nor proud as they lowered their heads in front of Davis.

“What’s wrong?”

Davis couldn’t help but ask these two adorable souls.

“Sorry, we were unable to finish him off despite possessing the advantage,” Niera spoke as she pouted.

“Doesn’t matter.” Davis shook his head, “You two weren’t trying enough, and there wasn’t enough time to try to do much damage. Besides, if you two took it far enough in that little span of time, it’s easier to make a mistake and end up in a disadvantageous position. Just finish him off in the next round if you meet him.”

“Yes!~”

“You’re so good to us...”

Niera pounced to hug him while Sophie lightly scratched her cheek. After what they did for part amusement, at least a bit of chastising was required, right?

Wasn't he afraid that they would just take his kindness for granted and become bold enough to do all sorts of things?

But on second thought, Sophie felt like she didn't want to see his wrathful side and realized that others probably thought the same.

On the other hand, Davis was simply confused as to why they would apologize. He told them to go have fun, not win or anything of that sort. However, since they looked as though they were afraid that he would be disappointed in them, he could only console them.

They talked for some time before the participants of the next match were called out.

The next match was Logan and Clara facing off against two Soul Palace opponents, which caused the people to break down laughing.

How could they win against Clara, the young expert everyone thought would most likely win?

All four of the participants entered the battle stage.

However, the two Soul Palace's Supreme Soul Stage Experts voluntarily gave up after the match started, causing everyone to roll in laughter.

Did the Soul Palace have no backbone after they lost their Soul Emperors? However, most of them thought that it was a direct order from the Emperor of Death, but none dared to speak about it.

But in truth, even Davis was astonished, making him wonder if this was because they gave him respect or was it commanded by Yotan?

Needless to say, he didn't bother and welcomed his father and little sister back with an amused smile on his face as he teased his father that his presence intimidated them.

"Next, Tanya Frostblight and Dalila Leehan. Esvele Zelte and Verona Stein. Please step onto the battle stage."

The arbitrator's voice resounded, causing the crowd to cheer for them in eagerness as all were beauties in their own right.

Lea Weiss nodded to her two disciples, sending them off while Ancestor Tirea Snow did the same. From the Thousand Pill Palace, Dalila Leehan noticeably didn't have anyone other than her protector Yahu sending her off.

Tanya Frostblight walked past Davis as she slightly cast him a glance before taking off to the battle stage. Davis appeared clueless but then, a voice echoed by his side.

"Son, your second mother has something to say to you."

Davis turned to look at his father, "What is it, father? I thought she was brave enough to tease me, but not brave enough to ask something from me?"

Logan couldn't help but silently chuckle as he smiled, "I don't know. Go talk to your second mother."

"Fine..."

Davis looked amused, wondering what was going on before he turned to look at Nora standing alongside his mother. He approached them and stood before Nora as he clasped his hands.

“How can I be of service to you, second mother?”

Nora appeared flattered, “You... you’re polite.”

However, she still sounded hesitant, causing Davis to look more amused, “What’s with you? Are you not going to tease me?”

Claire placed her hand on Nora’s shoulder with a smile, causing the latter to take a deep breath before she moved her lips.

“I’m not going to tease you... I just want you to help my friend Dalila Leehan extricate herself from a marriage agreement that her power, the Thousand Pill Palace, arbitrarily got her into with the Glorious Pill Palace because they used the resources gained from it to make her powerful and also possibly gain some benefits for themselves from their loose alliance.”

Davis’s brows raised when he heard Dalila Leehan and when Nora finished explaining sincerely, he turned to look at the battle stage and saw Dalila Leehan float alongside Tanya Frostblight. His eyes were narrowed with scrutiny when he suddenly got sight of Dalila Leehan looking at him, their gazes matching before she looked away in panic, instantly talking to Tanya Frostblight as though she was formulating a plan to counter Esvele and Verona Stein.

Nora also felt her heart skip a beat on noticing that their gazes matched. Then, Davis turned to look at her with the same narrowed eyes, causing her to gulp as she saw that he no longer had that amused smile on his face.

### **Chapter 1866: Shedding Doubts**

Claire looked at the tense atmosphere between Nora and Davis and was about to interfere, trying to smoothen it when Davis suddenly smiled.

“That’s easy. You didn’t even have to ask me for this as Evelynn could’ve done it, even Lea Weiss.”

Nora visibly sighed on hearing his laid-back voice and seeing his easy-going attitude.

“I mean, there are two hegemony involved, and their reputations might, no, would take a hit if we were to take care of it. So as the most powerful person of the family, it’s important to get your opinion before starting to do something like that, so I didn’t ask them.”

She explained, causing Davis to chuckle, “Haha, you’re right.”

Nora smilingly nodded her head.

The invisible pressure he unwittingly exuded was nothing to scoff at that she could only feel pity to those who truly stood against him.

“However...”

“There’s nothing else, right?”

