

EMPEROR 1971

Chapter 1971: Violent Uproar

"Schleya!"

Mingzhi felt her heart skip a beat before she screamed. However, the light sword cleanly stabbed through Schleya's chest and pierced out of her back, her black robe becoming drenched with her blood.

Adlet Rayburn appeared dumbfounded before he turned to look towards them, spotting his two wives shiver.

The two women felt despair. However, they didn't blame their husband, closing their eyes as they shed tears because they were determined to follow him everywhere, even in the afterlife.

Due to having his parents killed by the wicked path, Adlet Rayburn would never let go of a wicked path person alive if he met one. They felt that they should've informed this matter to the Emperor of Death beforehand, but if used now, it would merely be an excuse. They could only accept whatever punishments that came their way or face death together.

Boom!~

Abruptly, Schleya exploded into a blood mist, causing Adlet Rayburn to become horrified as he swiveled his head at her.

Bloody mist covered the area, its aura full of her blood.

The Young Blood Demoness committed suicide by detonating her middle dantian!?

Not only him but the people became stupefied as they witnessed this scene. She hated losing so much that she killed herself? Or was this her valiance? Since she lost, she chose to kill herself due to the muttering how she wanted to battle to the death every time she became relevant.

Suddenly, they couldn't help but feel that this wicked path woman was honorable.

Abruptly, Davis raised his hand, pointing at Adlet Rayburn.

That movement didn't escape the gazes of the Mandate Emperor or Adlet Rayburn, causing their scalps to turn numb.

Adlet Rayburn's hair raised as he particularly felt immense pressure, feeling that he was going to be locked down in place and killed. However...

"Your eminence, please have mercy!"

Abruptly, the two women, one red-haired and the other blue-haired screamed as they cupped their hands towards Davis, but he didn't look at them. They moved their bodies, looking like they were about to kneel when a thunderous voice echoed.

"Risa! Marie! Don't kneel! I, Adlet Rayburn, will face whoever wants to kill me with dignity!"

Adlet Rayburn flew into the skies, thousands of skylarks appearing as they transformed into bright silvery swords, each one of them having two hundred percent of the power he used against Schleya.

People instantly determined his prowess to be at Peak-Level Law Rune Stage, almost equivalent to the Yin Lotus Fairy.

That terrifying prowess instantly left people sucking in a cold breath of air.

Clearly, Adlet Rayburn held back a lot!

"I have not killed your Young Blood Demoness, and I cannot be responsible if she killed herself for her own selfish reasons. However, I know you won't let me go because wasn't that what you're planning?"

Adlet Rayburn's gaze was icy and enraged while his words shocked the people.

The Emperor of Death was after Adlet Rayburn's treasures? Did he use the Young Blood Demoness as a sacrifice for it?

Davis's lips almost cracked a smile as he saw this scene. He merely pointed his finger in a different direction, pointing at a particular place in the battle stage.

Everyone's gaze fell on the direction that the Emperor of Death pointed, and to their shock, they found Schleya silently meditating as she sat in a lotus position, an illusive crimson mist surrounding her.

Adlet Rayburn blinked thrice, unable to believe this scene before his pupils dilated.

"Escape Arts!"

Instantly, it dawned on them all.

Schleya used an escape technique to put the sand into their eyes, essentially fooling them. Adlet Rayburn was particularly shaken.

He had seen wicked path people using escape arts before, but this was his first time witnessing an escape art that completely fooled his senses. Moreover, since he stabbed her dantian and she exploded into a blood mist, it was common for him to think that she detonated herself.

He likely would've allowed her to get away if this was a battlefield as he couldn't sense her escaping.

Not only him, almost everyone believed that Schleya was dead. Even Davis did for a moment before he recalled that Schleya made a sneaky maneuver using one of her blades to stab the surface when the battle began.

Likely, she had planted her blood essence there, which would allow her to escape when she uses her Escape Art, meaning that she knew the outcome and planned a way out. He found this to be mysterious but then understood that it was some kind of substitution art used through the Blood Pledge's strange techniques.

He could also tell that Schleya didn't reform her body but had transported herself to the blood essence's location but to think that this manual would also contain the profundities of space to be able to allow her to teleport to her blood essence.

No wonder the Blood Dust Emperor of yonder had the skies of the Blood Pledge Villa Territory painted in his blood dust energy even after he had gone.

Davis longed for this kind of law comprehension, but he suddenly shook his head.

'No... not teleportation. Schleya's speed while escaping was so fast that she traveled while attaching herself to the faint layer of empty space and visible space...'

At that moment of understanding, Davis felt his Space Law comprehension increase, allowing him to comprehend a minor resonance.

The Mandate Emperor had also noticed Schleya's sneaky maneuver long back as he possessed a vast experience battling the wicked path. Otherwise, he would've long made a move. It was just the Emperor of Death pointing at Adlet Rayburn that startled him, thinking that Davis didn't sense Schleya using her escape arts, but it seemed like he was just teasing Adlet Rayburn.

'Youths...' The Mandate Emperor could only shake his head.

While the New Era Battle Arena was completely silent, Schleya stood up after a few seconds, cupped her hands towards Adlet Rayburn, and slightly bowed her head.

"I admit defeat."

After that, she stored her crimson blades that had returned and flew towards the Alstreim Family's seating area before stopping as her lips moved.

"Remove the barrier."

"Ah, yes!"

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse instantly deactivated the barrier, allowing her to leave. Meanwhile, Adlet Rayburn stood there in mid-air, appearing to be dumbstruck with his mouth agape, his eyes vacant.

"The winner of this battle, Adlet Rayburn."

The former's voice woke him out of his reverie before his face quickly became crimson.

He had uttered such hot and courageous words, even vaguely mentioning that the Emperor of Death was after his treasures, but the situation turned out to be like this!?

Why did he feel like he was conned by both Schleya and the Emperor of Death?

Although he won, he hung his head and returned. However, he didn't move towards his women but appeared before Davis.

"Sigh, I apologize. I didn't mean to doubt-"

"We are not friends to be so trusting." Davis cut him off, "I saw how you held back, so it's natural that I won't say anything. Even if you crippled her, I wouldn't do anything. After all, I only asked you to keep her life afloat."

Adlet Rayburn looked dumbfounded, and suddenly, he felt that he was petty and too distrusting, not to mention overcautious. Simultaneously, he couldn't help but feel respect for the Emperor of Death as earlier; he was looking down on him for being overbearing.

Davis didn't blame Adlet Rayburn. He was already battling with a huge handicap. The problem was Schleya being rampant and obstinate enough to be needlessly courting death. This same situation was when Niera fought Kara Moonridge, but fortunately, they only injured each other.

Davis looked towards Mingzhi, who then nodded and headed towards the black-robed woman who tried to get into a lonely corner again. She appeared in front of her, stopping her.

"Schleya, do you have any shame? You tried to challenge an opponent whose prowess is one level higher than you to a battle of life and death? You would be truly courting death if this weren't a competition."

"I know." Schleya nodded with a straight face, "If I only challenged those who are weaker or equal to me, I would be a coward. Besides, if I fought an opponent who's slightly powerful than me, I know I'm going to win."

A vein almost popped on Mo Mingzhi's forehead as she looked at Schleya's extreme confidence.

"Hmph! You're grounded for the trouble you caused for Davis. You won't be able to escape from punishment this time. Otherwise--"

"Fine." Schleya lowered her head.

Mo Mingzhi blinked while Davis reacted the same.

Did Schleya hit her head somewhere?

Suddenly, Mo Mingzhi's face became pale as she vaguely understood at this moment. She glared at Davis before claspng Schleya's wrist, taking her away.

Meanwhile, Davis could only act innocent like he didn't know what was happening, continuing to talk with Adlet Rayburn.

Mo Mingzhi took Schleya to a resting room. They had just entered the hall when Schleya severely shuddered and collapsed.

"Schleya!"

Mingzhi hurriedly caught Schleya and saw that her face was pale, her breathing rapid while her body became colder.

"You idiot! I knew you used a lot of blood essence to use that escape technique!"

Mingzhi cursed as she took her to the resting room, placing her on a wide and comfortable bed. On the way, she condemned Schleya again for acting tough before she then took out a messaging talisman when Schleya grabbed her wrist.

"Don't... this is the consequences of my... own actions..."

Mingzhi's face was fuming, but she slightly calmed, "How much blood essence did you lose?"

"..."

"How much?"

"Twenty percent..."

"You absolute idiot! That's enough to send a person to the shadow realm for a while...! It might even affect your cultivation!"

Mingzhi's anger flared again. In her eyes, even after she went to such lengths, this fool still held onto some of her old beliefs, which were redundant. As if continually facing opponents of a higher level would help anyone. After all, when faced with absolute power or enough power, the end result of death won't change.

A life and death battle could only be won if one's opponent was slightly higher or within one's limits. If they could win easily, then that would mean it's not a life and death battle for the winning party.

Moreover, blood essence couldn't be spent like that. It was more appropriate to burn five to ten percent of blood essence when siphoning them from the heart. To be using twenty percent of blood essence in a single move would be more than exhausting, but even then, Schleya kept her awake through her tenacious will and fought against someone of a higher level.

That alone told Mingzhi how Schleya was prepared to be killed in this battle, and to prepare for that, she had made an escape plan at the very beginning.

Further sacrifice after thirty percent would require burning the blood essence situated in the bone marrow, and that's going to severely impact one's vitality enough to cause death. After all, burning of blood essence means burning of lifespan and potential.

At fifty percent, the chances of death increase drastically, and at seventy percent, it is almost a given. However, people would instantly faint after using fifty percent of their blood essence and wander the realm of near death, so the chances that they could spend seventy percent was a feat in itself, and if they lived to tell the tale, their will could be said to be monstrous.

Fortunately, Schleya didn't go to such lengths.

Twenty percent was still fine, but it should not have been burned in a single move.

"I'm thankful..."

Abruptly, a slightly warm hand touched Mingzhi's cheek, causing her anger to suddenly die as she looked at Schleya.

"... that I'm here. When the time comes, I'm willing to be used by you two... and for that, I need to be your strongest merciless blade..."

Schleya smiled, taking one last yet faint breath before she fell into slumber. She ended up fainting from exhaustion.

