EMPEROR 1891

Chapter 1891 - Learning Curve

Whiz!~

After the flash of white light dispersed, Niera found herself outside the spatial formation. It took her a moment to come back to herself before she turned to look around, finding that her ranking was at eighth, making her blink as it made her wonder who were all still present.

The first figures who caught her eyes were Sophie and Mu Bing battling, causing her eyes to widen. Their battle was intense, both maintaining a certain range from each other as they hurled fiery armaments and a world engulfed in an icy aura that froze the armaments and shattered them.

"Two Perfect Domains again..."

Mu Bing's illusion domain came off as a surprise to Niera. She nodded in, having her horizons widened, making her want to cultivate, learn techniques and comprehend more, increasing her prowess in Fire Laws however she could before she turned to look at the others.

"Wah~ So lucky..."

A Burning Phoenix Ridge disciple who possessed a Supreme Domain still survived.

Niera could tell from where she herself moved while looking at where Tanya Frostblight currently is, simultaneously causing her to understand that she would've bumped into Sophie and Mu Bing if she headed up when she was given an additional chance to move as a penalty.

She could also tell that the Burning Phoenix Ridge disciple was in the same location where she probably summoned as long as the rooms didn't interchange positions like she suspiciously mused before.

As for the others, there were still Drake Blackburn, her father-in-law Logan and sister-in-law Clara, leaving for a total of seven people still present in the competition.

'Sigh, I wished that I was at least in the top five...!'

Niera sighed when she suddenly flinched.

"Return."

A solemn voice suddenly echoed in Niera's mind, causing her to freeze.

She turned around, looking at Davis, who possessed an unamused expression on her face. She gulped, slowly flying towards him amidst the gaze of the crowd whose gazes alternated between her and the terrific battle above.

"If Kara Moonridge wasn't going to give up, I was going to... I just wanted to defeat her, not kill her, and if the battle prolonged, the advantage is on her side, so I must defeat her as quickly as possible, and I couldn't do that without being reckless like that..."

Niera instantly began to explain herself as she returned, looking anxious and worried that she would be berated. She cast a momentary glance at everyone and saw that they were all angered.

However...

"This reminded me that you're all going to may have possible face life and death battles in the future. It's better to gain experience while you can, especially while I'm near."

Davis calmly uttered as he looked behind, calming the other sisters who seemed angered, but in truth, was worried for Niera, complaining that he shouldn't have let reckless women leave home to battle so that it didn't cause a mishap.

They truly had enough of losing someone because of that single time he fell and honestly considered each other as sisters after that because sticking together during that time created an unseen bond amongst them.

"What did you learn?"

Davis turned to look towards Niera and asked before the latter answered.

"I learned that I truly lack defensive techniques and offensive techniques using legs. Also, my selfcreated techniques require more concentration and effort, meaning that I couldn't perform it as much as I could before having my palm injured. I have to perfect them more..."

"Good." Davis nodded his head, "Realizing your own techniques are crap is the first step to creating perfect techniques.

Niera couldn't help but wryly giggle, looking embarrassed as she prided herself on her self-created techniques. Only after becoming injured did she understand that they were half-baked. Losing a hand should be one thing but techniques shouldn't be becoming less efficient with only a few injuries. She understood that is fatal and that's why many techniques possessed by higher powers are more valid and easy to use even though they might be a bit hard to comprehend because of the complexity.

"But, your techniques are not only overly powerful but also beautiful and unique. I love your creativity, Niera."

"Th-Thank you~"

Niera's expression became happy and was going to explain her inspiration for creating Descending Sunset Tryst when Davis suddenly asked.

"However, why would you be so reckless when battling with Kara Moonridge?"

Niera felt like she just explained that but looking at his serious gaze, she bit her lips.

"Last time, I failed to defeat Hayou Azureclaw because I was hesitant to go all out while Sophie did a good work defending. Unless I try, I wouldn't know what I'm capable of, and now I know my limits..."

"Sigh... still..."

Davis couldn't help but heave a breath, wanting to tell her to battle more cautiously to protect herself from accidentally dying, but Niera bit her lips as she held the hem of her robe near her thighs.

"Also, I want to live up to the statement of being impertinent enough to demand an immortal treasure when we already have another immortal treasure ready for use..."

Davis blinked before he understood that she was talking about the Golden Crow Blood Essence she wanted compared to the Fire Phoenix Blood Essence that was available through Shirley's graces. He couldn't help but smile at this little lass as he raised his hand and pulled on her adorable cheek before caressing her with his thumb finger.

"Remain yourself and be proud of it, Niera. I'll go search every nook and cranny to get what you want in the ascended world, even here, and if we can't find it, I'll just hunt it if it doesn't give its blood in exchange for something else."

"Davis..."

Niera's shimmering purple eyes became misty as she saw him supporting her.

"Ahh~"

Davis suddenly lifted her up by the waist and princess-carried her, causing her to react, making her embarrassed, but when she saw that he was taking her to the resting room, her expression changed, unable to believe what was going to happen as she turned to look at his face.

Was she going to do it today?

Her heart and mind began to blare with doubts, but by the time they entered the resting hall, her expression had already become meek, looking shy and adorable like a kitten, her body all curled up in his embrace.

However, Davis put her down and touched her thigh, causing her narrow her brows in pain as he touched her where Kara Moonridge's icy dagger pierced her. But, she instantly felt comfortable and saw that a grayish-white light, comprehending that he was using his life energy to heal her.

He also used his other hand to hold her shoulder and held her palm after finishing with it.

It was over in three seconds, but when Niera turned to look at the wounds that had still not closed before, even becoming worse as she overused her meridian points and pathways, become completely healed, she went shocked. She further found that even a scar was not left, making her skin look pristine and pure.

She was utterly flabbergasted, looking stunned.

"Well, I can't do this outside as the fewer people that know, the better. Although rumors may fly around as I used this kind of energy during the battle with the Poison Lord, no one would believe it anyway."

Davis explained with a smug smile, causing Niera to come out of her reverie before she shyly lowered her head, cursing herself for misunderstanding the situation. However, her lips moved.

"I'm eagerly awaiting the promise."

Davis's smug smile faded before he grabbed her palms and pulled her into his embrace.

"I will marry you as soon as I can, Niera. You have my word again."

"Mhm~"

A satisfied hum echoed, causing Davis to smile.

"Well, there's no one saving you on that day, so prepared to be ruled by this tyrant."

"Just as I wanted~"

Niera giggled as she tightly embraced him, looking as though never wanting to leave him. Davis caressed her silky blonde hair as long as she wanted, and it extended to three minutes before she separated from him, looking fully recharged as she smiled.

"Let me go change these bloodied robes!"

She hurriedly ran towards an unoccupied resting room and swiftly changed, flew back to him as she held his hand.

Davis saw that she looked as noble and pristine as ever before he took her outside and was showered in the gazes of many, who all thought that they had done it but looked confused as the time was too short for that to happen before they suddenly noticed that Niera's left palm didn't seem to even have a scar.

They speculated that he gave her a top-quality healing pill of High-Level Emperor Grade, making many people envious of the resources the Emperor of Death possessed.

Boom!~

Abruptly, there was a resounding explosion in the spatial bubble where Sophie and Mu Bing fought, causing everyone to turn their heads towards them!

Chapter 1892 - Lost Again?

"What happened?"

Davis was not paying attention as he had just come out of the resting hall, wanting to deliver Niera to Evelynn so that the latter would protect her from his mother, who was still angered, wanting to berate Niera for being reckless.

"They both struck each other defenseless..." Natalya uttered with a worried expression on her face.

"These two..."

Davis couldn't believe Niera and Sophie's boldness to use their lives like this as he sucked in a cold breath of exasperation, wondering if anything happened to Sophie as his soul sense penetrated the spatial formation. However, what he saw left him relaxed.

"What happened?"

"Nothing happened..."

This time, the others asked him, causing him to reply.

"Although..."

However, he smiled as the misty fog caused by the fiery and icy explosion cleared slowly amidst the millions of gazes of the shocked people.

"This..."

Suddenly, a powerhouse saw a bright purple flaming star above a white-robed figure he deemed as Sophie before seeing another purplish icy-blue wisp whose body continually wavered as though it couldn't maintain a proper shape above Mu Bing.

"Controlling Spirit Attribute Sources...?"

Abruptly, many powerhouses stood up before they hurriedly screamed in disbelief.

"How is it possible !?"

The Mandate Emperor and the three other righteous path leaders seemed also taken aback, looking astonished.

"They do not have any unique physiques, right?" The Vast Sky Emperor felt enough.

The Alstreim Family had enough anomalies as it is, and now, the Mystic Ice Sect was also starting to show the same signs. This was too presumptuous of small powers! Or so he thought.

"I don't think so."

The Karmic Guardian Emperor shook his head, and everyone believed his words because his senses to anomalies were sharper than them all.

"Then how are they able to... command them?" The Starnova Emperor couldn't help but ask, "Those two Spirit Attribute Sources; a Fire Essence and an Ice Elemental...?"

"My Heaven Mandate Temple has a way to force Spirit Attribute Sources to submit through the usage of Mandate Laws, but it is not going to work if the host is weak."

The Mandate Emperor continued to explain, "However, the cultivator has to be stronger than the Spirit Attribute Source by a few times, and so, this precious technique redundant unless we could find a young and immature Spirit Attribute Source but even then, it isn't a given that the immature Spirit Attribute Source would communicate as their prenatal tendencies that come from humans absorbing heaven and energy for cultivation purpose forces them to stay clear from humans or remain hostile to them as the innate fear of getting absorbed is very real to them."

