

EMPEROR 1981

Chapter 1981: Blood Debt

Davis waited for a moment for them all to comprehend his words before his lips moved.

"Ancestor Ambercrown told the truth, but it wasn't necessarily near to the reality's truth. I guess she truly spoke from her perspective, and that would make it likely that she had also been fed lies by that Nereus Shard, but since she loved him secretly enough to not make their relationship public, she took his words as gospel and didn't tell anyone else since she didn't have the need to do so. She's probably a victim of Nereus Shard's schemes, but I'll still kill her since she is fated to side with the Shard Family."

The Jade Lotus Valley's members looked visibly shaken. Even Ivy Aries could not control her trembling hands as she asked.

"How can you tell?"

Ivy Aries was confused. How could he know all this?

"What can I say?" Davis wryly smiled, wondering if he should say it or not before he sighed, a sound barrier appearing around them all, "I possess Heart Intent, so I can read the hearts of people around me. Ancestor Ambercrown was completely confused with Ivy Aries's account of the matter back then that she couldn't even speak properly, not knowing what the truth was anymore. At least, the emotions of feeling like you have all betrayed her wasn't a lie."

"...!"

Davis's voice wasn't loud, but his words had everyone, including the Mandate Emperor's eyes to bulge.

A previously known slaughterer had comprehended Heart Intent? What kind of bullshit was this!?

On the other hand, the Mandate Emperor's heart shook.

He felt a vague unique probe but merely felt that it was Davis's soul sense but who would've thought that it was Heart Intent.

He was still shaking. The Emperor of Death had grown so fast that he felt like he could no longer match but then again, he wondered if comprehending Heart Intent was why the Emperor of Death was able to overcome insanity and almost became convinced that it was the case.

The people who could comprehend Heart Intent were far too few and far too special. However, it was not like all Heart Intent users were good people. Most were good, but a minority also used it to manipulate for their gain. He didn't know if Davis was the latter but hoped that it was the former, and so did the erudite Jade Lotus Valley's members.

However, once the shock about the Emperor of Death's ability receded...

"Shard Family Bastards! I swear to decimate you all from the face of this world!"

Ivy Aries threw her head above and cursed for the first time in her life, her face twisted in rage.

The eyes of the Jade Lotus Valley's disciples and elders all turned bloodshot as they couldn't help but remember how Ancestor Ambercrown was good to all of them, like one's own grandma. That was why the betrayal was too much to bear, but now the Emperor of Death said that she was also likely manipulated.

Their hearts twisted as though countless blades were tearing them apart.

The two other Ancestors also felt their hearts shake in pain, remembering the time they called her Little Amber and taught her cultivation like she were their own daughter. Even the Valley Master couldn't help but silently shed a tear as she felt that they were the closest despite their age difference.

At this moment, Ivy Aries's furious cry formed an irrevocable blood debt between the Shard Family and Jade Lotus Valley. It was likely they wouldn't stop until one of them was dead.

The Mandate Emperor couldn't help but inwardly sigh at this scene. Was this something Davis orchestrated or something that truly needed to occur as karmic retribution?

He couldn't tell, but he could tell that blood would be shed on both sides if he didn't interfere. However, the proud Jade Lotus Valley elders wouldn't accept his help either as they were a secluded bunch who only opened up to the Emperor Sword Sect and Pill Refining Sect.

On the other hand, Davis was more than happy to delegate this vengeance to Alexi Ethren and Ivy Aries.

To him, making Old Man Garvin's descendants obtain vengeance was more apt. This way, Old Man Garvin would be even more proud if he came to know of it while watching them from the underworld. Besides, it could count as a tempering adventure for Alexi Ethren and Ivy Aries, although he was sure the former wouldn't get some action because Ivy Aries was already quite powerful.

Judging from the Shard Family's cowardice, whom he measured with Heart Intent, he mused that they would turtle up in their defensive formations or, at most, roam a Territory away. That's all. It was unlikely they would touch the Burning Phoenix Ridge or his Soul Palace. If they dared, then they wouldn't have run with terror in their hearts today, knowing that he could kill them anytime he wanted, irrespective of defensive formations.

They wouldn't dare to offend him. It was more likely they would try to hide in that so-called Emperor Sword Mini Realm until he ascended, thinking that it could protect them from his mysterious killing methods.