Mingzhi possessed an icy expression on her face, having an urge to slap the woman in her care, but tears were already welling up within her limpid eyes.

"Does your head only has those kinds of thoughts; to use and to be used...?"

She bit her lips as she questioned, but Schleya was already deeply asleep.

Chapter 1972: Restorative Grasp

Once Mingzhi and Schleya left, Davis smirked at Adlet Rayburn.

"So you are finally willing to talk to me?"

Adlet Rayburn could only wryly smile.

How could he talk to a person powerful than him, or rather, he didn't even know if he was being held under the threat of a knife to his throat. Only after this complex situation came to an end did he understand that the other party did not want to steal his treasures but form an acquaintance which every genius would at least try.

Obviously, the Emperor of Death didn't seem to be the loner type with so many people around him.

Thinking like this, Adlet Rayburn didn't want to beat around the bush either.

"I'll be straightforward. Part of the reason why I accepted your invitation is that I want Soul Palace's light attributed techniques and manuals."

Davis shook his head.

"Then you can leave. I only needed you to represent the Alstreim Family anyway, and it's going to end."

The Soul Palace possessed not only Soul Forging Cultivation Manuals but also Essence Gathering Cultivation and Body Tempering Cultivation Manuals and Techniques. However, because the disciples and elders themselves disdained to use these, thinking that the soul would let them reign supreme as it did so many years, they did not use them much.

It could be said that they were fools to underestimate Essence Gathering Cultivation and Body Tempering Cultivation, but it could also be said that they were fanatics of Soul Forging Cultivation.

Adlet Rayburn appeared a bit disappointed before he asked.

"What can I do to acquire them?"

"Then work. Work for me."

'So it comes down to that...'

Adlet Rayburn sighed and suddenly understood that Davis wanted him as a subordinate, but he wasn't willing. After all, they were geniuses of a calamitous era. Even if someone's stronger than them, it was still beneath them to come under that someone. He was about to decline when he heard Davis speak again.

"Or, bring out something worthy of those techniques and manuals. We can trade."

'Tell that first...!'

Adlet Rayburn inwardly shouted but smiled outwardly, "In that case, I might be able to bring out something. However, let's exchange after the competition."

"Alright."

Davis's eyes appeared amused, knowing that Adlet Rayburn was exploring his options with the other powers. His best bet was the Astral Light Sect. Even now, he could feel the Starnova Emperor eyeing Adlet Rayburn, although it was unsure if he desired the latter's treasures or wanted to take him as a disciple.

And as expected, Adlet Rayburn cupped his hands towards him and slightly bowed in respect before leaving towards the Astral Light Sect with his two wives.

Davis turned around and sent a soul transmission to Evelyann.

"If anything comes up, contact me. I'll go heal that stubborn woman since she's bound to have used up her blood essence to use that escape technique."

Evelyann lightly nodded as she watched him leave. The next lot was picked up, but fortunately, it was not Davis or Natalya. It wasn't Ellia either, so there was nothing to disturb him for. It was a battle between the weakest of the third round.

It could be said that the winner of this match could be said to be lucky as the chances that they would rank within the top eight would go up.

Davis reached the resting hall tracing Schleya's weak blood energy undulations. He opened the door and looked at Mingzhi seated beside Schleya, who seemed asleep, her breathing soft. He approached them before placing a hand on Mingzhi's shoulder.

"How is she?"

"She just fainted, having spent about twenty percent of her blood essence."

Davis nodded. Understanding that the Sultry Midnight Tree Fruit Pills would no longer be useful to her in replenishing her blood essence, Davis directly placed a hand above her heart. Those magnificent peaks of hers were quite certainly attractive, but at this moment, his palm remained in the air as pure white energy descended onto her.

It penetrated her robe and her pores, directly entering her heart. The blood essence deficiency suddenly underwent a change as those pure white energy started increasing her blood. The blood then kept compressing until drops of blood essence formed and mixed with her blood flow, diluting and strengthening her blood.

When Schleya required, she would once again be able to condense her blood essence from the heart and use it.

Like this, the percentage of blood she used kept replenishing while her pale cheeks turned rosy, her breathing also becoming normal.

Mingzhi watched Davis treat her with mesmerizing eyes. She didn't know much about it, but it appeared divine and heavenly, almost making her perceive him as a god if she didn't know of him beforehand. However, within her eyes lurked a complex gaze.

She abruptly reached out her hand and pressed down on Davis's palm.

Davis, who was concentrating on healing Schleya and understanding the workings of this life energy more, suddenly felt a soft sensation on both sides of his palm. His eyes shot wide open, glancing at his hand palm clench a soft and plump mound while forced by a soft hand.

"You-"

"Shh~ She might wake up."

Davis almost flared but was suddenly interrupted by Mingzhi placing another hand on her lips.

"Touching the area that needed to be treated would result in greater efficiency."

When Davis heard Mingzhi's soul transmission, he almost coughed out blood because her words were certainly true, but clearly, her intent was not. However, he didn't need to touch Schleya as his prowess was already high enough to treat her.

He mused Schleya's blood essence had already been replenished by eighty-six percent, but not even one percent of his soul force was used. He could afford the rate of efficiency to be low.

"Mingzhi, are you trying to con me? You're the one who said that I should have no intentions towards Schleya."

'I changed my mind.'

Mingzhi smiled, but she didn't say anything.

Davis stared at her but didn't take his hand off as another disturbance might wake Schleya off. However, he wasn't willing to let this matter go.

His palm that unleashed the pure white energy moved upwards, encasing Mingzhi's hand.

Mingzhi's expression suddenly fell. It then turned pleasant, causing her to bite her lips, looking at her fingers twitch as she held his hand.

"Scoundrel. What are you doing?"

"What else? Don't you know that hand-holding is one of the acts belonging to the highest order of lewdness?"

Davis teasingly sneered as he replied to her soul transmission. Having increased her sensitivity and pleasure through the grayish-white energy, he made her feel good, trying to get back at her.

'Bastard... I'm doing this for you...'

However, Mingzhi wasn't willing to back down either. But she didn't take her hand away.

She raised her other hand and put her index finger between her lips. Her expression became seductive, her eyes becoming teary while her brows lightly furrowed. A few seconds later, she started breathing heavily, and it was unknown if she was doing it on purpose or because she was feeling too good from the hand-holding already.

Looking at Mingzhi's bosoms heave, Davis's throat became dry, not to mention that he was grabbing one already, seemingly on the verge of squishing it from Mingzhi's seductive motions. His eyes almost became bloodshot from holding back before he gently sighed.

"You win..."

He stopped pleasuring Mingzhi's hand, causing her to break out with a bright smile, allowing him to understand that she was mostly doing it on purpose.

"But don't forget you almost had a threesome with Schleya and me."

However, his reminder froze her smile.

Davis was pleasuring her while they were connected to Schleya's bosom.. Somehow, she didn't doubt the words he said, her expression becoming crimson.

Chapter 1973: What Do You Want?

Davis looked at Mingzhi's dumbfounded expression, possessing an evil expression on his face while thinking to himself that he was more shameless and would play her to admitting defeat if she wanted to play. However, he couldn't understand why she would want to play a prank on him like this.

Even if she wants to tease him, it shouldn't be at the expense of Schleya's chastity, right? Unlike most wicked path women he had seen, he knew that this woman cared about her chastity as she cried when he was about to scare her the day they met.

If Schleya were to suddenly wake up and see this scene, she might take out of those two crimson blades and make his hand into mincemeat even if she felt gratitude towards him.

Gratitude and romantic attraction were different after all. Besides, he had already closed himself as the issue of warning from his council of harem had been announced. His focus was only on getting back Ellia at the moment, while he could only feel guilty to be grabbing Schleya's bosom like this, but what's done was done.

He inwardly swore to get back at Mingzhi for this on another day and treat Schleya better.

In five minutes from the start of the treatment, Davis healed her blood essence to ninety-eight percent. To condense more blood essence was possible, but it would take him more soul force and time. However, with the battle with Myria at hand, he didn't dare to be careless.

Davis and Mingzhi looked at each other before they nodded simultaneously.

Whoosh~

Their hands got off from Schleya's bosom when her eyes suddenly shot wide open.

Schleya's crimson eyes quickly caught Mingzhi and Davis by her side, both of them looking at her with a dubious smile, but she wasn't aware enough to capture that and sat up. She felt a strange feeling in her heart but also on her bosom that she couldn't explain somehow.

But then, her expression quickly changed.

"My blood essence..."

Schleya touched her bosom, feeling her heart beat normally. However, by practicing Blood Laws, she could almost accurately tell how much she lost and how much she had to regain. She possessed a few clues as to how to restore her blood essence, but now, she was shocked to find that her blood essence had already been restored for the most part.

She found it inconceivable before she almost jumped from being startled.

"How many days have passed? Is it months?"

Was she taken care of so much time while she was asleep?

But she thought about something else. How many resources or what kind of resource had they fed to her for her blood essence to recover this much?

"Relax, a little over five minutes has passed." Mingzhi was completely satisfied by her reaction.

"What...?"

Schleya couldn't understand before she saw that her essence energy had not been regained much. If so much time had passed, then her body should automatically absorb the heaven and earth energy through the pores and breathing. If it didn't, then that meant that much time had not passed.

"How... did I-"

Schleya slightly glanced towards Davis before she asked Mingzhi, only for her to interrupt again.

"Of course, Davis healed you back to health, restoring your blood essence using his own secret arts. Now, don't be so sentimental because you're going to be grounded for your impertinence for the next few months, perhaps even a year, until you break through to the Law Rune Stage. Do you understand?"

Mingzhi was like an elder sister berating a younger sister. Schleya could only nod, but she had her head lowered, her expression not that much visible.

Schleya's level of control over her body had reached a tremendous level due to her comprehension of Blood Laws, allowing her to possess greater sensitivity. Even if someone touched her, that lingering feeling would remain on her skin until she consciously made it go away. That's why she could also make pain disappear as she would simply numb the location of the injury.

However, that wasn't the point. She could feel the lingering feeling of a palm remaining on her bosom.

Since Davis was the one who treated her, it became clear that he had been touching her like that to heal her... and just imagining that completely made her expression become crimson.