The others nodded as well as they were aware of these things.

However, it still didn't explain how they could control them!

"Mandate Emperor, what should we do?" At this moment, Honorable Elder Mihangel Evan's voice sounded in his head, "No matter how we see it, they used treasures above Peak-Level King Grade as those Spirit Attribute Sources are at High-Level Emperor Grade, perhaps near to the Peak-Level."

"Rules are rules." The Mandate Emperor's brows narrowed, "Eliminate them, but you can decide upon their ranking."

"This, they both used their Spirit Attribute Sources at the same time..."

Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans asked, but no response came, causing him to sigh.

Sophie held her bosom as she heavily gasped, looking at the purplish-blue energy body of the Ice Elemental she recognized as the Dreamy Iceflow Wisp. She also recalled that its essence seed was gifted to Ancestor Tirea Snow as a marriage gift, allowing her to step into the Mid-Level Law Rune Stage but to think Mu Bing tamed it.

Now it all made sense to her, Mu Bing's might that was confusing for her to comprehend.

"Hsss!~"

Bright purple flames and icy fumes kept expunging from the two Spirit Attribute Sources. Both appeared to be disliking each other's presence while protecting their humans.

On the other hand, Mu Bing looked shaken. She clenched her teeth, looking remorseful, for she had brought the battle to a dangerous point. She reacted to Sophie's attack carelessly, employing full power while Sophie had lessened the surging might of her attack because she was going to be gravely injured at that moment. While Sophie managed to hold the might of her attack back, having immense control over her powers, she almost messed it up by sending a powerful attack against her while Sophie was lessening the impact for her to defend against.

Fortunately, they both had their Spirit Attribute Sources to protect them. Otherwise, she knew that she would've incurred the wrath of the Emperor of Death.

"I apologize, Sophie Alstreim."

She uttered with a solemn countenance.

"It's fine. Accidents do happen while intensely battling like that, and I'm just glad that you aren't harmed. I enjoyed it while it lasted. Hehe~"

Sophie giggled, looking fine while her words indicated that they were going to be eliminated at any moment.

Mu Bing appeared taken aback. Was this worry because of how they reached their hands out to them when they needed external help the most?

Biting her lips, she couldn't help but send a soul transmission to Sophie.

"You asked me how I came into existence, right? My unknown father violated my mother before the Mystic Ice Sect executed him as revenge, and that's how I came into existence. That's how most Mystic Ice Sect disciples come into existence while the others are purely orphans or voluntarily sent by their own parents so that they could have a better future, but it was not better for my mother, who later killed herself from being unable to endure the shame, was it?"

Sophie's eyes were wide in shock as she listened to Mu Bing while the latter opened her mouth.

"It's your win. I surrender."

White light flashed on Mu Bing, throwing her out along with her Dreamy Iceflow Wisp.

Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans was just about to eliminate the both of them, but looking at one of them voluntarily surrender, he pursed his lips, refraining from declaring both of them eliminated. He

turned to look at the Mandate Emperor and saw him shake his head, both of them agreeing the competition should continue with Sophie as the winner for that battle.

With that, everyone made the second move in the third round.

Once the doors became green, the Burning Phoenix Ridge disciple in the fifth row, second column spatial bubble, headed backward and ended up directly ousting herself, causing her to heave a sigh, but the moment she saw that she was ranked sixth, ranked above Mu Bing who was at the seventh place, she grinned so much that her bright teeth could be seen through her semi-transparent red veil.

"Did you notice that the majority who stepped out of the spatial formation are youths who possessed Supreme Domains?"

Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans couldn't help but point out to his partner.

"That just means that they have less destiny, and their luck isn't anything special." Honorable Elder Julian Kruse nodded, "Their luck was just a tiny bit more than the others, allowing them to enter the final round. Fate works in mysterious ways we don't know, so beware of the path you all take in the future as karma will certainly affect your path."

"Indeed." Honorable Elder Mihangel Evans couldn't help but nod.

This kind of scenario just reaffirmed their notions of heaven's mysterious ways of doing things. Those who weren't much were just randomly ousted as though they weren't even worthy to face opponents of high prowess.

If it wasn't fate, what was it?

Chapter 1893 - Yield

Davis's brows were furrowed a bit.

He saw that the only four who were remaining were Drake, Logan, Sophie, and Clara and felt that it was pretty much the Alstreim Family's win at this point, and so did many others. However, they all wondered why Sophie wasn't eliminated, and Honorable Elder Julian Kruse publicly explained that it was because Mu Bing surrendered before they could make a verdict, making it so that Sophie passed and that they couldn't eliminate someone who passed.

Mu Bing publicly said that she was fine with it before leaving towards her Mystic Ice Sect, making the others nod. If she was fine with it, those who complain about it would certainly be fools.

'Ahh... I should apologize again...'

Meanwhile, Sophie felt extremely bad for infringing on a sensitive subject.

If she knew that Mu Bing had such origins, she wouldn't have even gone near that topic as she just wanted to let the other party know how meaningless life is without someone to share that happiness and sorrow with. But with this kind of origin, Sophie knew such thinking could not be passed across.

'Wait...'

Only then did she suddenly realize that she was not eliminated yet, and noticing the doors were all green, she wondered if she was allowed to continue to participate before moving below, wanting to meet up with Niera if it was possible, unaware that Tanya Frostblight had eliminated her.

She recalled Mu Bing's words and headed below, opened the door, and headed inside but saw no one. However, she became startled.

[For flouting a rule, you have to choose another door to take before the turn ends or risk being bombarded by an offensive formation that would weaken your energy considerably or probably even eliminate you.]

Looking at the characters that mysterious appeared before her, she calmed before doing the same action Niera once took, checking for illusory traps.

Nevertheless, finding none, she turned to look towards the direction where Mu Bing pointed, telling her that Niera was in that direction.

'Should I go in that way? But... if Niera isn't here in my room, the chances are that she left in a different way, not wanting to encounter Mu Bing...'

Sophie wondered before she saw no one again. However, there was a blazing and icy air in the room that was familiar to her.

"This is..."

Her eyes widened, making her think that Niera and Tanya Frostblight had possibly encountered each other here. However, who won?

She had no idea, but looking at the locked doors, she heaved a sliver of breath, knowing that she would have to wait for the third turn to end.

Before Sophie came to this room, Tanya Frostblight moved below, her complexion not appearing to be normal. She pushed open the door, entering the third row, fourth column spatial bubble, and towards her left, saw Drake Blackburn standing on the other side of the room, appearing crestfallen as though he hadn't found what he wanted but abruptly reacted to her presence.

"Wait, Falling Snow Sect Beauty! I'm coming for you!"

Drake Blackburn reached out his hand towards Tanya Frostblight's presence. However, the door ended up closing upon him, causing him to wryly laugh.

However, his expression suddenly froze as he sensed the door below him opening. Instantly, he began to feel like boss music was playing in his head, which made him gulp before he slowly turned to look behind him and saw a beauty that made him tremble.

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'Ah... I'm screwed...'
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What kind of luck did he have to face her as his first opponent!? He found this totally unfair!

"Drake Blackburn~"

Clara's voice echoed across his very soul, causing him to stand at attention.

"Since my brother holds you in high regards, calling you friend, I won't hold back."

"No, really hold back...! Hold back until you don't muster any energy!"

Clara lightly smirked behind, "Unfortunately, I don't listen to any man other than my father and brother."

Two Perfect Domains emerged from Clara's body, superimposing each other. The Mandate Domain vastly powered her Ice Domain, instantly making the room become frigid despite the presence of a mighty Yang Domain and Fire Domain appearing, the latter being a Perfect Domain the size of four kilometers.

"...!"

The crowd became shocked to see Drake Blackburn instantly use two Perfect Domains, and his additional Perfect Domain seemed to be even stronger than his wife's!

'Damn! She really is a monster like him! Being capable of attaining of this kind of prowess when she is still at High-Level Law Dominion Stage...!'

Drake Blackburn felt a deep chill encroaching on him.

It shouldn't be like this, considering that the difference in the size of their domain and her lower cultivation should've offset the difference in their prowess, making it equal. However, Clara still appeared powerful than him at a glance, which made him entirely confused.

Was the quality of laws she comprehended that high!? Or was the combination of Ice Phoenix Wisps and Mandates that deadly?

'Possessing the Transcendent Truth Eyes, Clara possesses the highest quality of Mandate Laws I ever came into contact with in my life. Surely, her future is unfathomable with her brother protecting her, even clearing many obstacles in her cultivation path...'

In the northern hemisphere of the New Era Battle Arena, the Mandate Emperor could only wryly shake his head as he saw this scene.

At this moment, the crowd found out that the two most powerful individuals in the competition had finally revealed themselves. They had thought it was Tanya Frostblight or Logan Loret, but it turned out to be Drake Blackburn, other than Clara Alstreim!

As expected, geniuses were buddies with other geniuses!

When they investigated and saw Drake Blackburn's background, they saw it was the Tripartite Alliance Territory, further cementing their thoughts that this all began from that damned Forsaken Phoenix Realm!

"Are you ready?"

Clara uttered with a superior presence, causing Drake Blackburn to want to shake his head because he didn't know how he was going to face this young lady, his friend's powerful little sister, without using killing intent.