As for ascending themselves, that would be courting death because they already have wasted twenty to thirty percent of their blood essence from the backlash. They would likely die before they survived seven lightning strikes if they underwent tribulation before recovering, not to mention the karmic sin for betraying and killing many righteous powerhouses.

Even Nereus Shard spat a mouthful of blood, and it was no act as the remnant aura of the wasted blood essence was still present.

Moreover, there were heavenly flames to worry about for them.

Davis knew that Nereus Shard and a few other cronies like Adamantus Shard possessed karmic sin as he could see it on them. However, the others couldn't sense their karmic sin, making him think that they hid it with some kind of special technique.

As for the Soaring Emperor Sword, it probably wouldn't help them either, considering Ellia freed it. In fact, he was surprised that they decided to gamble it all on that sword. Perhaps, if Myria didn't exist, their plan to rely on the Soaring Emperor Sword would've come to fruition and brought them glory that Davis couldn't help but find this funny.

That idiot Rayn Shard just had to pick and challenge the wrong opponent, causing their plans to become foiled before he could even make a move at the start.

At the end of the day, Davis felt that his people would not be harmed, so he wasn't worried. Ivy Aries rejected his help, so there was nothing for him to do. He naturally returned and sat amidst his women, his previous valor nowhere to be seen as he became a womanizer quickly, his hands occasionally behaving naughty.

This kind of shamelessness truly opened the eyes of the crowd as they finally understood what kind of person the Emperor of Death was. He was a licentious yet honest youth who didn't hide his personality to act like a supreme expert, although they couldn't sometimes understand if his narcissistic behavior was also his character or an act.

Somehow, they couldn't help but laugh at themselves, thinking how they could forget that he was not even older than thirty years old? That was too young in their eyes.

Nonetheless, with the Emperor of Death knowing to possess Heart Intent, the higher-ups of the Jade Lotus Valley somewhat believed his words.

A person who can comprehend Heart Intent is a person who can remarkably sympathize, able to resonate with the emotions of others. On that note, they believed that they could trust that aspect of his character.

It took some time for the competition to resume after everyone returned to their seats.

Only then did the people dare to hush and whisper, gossiping of the events that had occurred as they tried to gain more understanding of it.

Chapter 1982: Rejoining?

In the northern hemisphere of the New Era Battle Arena, the three Emperors sat together, looking contemplative. As for the empty fourth seat, its owner had run for his life with his tail between his legs.

"Any signs of the source?"

"Sigh, not yet..."

The Mandate Emperor sent a soul transmission while the Karmic Guardian Emperor shook his head.

Their expressions, combined with the Starnova Emperor's, were one of worry. So many things had happened in the past three days, and the competition came to an end almost a few times over with the

young and powerful ones running rampant. However, they weren't bothered about that but were worried about the source of the Calamity Light.

One was a world-ending matter while the other was just a few kids playing around, sometimes going too far. They couldn't help but feel the tension in their heart grow each hour, making them feel some unease.

The divination the Karmic Guardian Emperor made back then had been accurate. There was no doubt about that.

However, he didn't divine the source itself but the possibility of the source appearing in the New Era Battle Arena. Therefore, they didn't know the identity of the source, nor could they find it even after divining, again and again, a lot of times every night after the battles had ended.

After all, the closer or higher the level of the source, the more difficult it is to divine its location or what it even is. They abandoned finding whether the source was a human or something else as it was more difficult. The least they could do was divine its location to a wide radius.

However, all divinations told that the source had appeared in the New Era Battle Arena but where exactly amidst the millions of people? It was like finding a needle in a haystack. It would be worse if the source weren't even a human but a specific lifeform like a pebble lying somewhere, perhaps underneath someone's seat.

Who would know what kind of power that pebble possesses and what kind of calamity it would bring if touched?

That's why they felt more and more apprehensive as time kept perishing. The sun had set at this moment, leaving them with three and a quarter of a day left. Perhaps, if they don't resort to aggressive tactics, they might never find the source at this rate.

As they planned out how to possibly smoke out the source from hiding, Honorable Elder Julian Kruse took out the next lot for the next battle.

When they saw who it was, they weren't interested and continued discussing. However, they became surprised to see who that person challenged.

In the Alstreim Family's seating area, everyone turned to look at Davis. However, they didn't look at him but the women beside him, specifically a crimson robed woman who appeared stunned before her eyes appeared cold.

She didn't say anything before she flew towards the battle stage.