"Thank you~"

She didn't raise her head but simply uttered with a soft voice.

Mingzhi and Davis naturally assumed that she was even more grateful but didn't know that she had found out about their little hands, although she only managed to find Davis's hand. As for how he healed her, she was naturally curious of the specifics but didn't ask, nor was she in the state of mind to ask.

"Well, don't worry. Since I said that I would protect you, it includes your health as well."

Davis nodded before he spoke to Mingzhi, "Take care of your friend. I'm leaving."

He walked away and left the room.

Schleya then moved as if to want to leave as well, but Mingzhi captured her shoulders and pushed her.

"You might've been healed, but you should still take some rest."

Considering that Mingzhi was weaker, Schleya would've been able to push her away with ease, but she didn't resist, causing her to lie down on the bed.

Everything became silent.

Only the sound of their soft breathing was relevant. At this point, Schleya had calmed.

"You really couldn't stop yourself from falling for him, huh?"

"...!?"

The calm quickly broke as her heart began to rapidly beat as she turned to look at Mingzhi, who lay down beside her.

"Wha- What do you mean?"

Schleya's expression changed as it became icy, her crimson eyes becoming filled with killing intent. But despite being showered in that gaze, Mingzhi shot a taunting smile.

"You become meek whenever he speaks. It could be out of respect, but I'm not willing to believe that the Young Blood Demoness will behave meekly to someone she merely respects."

"You're out of your mind." Schleya uttered before turning her head away.

"I might be." Mingzhi nodded, "However, I also know you cannot lie. Perhaps, you disdain to lie, or you're idiotically honest-"

"What...!?"

"I mean... if you have not fallen for him, say that you have not. Why are you attacking me?"

Schleya appeared a bit shaken, but she kept her mouth shut. However, Mingzhi was not willing to stop.

"Schleya, tell me more about your twin sister."

"I refuse."

"Fine, fine. I'll go see what kind of opinion Davis has about this matter."

Mingzhi turned around, wanting to get out of the bed, when she was suddenly mounted, a crimson blade pointing at her throat.

Schleya's hand was trembling as she locked down Mingzhi underneath her. However, Mingzhi didn't seem to give a damn as she smiled brightly.

"Go ahead, swing that blade. So much for the strongest merciless blade that bared its fangs against its own benefactor...."

"You...!"

Schleya became shocked. She vaguely seemed to remember telling something like that before she went into slumber. It was like she uttered in a drunk state, but once she remembered, not only did her pale cheeks become crimson, her bosoms were also heaving like anything from the embarrassment.

"Woah, your hand is trembling like crazy. If you accidentally killed me, Davis would hate you and-"

Schleya abruptly took her crimson blade into her spatial ring and backed off. However, Mingzhi's mouth went agape as she looked at Schleya kneeling and looked aggrieved for the first time in her life.

"What do you want?"

Schleya pleaded as though she would do anything in her power to make Mingzhi from rambling about this to Davis.

"Schleya, when we were roaming the Blood Pledge Villa Territory, you, a blood fanatic, said that blood makes people related, but loyalty is what truly makes a family. I'm starting to see what kind of person you really are... and even as a woman, it makes me really want to protect you."

Mingzhi deeply smiled. However, that smile appeared evil to the trembling Schleya.

Outside, Davis arrived to see a battle ends before the next lot was taken. He was on time but still felt a bit horny from holding that plump, big-

Davis instantly shook his head, removing those thoughts with his will.

Suddenly, he became surprised as the lot number was announced. It belonged to Rayn Shard, the top genius from the Shard Family.

Davis waited for him to see whom he would choose and wished that he would be challenged. Even if it were not him, he could challenge Natalya. He wished that he could use Misdirection in order to make him choose him or Natalya, but the range was too far.

Rayn Shard directly flew towards the battle stage before he cupped his hands towards the Mystic Ice Sect.

"Emperor Sword Sect's Rayn Shard challenges Fairy Myria for a fair battle."

Millions of people became shocked but quickly became excited to see one of the speculated top three be challenged.

'Right, Myria almost obliterated those disciples of Emperor Sword Sect and Jade Lotus Valley in the Seventh Stage Segment...'

However, Davis instantly thought it was for revenge.

Chapter 1974: A Technique For A Technique

Ellia closely looked at Rayn Shard, unable to believe that he would actually challenge her after she had already displayed her prowess. To her knowledge, Rayn Shard had condensed a perfect Vast Sea, and although Sword Laws's destructive prowess was terrifying, it still did not allow him to remain challenging in front of his counterpart, Ivy Aries, much less her.

What was he relying on to challenge her? Or was it pure stupidity?

As the question remained in her mind, she took a step forward in the air and flew towards the battle stage. She didn't speak, but her actions told everyone that she accepted his challenge.

Rayn Shard had a golden-colored sword strapped to his back.

That sword was at Mid-Level Emperor Grade but allowed him to reign supreme over many young geniuses at a similar level. He only needed one swing of his sword to decimate them. All of his opponents crossed through the realm of life and death while battling him because one fatal mistake would've caused them to become severed into two.

Fortunately, Rayn Shard displayed immense control over his sword arts, allowing his opponents to receive a minimal injury. His display earned the people's approval, unlike Schleya, who went left and right, cutting down limbs like cabbages.

Rayn Shard stood on the flat surface with his hands folded, radiating a heroic aura as his black hair swayed in the wind. He wore a specialized gold-black robe, and his face looked suave and handsome, possessing a fatal attraction to many women.

His eyes were focused on Myria's figure, possessing a certain amount of desire and lust before it disappeared.

"Let the battle begin!"

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse's voice echoed. However, Rayn Shard didn't move but opened his mouth.

"Fairy Myria, thank you for accepting the challenge. I know you probably look down on me but do you dare accept a bet?"

Ellia raised her brows, "What kind?"

"Do you dare accept a bet or not?"

"Nope~" Ellia appeared lazy as she hung her shoulder and yawned.

"You-"

Rayn Shard couldn't believe that this was the mannerism of a high-above swan. He found it hard to believe such a strong and elegant woman who sneakily slapped the Vast Sky Emperor out of aversion would act unrefined at this moment.

He imagined that she was doing this on purpose to put him off, but he had seen many women and wasn't easily thwarted.

"Don't worry. I'm not going to ask your hand in marriage or anything of that sort. I just want to discuss and learn about the technique you used to revive that armament spirit previously. If I win, do you dare to bet that you will teach it to me without reserve?"

Ellia stopped acting for a moment, looking at him with narrowed eyes, thinking, who was this guy to behave this impudent in front of her? An angered smile appeared on her face.

"Sure, but what if I win?"

A leer almost appeared on Rayn Shard's expression, but he hid it well.

"Then I agree to become your subordinate for ten years."

"Heh."

"Thirty years then..."

"Forgot about betting yourself. You're not even worthy. Which woman would want to see your toad-like face for ten years, much less thirty?"

"To- Toad-like?"

Rayn Shard's eyes bulged. He had yet to meet a woman who had described his handsome face as such that he couldn't help but wonder if she liked ugly men. After all, she slapped the handsome Vast Sky Emperor as well. However, he forcefully suppressed his swelling anger and spoke.

"Fairy Myria, provoking me using these types of words isn't good for your character nor temperament. Just tell me what you want, and I'll consider it with my utmost sincerity."

Ellia's lips curled behind her veil, feeling like wanting to kill this hypocrite. How could his leering gaze escape her senses even if it was for less than a second?

"A technique for a technique." She uttered, causing Rayn Shard to lift his chin.

"Oh, in that case-"

"Give me your entire Emperor Sword Sect's manuals and techniques."

"What!?"

Rayn Shard almost jumped. One technique for an entire inheritance of a sect? What kind of bet was this?

"Heh!" Ellia sneered, "You think that one of your measly techniques is enough to match the technique I used? Even if you sold your entire sect, you still wouldn't be able to match it. You should be thankful that I'm only willing to take your manuals and techniques. Consider it your honor to receive my magnanimity."

Rayn Shard's brows twitched. He could not tell if she was lying, telling the truth, or making fun of him.

Many people couldn't help but laugh as they witnessed this scene. They also couldn't tell if Myria was kidding or not, but the worth of that technique was surely higher than they could imagine since it could effectively revive armament spirits.

To the Emperor Sword Sect, this technique was of utmost importance because they treated their swords as if they were their own sons, grooming them to become sharp and powerful. The spirit of their swords was also like life partners or sworn brothers. To the fanatics of Sword Laws, if their sword ended up breaking, it might even affect their hearts. In simplistic terms, they did not view their swords as mere tools.

So when it's time to abandon them because they could no longer keep up, some sword experts naturally start to decline. However, with this technique, if they can transfer the armament spirit of their sword into another new and powerful sword, then they could soar into the heavens.

It held immense value to them.

Meanwhile, Davis was laughing.

Looking at Ellia's condescending talk, Davis felt that it was funny. He was sure that it was Ellia because Myria possessed an untouchable air and an innate air of arrogance around her, unlike Ellia, whose mannerisms were forced as though she was either copying him or Myria. This is why he could tell for the Vast Sky Emperor to near Myria and stand only a meter apart was courting death that she slapped him away.

However, for Ellia to ask for those manuals and techniques, was she curious of Sword Laws, or was she doing it for him?

Davis shook his head. Why would Ellia do it for him? She shouldn't know Tanya Frostblight was his woman. Besides, even if Ellia wanted to, would Myria let her?

While he was thinking, he noticed Rayn Shard talk to his sect leader and Ancestor using soul transmission. Ellia had also noticed, but she didn't interfere.

After some time, Rayn Shard nodded his head.

"Fine, we'll sign a Blood Soul Contract."

"No need. I'm not a person who will renege on her words. If at all you want to sign the Blood Soul Contract, be my guest because I also know how to break it without even trying. Only you'll be caught in it like a rat and forced to eat your own droppings."

Ellia's arrogant words fell, but they created waves among the people.

Somehow, they didn't feel like doubting Myria's words at all because her mysteriousness was as equal as the Emperor of Death. However, they were shocked at the Emperor Sword Sect's decision to bet their entire sect's inheritance to Myria.