Battling for measuring strength wasn't his forte!

However, Clara didn't wait anymore as her lips moved, casting a mandate technique.

"Embolden~"

Formless might instantly threatened to suppress Drake Blackburn when he suddenly moved, trying to escape, but it instantly caught up to him, restricting his movements.

"Break!"

Yang flames surged out of his body as it seared through the formless might, allowing him to break out of it. He didn't shoot straight but shot towards Clara in an instant as their four domains intersected, wanting to defeat her as soon as possible.

However...

"Yield~"

"Aiya! I'm not into submission!"

Drake's scalp turned numb before he suddenly found his neck constraining, shoulders pressed, fingers bending, knees cracking, and toes curling under Clara's immense formless might, causing him to falter. It completely disallowed him to move, causing him to clench his teeth and cry out by the unfairness of this woman's terrifying prowess.

With this being the case, unless he ambushed her, he wouldn't be able to defeat her, no?

Even his meridians felt like they were almost being crushed as they were suppressed, disabling him from using any powers at this single moment.

Clara heaved a cold breath as she spent twenty percent of her essence energy in that second technique she cast.

Simultaneously, her lithe figure moved extremely fast that she appeared before Drake Blackburn and pointed her finger at his forehead, an icy flaming wisp appearing before him, threatening to wipe out his soul if he moved ever so lightly as her absolute suppression broke automatically after that one second passed.

"..."

Drake Blackburn looked stumped by the usage of her overbearing prowess, making him unable to even show the extent of his own prowess. He understood that he should not hold back a single strand of his energy next time, causing him to sigh because there probably would not be a next time in real life and death battle.

"I accept defeat."

Clara saw a white light encase him, making him disappear. However, her expression became complex, making her think that the other party was not agreeable to battling her as though something was holding him back that she didn't feel good to have overpowered him like this.

However, it was precisely because she felt the encroaching threat from him did she not hesitate to use all her powers except the Transcendent Truth Eyes.

At this moment, the doors began shining green, causing her to understand that the third turn ended rather quickly.

'The others didn't meet any opponents?'

Clara couldn't tell how many were left by this fourth turn, but she took a step forward and moved in the direction where Drake Blackburn came from, her purple eyes flashing in a covert gleam.

Chapter 1894 - Stumped Logan

Tanya Frostblight saw that the lights on the four doors on four sides had turned all green. She wondered if she should follow after Drake Blackburn. However, she knew that her chances of winning against him were less if Kara Moonridge was powerful as Niera said she was, making it so that the husband would be even stronger the majority of the time.

"Your goal is to enter the top three and attract master's eyes. Remember?"

Abruptly, a voice echoed inside her, causing her to stop ever so lightly before she moved in the opposite direction.

"Why are you motivating me, Pia? Aren't you still enslaved by the Emperor of Death? Don't you hate humans for killing your father and mother?"

Tanya Frostblight couldn't help but question.

"I'm seeing a... different scene."

Pia's voice sounded confused, causing Tanya Frostblight to prompt.

"What kind?"

"Harmony... and order which I didn't think was possible in humans..."

"Ha~" Tanya Frostblight couldn't help but inwardly scoff, "If that's the case, then it only exists for us under the protection of the Emperor of Death. Otherwise, my Falling Snow Sect would have been wiped out by other humans already."

"Still, I finally understand... that not all humans are evil and immoral..."

"You got it." Tanya Frostblight nodded to Pia Noel's understanding, "If there are those who strive to live meaningfully, then there are those who are on the opposite extreme, who wouldn't even bother to have a conscience in what they're doing, especially the people from the wicked path. I've learned this is the case in every race after seeing Nadia and your princess lesha."

"Mhm. Princess lesha is the kindest spirit I've ever seen~"

Pia Noel seemed to agree, her melodious voice echoing with happiness and a bit of yearning.

"Don't worry. Your freedom is guaranteed by the Emperor of Death after I become an immortal or within a hundred years, whichever is less."

"Mhm, I know. That's why the fastest way for you to become that is to become master's. Now you know my motive."

"..."

Tanya Frostblight became flabbergasted on hearing Pia Noel's words.

"I thought we bonded at least a bit?" She wryly giggled.

"We did. I like you, Tanya. The purity and icy nature of your soul are relaxing to be in, and if I didn't trust you enough, I wouldn't have been able to use the Prismatic Intramural Soul-Spirit Pact with you."

Pia Noel's words caused Tanya Frostblight's eyes to widen before she smiled ever so lightly and pushed open the door to the second row, fourth column spatial bubble, entering it with cautious eyes when she suddenly spotted someone above about to open a door, causing her to freeze!

"Ah... It's you."

"Fa- Emperor of Death's father!"

Tanya Frostblight looked shocked as she closed her mouth with her pale palms and screamed.

Logan couldn't help but chuckle at the immense respect shown to him.

"I'm glad that you came before I entered the next room. This way, I don't have to be disappointed about not finding an opponent to battle."

"No... I can't..."

Tanya Frostblight shook her head, looking lost and unwilling.

"Hm? What do you mea-"

Logan was about to ask before he suddenly understood, realizing what this icy beauty thought before shaking his head.

"No need to worry about my son. As long as I'm in this competition, I'm just another cultivator that you have to- "

"I give up!"

Tanya Frostblight suddenly screamed, causing Logan's footing to falter.

"What the ... "

He saw a white light encase Tanya Frostblight before it made her disappear, probably eliminating her, but his eyes were still wide, his expression appearing to be dumbfounded.

"Okay..."

A moment later, he suddenly understood the immense respect Tanya Frostblight held towards him was not because she respected Davis but...

'Son, you're truly a beast in terms of putting little to no effort yet still gaining the beauty...'

After seeing even Sect Master Lea Weiss of the Burning Phoenix Ridge fall, he couldn't help but shake his head, feeling rather proud.

On that note, he hoped that his son would propagate the Loret Empire's life so that they could once again become brimming after the loss of countless members. He could do that too and would do so in the future. However, he knew that his son was too special that his children would be vastly powerful than his own.

He wanted that kind of force to be teeming within the Loret Family, making his ancestors proud as well as himself because Davis was still his son, and even though his son has his previous life's memories, it still didn't change the fact that he is his son.

On that fateful day where he learned that his little son possessed his previous life's memories, he was still proud of the fact that he didn't kill him and instead chose to believe in him after some time of deep contemplation. That decision could've very well heralded the end of his Loret Family's line if he was wrong, but that instead paved the pathway to becoming strong and well-established within a short period of time, like in thirty years, which was just half his current lifespan!

As far as he perceived, Davis's filial piety was almost blemishless! Moreover, this kind of growth rate was terrifying that he possessed full faith in his prime legacy to take care of the Loret Family!

His light-attributed soul turning into a Malevolent Darkness Soul when Davis almost died was very proof of the fact that he cared deeply about his son than he thought he did, almost becoming crazed in the process until he heard that his son revived. He only had Claire and Nora to thank for saving his sanity. Otherwise, he would've also gone on a suicidal killing spree like Evelynn did, but without her power, which would have certainly cost him his life.

Logan stayed still, reveling in the past memories that were becoming precious and more nostalgic as time passed.

He turned around, pushing open the door as he headed inside, and instantly became surprised as he saw someone familiar again.

"Daughter-in-law Sophie. It seems like only the powerful ones are left in this fourth turn."

Hearing her father-in-law talk, Sophie froze in respect as though she stood in attention.

"Hehe... yes... father-in-law..." Her reaction and voice were stiff, to the say least, before she glanced left and right with her eyes, causing Logan's smile to fade.

"No, daughter-in-law. Don't-"

"I give up."

"You...!"

Logan became stifled in frustration as he saw Sophie become covered in white light. His hands were pointed at her, but looking at her disappearing silhouette, he heaved an exasperated breath as he dropped his hand.

'I guess this can't be helped...'

He could only rub his forehead and smile. He thought she would escape but didn't. Even Tanya Frostblight didn't, even though a way out was always there, shining green. These two gave up instead, citing the immense respect they displayed for him because of Davis.

The crowd was also shocked at the two subsequent, uncoerced surrenders at the top four that they thought was ridiculous.

Where were the exciting battles that they wanted?

"Ahahaha."

Davis couldn't help but burst out laughing at this scene.

His women didn't usually converse with his father, but when they did, they would show immense respect that would cause both parties to become awkward. That was what he heard from Evelynn when the girls were gathered for tea parties in the Purple Guest Palace occasionally, and if Claire and Nora came to partake in it along with Logan, who came to deliver them, he would awkwardly interact before leaving, leaving the women to their own agendas.

Soon, Sophie shyly appeared by his side, making him grasp her soft, willowy waist as he pulled her close, holding her stuck to his body as he kissed her forehead.

"Sophie, you could've just escaped, you know..." He couldn't help but chuckle.

"That's also disrespectful when it's just a normal competition..."

Sophie shook her head, trying to take more warmth from snuggling over his chest while hugging him.

"Besides, I'm content with being ranked third. Entering the top three or top five is considered a win for the most part. But the most important thing is, by not disrespecting your father, we also do not disrespect you and your bloodline."

Davis blinked and wondered if it was like that before he couldn't help but ask.

"Then, is that also what she felt like...?"

Davis turned to look at Tanya Frostblight as he asked Sophie with soul transmission when both their gazes suddenly matched with Tanya Frostblight, who was also looking at them, causing her to become stiff, turn tail and run the other way like a swift icy wind.