Davis's voice abruptly increased a notch in solemnness, causing Nora to shake her head as an instinctive reaction. However, looking at Davis's eyes narrow again, her heart fell.

"I'll ask again. There's nothing else, right?"

Nora almost took a step back on hearing his cold voice, but she took a deep breath and spoke.

"Davis, it's not pleasant for these words to come out of my mouth."

Suddenly, two arms wrapped around his arms, making him feel the soft and firm feeling of twin peaks pushing against him. He turned to look at who it was and saw that it was Niera.

"Don't intimidate my elder sister..."

"..."

Davis didn't respond and kept his silence.

Nora bit her lips and was about to kneel when a grip on her shoulder tightly held her from kneeling. The figure beside her walked to her front.

"Davis, do what your second mother says."

Claire narrowed her eyes and spoke, causing Davis's cold expression to fade.

"Mother, it's not like I said that I wouldn't do it. Dalila Leehan is a woman I acknowledged during an alchemy exchange session, so of course, I would help her and even more if it is my second mother's request, but if this is something else, then I need to know beforehand. However, if it is inappropriate, then I guess that second mother doesn't need to answer."

He smiled and moved away with Niera.

"And you, you're so protective of your long-lost elder sister, huh..."

Davis smilingly pinched Niera's nose, causing her to cutely react as she pouted.

"Mhm~"

After moving away, Niera ran away from him to Sophie as though she was embarrassed before he went back to Evelyann's side. They saw the four beauties on the battle stage, ready to engage.

"Evelyann, what do you think?" However, Davis suddenly sent a soul transmission to Evelyann.

"..."

There was a bit of silence before Evelyann responded.

"Almost everyone wants a piece of you, whether it be for your affection, love, or resources. It's not anything new."

"I'm not asking that as I'm aware of it." Davis lightly shook his head, "I'm asking what do you feel about them."

“Well, they’re not bad, but I have nothing to relate to them to feel about them. However, I know Natalya would not feel the same.”

“Natalya?” Davis’s eyes narrowed at the battle stage where he spotted a white-robed woman, “So, Tanya’s in this too.”

“Everyone’s in this.”

Evelynn giggled, causing him to turn to look at her.

“Is that how it looks like to you?”

Evelynn turned her head and locked her gaze with his sapphire eyes.

“You go to a random single woman in this crowd and propose to her, and I bet all my soul to you that she would accept your advances. Even married women might have a change of heart, you know...”

“...”

Davis couldn’t help but blink, appearing to be flabbergasted by her words before he saw her look away.

“I’ve been seeing this pattern, but someone close to you always recommends you something, whether it be women or changing an aspect of your life. It’s not necessarily bad, but it’s not a good thing either. It’s similar to the life I envisioned before I got married to you. You will become an emperor and have a huge harem recommended to you by your connections to enrich the growth of the Imperial Loret Family to increase the members it lost during the rebellion, while I will probably be ousted or sent to the cold palace for my impertinence. However, it didn’t become like that but still, I could see it going that way now, except the ousted or killed part because I already have enough power to protect myself; because of you.”

She smiled at him as she looked once again and continued.

“In the end, it’s up to you in how to interpret their requests. However, if you’re going to act like an emperor and take many women, then I will act as your empress and punish, even kill, any women you have that I don’t see eye to eye with. The Imperial Loret Family states this in their rule, right?”

“Damn, this is heavy.” Davis couldn’t help but wryly chuckle, “I might probably hate you if you did something like that.”

“...”

Evelynn remained unshaken, and silence ensued between them, creating a tense atmosphere. The sound of the battle starting in the battle stage didn’t seem to be of any help in resolving or distracting their intense gazes.

“...”

“...”

Davis saw her unwavering eyes and nodded.

“Fine, I give you full control over your sisters as I wholeheartedly believe you. However, if you misuse it, then I’m going to strip you of your power.”

Evelynn’s indifferent expression turned into one of a bright smile.

“I’m just kidding...”

“...”

Her soul transmission caused him to be flabbergasted. Was she checking that if he still valued her the most?

Davis couldn’t help but smile as he shook his head.

“Evelynn, when did you become a humorist?”

“Almost everyone wants a piece of you, whether it be for your affection, love, or resources. It’s not anything new.”

Evelynn uttered, causing Davis to blink.

“What are you repeating that for?”

“I’m the same.”

“...” Davis’s amused expression faded.

“I want your entire attention and affection directed at me sometimes.”

“That’s...” Davis’s brows twitched, “That’s quite normal...”

“Is that so...?” Evelynn narrowed her brows, “I thought I was going crazy after this transformation into a fey.”

“Well, your selfish thoughts may have been amplified like Isabella does have some prideful ego while having dragon blood, sort of like me, but no,” Davis shook his head, “You’ve come to learn to act more on your selfish desires, and that’s not necessarily a bad thing either. I love it.”

Evelynn’s lips widened into a satisfied smile, but she shrugged.