Were they really that sure that Rayn Shard could win this battle? If not, aren't they automatically handing over their inheritance to her? Or was that armament spirit revival technique possessed that kind of worth to throw caution to the wind?

They were shaken.

Originally, they thought that this battle might quickly end, but it seemed like Rayn Shard remained confident. Is he hiding his sea just like Ivy Aries did till she met Yin Lotus Fairy?

Rayn Shard trembled on hearing Myria's comparison. Like a rat forced to eat its own droppings? She mean his shit?

"Fine, since you're intent on insulting me, I won't give you any respect as well. Prepare to defend against my full onslaught because I won't be holding back."

Rayn Shard raised his hand to grab his golden sword, but instead of grasping its hilt, a common iron sword appeared in his hand as he slashed.

A terrifying diagonal crescent wave emerged as it struck towards Ellia, heading towards her with a tremendous speed that its space cracked in its wake.

It slashed past Ellia, causing her white hair to sway heavily. As for the slash, it missed her by a slight margin, the spatial crack beside her trying to suck her into its world but became quickly stitched back.

Everyone's eyes were wide with shock when one of them abruptly noticed the ancient aura from the ordinary iron sword.

"That... that's the Soaring Emperor Sword! The Legacy Artifact of the Emperor Sword Sect!"

Chapter 1975: The Soaring Emperor Sword

Hearing the dumbfounded exclamation, many people felt like an explosion went off in their heads.

The Soaring Emperor Sword...?

Wasn't that the most powerful sword ever said to be present?

"Wait, the Legacy Artifact of the Emperor Sword Sect? If that's the case, shouldn't he be disqualified for using it?"

But suddenly, someone couldn't help but interject.

This point instantly caused an uproar. However, the first voice that sounded rough resounded again.

"Idiot. What do you know? I read that the Soaring Emperor Sword can adjust its level to the cultivation base of the user since it was made up of Sheranium Ore. It's an Emperor Grade Attributeless Ore of yonder that, when refined into its purest essence, can alternate between the Low-Level and Peak-Level, allowing the sword to wield to achieve perfect compatibility with its user who reached the Eighth Stage and Ninth Stage. I only know of this matter because I'm a blacksmith, and I've researched it before. Even if you search the entire world we live in, including mini-realms, you won't find such an ore anymore."

Only then did people realize that it was a top disciple from the Sundering Hammer Sect who spoke, and considering that they were considered the greatest forging sect, people didn't doubt their words. However, the Sundering Hammer Sect was hidden in their own mini-world like the Forsaken Phoenix Realm under the protection of the Heaven Mandate Temple in its Territory, so only a few even know about their existence and their true strength.

The only time they appeared outside was to sell their items, buy resources, or recruit disciples.

However, their existence came to be known widely as this top disciple had entered the second round of the Eighth Stage Segment but failed to gain victory.

Nonetheless, they could understand that top disciple's words.

Because higher grade weapons were too powerful to control, their energy to power ratio was very less, but with the Soaring Emperor Sword, it was able to miraculously achieve a ninety-nine percent ratio, better than most armaments that were meant to be equal. It allowed the user to unleash their fullest offensive prowess possible.

If Schleya was here, even she would be shocked because her energy efficiency rate only reached ninety-seven percent when using Crescentblood whom she shared a close connection. The rest of the energy used could only scatter as it was launched from the weapon.

The Mandate Emperor and the other two Emperors possessed a solemn gleam in their eyes.

Just now, they had sensed Rayn Shard's attack had almost reached a level above Peak-Level Ninth Stage. Other people may not sense it due to the interference of the long spatial crack, but they were able to sense it.

Their legacy artifacts were capable of increasing their battle prowess by one level even when they were a level above Peak-Level Ninth Stage, but the legacy artifact of the Emperor Sword Sect was said to be capable of crossing two levels, almost, so this increase in prowess made sense.

Moreover, it was said that the Soaring Emperor Sword was said to have accepted a master two century millenniums ago. At that time, the Emperor Sword Sect held their heads high and almost walked above all. Their Sect Master who controlled the Soaring Emperor Sword almost possessed a power surmounting that of three levels higher than Peak-Level Ninth Stage. However, their ancestors were also powerful in that time, able to cross two levels to fight.

Thinking now, it was a sad state of affairs to run out of resources their ancestors enjoyed and tried to preserve to the best of their ability, but in front of time, everything was meaningless.

Nonetheless, since the Soaring Emperor Sword finally chose its new successor, it was bound to cause waves in this New Era Battle Arena.

Indeed, many people were absolutely floored.

They felt that this is the prelude to the revival of the Emperor Sword Sect!

Rayn Shard heard the commotion and his eyes gleamed ever so lightly, seeming to take pride in it.

"I said I won't be holding back, but it looks like the chivalrous person in me still wants to give you a second chance. Will you take back the words you said?" He smirked at Fairy Myria.

Ellia blinked. Her eyes were on the ancient sword called the Soaring Emperor Sword before her gaze fell on him.

How could it be so possible to be this hypocritical?

She was just about to reply when a familiar voice echoed.

"Ellia, kill or cripple him for me. Don't worry. I'll bear all the consequences."

Ellia went stiff as she heard Davis's soul transmission.

In her soul sea, she could feel Myria frowning, but surprisingly, she didn't say anything even after a few seconds had passed. Perhaps, Myria also wished to kill this idiotic Rayn Shard?

Nonetheless, thinking this was her chance, Ellia simply nodded her head.

Watching Ellia nod, Davis's heart was shaken.

He thought Myria would interfere but to think that Ellia would not even ask why...

'She's truly my Ellia...' It made his heart experience warmth. She didn't forget him, and her words to him that she was fine became more acceptable.

However, once he thought that it could be another ploy of Myria, he couldn't but fall sullen. Perhaps, this vague unease could never disappear without him confronting her in a battle and checking her soul sea.

"So you agree?"

Looking at Fairy Myria nod, Rayn Shard chuckled, but it wasn't surprising considering her life was in his hands. The shuddering fairies of the Mystic Ice Sect were more than enough assurance for him to know that he had Fairy Myria under his grasp.

With her surrender, not only would he be able to learn her secret technique but also gain the secrets she stole from the Emperor of Death as long as he could capture her heart. In that matter, he worried less because he didn't doubt his suave looks.

Myria heavily nodded this time, causing Rayn Shard to open his mouth, "Very well. Then you can sur-"

"I agree to retract those words because you're even more of a pungent person than I thought. Perhaps, I should add more salt to the wound- oh, my apologies. Since you're not injured, I meant to add a mask to your toad face so that people could stop vomiting from accidentally taking a look at it."

"Courting death!"

Rayn Shard's expression fell as he shot towards her. Because he launched his previous attack from a distance of thirty kilometers, even though the speed and power were terrifying, energy would still be lost the more range the attack traveled.

Now, he directly appeared above her, slashing with a furious yet indomitable will.

The seemingly common Soaring Emperor Sword lustrously shone with a silver gleam as it slashed a vicious strike towards Fairy Myria.

Ellia simply side-stepped when the strike landed on the place where she stood. The slash carved an entire area in a line, creating a deep trench on the surface. Spatial cracks became prevalent, continuously breaking and stitching as the terrifying sword energy continued to rip the air it passed through.

However, watching this scene, Rayn Shard's pupils dilated.

How could she defend so easily and even elegantly while she was at it!?

With the Soaring Emperor Sword in his hand, he should be undefeatable at this moment!

Rayn Shard stopped only for a moment before he slashed again at her, unleashing waves and waves of sword might.

Whoosh!~

Ellia danced within the slashes as she moved away. She couldn't stay because the spatial tears were becoming more frequent, disallowing her to dodge. If she stayed, she could even get sucked into the spatial void.

In a few seconds, Rayn Shard sent hundreds of sword strikes at her.

Watching this scene, people became dumbfounded.

How was Fairy Myria this strong? They could not even see Rayn Shard swinging his sword, but spatial cracks ran rampant. It was like he was attacking empty air, but they could tell that was where Fairy Myria was escaping towards.

"You're so slow, a putrid stain to the succession of sword cultivators."

Ellia's voice resounded, causing a big vein to bulge on Rayn Shard's forehead.

"Quiet!"

He unleashed a sword strike again. The path of that slash completely became eradicated, forming full of multiple spatial tears that even its adjacent directions were affected. However, he still saw the vague silhouette of an icy-blue-robed figure darting around, almost turning his eyes bloodshot.

Why couldn't he hit her...!? Just one hit, and he was sure that he could sever into two halves!

Ellia momentarily appeared in the distance, a faint smile hanging on her lips.

"Don't you have any shame to be forcing the Soaring Emperor Sword to obey your will?"

"...!?"

Rayn Shard became still for a moment.

"Hmph!"

However, he hurriedly launched himself towards her.

"That only means that my will is strong enough, and in this world where the strong makes the rules, it is only my right to use this sword that I conquered."

Ellia shook her head as she retreated.

"That would be the case if you really had control over it through your own will, but bending its will to subjugate it using a vile external technique that has nothing to do with you is despicable."

"Nonsense..." Rayn Shard's body shook imperceptibly.

"I am someone who revived a dying armament spirit. One look at the Soaring Emperor Sword, and I can understand that its will is being warped. For such a sword with immense destructive prowess, it sure is weak in your hands..."

Puchi!~

Ellia dodged another terrifying sword slash that cut through space. However, her mouth still moved.

"The reason why you missed wasn't because you were chivalrous but because you couldn't control the Soaring Emperor Sword properly when you took it out."

The faint smile on her lips turned into a sneer.

"Its will is not something you will be able to subjugate in your entire lifetime."

"Die! Emperor Sword Cleaves The Heavens!"

Rayn Shard lost his cool and unleashed one of the Emperor Sword Sect's strongest techniques, the space in front of him becoming completely torn with a single swing of his sword!

Chapter 1976: Shattered Shard

The people stood up in terror as they witnessed Rayn Shard unleashing his move.

When the sword fell, a certain part of the space was engulfed by spatial tears just like that within an instant. Their eyes could only see a dark cavern appearing, twisting space as it tried to suck everything inside that they could even see spatial storms.

It was the first time they witnessed a spatial tear of this level.

Without the barrier still present, they mused that they could be sucked inside because they could feel the force of the pull, which could rip apart their very bodies.