When she arrived, she stared at the man who had challenged her. Her crimson hair swayed in the air as she had her eyes narrowed, brimming with hostility and ill-will.

It was none other than Zestria.

"You dare challenge me, Lazar Domitian?"

Lazar Domitian also wore a crimson robe, but different from what Zestria wore, it was from a cloth of the Domitian Family.

People looked at him, knowing that he was the Young Master of the Domitian Family. However, he already broke through to the Ninth Stage in both Essence Gathering Cultivation and Body Tempering Cultivation. They low-key wondered why Lazar Domitian would take part in the Eighth Stage Segment.

After all, it could be considered bullying.

It would be alright if he only possessed one cultivation at the Eighth Stage and another at Ninth Stage like many others, but to have both cultivations at Ninth Stage and challenge someone weaker had them looking down on him until now where they could see that he possibly did it for this moment.

However, they couldn't tell what he was up to.

Lazar Domitian nodded and didn't say anything.

Shortly, the barrier activated, and Honorable Elder Julian Kruse announced the battle to start.

However, neither of them moved, seemingly having something to say to each other.

Lazar Domitian took a deep breath, his expression complex.

"Zestia, I-"

"Shut up! You of all people don't deserve to call me by my name."

Zestia waved her hand as she screamed. It was like she had no chill, causing Lazar Domitian to become dumbfounded by her hate. However, he didn't seem to be discouraged.

"Little sister, I know I have made mistakes in the past. However, remember who you are; remember your roots as a Domitian. Back then, we were all nervous and felt like the Emperor of Death had a blade under our throats. However, it was our misunderstanding that caused us to fall into that position. Perhaps, we should have tried harder and been sincere towards his eminence, but it's all in the past now. Let us move forward."

Lazar Domitian's tone was one of pleading and sincerity, causing Zestia to narrow her eyes.

"If you are free as the Golden Dragon Queen claimed to be, then you should be able to come back. Come back, and we are prepared to host a grand marriage for you and the Emperor of Death."

"...!"

Zestia's heart shook as she heard his words that were filled with hope and pleading.

A grand marriage with Davis in the Domitian Family?

Zestia couldn't help but imagine it, and it was dazzling and wonderful.

Davis's lips curled.

At first, he thought that this Lazar Domitian was courting death by trying to woo his Zestia in public. It seemed that Lazar Domitian was Zestia's half-brother, but he knew what kind of relationship dynamic the Dragon Families retained. However, it didn't seem like the case as he now understood that this Lazar Domitian was trying to have him, the Emperor of Death as the Domitian Family's backer by manipulating Zestia into rejoining the Domitian Family.

Lazar Domitian was intent on using Zestria to gain his favor. Davis knew this was the case just after hearing it but could Zestria understand it while being influenced by her deep emotions towards him?

Some people could see this clearly, but many could not.

It was more likely that Zestria would fall for it, forgetting her hatred against the Domitian Family for abandoning and sacrificing her.

After all, in a family, even irrevocable hatred sometimes ends up being forgotten as time would heal their hearts.

Davis felt like he should warn Zestria, but he also wanted to hear her answer. However, her trembling figure made him feel sorrow for her.

Back then, he could stay indifferent about her and the Dragon Families' plight, but now, since she was one of his dearests, he could not stand her going through such conflicting emotions.

Just when he was about to warn her, Zestria's trembling stopped, and she raised her head to look at Lazar Domitian.

"It sounds good."

Lazar Domitian's expression produced a smile as though he became truly happy.

"Right? We have already talked about it. Patriarch Zeramus had also approved of this matter, willing to welcome you with warm hands and put the past to res-"

"However," Zestria rudely interrupted, "I still remember you kneeling to me to become a sacrifice for the greater good of the Domitian Family and to think that I was almost promised to you back then. Thanks to the fit I threw, I didn't get promised to you but after that incident, even being associated with someone like you is a disgrace."

"You-!"

"Do you know why I rejected you despite you being the perfect candidate at that time?"

A sneer emerged on Zestria's crimson lips, hidden behind her veil.

"Because I knew you were a scheming bastard like our father."

Lazar Domitian became stunned. His body trembled on hearing her attack one of his sore points like that, causing him to snap.

"Zestria, you cannot insult our dead father like that, and what I'm trying to do is ultimately for the good of you and our fam-"

"Die!"

Zestria launched herself towards him, using her explosive movement technique.