"..."

Chapter 1895 - Rudely Filial

Logan saw that the lights had turned green had some point after Sophie resigned from battling him. He looked around, wondering which direction to take before he decided to head above, again, actually distancing himself from his final opponent, making it so that he was two rooms away from his final opponent.

But on the other hand, his final opponent looked around carefully before choosing a door, and that second row, fourth column room happened to be leading closer to him, only a single room away from him.

The fifth turn ended, making the lights on the doors turn green again.

This caused Logan to become aware that there was probably only one or two opponents left at this point for the turn to end quickly, moving around to search for each other. However, the more they moved around without going back and forth, the more it was possible for them to oust themselves.

'I wonder if they're going to give penalties for moving back and forth...'

Logan wondered before he smirked and daringly moved up again.

"...!"

The people were dumbfounded to see this brave yet stupid move. After all, if Logan moved up, it was actually the fourth time he was moving up, making it so that his chances to be thrown out increases by sixty to eighty percent!

However, to his luck, he ended up safe and sound in the second row, second column spatial bubble.

Nevertheless, the people were low-key excited to see this kind of adrenaline as they put themselves in the shoes of Logan. The person had no idea where he was moving but still moved towards near elimination, making them accept that he was indeed the Emperor of Death's father.

However, what was more interesting was that the final opponent was actually following right behind him after taking only one look at the doors as though it was fate!

Everyone saw that Clara had stepped into the room where Tanya Frostblight gave up against Logan, took a glance at the rooms, and actually moved above, following her father.

"This girl..." The Vast Sky Emperor's eyes narrowed, "It appears as though she knows where exactly to go to encounter her opponent..."

"Could it be that they have a soul mark placed on each other?" The Starnova Emperor looked confused, "However, even a soul mark is rendered useless in this spatial formation considering that their level is too low to break the restriction..."

'This child...'

On the other hand, the Mandate Emperor couldn't believe that Clara was using her Transcendent Truth Eyes for this little matter. The Transcendent Truth Eyes allows the host to see the ultimate truth, and the truth at this level could merely be formulated into one single vision for her: Does this room lead the way to her next opponent?

Such viewpoint would allow her to see the truth of it according to the level of the concept or matter and thereby make decisions that would enable her to travel while encountering as little danger as possible. It wasn't omnipotent but still worked for most cases.

This kind of power was close to the Mystic Diviner profession. However, it was not karmic guidance that Clara saw but seeing through the truth of the myriad of entities, both living, non-living and conceptual matters. The more strong her unique physique was, the more she would be able to see through with those heavenly eyes of hers.

Meanwhile, the Karmic Guardian Emperor stayed quiet as he also knew that this was due to the Transcendent Truth Eyes. Instead of refusing to comment that would be quite suspicious as people might suspect that they rigged it for Clara, they just said that they had no idea either.

Gasp!~

Logan, as though having suicidal tendencies, moved up for the fifth time where the chances that he would oust himself increased by eighty to ninety-nine percent!

"Ahaha!"

When he opened the door, he couldn't help but laugh at surviving, looking truly joyful. But on the other hand, the crowd were truly taken aback, even gasping at his actions even though they knew he would just make it to the second row, first column spatial bubble without fail.

Clara followed suit, arriving at the second row, third column room.

The next turn came, and Logan, knowing that he would face certain elimination this time if he headed up again, went down, going back the way he came from when he looked at the door opposite to him simultaneously opening.

A white-robed beauty having a hint of his features emerged, causing him to smile widely as he pointed at her.

"Clara, my child! I have missed you so much! Now, exchange pointers with me. I, your father, is eager to battle!"

Logan uttered without any shame as he knew that Clara would face him if he challenged her even though she said different, and strangely enough, his words didn't come off as rude but correct since he was talking to his own daughter.

Clara looked fairly surprised but then lightly smiled behind her veil, looking at her father, who looked lively for some reason.

However, her knees bent as she went on her knelt suddenly, causing Logan to freeze in silence as his smile became stiff.

"All our glory... belongs to imperial father for allowing us to be born into this world."

Clara kowtowed once, aligning her forehead with her knees and feet before opening her mouth once more.

"I forfeit."

Clara's figure became shrouded in a pure white light as she stood up, making her look like a benevolent fairy before she was transported out.

"..."

Logan's expression became complicated, looking both exasperated and moved.

He didn't ask for this, only wanting to battle and see the limits of his strength. He was practically assured that he wouldn't be able to win against Clara even if he was able to win against Tanya Frostblight and Sophie but still wanted a carefree battle. However, his daughter, daughter-in-law, and a maiden-in-love seemed to have a different idea on how to face him.

But, what was more endearing to him was that Clara, even with the implications of her Transcendent Truth Eyes, went as far as to kowtow to him. He thought Clara was the most estranged child out of the five he had with Claire due to her side-effects of displaying the traits of an absolute ruler, but now, it seemed like all the respect and love she had for him was in her heart.

The next second, white light appeared on him before it also transported him out.

"..."

Logan looked back and saw the spatial formation crumbling as though converging on each other before disappearing. The ranking became visible, causing him to almost break out scoffing in a fit.

[1st rank: Logan Loret

2nd rank: Clara Alstreim]

Towards his side, he saw Clara appearing before him, causing him to raise his hand and pat her head.

"Little lass, you should've been the one who won, not me."

"But father, I couldn't disrespect you."

"... Sigh, forget it."

Logan didn't know when this child became so filial, but thinking back, this child had been nothing but filial, even taking care of his empire for him. He stood completely moved, unable to utter a word in embarrassment that he dismissed it instead.

Amidst the silent gaze of the dumbfounded crowd, they returned back to the Alstreim Family's seating area.

Logan appeared in front of Davis before he asked.

"Son, if you were in this segment, would you do the same?"

"I'd kick your ass, father ... "

"A worthy son!"

"Davis, so rude!"

While Logan clenched his fist in pride, the others screamed at Davis for being impertinent, with Claire being the loudest as her cheeks pouted aggrievedly.

Chapter 1896 - First Reward Ceremony

The two arbitrators of the Seventh Stage Segment glanced at the Alstreim Family before returning their gaze to the ranking, wondering what the hell was going on in that family to be this deviant, filial, and

different than the norm, disrupting the course of the competition that usually would've been the most exciting when the top three battled but was silent instead.

[

1st rank: Logan Loret 2nd rank: Clara Alstreim 3rd rank: Sophie Alstreim 4th rank: Tanya Frostblight 5th rank: Drake Blackburn 6th rank...? 7th rank: Mu Bing 8th rank: Niera Alstreim 9th rank... 12th rank: Hayou Azureclaw 13th rank: Kara Moonridge 14th rank... 18th rank: Dalila Leehan

]

Everyone could see that the solemn atmosphere of the competition was taken away when the top three, no, top four, emerged.

If there was someone poor still present, they would strive to do anything in their power, even use blood essence to survive through the end, but all the powers which remained were hegemons who were already quite rich and this Alstreim Family, need one say after witnessing the Emperor of Death unhesitatingly give out fifty Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Cores as though they were nothing?

What need do they have for the rewards?

At that point, they were just taking a family expedition!

However, it was honorable and filial for Sophie and Clara to not want to fight with their father-in-law and father, but what was the need for Tanya Frostblight to do so?

She was just a Falling Snow Sect top disciple and couldn't be truly said to be affiliated with the Alstreim Family. However, the moment their minds grasped how strong she had become from a small-sized Territory Hegemon's top disciple, conjuring a Perfect Ice Domain as well a Supreme Sword Domain, their minds couldn't help but doubt if she could have done it by herself.

Surely not!

They felt something must be going on behind the scenes!

The Emperor of Death was truly perverted, daring enough to say that he cuckolded someone publicly, causing irreparable damage to that someone.

What are the chances that he didn't have affairs with extraordinary women of other powers, giving them resources in exchange? Being extremely attractive in terms of looks, wealth, and power, they didn't believe for a single moment that he didn't have ambiguous affairs with many women!

However, they could only speculate with their imaginations and not converse because they were always afraid that the Emperor of Death would be listening to their conversation. If they were accidentally overheard, they knew that they wouldn't be able to endure the consequences.

Nevertheless, they conveniently forgot the fact that he had to spend so much time cultivating to the point that, in truth, there was little time he had for his women, and he was now merely enjoying the moment.

"Everyone, the Seventh Stage Segment of the Nine Western Territories Young Expert Competition has officially come to an end. The rewards will be presented immediately, so please step forward to collect them."

At first, from the tenth rank to the sixth rank, the top ten received rewards that consisted of Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments and a few other resources.

The fifth rank, Drake Blackburn, came forward and received a Law Tree Fruit and ten Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments.

The fourth rank, Tanya Frostblight, didn't appear before she secluded herself in the resting room for some reason, but Ancestor Tirea Snow went ahead and collected the same amount of resources for her, except there was twenty Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments.

The third rank, Sophie Alstreim, collected the previous resources, but the Vein Fragments were increased to thirty while also obtaining a Dream Dusk Dew that allowed one to enter the Supreme Soul Stage.

The second rank, Clara Alstreim, received the previous resources but fifty Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments.

The first rank, Logan Loret, went ahead and received the previous resources, but instead of Vein Fragments, he obtained ten Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources! One of them was even Lightning-Attributed, causing him to feel joyful that he finally obtained something of worth after coming to this layer, even if it was through his daughter's filial piety.