The Mandate Emperor had already stood up, ready to intervene and save Fairy Myria, but he could not see her figure. Was she already sucked inside the big spatial tear?

His expression became twisted. However, one look at the Emperor of Death and saw that he maintained his calm, although he could see his fingers tightly clench before loosening. The Mandate Emperor then moved his gaze to another part of the battle arena and witnessed Fairy Myria's figure appearing there, looking unscathed.

Not even the hem of her robe was affected by the spatial pull.

"As I said, you're too slow."

"...!?"

Rayn Shard's heart skipped a beat as he heard Fairy Myria's voice, turning to look at her, appear in another direction. Even if he could not take her down with his sword strike, the spatial tear should've been enough to engulf her.

He couldn't understand how she could be so fast even now! In front of spatial tears, all kinds of speed should be rendered useless unless the body could withstand the spatial tear's suction!

After all, when someone moves in the opposite direction from a vast force of pull, the pressure alone will tear them apart.

Has her bodily might reached such a level!?

Even Adlet Rayburn, who took pride in his speed, had his mouth hanging agape slightly, feeling a bit unmatched in front of her.

"You seem to be stalling for time by hurling insults and disturbing with my focus. Let me tell you that using the Soaring Emperor Sword doesn't take much energy. It practically is a perfect fit for me."

"For a pretentious person like you, it might be which says a lot about the Soaring Emperor Sword." Ellia snickered.

Bzz!~

The Soaring Emperor Sword began vibrating in Rayn Shard's grasp as though it was angered, causing his pupils to dilate. He abruptly slapped its hilt with his other hand, causing it to become silent before he shot towards her.

Abruptly, he appeared before Fairy Myria and swung at her neck. It cut through her neck like tofu, but there was no satisfaction in Rayn Shard's expression because he couldn't feel the resistance of her flesh. His pupils shot down, only to feel a predatory gaze of a tiger shaking his heart.

Fairy Myria took the pose of a pouncing tiger, ready to cut his head off.

Whoosh!~

However, Rayn Shard instantly retreated.

"Pui!~"

Rayn Shard spat a mouthful of blood, causing the crowd to become astounded. However, there were no wounds in his body, making them feel confused.

What had just happened?

"It's the backlash from attacking and retreating in opposite directions without a pause," Evelyn explained to her sisters, who didn't understand.

Then they all understood why Rayn Shard retreated; because he felt that it would be better to receive a backlash than receive Ellia's strike. However, the price was steep, most likely causing him to lose two to five percent of his blood essence just like that.

Ellia smiled teasingly behind her veil as she slowly stood up.

"Well, even a coward has a coward's will to survive. I'll give you that."

"You!"

Rayn Shard's anger flared that he was almost about to spit another mouthful of blood.

To cultivators, anger while circulating energy was poison. It could lead to miscirculation of energy within the body, which internally injures them, causing them to cough up blood.

When people cultivated, it wasn't only power they cultivated but also emotions. Therefore, emotions could affect them more than they would affect mortals. Moreover, training in Soul Forging Cultivation would affect their emotions more than ordinary cultivators.

If a mortal experience the emotions of a cultivator, then they would likely go insane, or their soul will collapse. This was why the will suppression of a Soul Forging Cultivator could also suppress many others. It was directing their emotions of inherent superiority of all kinds to suppress the wills of others.

Ellia shook her head as though she was deeply disappointed.

"To corrode the Soaring Emperor Sword's will, you- no, you don't have the audacity nor the courage to even near it. Your elders and ancestors probably weakened it. As for what they used, let me guess... You used the blood of the descendants of those who nourished this legacy artifact to fool it, causing its wariness and defense to fall before bending its will with a seal of some sort, or perhaps even a hex."

"Perhaps, that's why you want my technique, to replace the Soaring Emperor Sword's sword spirit with your own golden sword's sword spirit, no?"

"Shut up, you conniving woman!"

Rayn Shard trembled ever so lightly, wanting to shut her up but didn't dare to do so as he felt that she was hiding something. However, his eyes suddenly brightened.

"Stop making things up! Besides, even if we did such a thing, it would be because we can afford to do it, so there's no wrong in with me using it in this battle. It doesn't go against the rules, so you should forget about trying to disqualify me or don't blame me if I severed you apart because you were focusing on provoking me instead of defending against me. After all, I can see that you're already having trouble with my sword, jumping around like a fly."

Rayn Shard sneered as he wiped the blood off his lips, "Let me guess, you're almost out of martial energy to make that escape from my moves and the spatial tear?"

Ellia blinked as she appeared taken aback.

Was the difference in their levels not plain to see for him?

"How could someone be so delusional?" Ellia couldn't help but ask Myria.

"Don't you understand? All men have an innate arrogance in their hearts, thinking that they can suppress women of the same level or even slightly higher. Why do you think this man would be any different?"

"Prince Davis is different, but this man... he is living in his own world."

"..."

Myria felt that her horizons were truly broadened that she felt both Rayn Shard and Ellia were living in their own worlds, but she then relented to each their own. She wasn't sure of Davis's true abilities as

well, although she was more than ninety percent sure that he couldn't match her prowess. As for being defeated, she didn't think that would happen unless he called his master, and even then, the chances could be very less since she could sense that the laws here were being suppressed.

His master would likely not have a prowess greater than a newly ascended Immortal. If that's the case, she was assured of being able to escape.

"I heard the Emperor Sword Sect was righteous and full of upright men, but it seems like it's not the case, at least not anymore."

Ellia took a step forward in mid-air as she spoke. Her figure became shrouded in a divine white layer before it extended into a five-kilometer sphere, causing countless eyes to become wide open in shock.

"A Perfect Martial Domain..."

Moreover, the sphere exuded a level of Light Laws they had never seen before.

It wasn't their first time seeing someone use Light Laws for Body Tempering Cultivation, but Light Laws were not that useful for the body since it only makes people faster. A cultivator's body should be high in defense and balanced in offense and speed or lower in subsequent order. That's why many choose Earth Law Manuals and Metal Law Manuals when practicing Body Tempering Cultivation, but it was their first time seeing someone maintain a high offense, defense, and speed while training Light Laws, which flipped their view in it.

"No matter how strong something may be, if it doesn't hit, it's useless."

Rayn Shard was practically shocked at this scene that he let down his guard for a moment. When he came back to his senses, a chilling voice resounded beside his ear, causing him to slash in that direction.

However, when he swung halfway, he noticed that his sword wasn't in his hand anymore, causing him to break out into a cold sweat as he turned to look at Fairy Myria.

She was holding the Soaring Emperor Sword in her hand with a vacant look in her eyes, the trembling Soaring Emperor Sword seemingly becoming calm at this moment.

Boom!~

Abruptly, its undulations exploded into tumultuous waves of sword energy, causing many lacerations to appear within space.

"Ahaha! Fool! Only a person from the Emperor Sword Sect will be accepted by it. Anyone else who tries to use it will be met with a miserable fa-"

Suddenly, Rayn Shard noticed something strange.

There were many spatial cracks appearing with space lacerating, but why did Fairy Myria appear unharmed by it? Even her robes were practically unharmed, while the fierce winds only made her look cool as her icy-blue robe swayed and her white hair danced.

"Hmph! You don't want to be controlled by me? Fine. I can't be bothered to take such a trash weapon either."

Bang!~

Ellia's gaze became icy as she slapped the Soaring Emperor Sword, sending it flying.

Puchi!~

An entire gorge in space was created by it as though it was a cry of grievance from being slapped. However, seemingly becoming calm after releasing its energy, it turned around and shot towards Rayn Shard.

"Soaring Emperor Sword! I knew you had acknowledged me!"

Rayn Shard reached out with his hand, appearing prideful as he witnessed the sword rush towards him.

The Soaring Emperor Sword quickly reached him, appearing above his hand, but it didn't stop. It continued onwards and pierced through his chest, rupturing his middle dantian, causing Rayn Shard's eyes to go wide in shock. At the same time, he heard a scream from his Sect Leader that appeared as though it came from a distant time, but then...

Boom!~

Blood sprayed in the air as Rayn Shard exploded into a mass of flesh, causing countless jaws to drop!

Chapter 1977: Drastic Measures

The moment Fairy Myria obtained the Soaring Emperor Sword, the hearts of the Emperor Sword Sect's Sect Leader and Ancestor's heart shook, and their worries were not unfounded.

"Pui!"

They spat out a mouthful of blood at the same time. Not only them but the majority of the elders and disciples of the Emperor Sword Sect all vomited blood, their hearts shaken.

"Rayn! Retreat!"

Just when Emperor Sword Sect's Sect Leader realized what had just happened, he bellowed on top of his lungs. However, the Soaring Emperor Sword had already pierced through Rayn Shard and caused his entire body to explode into a mangled mess of flesh.

"...!?"

He became stiff, his eyes becoming bloodshot.

"My son!"

Unleashing a heart-wrenching scream, his figure flashed as he appeared before the barrier. However, his scalp turned numb as he saw the Soaring Emperor Sword approaching him.

Puchi!~

The Soaring Emperor Sword pierced through the barrier as though it was tofu before piercing towards Emperor Sword Sect's Sect Leader. However, the Emperor Sword Sect's Sect Leader was able to dodge in time.

But contrary to his expectation, the Soaring Emperor Sword didn't even glance at him but shot towards the skies and left in a straight line.

'That direction... the Emperor Sword Sect...'

Everyone couldn't help but be stunned.

Was the Soaring Emperor Sword leaving the battle arena just like that after killing its master?

It shot past the New Era Battle Arena and left the region. They could no longer sense its presence. However, a stiff silence remained that even the sound of a gulp was loud and clear.

Someone had died in the Eight Stage Segment!

"The Soaring Emperor Sword was even willing to use its core energy to kill Rayn Shard and retreat to the Emperor Sword Sect. It seems like it was really unwilling and angered to be used by such a lowly person."

Ellia's voice resounded in the excruciating silence. Even she was a bit astonished to see the Soaring Emperor Sword kill one of its own but understanding what they all did to it; she was not surprised.

"Bullshit! You killed him!" The Emperor Sword Sect's Sect Leader pointed at her face with a furious look on his face, his eyes still bloodshot.