She almost instantly arrived before him, swinging her leg like a flail towards his neck.

Lazar Domitian's expression changed. He was faster, but his body was unable to move according to his senses because of his sealed cultivation. He raised his hand to dodge when Zestria's leg struck his arm, breaking it as an audible crack sound echoed, sending him flying like a kite that had its strings cut.

Zestria followed his trail, crimson-gold flames emerging from her body as she looked like a Fire Dragon.

"Starry Descent of the Fire Dragon."

Lazar Domitian's scalp turned numb as he saw Zestria burning her blood essence to use one of the terrifying techniques of the Fire Dragon's Retribution Flameworld Codex!

She truly was intent on killing him at this rate!

Chapter 1983: Reaffirming Ties

Lazar Domitian hurriedly conjured a defensive technique but looking at the ever-growing crimson-gold flames transforming into the rigid shape of a fire dragon that even the flames were almost condensed into crimson crystals, his heart skipped a beat, feeling like he was going to get crushed by those reflective surfaces that seemed to contain thousands of flaming stars.

Roar!~

The distant roar of a dragon could be heard as the Starry Descent of the Fire Dragon unleashed by Zestria directly fell on the staggered Lazar Domitian. Its prowess instantly neared the peak of High-Level Law Rune Stage when it neared him and exploded on contact!

Boom!~

Blazing crimson-golden flames erupted above the battle stage as countless tiny cracks appeared amidst the burning sea of flames. Those spatial cracks quickly closed, but the flames kept burning before they were suddenly starting to extinguish, a crimson-robed figure appearing out of it before he waved his hand, causing those flames to disappear.

It was none other than Lazar Domitian, looking relatively unharmed while his robes were somewhat burnt.

However, his expression was ugly.

Zestria's body was burning with those crimson-gold flames of hers just as Lazar Domitian's, but she raised her head, cast a derisive smirk at him, and left towards the barrier.

Suddenly, the barrier came down as Zestria left.

Lazar Domitian watched her leave, his body trembling.

He had lost, using his Law Rune Stage and Martial Overlord Stage Cultivation to block Zestria's terrifying attack.

He wanted to last longer in this battle, wanting to change her mind, but she didn't allow him to speak and directly launched a decisive attack, forcing him to defend himself. He had to use his Ninth Stage Cultivation or face serious injuries.

After all, even if he suppressed his cultivation, he was not a match for Zestria, who was the strongest young expert of their Domitian Family.

He never got to enjoy a Dragon Queen's primal yin essence like the Young Masters of the Orcha and Ike Family, so his heart burned with fury and envy. Despite that, he swallowed that humiliation and mused that she was still of use, making him think that bringing her back could allow their damaged relationship with the Emperor of Death to repair, even further making amends to please him.

He would never have the courage to try it if the Emperor of Death was truly evil but looking at his power yet the simplicity to approach as long as there were reasonable intentions, he felt that there was a chance. However, before he even got to the Emperor of Death, Zestria completely ruined his plans that he couldn't help but feel enraged and helpless.

Lazar Domitian couldn't help but wonder if he should've used another method like going straight to the Emperor of Death and pleading for his leniency. However, the chances that the Emperor of Death would agree was less, and there was in no way he could let go of his last bit of pride.

Lowering his head and kneeling to the person who took Zestria, who was supposed to be his? Never!

Clenching his fists, he returned back to the Domitian Family when suddenly a hand arced towards his face.

Paah!~

A slap sent him flying before he crashed into a seat, throwing a commotion over the Domitian Family.

People noticed that the one who slapped Lazar Domitian was none other than the Domitian Family's current Patriarch, Zeramus Domitian. He turned his body towards the Alstreim Family and cupped his hands, appearing apologetic even though he was inwardly panicking.

The truth was that he didn't know about Lazar Domitian's plans but would the others believe him?

He directly apologized to the Emperor of Death with his gesture while secretly sending a soul transmission.

Davis merely shot a look at them along with the others as the commotion disturbed them. He didn't nod nor say anything, looking away towards the resting hall's entrance where he could sense Zestria embracing Bylai Zlatan, her body trembling ever so lightly as though she was crying.

Indeed, Zestria was silently shedding tears.

Imagining a grand marriage with Davis was wonderful, like Lazar Domitian said, but the people beside her who were full of her past family members smiling at her made her almost puke. Everything that came out of their mouth at this moment sounded like a devil's whisper, only wanting to take advantage of her.