“Well, what I wanted to say was that keep an eye on me, so I don’t accidentally do something crazy. I don’t truly believe this sinister blood of Three-Eyed Chromatic Hex Arachnid flowing inside of me to keep me sane.”

“You’re saner than me.”

Davis abruptly pulled Evelynn to his side as he clasped her waist with one hand, causing her brows to raise.

“I need you, Evelynn. I’m absolutely sure that I’d be devastated without you. I don’t know what I would’ve done to the world if you had gone just like that after committing a massacre for me. So stay with me, despite all my shortcomings and selfishness.”

Hearing his gentle voice, Evelynn bit her lips.

“This is frustrating...”

Her melodious voice softened, but Davis became confused.

“What is?”

“I mean... whenever you embrace me, all these conflicting thoughts end up becoming null as though they never existed.”

Davis’s brows raised before he deeply smiled.

“Well, I won’t complain since this is advantageous for me.”

“Scoundrel.” Evelynn adorably pouted in his embrace as she clasped his free hand, “You’re just a powerful toad lusting for swan meat.”

However, instead of getting angry, Davis patted his chest.

“As the emperor of toads, it is my duty to lust after swan meat.”

“Shameless emperor. I love you~”

“And I’m obsessed with you.”

Davis leaned slightly to kiss, her veil lightly lifting from the aid of his soul force before their lips connected. A warm feeling enveloped them, causing their psyches to be fed with joyful emotions. The both of them savored this moment as though reaffirming and strengthening their love for each other.

Most of the crowd’s attention was on the battle stage, but a few who were looking at the Emperor of Death for various reasons had their jaws drop.

This was public indecency! If caught, they would be punished on moral grounds by some over-righteous people, especially in events like these that give protection to women, so they are not taken advantage of.

This applied even in the case of husband and wife, as people wouldn’t know who belonged to whom in a public setting.

However, who would dare to punish the Emperor of Death and the Hex Demoness!?

They all pretended as if they never saw it as the kiss only lasted for two seconds.

Davis and Evelynn looked at each other with a loving and desirous gaze. Her purple eyes were misty, while a crimson blush accentuated her sexy beauty immensely. However, Evelynn blinked and separated from him.

“If you’re like this, you’ll end up inducing jealousy in the hearts of my sisters. Go see Natalya. She misses you more than me.”

‘This girl... thinking about others as soon as she is satisfied and placated with love...’

Davis felt like he could never understand the hearts of women and thought that he could only go along with the flow.

'I was going to see her next until this came up.' He turned to look at the battle stage, looking amused as he saw the four beauties battle and create a mist from their attacks.

'Might as well as ask Natalya what she thinks about this matter.'

### **Chapter 1867: Holding Out?**

\*Boom!~\*

A loud explosion rocked the battle stage, encasing the surroundings in mist as ice and fire met.

One team possessed the power of ice and fire, one defensive and strong and the other for blazing support. On the other hand, the other team possessed two fires, the flames of the Burning Phoenix, both of them concentrating on offensive prowess.

Both parties stayed away from each other.

"Tanya, is the plan still viable?"

Dalila Leehan looked at the snow-white robed woman beside her.

"Yes, we hold the advantage in terms of our domain size. As long as we could hold out for nine and a half more minutes, we should be able to win."

Tanya Frostblight's melodious voice echoed in Dalila Leehan's soul sea, causing her to nod.

Only Esvele and Tanya Frostblight had five-kilometer domains, but she and Verona Stein had four and a half kilometer domain and four-kilometer domain respectively, meaning that they had the advantage to drag this out, causing the opponent team to fight amongst themselves in the last minute to make sure that at least one of them survived.

"Or, we can try to get into their range and attack them, although I muse we would be at a disadvantage by then..."

"I apologize. My flames don't have a powerful offensive prowess, although they are made to be enduring and blazing because of my alchemy profession, so they rather have a powerful defense and can support as I have better control over my flames."

Dalila Leehan pursed her lips and looked sorry, but Tanya Frostblight shook her head.

"I know. That's why I chose for us to be on the defensive."

"But... are we fine with that?"

They both turned to look at each other, clenching their fists before they looked towards the front again.

"It's not. I'm going to prove that I'm strong."

"Me too~"

Both Tanya Frostblight and Dalila Leehan's gaze shone with determination, their pupils lightning up with fire. However, it turned out that it was the reflection of crimson flames blasting towards them.

"Encompassing Dual Phoenix Wings!"



of the implosion, seemingly unharmed. But, the people could see flaming vines surrounding them in a sphere of defense before Verona Stein retracted it.

Dalila Leehan waved her hands, and layers and layers of large flaming wisps kept stacking in front of her, reaching towards them. Esvele had her arms extended like she was imitating the movements of the burning phoenix while Verona Stein moved her fingers, manipulating the fiery vines of her domain to target the wisps of contamination left by Dalila Leehan.

\*Whiz!~\* \*Whiz!~\*

The numerous wisps were snuffed out like they were stranded flames. It was easy, but Verona Stein didn't relax and watched out for the remaining person who was nowhere to be seen. But on the other hand...