His son had died! How could he not be furious?

"Then that would mean that I managed to control the Soaring Emperor Sword to kill one of its people." Ellia asked in an unsure tone, "Is that sword truly trash, as I said?"

"You-"

She waved her sleeve, cutting him off.

"Heh, making threats is child's play. This hand of mine slapped much trash away, and if you come here..."

Ellia paused before she smirked, "Careful, I might do the same."

The Emperor Sword Sect's Sect Leader trembled in rage.

However, within that insanity was a semblance of sanity.

Was he more powerful than the Vast Sky Emperor? No! He dared not approach her. However, he couldn't let go of this matter either.

"Since you want to court death, fine."

His eyes blazed with fury before he rushed somewhere else.

When people looked where he moved, they were shocked to find out that he was heading towards the Mystic Ice Sect's seating area!

However, a mighty figure quickly blocked the path and coldly uttered.

"Adamantus Shard, what are you doing!?"

Adamantus Shard's expression became nervous, but he didn't seem to cower in fear as he looked at the one who blocked him.

"Mandate Emperor, that witch killed my son. It's obvious she used her mysterious arts to somehow control the Soaring Emper-"

"Shut up. Do you think you're qualified to lie in front of me!?"

The Mandate Emperor waved his sleeve, looking angered. His words shut up Adamantus Shard as he became a bit terrified in his heart. He was not a match for the Mandate Emperor.

"Fairy Myria, what do you think happened?"

The Mandate Emperor turned to look at Ellia, who shrugged.

"I only removed the blood seal that restricted the Soaring Emperor Sword's will. The rest is as you can see."

She disdained to explain as she was not worried about the consequences whatsoever.

Forgetting Myria, there was someone who said that he would take responsibility, so she was completely relaxed about Adamantus Shard targeting her Mystic Ice Sect, chilling inside the barrier.

The Mandate Emperor helplessly sighed, but he felt that was enough as he turned to look at Adamantus Shard.

"Back then, the Soaring Emperor Sword was something even we highly respected. Your internal squabbles aren't our affairs, so I didn't interfere, but if you harm even a single strand of hair of the geniuses here, I, the Mandate Emperor, will personally visit your Emperor Sword Sect and-"

"Try it if you can, old man."

Abruptly, a stern yet old voice of a person echoed. Everyone turned to look at the Emperor Sword Sect's seating area, their eyes radiating disbelief.

A white-robed old man floated in front of the seating area, appearing old yet graceful. However, his looks at his age weren't enough to warrant their shock, but his powerful undulations were.

"I see." The Mandate Emperor's eyes brightened, "No wonder the Shard Family was able to wrest away the entire Emperor Sword Sect from the other families. Not only did you, Ancestor Shard, scheme against them, but your prowess has also reached a level equaling us large-sized Territory Hegemons. Well hidden. Well hidden."

The Mandate Emperor shook his head.

With the presence of this Ancestor of the Shard Family, Nereus Shard, things became even more complicated and difficult. The defensive formations of the Emperor Sword Sect were not to be underestimated.

"Scheme? You are kidding me." Ancestor Shard chuckled lightly, "They all collectively headed into the Emperor Sword Mini Realm for their own greed and ended up dying there for better or worse. I found some of their corpses later and managed to tell what they were after. Those greedy fellows actually blasphemed the founder's tomb and unearthed a few more terrifying sword arts, but they all died to the founder's curse. That incident unwittingly caused my Sword Laws to further its heights, allowing me to increase my prowess, so what is there to scheme against?"

The Mandate Emperor could only stare. The internal matters of the Emperor Sword Sect are widely unknown. Even with his intelligence halls, he could only know what the Emperor Sword Sect spilled out. Their defensive formations were almost perfect, and those who used swords wouldn't be willing to be spies since their characters are mostly straightforward as the sword edge, but exceptions do always exist as there are cunning characters as well.

What could he say when the winners write history? Only the ones with the Transcendent Truth Eyes could see through the veil of lies. However, he wasn't going to bring out Clara at this moment because she was even more important. Instead, he glanced towards the Emperor Sword Sect's seating area, looking at the bloody mist spanning in the air.

"What about the blood essence you all spat out?"

"Of course." Ancestor Shard nodded, "I won't deny that we had to use some tricks, but that was because the Calamity Light is near and needed to take drastic measures. If the Soaring Emperor Sword doesn't accept a new master even in this calamitous era, then we have no choice but to bend its will."

"Drastic measures..."

The Mandate Emperor's eyes became cold. These so-called drastic measures caused so many lives to die or ruin when powers scrambled to latch onto someone's legs. Even he was forced to recede the ban on consuming Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources. As an end result, this might hasten the rate of resource depletion, even more, leading to a desolate era, but he hoped the new era would be a prosperous era with heaven and earth energy pouring in like a major magical beast tide after the calamity.

Perhaps, that would set his heart at ease. Or else, he would become the sinner who pushed the human race to a desolate era by using the so-called drastic measure.

Nonetheless, his coldness towards this word stemmed from the fact that people started using it as an excuse to do whatever they wanted, even if it was despicable. It really made his heart turn cold, sometimes making him think what exactly was the use of protecting these people.

However, he dared not shake his law heart for fear of being accursed with a heart demon.

In his eyes, bending the will of the sword was acceptable, but the price they had to pay for it was steep and despicable because many were probably forced. He could see the disciple and elders of the Emperor Sword Sect appear aghast, not because their genius disciple died but because their blood essence was sacrificed. Most likely, they had all lost twenty to thirty percent of their blood essence.

Fairy Myria's actions of freeing the Soaring Emperor Sword resulted in a significant backlash against the ones who were involved in suppressing it. Possibly, a lot more were injured back in the Emperor Sword

Sect, perhaps even dead, but it was assured that they all had their growths stunted unless they could restore their blood essence, but the backlash was at least a level above Peak-Level Ninth Stage.

Therefore, just how were they going to restore their blood essence? It was just not possible.

Because of this, he knew that the current Emperor Sword Sect could act crazily, committing slaughter to bring the geniuses down along with them, so he dared not confront them here.

"Fine, since Fairy Myria's words align with yours, this matter ends here." He declared.

However, Ancestor Shard snickered.

"Hmph! If you say it is over, then does that mean that it's over?"

"Don't go too far."

The Mandate Emperor's gaze became colder, his expression becoming solemn as his energy began to undulate. It cast immense pressure on Ancestor Shard, who wasn't on par with the Mandate Emperor. However, he didn't even exude a hint of nervousness but only possessed a smile on his face, appearing to be crazed as he grabbed the hilt of the sword, daring the Mandate Emperor to attack him.

Their clash of pressure caused numerous people to feel stifled and terrified that they didn't know what to do. Those two were outside the barrier, so if they truly clashed, just the shockwave would be enough to crush them to death!

Chapter 1978: Slander?

Just as the Mandate Emperor and Ancestor Shard appeared as if they could no longer wait to battle, a dark green-robed figure appeared between them.

"Stop!"

It was a middle-aged woman wearing the robe of the Jade Lotus Valley.

"Ancestor Ambercrown, do you intend to follow in his footsteps?"

The Mandate Emperor coldly spoke, his vexation visible on his face. He was highly irritated for a long time now. One powerful young man was causing trouble again and again in this competition, but the difference between their strengths would have it so that he could only stay his hand.

However, now other people were also looking down on him, thinking that he wouldn't do anything to them. That kind of thinking even had him snapping, wanting to show if he truly dared or not.

"My Jade Lotus Valley will stand along with the Emperor Sword Sect."

However, Ancestor Ambercrown of the Jade Lotus Valley didn't seem to be intimidated and declared, causing the Mandate Emperor to narrow his eyes more.

What reason did the Jade Lotus Valley have to follow them in this madness?

"Ahaha!"

Ancestor Shard laughed out loud as he threw his head above, "Today, we're capturing Fairy Myria. Let's see who has the guts to stop us."

As he spoke, he grabbed the hilt of his golden sword again.

"Wait a minute!"

However, a random shout from a person stopped him. Eyes fuming with displeasure, Ancestor Shard turned to look at the source and saw that the person who shouted was seated in the lower stratum, not even worth mentioning, but then, he suddenly noticed the identity of that person, becoming inwardly shocked.

"I can attest that the Shard Family plotted a devious scheme and wiped out my family's bloodline."

It was none other than Alexi Ethren.

"Brat, what nonsense are you spouting? Do you want to die?"

Ancestor Shard took out his sword and pointed at Alexi Ethren, his eyes gleaming with sinister intent.

However, Alexi Ethren didn't seem to be intimidated.

"Who are you exactly?"

The Mandate Emperor asked. It didn't take him much to see that Alexi Ethren wasn't just an Ethren of the Alstreim Family Territory's Ethren Empire. Otherwise, his story wouldn't make sense.

"Greetings, Mandate Emperor. My name is Alexi Ethren, hailing from the Ethren Empire of the Alstreim Family Territory. However, I'm a descendant of Soul King Garvin Woller of the Emperor Sword Sect."

"Garvin Woller..." The Mandate Emperor's eyes brightened, "I remember. The one whom the Shard Family declared a traitor and hunted down. So he survived... Did he break through to the Emperor Soul Stage?"

"Unfortunately, Ancestor Garvin Woller died a bit more than a decade ago. However, his will still remains, seeking vengeance through my image."

"Bastard! So you're a descendant of that traitorous Soul King. Now, prepare to receive your death."

Ancestor Shard grinned and took a step forward, intent on slashing Alexi Ethren to death before he could say anything else.

"Halt!"

A melodious voice resounded, causing Ancestor Shard's brows to narrow as he recognized this voice. He turned to look toward the Jade Lotus Valley's seating area, not expecting Ivy Aries to interfere at this moment.

"Little Ivy, I know that you grieve Rayn's death. However, you should stay back."

Ancestor Ambercrown raised her hand and stopped her.

Ivy Aries didn't stop and approached them with an indifferent gaze. However, there was a trace of disdain on her lips, hidden behind her veil.

"Grieve? I don't care much for that immoral person."

"You!" Ancestor Shard pointed at her, "Even if you do not like him, you do not have to desecrate a dead person, especially when he is your-."

"Desecrate? What big words for a lowly character."