She found the very thought of them abhorrent.

She wanted to eradicate them all from interfering in her matters anymore. If they only stayed away from her, she could also move on and forget them, but Lazar Domitian just had to try something like playing with her feelings, invoking her hatred and rage against him and the Domitian Family.

However, when those negative feelings overwhelmed her, only tears emerged from her eyes, knowing somewhere in her heart that she could become miserable for killing her own family members, even if she cut ties with them in her heart.

'Why did it have to be like this?'

She wondered what went wrong. Perhaps, that's why Bylai chose to forgive the Zlatan Family, not willing to be trapped in that abyss of hatred.

Raising her head, she looked at Bylai because she believed that she was level headed than her.

"Is it okay to forget them?"

Surprisingly, Bylai shook her head, "Never forget."

Her answer caused Zestria to blink in confusion. Then how did Bylai have the heart to forgive them?

"Never forget." Bylai repeated, "The debts that we owe them, both gratitude and wrongs, must be repaid. I consider the payback already over, so the only thing remaining for me is to repay them for raising me up. I'll settle that with resources when I get stronger and possibly cut ties with them, so the slate becomes clean. I'm not saying that you should follow my way of doing things, but no one's stopping you from doing it."

Zestria became stunned. Was this allowed?

Looking at Zestria's hesitant expression, Bylai added.

"I have his permission as well."

Bylai wasn't lying. When she slept with Davis, they had talked about many things, and this was one of them.

Zestria's eyes shook before she nodded, wiping her tears.

After this incident, Zestria and Bylai walked out as though nothing had happened. The former walked towards Davis when he also stood up, walking towards her.

Zestria paused, becoming a bit afraid. However, when she felt a hand caress her head, she felt calm, causing a gentle smile to bloom on her face.

"Davis, I decided to let them off this one time. Will that be okay?"

Davis wondered what she was going to say, afraid that she would have her heart twisted and ask him to kill them all as he sensed that her heart was in disarray, almost fully stuffed with resentment, but her words caused him inwardly to heave a sigh of relief for her.

"Anything you want, Zestria."

Zestria's smile blossomed even more as she felt liberated through his words. She walked away to the edge of the seating area and opened her mouth.

"I, Zestria, announce that I'm officially cutting off ties with the Domitian Family! From here on out, I will be known as Zestria Davis!"

Zestria's joyful voice boomed throughout the battle arena, causing countless people's heads to swivel in her direction as their expressions became shocked. However, that shock was more amplified in the faces of the Domitian Family, looking like they just realized that they had eaten shit for lunch.

Instantly, every one of them turned to look at Lazar Domitian with blaming eyes while holding a stomach full of anger.

Lazar Domitian shook, feeling the world spinning around him.

Zestria's announcement at this moment meant that she still had them somewhere in her heart despite their hypocritical actions, but this retarded Lazar Domitian just had to ruin it all without even asking them!

Chapter 1984: Establishing A Power?

"Honorable Elder! Change my name!"

Zestria shouted to Honorable Elder Julian Kruse as she pointed at the ranking projection, causing the latter to falter.

Changing names at the end? Was this even allowed? If it were anyone else, they would be accused of stealing or mismatching their identity and would be ousted.

Zestria's announcement shocked the New Era Battle Arena.

Furthermore, it must be known that the events happening here is broadcast throughout the human race using the All-Seeing Tower's Territories-wide coverage, so the entire world knew of the events that were taking place here, even knowing the fact that the Vast Sky Emperor was miserably beaten out while a participant also died, causing even a staunch hegemon like the Emperor Sword Sect to scam.

However, those were martial feats, something that many people adored, but there was something even more difficult than martial feats for men, and that was to attract the hearts of women, especially powerful and prideful women.

The Emperor of Death really had managed to conquer two Dragon Queens that they couldn't help but find it a vast feat achieved by very few in history. However, the Emperor of Death possessed three Dragon Queens if one considered Isabella, who is known as the Earth Dragon Queen even though she didn't belong to any family. Moreover, he also managed to court the prideful phoenix, Sect Master Lea Weiss.

Thinking of this matter, their minds couldn't help but reel in a kind of vexation and envy.

The mind-boggling thing was that it didn't seem like he obtained them through force but completely conquered their hearts. After all, they saw back then when the Golden Dragon Queen and Fire Dragon Queen were sent as sacrifices, sobbing for mercy but now, they were with him wholeheartedly, one of them confessing her love while almost making a fool out of herself while the other cut ties with her family.