"Everburning Dance of the Burning Phoenix!~"

Esvele's breathing was steady. A low hum escaped from her mouth as she unleashed the tumultuous fiery wave of essence energy gathered in her ten fingers against Dalila Leehan!

Dalila Leehan's scalp turned numb as she saw the incoming attack. She mused that it contained at least more than twenty percent of Esvele's energy and quickly summoned her own fiery might to defend.

"Subduing Cauldron Implosion!~"

The wisps of flames surrounding her body swirled as they formed the image of a cauldron. The attack that Esvele launched pierced through the air towards Dalila Leehan in the grand image of the Burning Phoenix. It appeared so powerful that it could kill her if she was left unguarded.

However, the moment it rushed past the fiery image of the cauldron, it was suddenly stopped as though it was restricted, the energy unleashed by Esvele becoming trapped in it.

Esvele's brows raised, but she wasn't that astonished as she twisted her palm and pushed against Dalila Leehan!

\*Puchi!~\*

The fiery image of the Burning Phoenix pierced through the cauldron and zoomed at Dalila Leehan. The latter's eyes were shocked that the burning phoenix didn't explode upon impact. How much terrifying control did that require over that technique!?

Just when she thought it was over, an icy blue light flashed as layers of ice walls formed in front of her.

\*Boom!~\*

Both attacks clashed and turned the entire area misty again, which had the crowd on the edge of their seats, making them wonder what was going on!

Esvele saw that her attack was probably defended by Tanya Frostblight and turned to look at Verona Stein. However, there was an icy mirror by her side, and Tanya Frostblight extended out of with a sword in her hands as though she was a ghostly pale mirage, clad in an icy Supreme Domain that contained the terrifyingly sharp intent of Sword Laws superimposed over her Perfect Domain!

“Icy Rend Swordplay!~”

A sword sliced across space and struck against Verona Stein.

The latter noticed it, and despite using the numerous vines to form an instantaneous fiery vine garden around her, the icy air of the blade cleaved the vines and headed inside. Air visibly froze into ice in the blade’s path, and blood splashed out, staining the frozen ice causing Esvele’s heart to skip a beat.

“Verona!”

### **Chapter 1868: It’s Right There...**

Esvele’s heart shook as she instantly headed towards Verona Stein to save her and waved her hands against Tanya Frostblight as intense burning phoenix flames emerged from her jade-white palm, threatening to turn her into ashes as she was unguarded.

However, Tanya Frostblight had already retreated into the icy mirror and disappeared before the fiery attack could reach her. She was back beside Dalila Leehan, where she had stayed hidden all this time.

While she hid using Nethersnow Mirage Steps, she had one hand ready for defense and the other hand ready for using the Mirror Crossing Technique. As soon as she summoned the defense to protect Dalila Leehan, she simultaneously used the Mirror Crossing Technique and appeared beside Verona Stein as she summoned her icy sword.

Perhaps people forgot that she was also a sword cultivator; they didn’t expect her to have a sword attribute Supreme Domain, much less Verona Stein, who probably didn’t know of it, allowing Tanya Frostblight to deal heavy damage. However, did she cause fatal damage?

Tanya Frostblight didn’t know as she pursed her lips in worry and waited for Esvele to announce the outcome while Verona Stein was still inside the vines encirclement, protected by her garden of fiery flames.

After Esvele neared Verona Stein and saw the inside from the place where the icy sword cleaved, she saw Verona Stein holding her left shoulder that possessed a deep gash. Perhaps, if the attack had been to the side a bit, her head would’ve been split apart, resulting in her death. However, it was unlikely that Tanya Frostblight would be this ruthless, so she wasn’t angered but frustrated at herself.

“I’m fine...”

Verona Stein’s breathing was a bit strained, “Give me a few seconds, but this is humiliating. I can’t believe that I was caught off-guard by a second domain.”

Esvele stood in front of Verona Stein, blocking the path to her, “Don’t worry. This is not your fault. It’s my miss as I should’ve known that Tanya Frostblight would not have forsaken her sword arts.”

“You talk as though you know her...”

“Yeah, I have some friendship...”

While Esvele guarded and conversed with Verona Stein through soul sense, Tanya Frostblight and Dalila Leehan didn’t show any signs of attacking.

“What to do?” Dalila Leehan turned to look at Tanya Frostblight, asking for her input.

“I know. This is the best time to attack, but this isn’t a life and death battle. Don’t aggravate it. We’ve proved ourselves enough by injuring the other party, and the advantage is still on our side.”

“Right...”

Dalila Leehan remembered that the Alstreim Family had allied with the Burning Phoenix Ridge. As a Falling Snow Sect’s woman, she mused that Tanya Frostblight wouldn’t want to aggravate the relationship. However, the chorus of echoes from the Thousand Pill Palace for her to attack now was annoying for her to hear that she closed her ears.

“Not bad...”