Moreover, he also obtained the Pearl Sage Ark created by the declined Vital Tempering Sect, a construct of High-Level Emperor Grade. It would make a good flying ship for him if he ever wants to adventure like before and even for the others who would like to travel for errands or a cultivation journey.

The reward ceremony was quite bustling, allowing people to rejoice for the experts or curse them in their hearts for obtaining resources that would make them do crazy things.

Davis was seated on the luxurious deewan with Evelynn by his side. They laid over it comfortably, with Evelynn reclining on him, laying her head on his chest while he held her soft waist as though they were watching a show.

"Now, I'm sure you're all wondering the rewards for the Eighth Stage Segment." Honorable Elder Julian Kruse continued after the reward ceremony ended, "Rest assured, for it will not disappoint you."

"Like before, only the top ten will receive the rewards, so the competitors must do their best to enter it."

"From the tenth rank to the sixth rank, the competitors would receive two Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources and increments of two additional Vein Sources for every higher rank. There would also be specialized resources that would allow your body to enter the Martial Sage Stage, perhaps even allowing you to form a Flawless Foundation."

Gasp!~

People couldn't help but gasp at the fact that the Four Great Righteous Sects were willing to give out Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources like that. Two for the tenth rank, four for the ninth rank, and ten for the sixth rank. That was about thirty Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources!

Furthermore, it was not even for the top five or the Ninth Stage Segment, making them all feel dumb.

Were the Four Great Righteous Sects emptying out their treasury? Are they trying to decline themselves to death?

Instantly, they couldn't help but deeply worry about the Calamity Light.

Was it that worse for them to be this dramatic about the rewards?

Looking at the reactions of the crowd, Honorable Elder Julian Kruse satisfactorily nodded, about to announce the rewards for the top five. However, he suddenly frowned as he received a soul transmission.

"This..."

His expression became hesitant before he received another soul transmission, causing him to nod his head after contemplating. He raised his hand and pointed towards a direction.

"Furthermore, the Soul Palace declared that they'll release insights of King Soul Stage to the top ten along with a few Soul Forging Cultivation Manuals up to High-Level Emperor Grade which can be obtained by the top three so that our human race can birth new Soul Emperors."

"What!???"

The Soul Palace was ending their control over High-Level Emperor Grade Soul Forging Cultivation Manuals!?

What kind of fantasy was this?

Were they dreaming now?

"This change isn't inherent and goes against the principles of the Soul Palace."

At this moment, everyone heard a melodious voice, causing them to turn to look at the place where the Soul Palace was seated. They saw it was none other than the acting Grand Elder of the Soul Palace, Yotan. She was the one who recently became a Soul Empress, shocking the world for some time.

"However, since our Palace Master, the Emperor of Death worries about the current state of affairs, stating that the human race is severely lacking Soul Emperors to defend themselves against other races that are truly powerful in terms of soul, he commanded us to make an exception this one time and reward the top three or the topmost three young experts other than themselves, but for the topmost three to gain the rewards, they would have to sign a Blood Soul Contract to not divulge anything, not even to their own kin until a hundred years has passed."

"..."

The New Era Battle Arena was dead silent after Yotan's speech. Her voice was melodious and powerful, but the content was equally mind-throbbing.

Slowly, murmurs picked up in echoes, becoming boisterous before the millions of people actually began to chant.

"Long live the Soul Palace!~~~"

"Long live the Emperor of Death!!!~~~"

Their sonorous voices overflowed the New Era Battle Arena, appearing to have gratitude from every power for this kind of move. Suddenly, it was as though the way the entire world viewed the Emperor of Death changed, as though he wasn't only capable of destruction but also being capable of being a bit benevolent, even if it were for appearance's sake because most supreme powerhouses wouldn't even bother to do that as one's first rules, opinion doesn't.

"Did you really say that, Davis?" On the luxurious deewan, Evelynn drew circles on his chest as she asked through soul transmission.

"Just sowing karma... and hope it does something good..."

"I see..."

Davis lazily answered Evelynn while being covered in her warmth. She smiled, appearing happy, but she still had a doubt.

"But why hundred years to spread the contents? Why not now?"

"Because there are little resources available in the wilderness and perhaps, it might change in the future with the presence of the Calamity Light, but that's not the point because the Soul Palace won't be needing these manuals in the future as they're going to become my personal legion of soul cultivators."

"You..." Evelynn's eyes went wide.

"Indeed, thousands of light-attributed spirit cores are with me, making it so that I can nurture the best of the best from the Soul Palace for our peace and security." Davis brushed Evelynn's silky purplish-green hair with his fingers while she tightened her embrace around him more, feeling more secure and content.

Chapter 1897 - Rewards For The Next Segment

Once the New Era Battle Arena quietened down, Honorable Elder Julian Kruse opened his mouth.

"We thank the Emperor of Death and the Soul Palace for their magnanimity and voluntary cooperation. But with this change, the rewards for the top five has underwent a slight change."

"...!"

Many people's joyful expressions changed, making them wonder if the rewards had been decreased just because someone else was providing for them.

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse couldn't help but chuckle.

"Don't worry. We didn't decrease the rewards but increased it."

"..."

After a silent pause, he continued.

"The top five will obtain Undaunted Purple Lotus Flowers from us."

"What!? That Undaunted Lotus Purple Flower that could make one step into the King Soul Stage with ease when made into a pill!? Not a petal?"

Ancestor Krane Parazen appeared utterly shocked as he stood up, causing Honorable Elder Julian Kruse to nod.

"Indeed, we decided to give these resources out only because of the Soul Palace's gracious and understanding move. Otherwise, it would have served no purpose as even geniuses take a long time to enter the King Soul Stage as they have little to no insights regarding the comprehension of heaven and earth through the aspect of the soul."

Everyone couldn't help but subconsciously nod their heads. Although the decision to give insights and manuals was great, it would only be helpful to Peak-Level Supreme Soul Stage Experts who are almost near to breakthrough. However, if resources like the Undaunted Purple Lotus Flower were involved, it would be easier for the young elites to step into the King Soul Stage sooner than later.

"As for the other main rewards," Honorable Elder Julian Kruse continued, "They consist of Law Tree Fruits whose quality is far above the Thousand Pill Palace's, allowing the Law Sea Stage Experts to step into Law Rune Stage with more efficiency, a near-specialized resource of High-Level Emperor Grade for each of them that will allow their bodies to step into the Martial Overlord Stage and thirteen Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources each with a subsequent increment of three Vein Sources every higher rank with the top first obtaining twenty-five Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources."

"Moreover, the top three will also receive a top-quality High-Level Emperor Grade construct made by the Heaven Mandate Temple, Vast Sky Emperor Palace and the Astral Light Sect and will have the

opportunity to learn under us, have our protection and also buy certain resources that could be helpful to them for half the price."

"Woah!!!~~~"

The entirety of the crowd gathered stood up in waves, creating a tsunami of shocked voices. However, the arbitrator was not done.

"With this, the rewards for rising young experts that concentrate on all three of their cultivations, prosperity, and safety is ensured."

"...!"

The people remained absolutely dumbfounded.

What's going on here truly?

Excluding the ingredients, that's about ninety-five Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources being given out, which would entirely create a Mid-Sized Territory Hegemon by itself! Did the Four Great Righteous Sects become fearful under the shadow of the Calamity Light for them to become this... magnanimous?

"What the... They're actually being righteous for a change..."

Davis couldn't believe his eyes or ears either. Perhaps, there might be unknown agendas but giving out a ton of these resources is no small matter. Perhaps, with the four of them putting it all together, they could do this without fearing for the decline, but what about the Ninth Stage Segment?

What kind of rewards have they planned for that for them to be this lavish and exorbitant now?

Nevertheless, the impression of the Four Great Righteous Sects in his mind became slightly better. However, that didn't change his killing intent towards the Vast Sky Emperor a single bit. That retard hadn't even tried begging for his life, and Davis didn't feel like just letting him go and probably never would.

He was just waiting for the right time as he didn't want to cause chaos for the denizens of this world, as killing the Vast Sky Emperor would more or less mean declaring war against the righteous path.

"Hmm." Honorable Elder Julian Kruse satisfactorily nodded, "Judging by all your reactions, it seems that you are unable to believe my words, but trust me, trust us when we say that we need to gather together to overcome whatever dangers we may face in the upcoming years. Even if we do not come to face any danger, which is preferable, the others will know that we, the Four Great Righteous Sects, are still the righteous entities we proclaim we are."

He went silent after saying his piece when suddenly a cacophony of verbal appreciation began to echo, repeatedly resounding to praise the Four Great Righteous Sects for a minute straight.

Davis felt that it was like propaganda, but then again, they at least deserved for shedding this much resources to support nobodies. As cultivators, all they needed to do was look after their own skin, their own powers, and not the race as a whole, but that is what made them so popular among the common populace. The righteous path went out of their way to protect the ordinary people and equally ruled the

place with iron fists so that they could maintain order sometimes, most of the time involving corruption in peaceful times.

The overflowing cheers made him feel that he was too harsh on the righteous path but only chuckled about it as the intentions were good, but what about the implementation?

What is there to say that they won't demand some type of obedience in exchange for being magnanimous?

In the end, only strength ruled. If the one or the ones at the top are righteous, they would be hypocritical to a degree, and if it's the opposite, vile like the wicked path, then they would be a bit honest yet brutal to a degree. Even Davis felt he was in the former or somewhere in the middle, only caring for himself and those whom he considered his people.