As for the matter of Sect Master Lea Weiss, they didn't know but to accept a relationship with her personal disciple's husband, which could be considered taboo, made them really wonder what kind of attraction the Emperor of Death held for these women.

After all, it was common knowledge that these prideful women tended to stay away from the countless marriage proposals from many single men, much less the courting of married men even if they were powerful.

What about the Emperor of Death made them change their minds is a mystery that has yet to be unlocked, and perhaps, that was fatal to many women.

While the crowd was stunned, Davis and the others were also stunned by Zestria's announcement.

He was shocked to see Zestria take his surname. Didn't she-

"Zestria, what are you doing? Didn't you say that you are Zestria Loret in the banquet?"

Bylai, who was the closest to Zestria, held the latter's shoulders and shook, her eyes trembling as she clenched her teeth.

Zestria's reply was a smirk combined with a wink, "Loret or Alstreim, I want neither of them. Besides, Davis's true family name is not clear, so I'll take his name instead."

Everyone couldn't help but stare, especially the Alstreim Family people. What kind of reasoning was this?

"You shameless woman! At least wait until you marry before you take his name!"

Bylai looked angered, but her words reeked with jealousy.

"There's no one as shameless as you, Bylai, daring to confess in public like that~ Hehe~"

Zestria giggled, causing Bylai to fume. She now wondered why she even bothered to console Zestria before continuing to bicker with her.

The Zlatan Family's Patriarch glanced at Bylai, wondering if she would renounce her ties with them. If she did, they would feel devastated at the very least. After all, the only reason they're managing to survive and still roam the world is that they're considered the Emperor of Death's subordinate power.

They no longer had peak powerhouses, so they were ripe targets for other powers.

If she cut ties with them, the Emperor of Death would likely no longer bother with them either unless the Earth Dragon Queen has something else in thought for them.

Davis glanced around and saw that Evelyn and the others were also looking at Zestria as though she had done something wrong. He could instantly tell that their thoughts were something along the lines of how dare you one up over us when you're just a little sister?

However, they didn't say anything, letting Bylai fight for them.

'Well, I was the one who said to do whatever she wants...' He could only wryly smile.

Did he have to say that having his name behind their names wouldn't make them any closer as he already considered them to be family?

However, contrary to his logical thoughts, the feeling of being adored like this was good, making him feel prideful.

"Davis, the reason why I took Loret behind my name is that I was married into the Loret Family. I'll take your name from now on, especially if you decide to create a family of your own."

Hearing Evelyn's soul transmission, Davis blinked. Following that, similar soul transmissions began to fall in his mind, causing him to tremble.

"Hey! You all, this isn't a big matter. Did you all forget that I have your original names etched behind my back?"

"Huh?"

Newcomers like Dalila and Tanya, who haven't heard such a matter, had their expressions changed, causing Davis to shudder.

"Alright, calm down, you all. Your names are all more fantastic than mine and sound beautiful, so let's just keep it that way. I'll etch all of your names, okay?"

Davis spoke in a spirited tone and tried to defuse the situation, and indeed, after hearing his words, the ones who didn't have their names on his body felt bliss. Zestia felt like she won the game for a moment, just to particularly fall into the underworld before ascending into the heavens.

Why? Because her expression said so.

Evelyn glanced around and noticed them all looking serious about this matter. As the first wife, she couldn't help but feel prideful to have secured such a man. She shook her head before opening her mouth.

"You feel that our names are wonderful, but we feel the same about yours. Having your name behind ours is not only an honor but also a protective charm."

The others also nodded with clear eyes.

"..."

Davis looked dumbfounded because having put that way made him speechless yet moved.

In truth, if Davis truly started his own power, they would quickly change their names. When they became married to him, they married into the Loret Family. Because of his ties with the Alstreim Family, they could also be said to have that name. That's why they had either Loret or Alstreim behind their names in this competition.

However, what they truly craved was his name.

If Zestia didn't cross that line, they wouldn't have said anything either, but since she crossed it, their eyes were that of a wolf's, eying their prey with a hysterical gaze.

If they could have his name, the sense of belonging they would feel to him would drastically increase, but such thoughts were irrelevant to Davis, who didn't mind much about the significance of changing names. He found their names plenty attractive, including their family names, although having his name behind theirs also didn't feel bad.