In the Alstreim Family’s seating area, Davis nodded before he turned to look at the blue-robed woman by his side, leaning on him as they sat and relaxed on a luxurious deewan sofa.

“What do you think, Natalya?”

Natalya played using her fingers, drawing her name on his left chest as though she was charming him while she laid her head on his right chest, looking at the misty battle stage. Hearing his question through soul transmission, she couldn’t help but giggle.

“Do you mean her swordplay, her icy prowess, or something else?”

“Whatever you want to speak about. Whatever that is on your mind that cares for your friend.”

Davis intentionally remained ambiguous, appearing to Natalya at her with a faint smile on his face.

In response, Natalya cheerfully smiled.

“I’m the happiest woman here, but unlike me, my friend is not happy although she is getting by well. Only you can make her happy.”

Davis raised his brows.

“How do you know that?”

“I know it, but just so you know, she hadn’t uttered a single word to me about this matter. She’s a strong girl, but when it comes to the matters of love, she’s confused and lacks the courage to ask you because she doesn’t know what she would do if you were to reject her.”

“...”

Seeing that Davis didn’t respond, Natalya raised her head and looked at his handsome face that charmed her.

“You know, if it weren’t for my little sister, I would’ve recommended Tanya to you long ago.”

Hearing her words, Davis couldn’t help but smile.

“Do you want her?” Natalya asked as she placed her ear on his chest, wanting to hear his heartbeat.

“I want you.”

However, Davis's words caused her heart to skip a beat.

"I'm flattered."

Natalya softly smiled with satisfaction as she knew from the beating of his heart that he spoke the truth.

"No, really, I want you."

"...?" Natalya raised her head, wondering if she heard it right.

"The resting room is just over there." Davis glanced to the side and smirked, causing her heart to skip a beat again.

"Davis...?"

"Are you up for it?"

"I... I am."

Looking at Natalya appear genuinely excited, Davis couldn't help but reveal a satisfied smile, "Then wait for me. As soon as I deal with Dalila Leehan's problem, I'll come to see you there. We don't want to be seen heading there together, right?"

"Mhm~"

Natalya's cheeks heavily blushed. An intimate outside session with her husband? It sounded freaking hot as well as taboo, even though it wasn't as it was her rightful husband she's going to do it with!

"Natalya, what about me?"

Ilesha, who was connected with Natalya's soul, naturally heard everything and asked, blushing like Natalya.

"Are you prepared to lose your innocence to him?"

"..." Ilesha went silent.

"See, you're still scared a bit even though you already love him. If you want, I could have him take you by force. Trust me. It feels so good that you would find your soul leaving your body every now and then."

"Ahh~ It sounds scarier than I imagined..."

"..."

Natalya didn't know what to say.

Did she make a mistake? Where could she find a book on how to talk with spirits about the matters of love, especially love to another race such as humans?

"Sigh, when the time comes, just leave yourself vulnerable to him. It'll feel immensely good. I promise."

"Mhmm~"

Natalya could only state this way while Ilesha nodded. She was brave enough for a kiss but not ahead of that as she knew she was going to break the horizons she learned growing up as an imperial spirit who believed spirits were supreme while thinking humans were not to be treated like cattle or slaves differently than other spirits but now that she was going to finally make love with a human, she had the feeling that her entire life was going to change once she does the deed and that was scary to the current her.

\*Boom!~\*

Fire, ice, and sword intent blew all over the battle stage in copious amounts, threatening to destroy the fabric of space in a small area as cracks emerged.

“That’s enough. The battle’s over.”

However, Honorable Elder Julian Kruse’s voice resounded while Natalya’s gaze focused back to the battle stage and saw that Tanya Frostblight and Dalila Leehan’s battle had finally come to an end.

Tanya Frostblight seemed to take deep gasps of breath, her ample bosoms heaving along with her. She had fought hard along with Dalila Leehan to defeat Esvele and Verona Stein but couldn’t achieve the favored result in the end. Still...

“The winners of this battle are Tanya Frostblight and Dalila Leehan.”

They managed to keep the advantage to the end while Esvele and Verona Stein refused to stab each other in the back and got eliminated together because of their smaller domain size. They all looked equally exhausted while having their robes torn apart in a few locations, but it wasn’t extensive enough to be termed as inappropriate.

The crowd enjoyed the match and cheered for them, creating a boisterous atmosphere.

Natalya smiled at them before she raised her head and pecked Davis’s cheek with a soft kiss, and stood up, sighing as she held her forehead with her frail-looking pale palm.

“Sigh, I feel some headache after trying to comprehend Ice Laws from Ilesha. What a brain freeze... Ah, this does not feel good as my head keeps hurting. I’ll go take some rest.”

“Alright.”

Davis simply nodded as he also stood up, getting ready to make trouble while Natalya left.

He approached the edge of the seating area, appearing to take a step in the air to fly out when he suddenly stopped.

“What did you do to piss off Natalya?”

Evelynn sounded concerned as she appeared beside him, looking solemn. Her tone made Davis become flabbergasted.