"As for when the Eighth Stage Segment would start, it would begin tomorrow morning. Until then, make sure that your Eighth Stage Young Experts are ready to participate without encountering any trouble."

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse clasped his hand along with his partner before leaving the scene.

'Uh... one of them already got cuckolded...'

Everyone couldn't help but think at the same time, some appearing stifled as though they were going to burst out laughing.

The poor future Palace Master of the Glorious Pill Palace still didn't appear outside. However, was it because that he still felt ashamed or that his own power didn't let him outside?

Perhaps, they had even thought of ousting him from his current status. After all, who dare to put a man whose honor has been stained on a pedestal unless he can prove himself even more worthy?

After the arbitrators left, everyone went about their way, enjoying banquets held in powers and mingling with other powers to create relationships as though it was another day.

"Evelynn, Natalya, Mingzhi, and Niera."

At this moment, Davis called out as he stood up along with Evelynn, holding her hand. The three others appeared attentive as they appeared beside him, waiting to listen to his words.

"Come with me. We're going to pay a visit to my old friend."

"...!"

Niera's expression froze as she saw Davis glancing at her.. Her expression then calmed as she instantly knew that she got some apologies to make.

Chapter 1898 - It Should Be Fine...

Davis, Evelynn, Natalya, Mingzhi, and Niera all flew towards the Dual Lotus Manor's seating area. The people there were celebrating the entry of Drake Blackburn and Kara Moonridge into the top fifteen, numerous disciples and elders approaching him to congratulate him.

Moreover, they were extremely respectful, as though Drake Blackburn was their elder. Even the Dual Lotus Manor's two Sect Leaders, a golden-haired man who looked remarkably handsome and a purple-haired woman draped in luxurious and elegant blue and red robes, smiled along with them, appearing to indulge in the glory received today.

But at this moment, they froze, turning to look at a purple-robed man approach along with four beauties beside him, each one of them exuding their own unique aura of a different element, especially the feared woman beside him.

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

"Ahaha! Davis, come here, come here. Taste this swan meat. It's just too good!"

Drake came forward as he invited while Davis couldn't help but blink but then, looking at the chunks, wings, and breasts of swan meat on the table, marinated, cooked, appearing extremely delicious, he couldn't help but chuckle.

"For a moment, I thought that you said different!"

"Haha, I might have. Who knows?"

Drake came forward and patted Davis's shoulder, looking overjoyed.

The entirety of the Dual Lotus Manor had gone silent. Their boisterous voices slowly died until they only saw Drake Blackburn patting the Emperor of Death's shoulder as though he was equal and looking at the Emperor of Death smile as though he didn't take offense, they became utterly dumbfounded, their minds delaying their reactions by a large enough margin that Davis began to partake in the swan meant along with his women.

Gasp~

People let out slow breaths so as to not receive attention.

They had doubts if Drake Blackburn was just playing it, but at this moment, they were totally convinced that he was acquainted and even friends with the Emperor of Death!

Davis nodded to the exquisite taste of the meat, but it was not delicious as the Aqua Flood Dragon Meat. Nevertheless, he praised it and spoke.

"Drake, I apologize for my Niera accidentally harming your wife."

"Davis..." Drake's smile faded as he shook his head, "If you're going to say that, then I'm going to have to apologize as well. Kara said that she was at fault, too, while I had no idea such a scenario happened until your little sister ousted me."

"Yes, it was partly my fault that I got injured. I wasn't strong enough..."

Kara Moonridge nodded worriedly. She no longer wore a transparent veil but an opaque veil that hid her features, but Davis could see that her nose was fractured.

"No, Niera isn't strong enough yet. She is young and lacks the aura I sense from you two. However, don't blame her. She just wanted to win against you, so she pushed the limits of the battle to a dangerous

zone where she could have accidentally died as a result. However, she won because you were not serious. If both of you had been serious, it would be very difficult to tell the outcome, so please accept my apology."

Davis raised his palm when a pill appeared above his palm, appearing pristine white and radiating a unique aroma that most people were familiar with, sensing healing prowess from the pill.

"This... a High-Level Emperor Grade Healing Pill?"

Kara Moonridge became astonished before she turned to look at her husband.

Drake Blackburn scratched his head, appearing to have a wry expression on his face as he had just received a High-Level Emperor Grade Pill from the Sect Leader, which had been given to heal Kara Moonridge already, but the fracture was deep and could not be easily healed and would take time.

However, the pill in front of him was extremely potent, exuding a bright aura that made him want to take it because he bet that it could heal his wife instantly.

"Kara Moonridge, I dee-"

"Niera."

Niera had just clasped her hand, wanting to apologize, when Davis suddenly looked towards her, causing her to become stumped.

Drake looked at this scene and smiled before swiping the pill off Davis's palm, looking smug.

"Apologies accepted. However, injuries like this are commonplace, so no one needs to take it to heart."

Recalling losing their limbs in the mini-real, Drake shrugged as though he was the bigger man while Davis couldn't help but think to himself.

'You won't be saying that if you saw how close they were to accidentally kill each other if they hadn't maneuvered right or held back at the right time...'

"Niera, I apologize for wounding you too." Kara Moonridge spoke sincerely as her icy daggers pierced Niera, causing her injures, "If you hadn't held back your fist at the last moment, I would have-"

Suddenly, she paused as she noticed that Niera's wounds were not there over her palm, not even a hint of a scar, causing her eyes to become wide.

On the other hand, Niera remained stunned by the single word uttered by Davis. He didn't want her to apologize?

"Niera, this is a matter between their friendship that needed to be addressed and not buried as though it never happened as all it creates are crevices. You don't need to apologize as you were not actually wrong in the battle itself as it is a competitor's intent to win, not to have a friendly spar."

Mo Mingzhi sent Niera a soul transmission, causing the latter to be enlightened as her adorable purple eyes became slightly misty.

"That said, Drake." Mo Mingzhi opened her lips and voiced out, "Let us all go to a private place. The crowd's gaze is a bit prickly for us."

"Oh, yes, of course."

Drake abandoned the banquet and ignored the two Sect Leaders, leading Davis and his women to the resting hall before arriving at an unoccupied resting room, and quite arguably, the others were occupied as though they might be currently used for... cultivation involving two people.

"So, did you see the beauties of my sect? Did someone catch your eyes?"

Drake chuckled as he teased Davis in front of his wives, causing Davis to shake his head.

"More than that, why don't you introduce these three new women to me?"

He glanced at a red-haired, blue-haired, and a chestnut-haired woman, causing Drake to gesture at them.

"This is Lora Ren, Elayne Bluestone, and Amber Will."

Davis saw their charming eyes and their facial features behind their captivating veil and couldn't help but comment.

"They certainly have a unique aura about them. All three of them have unique physiques?"

"Indeed, they all have Exquisite Nine Yin Physiques like Kara."

Davis and the other's eyes went wide before Drake began to explain the whole story.

Apparently, he had the opportunity to meet Lora Ren in the mini-realm, and when he, her, and Kara Moonridge got caught in an aphrodisiac entrapment in a tomb of the First Ancestor of the Dual Lotus Manor, it turned into a threesome for two whole months with details omitted, but that formed a solid bond between them.

As for Elayne Bluestone and Amber Will, they were protected and courted by top disciples for their physiques and curvaceous bodies, but that was all they could do as the two women were not pleased until Drake showed up and revealed his five-kilometer and four-kilometer Perfect Domains that totally shook the Dual Lotus Manor.

Then, they pleaded that they wanted to become his and succeeded in courting him as the courtship system works both ways.

"These two were separated by many generations but still saw my potential and decided to become mine despite having a higher cultivation, and yes, in case if you're wondering, they were all virgins when I took them."

Drake proudly uttered while the three women went crimson as they pinched him together. On the other hand, Davis blinked while Drake merely smiled to his confusion.

"As I said before, the Dual Lotus Manor has its own oddities and eccentric characters, some are loyal, and many are disloyal, but there are people who know their value and wouldn't bother to give the

opposite gender the time and prime of their life until they are completely sure that he or she is the one."

"No," Davis shook his head, "I was wondering why you weren't killed yet for hoarding such beautiful women with unique physiques."

"Ahaha!" Drake wildly laughed as though he was a hooligan, "That's what I get for creating two Perfect Domains like you before the competition even began. More women wanted to get together with me, but I refrained myself as it is possible that I would be corrupted with depravity."

"As if you're not depraved now ... !"

Kara pinched him along with the others while Drake could only wryly smile as his shoulders drooped.

"Just after this Seventh Stage Segment, people who didn't show respect to me started displaying immense respect. Haters and those suitors who were planning to get revenge on me for Elayne and Amber actually apologized. I know it's because of you. However, I'm definitely going to be killed now since the world knows that I'm your true friend and not faking it. They're going to target my women and me, won't they?"

"Indeed," Davis nodded, "I already have someone in mind who might target you."

"Like whom?" Drake raised his brows, "From the wicked path you wrecked or something?"

Davis pursed his lips before he shook his head.

"That is there too, but most likely, it would be the Trash Sky Emperor."

"..."

Drake and his women were totally stunned. Did he mean the Vast Sky Emperor whom the Emperor of Death had declared to kill that it resounded publicly but was then forgotten since nothing happened?

"You mean-"

"Yes." Davis didn't hesitate.

"Dude, just kill that bastard already..."