Ivy Aries didn't seem to withdraw but closed in more. Ancestor Shard's brows narrowed. He took a step forward towards her, intending to teach her a lesson when an arm blocked his path.

"This isn't the time for an internal squabble." Ancestor Ambercrown spoke before eyeing Ivy Aries to leave.

They couldn't lose her in this battle as she was the hope of the Jade Lotus Valley, but the next words Ivy Aries spoke chilled Ancestor Ambercrown.

"Indeed, the Jade Lotus Valley doesn't have anything to do with this matter."

"Little Ivy, what do you mean!? You dare to go against the will of our sect? The covenant exchanged by our ancestors to have an allied relationship at all times, even at times of peril!?"

"Ancestor Ambercrown, you are right." Ivy Aries came to a stop a few meters away before she nodded, "The Jade Lotus Valley stands with the Emperor Sword Sect, but it doesn't side with the Shard Family."

"...!?"

For a moment, neither the Jade Lotus Valley, the Emperor Sword Sect, nor the entire crowd could understand a thing. However, a faint smile appeared on Davis and Natalya's lips.

Finally, it seemed that she read the letter and agreed, even making a move right now, which was out of their expectations and raised their impression of her.

Ancestor Ambercrown was stunned into silence before her expression changed as she lashed out.

"Ivy Aries, are you insane!? So many of your sisters have married to the Shard Family's men. The Shard Family is the current Emperor Sword Sect."

"Silence!"

Ivy Aries's gaze turned cold.

"You caused our Jade Lotus Valley to fall into a web of lies and deceit. If you want to support your lover, go ahead and do it. However, don't drag the Jade Lotus Valley into this, you deceitful woman."

"Wha-"

Ancestor Ambercrown became tongue-tied, her expression appearing confused and nervous. Ancestor Shard's expression also changed. He moved his hand when he suddenly felt the Mandate Emperor locking onto him, causing him to turn stiff.

Although he was powerful, he knew he couldn't afford to display a defenseless back against the Mandate Emperor.

"Little Ivy, are you telling the truth?"

Abruptly, two other Ancestors appeared behind Ivy Aries at this moment, each appearing older than the other. However, the Valley Master had also come.

Ivy Aries's eyes trembled as hesitation appeared to be prevalent. However, she took a deep breath before releasing it all.

"I can swear a Blood Soul Contract if that's what it takes for you all to believe. The Shard Family killed my ancestor Aries's husband and all your husband's and sons as well."

"What!? That's slander!"

Ancestor Shard lashed out as he waved his hand. However, the people behind Ivy Aries appeared dumbstruck before they hurriedly all sent a soul transmission to her. Even the ones in the seating area had their eyes turned red as they asked Ivy Aries through soul transmission, wanting to receive her admission of the events.

However, Ivy Aries shook her head as though she was not completely sure about the details the Emperor of Death had given her. However, she trusted her ancestor Aries's words that were once dismissed as ravings.

"It's fine if you all don't believe me. For this, even if I have to leave the Jade Lotus Valley, I'm willing. I will get revenge for my aggrieved ancestor and all the maidens who suffered under the Shard Family's shrewd actions. I can only apologize to those who have a good or colluding relationship with the Shard Family as the Jade Lotus Valley no longer welcomes you."

A minority of the maidens in the Jade Lotus Valley's seating area expression changed. However, they didn't dare express their thoughts when they looked around, witnessing the hateful gaze of their senior sisters, Elders, and Grand Elders.

Even the people became stunned to confusion as they witnessed this scene.

What's going on?

Is this an internal rebellion? Dissolution?

The Valley Master and the two other Ancestors of the Jade Lotus Valley stared at the determined Ivy Aries. They had never seen her this determined as she was an easygoing and carefree person. For her to do something like this, they couldn't understand, but they vaguely understood that this could've happened right after Yin Lotus Fairy visited.

Connecting the Yin Lotus Fairy through the Emperor of Death with Alexi Ethren, who was also said to be his friend, they felt it made some sense.

Suddenly, the Valley Master turned to look at Ancestor Ambercrown, who was still tongue-tied about this matter.

"Ancestor Ambercrown, you didn't remain chaste?"

Ancestor Ambercrown's body shook unwittingly, and looking at her reaction, everyone else's expressions changed!

Chapter 1979: Cowardly Rats

The female disciples and elders of the Jade Lotus Valley stared at Ancestor Ambercrown with incomparable shock.

The pure Ancestor Ambercrown had actually lost her innocence!?! To whom!?!?

Back then, the only reason they chose to buy the Shard Family's reason for the death of more than half of the Emperor Sword Sect's powerhouses was that they thought Ancestor Ambercrown remained chaste neutral for all her life. After all, the married women could not fully stay neutral. For that, amidst the level of Ancestors, there would always be one unmarried woman whose weight was higher than the other Ancestors.

The same went for the Valley Master and Disciplinary Hall Elders.

Nonetheless, when they lost their husbands, they grieved and were affected by those emotions; they flew over and demanded an explanation from the Shard Family.

Unfortunately, they were given the same explanation provided now. However, no one can prove its authenticity. But there was another matter that disallowed them from trying to pry it open. That was the information that the other families of the Emperor Sword Sect were trying to take over the Jade Lotus Valley and subdue its maidens.

This was blasphemy against their sect, so they dared not try to dig up the truth, afraid that they would find some ugly matter, not to mention that it would be their husbands who would have to carry that sin even in their deaths while their names would also be tarnished.

But now, it seemed like this matter was entirely different, truth and falsehood mixed by the Shard Family to create an almost flawless scenario.

Most of the old women like Deacons, Elders, and Grand Elders were wives of the dead powerhouses and experts of the Emperor Sword Sect. This tragedy didn't even reverberate around the world because they suppressed it.

The Shard Family's reign over the Emperor Sword Sect did not even last a few thousand years, so the number of women they married was less but still significant as they were all new sprouts. Therefore, their fury was apparent, no, beyond rage at this moment, their eyes having a look of grievance from being betrayed.

At this moment, that old and wrinkle-faced Ancestor of the Jade Lotus Valley stepped forward as she trembled.

"Little Ambercrown. Swear a Blood Soul Contract that you're chaste and didn't collude with the Shard Family."

She waved a hand and emerged a Blood Soul Contract floating in midair between them.

"I... I..."

Ancestor Ambercrown was at a loss for words.

A moment later, the old Ancestor sighed.

"You're expelled."

Ancestor Ambercrown's expression changed once she heard these words. Her expression turned into one of fury as she lashed out.

"What!? Don't think I'm still your little disciple to be commanding me around! My loyalty lies with the Jade Lotus Valley, and I only did what I thought was right for our future. Those old farts were holding our two sects back with a laidback style, not caring for anything while they also plotted against us-"

"How dare you!?" The other remaining Ancestor screamed as her eyes became bloodshot, "You still think you can keep lying to us while desecrating our dead husbands!?"

"No! I'm telling the truth."

Ancestor Ambercrown hurriedly shook her head, her heart shaking.

"Ancestor Ambercrown. There's no use talking with them. Ivy Aries is from a traitorous bloodline. Kill, kill all those traitors!"

"Wait-!"

Ancestor Shard grabbed the hilt of his golden sword and shifted his leg, bringing it towards the front while lowering his hip. With a swing of his arm, he was just about to bring the sword down on Ivy Aries the same moment Ancestor Ambercrown cried out.

Even the Mandate Emperor moved. However, he quickly came to a stop.

Simultaneously, a vast pressure descended on them all, locking them in place. It was as though a mountain was weighing on them, disallowing them to move. If they moved, perhaps the balance of the mountain on them might tip and crush them.

A purple-robed figure abruptly walked between them while grasping a dead body in his hand.

"Tsk. So noisy..."

His voice was lazy but resounded like thunder in their hearts, allowing them to relax but feel more pressure as the lock faded.

It was none other than Davis!

Davis uttered as he threw the corpse towards Ancestor Shard, who quickly caught the body. When people saw who it was, they recalled that this person was the Grand Elder of the Emperor Sword Sect who berated the Fire Dragon Queen when she crippled one of their disciples.

"This sneaky little rat tried to make his way to the Mystic Ice Sect, but I caught him. Shard Family, you can have his body but fulfill the end of your deal with Fairy Myria before you scam."

"...!?"

A Grand Elder who was at High-Level Law Rune Stage died just like that. However, what was even more terrifying was none of them witnessed the Emperor of Death kill that Grand Elder or even leave his place, for that matter!

In the eyes of the crowd, including many who were constantly watching him, how did he possibly manage to do that!? They should have at least received a warning from their informants planted almost everywhere.

However, despite the tremor Ancestor Shard felt in his heart, he didn't show it on his face and instead sneered.

"What? Since you're all saying Rayn Shard died to the Soaring Emperor Sword, how can it be that he lost to that woman? We have no need to abide by that deal anymore. Besides, even if you are the Emperor of Death, you shouldn't wrongfully blame and interfere in the matter of others. We didn't even pursue you for the matter of Zestia crippling one of our disciples, but you killed one of our Grand Elders. How is this not overbearing?"

"Ahaha!" Davis let out a burst of brazen laughter, "Using our words to take advantage is very good. However, you missed the point."

"You target the Mystic Ice Sect, which I have a complicated relationship with, but they can be considered my allies since they helped me when I was weaker. Naturally, anyone who makes a move against them will die by my hands."

Ancestor Shard's brows twitched. He was clear on how that Grand Elder could've died because he was the one who secretly sent that Grand Elder before interfering in this matter. But he still possessed plenty of excuses up his sleeves.

"Hmph! You're only saying that to get back or perhaps steal those treasures you said Myria has it."

Davis appeared visibly taken aback. His expression was hesitant.

"How about this..."

Seeing the Emperor of Death come to a compromise, Ancestor Shard smiled.

"I'll let you know that I'm Old Man Garvin's favored disciple, so I'm sorry to say that your luck's run out."

"..."

For a moment, what the Emperor of Death said didn't register in his mind before his expression changed suddenly.

"Impossible! That trash cannot have a disciple like you!"