Was Natalya’s acting that credible? It didn’t seem like that to him!

Nevertheless, looking at the big sister care for the sister she first made a bond with, he couldn’t help but reach out his hand and caress her lush purplish-green hair with fondness.

“It’s just an act. I’m going to smother her with my love in the resting room soon enough, so don’t let anyone enter.”

Evelynn blinked before she couldn’t help but silently giggle, watching him leave.

“???”

Meanwhile, the others had no idea what was going on as Davis and the others mostly spoke in soul transmission, not that they were curious enough to interfere in everything. However, looking at his figure head towards the Thousand Pill Palace’s seating area, they all couldn’t help but instinctively turn look at Dalila Leehan.

### **Chapter 1869: Not Easy**

While Natalya entered the resting room as though her head was hurting, Davis left the Alstreim Family’s area and headed towards the Thousand Pill Palace’s seating area, where Dalila Leehan was also just heading back.

Tanya Frostblight, who was also returning after the battle had ended, looked dumbfounded as she slowed down, glancing at the spectacle that ensued as she landed on the Alstreim Family’s seating area.

On the other hand, Dalila Leehan froze mid-air on seeing Davis enter her power.

Davis casually invaded their space as he landed on their zone with his hands behind his back, panning his gaze as he saw everyone become stiff.

Ancestor Krane Parazen’s lips twitched, making him and everyone else wonder why the Emperor of Death carried his shoes here. However, one person hurriedly rushed to him and deeply bowed.

“Oh yes. You are Yahu. Dalila Leehan’s protector.” Davis smiled as he looked at the middle-aged man.

It caused Yahu to become moved that he looked at Davis with wide eyes before fumblingly bowing again.

“This old deacon is honored to have his name remembered by the Emperor of Death.”

Davis shook his head as though it was nothing.

“Did you make any improvements after you ate my Enlightened Martial Surge Pill that increased your Body Tempering Cultivation to Martial Master Stage?”

“Uh, embarrassingly, I couldn’t make any improvements. However, young miss Dalila Leehan has still treated me well.”

“I see.”

Davis couldn’t help but smile at that subtle input. However, he could see that Dalila Leehan was a woman whom he could approve of, taking care of her elders as she should rightfully be instead of cruelly forsaking them.

“Mhm, are you not going to ask why I’m here?”

“This old deacon does not dare ask questions.”

Davis pursed his lips, wondering if someone would initiate a conversation with him as the content was just too sensitive. After all, he was convinced that some people were going to be big mad with his move today.

“Next, Claire Alstreim and Nora Alstreim...”

The next match’s youths were announced at this moment, garnering many people’s attention as they swirled away from the Emperor of Death’s strange action. Ancestor Krane Parazen used this chance to carry his foot through the air and land beside Davis elegantly. However, there was some kind of innate respect embedded in his movements towards Davis.

“Emperor of Death, my Thousand Pill Palace is graced by your presence. However, we don’t understand for what reason your eminence has visited us.”

Ancestor Krane Parazen’s tone indicated that he was the inferior person when he opened his mouth and spoke. It caused Davis to inwardly sigh at the older people treating him with respect, respect to his strength, making him once again learn that although age was a factor, in front of strength, it was still a lesser factor, not worthy unless the other party was one’s ancestor.

“There’s no need to be alarmed. I’m not here as the Emperor of Death. I’m here as a friend who wants to save a friend from selling herself to debt in the name of marriage.”

Ancestor Krane Parazen’s cheeks twitched as he instantly knew that it was because of Dalila Leehan. That lass didn’t keep this matter a secret?

“This... I’m exhilarated to hear such a thing, but can I know who it might be exactly?”

“Ancestor Krane Parazen.” Davis’s expression became amused, “We both know that you are not dumb, so why do you actually want to play dumb in front of me?”

Ancestor Krane Parazen reacted with a wry smile.

“Emperor of Death. A Blood Soul Contract binds me, and I can’t do anything unless the other party retracted it.”

“What?” Davis’s brows went wide in doubt, “You went ahead and mortgaged your own head as a liability to secure Dalila Leehan’s future?”

Ancestor Krane Parazen paused before he nodded his head.

“That is there too, but it is mostly securing a future for the Thousand Pill Palace. Her marriage agreement goes hand in hand with an even more big deal that is still a secret. If we were to dare to go against our words, then chaos would ensue in our relationship as well as destabilize our network of pill markets, which would have a big effect on the growth of the human race against the Calamity Light.”

By the end, Ancestor Krane Parazen’s voice was strained and almost on the level of pleading.

‘Mhm? This doesn’t seem like an easy matter anymore...’

Davis pursed his lips in exasperation.

He reorganized his thoughts and became even more convinced that he wouldn't make people big mad but mad crazy into attacking him that there might possibly be bloodshed.