Drake couldn't help but groan, feeling that his and his wives' lives were at stake if this was the case.

"Well, I think it should be fine..."

Davis looked away, causing Drake to stare at him.

"Are you serious?"

"No."

"You-"

"It should be fine only if you come with us, though. Otherwise, I can't guarantee that you will live to see the next day. Oh wait, this sounds like a threat rather than a friendly warning." Davis looked like he was in his own world while Drake trembled as though he was going to spurt out blood from being put in this precarious position. In the end, he grabbed the other party's shoulder and clenched his teeth.

"So you're saying that I'm screwed without you?"

Davis wryly smiled, "Yeah, your time of enjoying benefits that comes from being my friend is very short that the real danger will strike very soon, perhaps right after this competition ends."

Drake let go of Davis as he turned around and walked away, heading past his women before he stopped, his body started to tremble when his head suddenly shot up.

"Fuck!!!"

Chapter 1899 - Drake's Wealth

Outside, the disciples and elders of the Dual Lotus Manor were fraught with excitement and nervousness. The Emperor of Death had actually paid a visit to one of their top disciples, treating him equally as though he was a true friend. This smelled like an opportunity to them, a chance to shed their mediocrity and rise above far more than what they could reach with just their strength.

Of this thought, both men and women were the same, but they harbored different ways to go about it.

On the other hand, the Two Sect Leaders wryly smiled at being ignored just like that. However, they dared not take offense, considering that they had just witnessed the Emperor of Death lacerating the Venerable Twilight Pill Emperor to show his place. The Emperor of Death didn't allow such an individual to disrespect him but didn't say anything to Drake Blackburn, but even looked delighted for calling him by his name and patting his shoulder.

From this, it was clear to all of them that Drake Blackburn could be considered the Emperor of Death's bosom friend. The Two Sect Leaders only lamented why Drake Blackburn hadn't told this sooner.

Inside the resting room where Drake Blackburn had just screamed, Drake's women couldn't help but appear worried, seeing him unusually driven into a corner that he had to rely on someone else.

After all, with their current strength, how could they stand up to the likes of the Vast Sky Emperor or the vengeful wicked path that wouldn't dare to strike the Emperor of Death but would point their arrows at them.

"Sorry, I was too stupid not to notice this point..."

Mo Mingzhi placed both her hands on her cheeks as she blushed in embarrassment. Just a little bit of thinking on her part would've helped him avoid this kind of situation.

"It's not your fault." Drake shook his head as he turned to look at them, "After Davis arrived, I would've casually spoken with him anyway, and people would've naturally made guesses and looked into my origins. Even if it's just a blind chance, they'll take it. That's how people who want to get back at someone are unpredictable and vengeful, but I presume that it wouldn't be bad as we think it is."

"Of course," Davis nodded, "I may be exaggerating, but since I myself have no weakness at the moment, people would go after my external weaknesses, like my wives, my family, and my friends, so yeah, you would undoubtedly be targeted first if you were to remain in the Dual Lotus Manor."

"True. I can see that happening..."

Drake calmed as he took a deep breath, "Well, this just means that it's time for me to take a vacation on Earth's sandy beaches. I presume you know the way, right?"

"I do. I'll lead you there after the competition."

"Ahaha! Perfect!"

Drake laughed loudly, looking as though he was going to enjoy with his wives, but in truth, he couldn't wait to see his family who thought he was dead, although he knew that they wouldn't be able to recognize him in this new body. However, he had the resources to extend their lives and even allow them to step into the cultivation path if they wanted.

"That's right." Drake's eyes suddenly went wide, "You owe me money now. Give it up, or I'm going to beat you up!"

Davis's lips curved into a sly grin, "You'll have it, but then, I'm going to have leave you to die here."

"Dammit! You can't blackmail me...!"

Drake looked as though he had stabbed himself in the back, "Ahh. I knew that I should've never trusted you..."

"Hehe. Too late to regret, you scumbag with brains under the loins."

"Bastard! You're the scumbag, you literal tyrant, overlord who publicly cuckolded a poor young master in front of millions of people!"

"..."

Some women were tensed at their confrontation, but Kara and Evelynn assured them with soul transmission that they were just fooling around, causing the likes of Niera and the others to somewhat relax.

"Speaking of which," Davis abruptly went solemn, "Since you came out of the mini-realm with this many resources, why weren't they confiscated? It couldn't be that you obtained a remnant tomb, right?"

"Indeed." Drake grinned, "Your lucky guess back then was on the mark as though it was fate. I truly didn't expect that I would find the site leading to the First Ancestor's remnant tomb. Once I refined it after clearing it, I've hidden it in my soul sea, so people wouldn't know even if they checked and most of the time, they only check the soul for injuries even if they did."

Davis blinked, wondering if his mouth was a curse or blessing before he spoke, "With it, you should be able to defend yourself, possibly even against the Vast Sky Emperor."

"I think so too, but at this point, I'd like to stay low, improve our physiques rather than reveal my trump card."

"A good choice indeed." Davis nodded to Drake's response as he felt that he would've taken the same action if he was in the other's shoes.

"Also," Drake grinned as he continued, "I have ultimate control over the Dual Lotus Manor's formations unless they have changed it in the current or the previous eras, which I think they did, but not to all formations."

"Wow, that's cool. As expected of the tomb of the First Ancestor, which means you're the future inheritor of the Dual Lotus Manor, effecting becoming its Young Sect Leader."

"I think that's the case, but without backing, chances are that I would be robbed clean and maimed instead." Drake chuckled at the descriptive image of his own death, "Rumors had it that the First Ancestor was a man with a Peak-Level Emperor Grade Exquisite Nine Yang Physique and capable of battling three levels higher. Someday, I hope to reach his level."

Davis nodded before he couldn't help but ask.

"Uhm... how many did he have?"

"Before he ascended, thirty-eight beauties..." Drake's eyes were full of desire, "I hope to reach that level, but I don't have enough willpower."

"Tsk... I'm facing the same problem..."

Looking at both perverts lament about not having enough women, the women all clenched their fists, looking as though they were going to throw daggers at them. However, the two perverts merely grinned at them as though they had successfully teased them.

"Are you sure your new beauties won't betray you for you to be talking about the remnant tomb this openly?"

"I guess they might if given enough incentive as our relationship isn't long and had just been a few weeks but too bad for them they already pledged their lives to me and swore loyalty through Blood Soul Contract in order to receive my favor. Besides, they probably came to know of it anyway as they would have noticed the abnormality after sleeping with me and soul-cultivating with me. But, what about you? You didn't seem to like the idea of having many women at that time? I'm sure you have many secrets yourself, but if you don't look after them properly, chances are that they will look the other way."

"Yeah, I changed, becoming corrupted with power, but I still haven't lost myself. I care for them and love them all, as equally as possible, although my first wife is still the favored empress."

"I see... just like me. Kara takes care of my lovely harem, and I'm so grateful to her than anyone for indulging my selfish requests."

"Evelynn does too. She may have a cold exterior at the moment because of so much that happened, but I assure you, her heart is still as clear as the blue sky, kind and full of warmth."

The two of them exchanged soul transmissions, boasting about the good nature of their women while being bombarded with attacks by their women as though the women also wanted to take part in their foolery.

It turned into a comedic moment before Davis, and Drake Blackburn discussed the exchange in detail.

Drake had given Mo Mingzhi plenty of yin-attributed resources at the Eighth Stage and Ninth Stage, which paved the way for Natalya to rapidly increase her cultivation. With lesha combined, she only needs to put a quarter of the effort this way, perhaps, even lesser than that.

On the other hand, there were also yang-attributed resources for him, some authentic to cultivation, which he felt like he didn't require as he couldn't have yang jeopardizing the balance between fire and lightning, and some dubious resources... for dual cultivation. Davis felt like he should spank Mingzhi's supple, peachy butt for that and thank her later.

Nevertheless, he confirmed that the cost did really come to twenty-five Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources and the extra five to be bought at a premium, which he had no problem with. However, Davis let them know about the Stargaze Pills, which Drake wanted immediately upon knowing it despite knowing the value of Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources.

A Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source's energy level could be compared to the energy of one million Peak-Level Spirit Stones. However, that was not considering the purity. If one took the value of the purity into account, the value of the Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source's value skyrockets that in the auction nowadays, one Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source sold for a hundred million or more Peak-Level Spirit Stones if it ever appeared!

That's how valuable it was!

Since Drake wanted Soul Forging Cultivation Pills for his women, he gave them the pills used to increase Elder Soul Stage and Mature Soul Stage Cultivation.

As for the Seventh Stage and Eighth Stage, Davis gave them ten Undaunted Purple Lotus Flowers, which stunned Drake and his wives as it was announced as part of the rewards for the top five.

Moreover, the Supreme Stargaze Radiance Pills that increased the prowess of Supreme Soul Stage Experts were also given to them for free since Davis had many of them with him and could make more if he so wanted within five minutes as he still had the raw ingredients with him.

As for the Stargaze King Radiance Pill and Stargaze-Risen Emperor Radiance Pill, these were two pills that could be valued at High-Level Emperor Grade and Peak-Level Emperor Grade depending on the scarcity of resources and the difficulty of making them. These two pills would cost from a million to billions of Peak-Level Spirit Stones in that range.

Considering that, it could be said that Davis owed Drake three billion Peak-Level Spirit Stones in an approximate value. Therefore, Drake didn't want the Vein Sources anymore but directly exchanged it for the almost impossible-to-obtain Stargaze Pills for himself and his wives.