"Naturally, I was talented beyond comparison." Davis became sarcastically narcissistic before uttering in a solemn voice, "However, I wouldn't have my foundation if it weren't for Old Man Garvin, so my debt towards him is as vast as the sea. The only way I could repay it is by following his wishes and killing you all for daring to scheme against him and hunt down his family."

In truth, Old Man Garvin didn't know much about the inner dispute of the Emperor Sword Sect. However, to be on the safe side, the Shard Family decided to kill him before he could reach the Emperor Soul Stage. Their fear was such that Old Man Garvin would spread the truth and escape with his incredible speed upon reaching Emperor Soul Stage, bringing the righteous world to reign justice upon them.

However, they miscalculated, let Old Man Garvin escape, and ended up inviting the calamity that was him.

Ancestor Shard's expression was overcome with fright before quickly putting on a calm facade. Even though it was just a moment, everyone could see the glimpse of his fear of death flashing through his eyes.

"You... you can't bully us!"

Ancestor Shard took a step back and actually aligned himself between him and Ancestor Ambercrown, hiding behind her.

Davis's expression produced a deep frown.

When did it turn into bullying? Besides, when did the Emperor Sword Sect have cowardly men? This was different than the information he received, but it seems like the Shard Family was truly different, different enough to greatly disappoint.

Abruptly, Davis even lost the will to kill as he suddenly felt that he was dealing with people worse than rats. Not only him, but even the powerhouses of the entire New Era Battle Arena also had their faces scrunched up in disgust.

Of all the people present, Ancestor Shard of the mighty Emperor Sword Sect chose to hide behind a woman?

"Shard Family, I don't want to ruin this competition with committing slaughter for personal vengeance, so you better leave like that Vast Sky Trash. My patience has its limits."

Davis turned around, afraid that he might change his mind.

For a moment, Ancestor Shard and Adamantus Shard didn't dare to believe that the Emperor of Death was willing to let them go. They stood dumbfounded before their brows creased. Their gazes fell on Fairy Myria, who looked as though she was not bothered by the things happening above her when a voice suddenly echoed out.

"What? Since you said that Rayn Shard was killed by his own sword, there shouldn't be any reason for you to still want to capture Fairy Myria or stay here. Do you want to scam, or shall I make you scam?"

The Mandate Emperor bellowed, causing Ancestor Shard's expression to turn ugly.

He quickly grabbed Ancestor Ambercrown's wrist and left along with the others.

Soon, the entire Emperor Sword Sect was absent from the New Era Battle Arena, making people reel in a roller coaster of disbelief.. They felt it was a repeat of the Vast Sky Palace, but different than them, everyone from the Emperor Sword Sect left, leaving an entire upper stratum clear of vermin.

Chapter 1980: The Truth?

The people remained silent, not knowing what to speak of the matter that had temporarily ended at this moment.

To them, everything was shrouded in a layer of lies and deceit, although it could be seen that the Emperor Sword Sect was vastly different from the rumors they had heard.

They were so cowardly that they didn't even dare to believe that those people were from the Emperor Sword Sect. Besides, it seemed like they depended on the Soaring Emperor Sword, the Legacy Artifact of the Emperor Sword Sect, to establish their power.

However, it was unfortunate to them that their first opponent with the Soaring Emperor Sword just had to be another supreme genius, Fairy Myria, whose knowledge on item spirits seemed to have no bounds.

Naturally, Fairy Myria was declared the winner, and she returned to her Mystic Ice Sect's seating area.

However, the Mandate Emperor, Emperor of Death, and other people remained in midair, looking at the Jade Lotus Valley's women whose expressions were overwhelmed with part sorrow and part rage.

Matters that were vague about the mysterious deaths of their husbands in Emperor Sword Mini Realm before became clear to them. However, what they couldn't digest was Ancestor Ambercrown's betrayal. They believed her for her neutrality and uprightness, and since the Ancestor Nereus Shard also remained unmarried until that incident, they believed his words too.

Back then, Ancestor Nereus Shard married one of their Grand Elders for strengthening the relationship with their Jade Lotus Valley, making them believe that he took that action to maintain an amicable relationship, further cementing the belief that his ill-words about their husbands could be true.

However, even that Grand Elder's death after giving birth to a few children became suspicious right now.

Had she died from sickness, or was she poisoned in an untraceable way?

Because Ancestor Shard broke his vow to remain celibate and married to strengthen the relationship with the Jade Lotus Valley since most Emperor Sword Sect men with a connection to the Jade Lotus Valley had died, that Grand Elder was sent to the Emperor Sword Sect despite the strict restrictive rules of the Jade Lotus Valley in order to show their own sincerity, so they would never know if she died from unfortunate sickness or poison.

Perhaps, she had found out the truth and was silenced?

Thinking about those matters of the past now made them clench their teeth, tears spilling out of their eyes.

Only now did they understand that the Shard Family's schemes ran deep that they were completely deceived like they were fools.

The humiliation was worse, but when they thought Ancestor Ambercrown had also betrayed them, their hearts turned cold.

However, there was a person among them who didn't lose herself to the overwhelming emotions.

"Valley Master Jade Aurora and Ancestors, activate all the defenses in the Jade Lotus Valley and keep the disciples and elders related with the Shard Family- and even the ones subordinated to them under strict isolation for the rest of the days till this competition ends. We'll deal with the Shard Family when we return from the competition."

Ivy Aries instructed with a somber yet encouraging tone.

"..."

The others looked at Ivy Aries, blankly nodding their heads before it took a few seconds for her words to register in their minds.

"I'll also send a few trusted Grand Elders to protect Little Ivy's ancestor." Valley Master Jade Aurora added, "She's old and frail, but not easily killed since she survived for this long."

Ivy Aries nodded. In any case, her ancestor was already protected because she possessed a special status in the Jade Lotus Valley because of her World Devouring Water Body, so she wasn't worried that much. In fact, the urge to tell her ancestor what had happened here was more than wanting to remain in the competition, but since she was the acting head, she had to restrain herself.

Only she and Valley Master Jade Aurora could remain relatively clear-headed. Therefore, while she took the helm here, the Valley Master would return now to the Jade Lotus Valley.

They talked about returning before the Valley Master relented to go back after the Eighth Stage Segment ends.

After all, Valley Master Jade Aurora was less than a thousand years old, and she could possibly participate in the Ninth Stage Segment.

As for the safety of other Jade Lotus Valley members; Fortunately, since the Jade Lotus Valley moved out to the competition, the other disciples were forced to return to the sect no matter where they were because of the strict rules.

This was one of the rules that Ivy Aries hated, but it had actually saved them at this moment that she couldn't help but feel that some of them were rightly etched in their rules. They were written for a reason.

At this moment, the old Ancestor of the Jade Lotus Valley approached Davis.

"Are you the one who put Little Ivy up to this?"

"Ancestor, no. It was my deci-"

"You could say that."

Ivy Aries denied as she interfered, but Davis simply nodded his head amidst the old Ancestor's stern gaze.

The old Ancestor's eyes narrowed, "What exactly did you do when your Yin Lotus Fairy took her out."

Considering the Emperor of Death's concealing arts, it was possible that he could've appeared in front of Ivy Aries in his soul body. Becoming aware of this possibility, the expressions of the other Jade Lotus Valley disciples and elders changed.

Was their Ivy Aries brainwashed? Or perhaps, soul controlled?

"Nothing. I had my Natalya just give her a letter which narrated the truth of the events that Old Man Garvin told me. In fact, I was waiting for Ivy Aries to side with the Shard Family so that I could push aside the fact that she is Old Man Garvin's descendant and kill her without remorse because she would be a traitor then."

Davis's tone was indifferent, causing the others to become shocked.

Even Ivy Aries's heart shook. However, recalling how she treated that letter as a proposal letter, she couldn't help but lower her head, her cheeks becoming crimson, but others mistook that as fear.

However, they didn't blame Ivy Aries.

Even Ancestor Nereus Shard ran with his tails between his legs. One misstep and Ivy Aries would've also had her life taken away.

Hearing these words from Davis, the old Ancestor merely sighed and walked away, appearing exhausted. It seemed that this turn of events heavily weighed on her heart, all of the women's hearts.

Davis felt like he had poked the hornet's nest that he couldn't help but feel a tinge of pity for their plight. He turned to look at Ivy Aries, who curiously looked at him.

"Do you need help at your Jade Lotus Valley?"

Ivy Aries blinked before she shook her head.

"Don't worry. Anyone who invades into our Jade Lotus Valley is courting death. Even your eminence will not be able to withstand the might of our Guardian Lotus."

Davis nodded. He didn't know much about this Guardian Lotus, but if they were that confident, he preferred to have his hands useful for other purposes.

"We are of the same generation, so calling by names would be apt."

"Then I won't stand on ceremony, Davis." Ivy Aries sweetly giggled, her melodious voice giving him a sense of goodwill as this gloomy atmosphere was rather infectious.

"I'm glad you're Old Man Garvin's descendant and not some kind of traitor. He would be proud even in death to have a descendant like you."

"I see..."

Hearing Davis's words about her Ancestor, Ivy Aries couldn't help but smile sadly. So ancestor Garvin Woller was really dead. She couldn't help but feel sad that her ancestor Aries would feel more sorrow. However, if she heard that the Emperor of Death was actually ancestor Garvin Woller's favored disciple, she would be on cloud nine.

Thinking about this, she wanted to invite Davis to the Jade Lotus Valley. However, men who are not allies could not enter their Jade Lotus Valley, nor could she bring her sick ancestor Aries out. She couldn't help but feel annoyed at this moment, wanting to change the old restrictive rules of the Jade Lotus Valley, but she was also aware she could only do that once she became the true Valley Master along with the approval of the Ancestors.

Nonetheless, she still felt thankful to Davis. He was the one who also informed her that Ancestor Ambercrown was in a relationship with Ancestor Nereus Shard. She had no evidence of it, but she was proven right when she took that leap of faith with Ancestor Ambercrown acting speechless and guilty.

As for how Davis knew, could anyone here escape his eyes that could see the karmic threads of fate? Maybe Ellia and Myria were the only exceptions.

"By the way, what Ancestor Ambercrown said was the truth."

Davis's voice woke Ivy Aries up out of her reverie. However, her expression changed the next moment.

"W-What!?"

The others also incredulously looked at Davis.

What was he saying!?