"I don't care." In the end, Davis had enough of caring about other people's trouble, "I'm saving her from the position of a friend. If the Glorious Pill Palace agrees to settle this through wealth, fine by me. However, if they refuse to hand her over, then there would be bloodshed because Dalila Leehan is unwilling."

"What? Dalila Leehan said that she is willing."

While Ancestor Krane Parazen looked perplexed.

However, Davis came by his side and wrapped his arm around his shoulder as though asserting dominance.

"My pal Krane. Have you heard of the term 'signed under duress'? It doesn't count, at least, in my opinion."

Ancestor Krane Parazen's expression became constipated as he felt the invisible pressure.

"Emperor of Death, please don't make this difficult for us..." In the end, his tone sounded pleading.

"Look, I'm not trying to make it difficult for you or anyone here. Let's just ask Dalila Leehan herself, okay?"

As though he was the bigger person, Davis adopted a convincing tone and gestured towards the side. It was at the same moment that Dalila Leehan slowly landed slightly away from them, looking nervous while slightly panicking in her heart, wondering why Davis was here.

Did Nora already tell him? That was so quick! He had just come back, but he was already put up to this?

Somehow, it made her feel honored and delighted!

"Alright..."

Ancestor Krane Parazen nodded after a few moments of hesitation before he flew towards Dalila Leehan and asked.

"Top Disciple Dalila Leehan. Are you unwilling to fulfill your promises that weighs on the future of the Thousand Pill Palace?"

'Oye, the right question is whether she is willing to marry into the Glorious Pill Palace or not. Don't twist the question into making her bear something more than what she agreed to.'

Davis almost rolled his eyes as he inwardly commented but didn't interfere as he watched Dalila Leehan's reaction as he was also interested. If she couldn't even say that she was unwilling now despite him reaching out a helping hand, it was then time for him to turn around and walk away.

Dalila Leehan seemed to be stumped by the question. However, she didn't lower her head but looked decisive, her eyes gleaming with determination. All that she used to mull over had already been resolved in the time she stayed back, not going out to battle along with the others in the first round.

“I, Dalila Leehan, do not go back on my words. However, it seems like-“

“Dalila, my dear. I’ve brought apothecaries to treat your injuries. Where are you?”

Suddenly, a man wearing luxurious golden robes emerged from the inner layer of the battle arena along with two other women who seemed to be apothecaries and looked around, searching for the person he called out.

When his gaze fell on Dalila Leehan, he smiled and took a step forward but then, his expression froze, his pupils dilated as he saw the Emperor of Death beside her.

### **Chapter 1870: I Want Out**

Ancestor Krane Parazen’s expression froze as he foresaw the trouble that would ensue in his eyes with the arrival of Young Master Faus. He actually didn’t expect the other party to visit, stating a reason like treating Dalila Leehan because Young Master Faus’s status was far higher than what Dalila Leehan could compare.

Even he himself was not worthy of being spoken in the same length if one were to take status alone into the equation because Young Master Faus is currently designated to become the next Palace Master of the Glorious Pill Palace!

Young Master Faus was walking on the path of glory where Dalila Leehan should be immensely thankful that she could be married to him, but now, she was hesitant?

What’s going on here?

Davis also shot a glance at the so-called Young Master Faus. However, he didn’t even know about his name or status but could see that he held a high reputation by bringing two female Low-Level Law Rune Stage Powerhouses to treat Dalila Leehan.

On the other hand, Young Master Faus’s heart fell.

He couldn’t tell what was going on here.

He left the Glorious Pill Palace’s seating area and entered the inner layer of the battle arena when Dalila Leehan left the battle stage, making his way in a roundabout manner so that he doesn’t bring much attention to himself as the deal was still supposed to be secret, so he was not aware of Davis’s appearance, much less his actions so far.

Dalila Leehan heaved a breath while her mouth was still agape from her pause.

“... It seems like there is a first to everything.” Her lips moved again as she continued, “I want out of this marriage agreement.”

“What!?”

It was not Young Master Faus who shouted but Ancestor Krane Parazen. He stared at Dalila Leehan and couldn’t believe the audacity of this young woman to be doing a one-eighty now when everything was already almost a done deal.

Dalila Leehan appeared shaken from receiving the heavy pressure from her ancestor. She glanced at Davis's eyes and saw that it was indifferent as though observing her. Biting her lips, she spoke again.

"I'm not willing to live a life that I do not want. When I said that I agree, I did not want to disappoint the power that nurtured me to this level. I lied to myself that everything would be fine. But if it means that I'm going to be unhappy, making me live a miserable life, then I don't want it!"

"Preposterous!"

Dalila Leehan trembled ever so lightly from the loud voice.

But this time, it wasn't Ancestor Krane Parazen who shouted by Young Master Faus.

"Krane Parazen! What is the meaning of this!?"

Young Master Faus's voice was frigidly cold. He stared at them with a sharp light gleaming in his eyes, appearing stiff with clenched fists while his angered voice instantly created a scene that attracted the crowd's attention, and slowly, many people were turning to look at him and the ensuing commotion.