However, Drake knew that the value of the exchange cost about a hundred Peak-Level Spirit Stones Vein Sources, which made it so that he now owed Davis seventy Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources.

But, Drake Blackburn suddenly took out a thick tome and gave it to Davis. When Davis checked the contents, he saw that it was the copy of the Yin-Yang Merit Sutra! However, it was not Emperor Grade but Immortal Grade!

Feeling stunned, Davis had pushed the thirty Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources to Drake, making him take it. But after that, Drake shook his head and handed a copy of the Rapturous Soul Aroma Manual at Immortal Grade, causing Davis to feel shocked and more indebted!

These two dual cultivation manuals were entirely supportive manuals, but their quality was high as their lower counterparts, allowing the users to experience more of a rapid increase in dual cultivation sessions, causing Davis to suck in a cold breath of air. Especially, the value of the Rapturous Soul Aroma Manual was immense such that even a thousand Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources wouldn't be able to match it!

It was a twist of turn of events that rocked the women's hearts, making them wonder how fast they would grow in Soul Forging Cultivation from now on one side and how they could read and learn new things from the manuals' new chapters on the other. At the same time, they were moved by their friendship that did not hold back against each other.

Now, they knew why they were like two little mortal teenagers who didn't know the word called respect and distance, cussing each other yet not taking offense even though there was a vast difference of power and status between them.

Chapter 1900 - Dining Together

After a few hours of 'cultural' exchange, Davis, Evelynn, Natalya, Mo Mingzhi, and Niera left the Dual Lotus Manor's seating area.

Again, the Dual Lotus Manor in its entirety was ignored by the Emperor of Death, but they didn't bother about it and looked towards Drake Blackburn, who became the scapegoat. Everyone started treating him with reverence and respect as though he was the eye of the sect, and it was certainly the case for the Two Sect Leaders, who also tried to placate his needs as much as possible.

Drake Blackburn suddenly noticed that he didn't have to use his own resources acquired from the remnant tomb, but the sect would provide him. However, he didn't want to use that at this moment because he would have to eventually leave. However, he could not leave just like that as it would be considered betrayal, but not so much as the Emperor of Death was literally his friend, allowing him to leave scot-free of consequences.

Nevertheless, Drake Blackburn didn't want to leave just like that and appear like an ingrate to the sect that allowed him to grow and love beauties as much as it suppressed and battered him. It was part and parcel of a competitive environment, so when he thought of leaving, the only emotion that was left in him was repayment of debt and gratitude. However, he had not brought the matter of leaving the Dual Lotus Manor into light at the moment because he felt that it was better brought up on the last day instead of the second night so that they could spend the remainder of the competition in peace.

It was still night.

However, banquets and celebrations were at an all-time high. Cultivators didn't need to sleep for a long time, and if at all they entered the resting room, it was either for seclusion or procreation, of which the latter was an all-time high at the moment because only important people would deign to enter the resting rooms created for them. As for the rest, they were all on the outside, so they couldn't do anything about it, lest they be beheaded for public indecency.

The Four Great Righteous Sects seemed to be moving to and fro the New Era Battle Arena, patrolling, but if one could see the glint in their eyes, it would seem as though they were searching for something, and they didn't miss even the slightest speck of dust that came across their eyes. However, all they found were rumors of alliances, battles, scandals, and such.

The Emperor of Death: Davis was gathered in the resting room with his bevy of beauties, sitting and dining on a long table with him and Evelynn at the center.

To the left were Natalya, Fiora, Mingzhi, Sophie, Niera, and Lea.

To the right were Isabella, Shirley, Tina, Dalila, and Zestria.

To the back, it was Nadia because her appetite was huge, and so was her plate and her array of dishes.

There were only his women and no one else. They were all partaking in the luxurious Aqua Flood Dragon Meat, which at this point, had become their favorite meat. Not only was it energizing and provided them with vitality, but it also caused their Body Tempering Cultivation to increase at different rates.

They were being steadily nourished by this draconic vitality which is good for their health, and Nadia, a magical beast herself, was digging in like a mad dog without reserve for her image.

"Everyone, don't be bothered about the seating arrangement." Davis's voice echoed with steadiness, "It merely represents your position as my wives and lovers, not the affection I show to you. I want to love you all equally, after all."

"We know. We know." Mo Mingzhi echoed with a teasing voice as her lips curved, "After all, the first thing that comes out of your mouth is: I am shameless."

"Hehehe~"

Everyone couldn't help but laugh, their melodious sounds rippling across the room. Even Lea Weiss cracked a small smile.

She was in her own resting room when she was suddenly kidnapped by a daring yet concealed Davis who brought her here. Naturally, she didn't have one iota of resistance towards him. Instead, she couldn't be anymore happier that he willfully dragged her out of that lonely seat.

Davis smiled along with them.

"Today, I wanted you all here because I rarely have time to myself, and when I have finally had time to myself, some of you are either in seclusion or taking care of things for me. That's why I gathered you all here today, wanting to see your beautiful faces together."

"...?"

The women were startled before sweetly smiling at him as though wanting to let him see their beauties. This particular scene alone left Davis feeling prideful of his harem before he turned to look at Evelynn, also looking at her side profile, her satiny white neck, and the alluring features of her face.

Both these images stitched together was a delicacy in itself, especially when they were veils all day long, but now, they were all as though stark naked in front of him, only belonging to him.

"Enough or else, you'll die of heart attack from fantasizing too much, old pervert."

"Hehehe~"

"Mingzhi, stop being so rude..."

Some couldn't help but laugh before they berated her.

"Jealous Mingzhi." Davis turned his gaze from Evelynn and grinned, "You can tease me all you want, but you'll get it ten times as payback above the bed."

Mingzhi's white neck became a shade of red as she looked away.

"Hmph! Marry me first~"

She demanded in a soft voice, causing the others to giggle at her.

"Oh? I thought you didn't care about marriage since you were going to be the sixth wife?"

"You...!"

Mo Mingzhi turned to look at Davis with gnashed teeth while Davis chuckled in amusement over getting one over Mingzhi.

"Alright, alright," Abruptly, Fiora interrupted, "Davis, you cannot bully my little sister like that."

Davis turned to look at Fiora, puzzled. She was close enough to call Mingzhi little sister now?

"What do you mean, Fiora?" He couldn't help but ask when Fiora's lips curved.

"After you marry her, let's bully her together on the bed."

"...!"

Half of the group were shocked, while Evelynn, Isabella, and Natalya didn't seem surprised about Fiora's daringness. Mingzhi herself went red as the crimson hue spread from her neck to her cheeks. She couldn't believe that Fiora was really suggesting it to him at this moment, in front of everyone.

She wasn't even trying to be covert about it!

"Haha~"

Davis couldn't help chuckle, "I certainly welcome that, but not without Mingzhi's explicit consent."

He took a moment to pan his gaze before stopping on Mingzhi, "That said, I decided my marriage with Mingzhi will be right after the competition ends, perhaps two or three days later as an adequate time to make the preparations."

Mo Mingzhi's expression was unnatural as she heard it from his mouth.

"Congratulations, Mingzhi~"

"Congratulations~"

"You're going to officially become one of us~"

Abruptly, the five wives clasped their hands towards her before the others also followed suit, causing her to become flustered as the crimson hue spread to her ears.

"You all..."

Mingzhi couldn't understand if she was embarrassed or moved. Either way, she pursed her lips and lowered her head in shyness, displaying a vastly different self than her usual outgoing and impertinent character that she made everyone perceive her to be.

"Oh my. My little sister is so cute~"

Fiora couldn't help but giggle, causing Mingzhi to shoot a nasty look at her that also appeared adorable.

"Nadia, I want you to go hunt a High-Level Emperor Beast Stage Magical Beast for Mingzhi and my marriage."

Davis's sudden voice interrupted the murmurs amongst the harem, "However, make sure that it is lonely, terrorizing, and does not have anyone like the Aqua Flood Dragon. If you cannot find a magical beast like that, just come back. No need to go provoke an entire clan for it."

"I understand, master."

Nadia munched on the succulent pieces of meat as she nodded her head, her eyes gleaming black for more meat.

"lesha."

Davis turned to look at Natalya as he called out.

Dalila was wondering why Davis mistakenly called Natalya using lesha when suddenly an icy fog appeared behind Natalya before it manifested into an icy beauty with two crowns on her head, causing Dalila's eyes to deeply narrow.

A spirit?

lesha panned her gaze and saw the beautiful women gathered before she turned to look at Davis, who gestured at a table while Natalya moved her lips.

"Don't be shy. Partake in our small banquet, lesha. You're one of us now."

The shy lesha had her fingers touching and tottering sweetly before she softly spoke.

"Okay~"

When she turned around to move to sit beside Lea at almost the end despite not knowing her, the sound of thunder abruptly echoed inside the room, causing the hearts of many to shake as they saw a black bolt of crackling lightning transforming into an alluring, curvy, purple-skinned spirit with scintillating white hair.

Her bluish-black eyes crackled with a flash of strange lightning as she stared at lesha.

"Master~"

Eldia's voice echoed strangely, as though she was growling.

Davis could only purse his lips as he saw Eldia and lesha come into a confrontation and saw the latter turn around and lock gazes with the former. Instantly, a solemn and heavy atmosphere began to proliferate, making his women witness the spectacle either with wide eyes or wide mouths as a piece of meat still hung in front of them.