Ancestor Krane Parazen was practically shaking in his feet. He hurriedly flew towards Young Master Faus and tried to placate him.

"Young Master Faus. Dalila is just confused. She doesn't know what she's talking about. Let me handle this while you stand back and watch."

"Stand back and watch? Why is he... here? Standing beside my Dalila..."

Young Master Faus's expression twitched as he pointed at Davis but then quickly took it back.

"Young Master Faus. This is the first time we're meeting, but you're already claiming that I'm yours?"

Dalila Leehan angrily uttered. She didn't seem to be scared but angered that he associated her with himself.

"I am!" Young Master Faus waved his hand, "The moment you agreed, you became mine! I fancied you and gave you resources to grow this strong, and now you're claiming that you want to leave without paying the due tab? How pretentious and selfish can one be? I'm disappointed in you!"

"Like I care if you're disappointed in me."

Dalila Leehan clenched her teeth, her eyes becoming tearful as she sensed disgusted gazes from the surroundings. However, she was too scared to see the gaze of the person she cared the most about, but since things had gotten to this point, she no longer cared to hold herself back.

"You just want your resources back, right? Give me some time. I'll give them back to you."

"You foolish woman." Young Master Faus scoffed, "That's now how it works. We exchanged specific types of resources bound by conditions. I have no use for the wealth you would reimburse me. Besides, what's wrong with considering you mine since we're going to marry sooner or later? How can I let you go just like that!? Come here!"

"You...!"

Young Master Faus looked livid, while Dalila Leehan looked enraged. However, he didn't close the distance, his gaze landing on Davis occasionally in nervousness, afraid to think it was what he thought it was.

Ancestor Krane Parazen saw the situation spiraling out of control. He kept placating Young Master Faus, but it seemed that his words fell on deaf ears.

"Person named Faus."

At this moment, Davis opened his mouth, and everyone couldn't help but straighten their backs, especially the one who had his name called.

"Did you know that Dalila has fought me before in an alchemy exchange and lost?"

Young Master Faus appeared taken aback before he scoffed.

"So what?"

Was that supposed to stain Dalila's name? However, Davis shook his head.

"Not only do I respect her alchemy skills, but she also owes me a favor because she lost to me on that day."

"What? I don't believe it!"

"You can ask the others who know, but you don't need to." Davis shrugged, "If I said that she owes me, then she owes me."

"You...!" Young Master Faus's hand moved to point at Davis, but he froze and then waved his sleeves instead, "You can't come and talk like this to a woman who is already promised to someone else. You are ruining her reputation! And just because you have power doesn't mean you can be unscrupulous! What happened to all those statements you made when the Dragon Families tried to take away the Earth Dragon Queen!? What makes you any different if you act like this!?"

Davis blinked before he couldn't help but chuckle.

The righteous path truly had its way with words.

"Did you not hear Dalila's wishes? She certainly doesn't wish to marry you or anyone else from the Glorious Pill Palace, unlike Isabella and I, who were already married and mutually in love with each other."

He was pissed that Isabella was brought into this matter, but he could understand the other party's outrage. No man would like their fiancée to be taken away just like that, but this man wasn't even engaged with Dalila Leehan for him to be this crazed.

From what he heard so far, their marriage agreement was just a part of a deal and was not exclusive, and it probably wasn't long since this happened either, considering that Dalila Leehan didn't even meet Young Master Faus yet, according to her statement.

And indeed, after Davis spoke, Young Master Faus looked stumped to answer his question.

“That’s right! I attest that my friend Dalila Leehan doesn’t want any part of this marriage.”

Suddenly, a white-robed woman entered the scene, flying straight from the battle stage, and it turned out to be none other than Nora Alstreim.

‘What a bold woman...’ Davis couldn’t help but smile at his second mother, ‘She has the courage to come here and make a bold statement even though she was that scared to ask me. She must’ve felt she was going overboard in requesting me, huh...’

“It’s you...!”

Young Master Faus clenched his teeth as he finally understood why Dalila Leehan would change her mind suddenly out of nowhere. He had been watching Dalila Leehan’s projection, and after Nora entered Dalila Leehan’s tent, the latter didn’t get out of it, making him now think that she corrupted Dalila Leehan’s mind with unneeded thoughts.

“Have we met before?” Nora narrowed her eyes before she shook her head, “Doesn’t matter. My friend said that she doesn’t want to live a life like this, and I will do everything in my power to stop this unfair deal from happening, including having my son Davis, the Emperor of Death, crush all agreements that seek to ruin my friend’s life!”

“You...!”

Young Master Faus looked incensed as he trembled. They were openly robbing him of his bride, and he could do nothing about it but point his hands like an idiot!

The crowd, on the other hand, was practically dumbfounded. It wasn’t like they witnessed events like these before. Heck, they witnessed it many times yesterday night, happening to smaller powers. However, this was the Young Master of the Glorious Pill Palace that they’re talking about, and it seemed like the Emperor of Death was trying to cuckold him?