Now with their reasoning, he felt a bit influenced.

Perhaps, starting his own power someday wouldn't be bad at all.

Nonetheless, Davis shook his head. Even if he did establish a power, it would be in the immortal world, not in some back-world like this place. He was already thinking of establishing a legion of soul cultivators, so this plan made him feel a bit excited, but considering the danger of the Calamity Light, he pushed back such thoughts and continued to have fun while he could.

He had already experienced the feeling of death once, and perhaps, that's why he wanted to spend as much time as possible with them, no matter how awkward it may be to be mingling with so many women at once. At least, it was better than being a stone-faced individual who sat frozen in his mind.

The battles continued as the arbitrator took out a few more lots.

They watched the Wind Dragon Queen be challenged by someone else and win. Even Wayn Skycloud won against his opponent, displaying his prowess at High-Level Law Rune Stage.

From the moment the third round began, eight people were eliminated, so eight more were left from the initial sixteen. All have battled at least once, even Davis, who had to battle a brave yet foolish person who decided to challenge him.

Perhaps, it was just for their namesake or for having the reputation that he challenged a supreme genius like the Emperor of Death.

Either way, almost everyone respected that fearless youth for challenging and instantly giving up, while the power behind that youth could only hide their heads in shame.

Chapter 1985: Top Eight

The next few battles were choosing the top eight, so the lots were reset.

Natalya was the first one to be chosen, which made Davis and many others dumbfounded. It seemed that she had good karmic luck, at least according to the words of the Karmic Guardian Emperor who publically praised her. After all, she was chosen for the lot the first two times.

Even the ordinary people were shocked, thinking that the lots were rigged or something.

The ones who were left were Davis, Natalya, Zestria, Ellia, Adlet Rayburn, Wayn Skycloud, Zura Ike, and one lucky fellow from a major power within a Large-Sized Territory. It seemed that he hailed from the Purple Haze Sect, a sect influential with Illusion Laws. However, in front of true geniuses, illusions tend to work less, so it was a surprise for him to have reached this point.

Nonetheless, everyone felt it was fated that his luck would run out very soon.

Natalya was not interested in him but turned to look at the Wind Dragon Queen. However, thinking that Zestria would want to battle with Zura Ike, she was about to shake her head again when a soul transmission fell in her head.

It seemed that Zestria didn't want to face Zura Ike.

'Since it's like that...'

Natalya challenged Zura Ike and fought with her. Needless to say, the battle was one-sided, coming to an end in a few seconds.

Boom!~

Ice shards exploded, and the impact sent a green-robed figure flying.

Zura Ike spat a mouthful of blood before standing up and cupping her hands.

"Thanks for showing mercy."

Without saying anything else, Zura Ike left the battle stage.

Natalya could only sigh, feeling that Zura Ike was a level-headed woman with bright prospects as her skills were tremendous from what she had previously seen so far but tied to the wrong man, not that she cared since Zura Ike herself seemed to be fine with it.

She wanted no women who didn't retain her innocence to be approaching Davis anyway. Otherwise, it would be an insult to them since what they treasured and gave Davis would not be worth a spirit stone anymore.

The next lot had chosen Adlet Rayburn.

Without any surprises, Adlet Rayburn fought with the Purple Haze Sect's disciple and won so easily, but the people thought that the latter's luck was extremely worse because his dantian had been pierced, almost collapsing because he was hidden in his illusions while Adlet Rayburn still attacked with his rapid and endless swords, almost causing his downfall.

Nonetheless, the next lot was taken, and it was none other than Zestria.

Instantly, she pointed towards a hegemonic power as her eyes gleamed.

"Ellia, battle me!"

Ellia blinked, wondering why Zestria had challenged her.

"You do know that you'll face the same fate as Zura Ike, right?"

Davis almost face-palmed, wondering why Zestria did that. The safe bet would be to challenge Wayn Skycloud, but it seems like she was fiery and tempered to be choosing a safe path. Still, he was not about to watch Zestria have a battle with Ellia for the same reasons as he blocked Natalya. He could at least believe Ellia but not Myria.

"It's fine, Prince Davis."

Abruptly, a soul transmission fell in his mind, causing him to look at Ellia. He could see a genuine look in her graceful eyes.

"..."

Davis could only lament why he hadn't managed to obtain a single lot.

Was his karmic luck so bad?

In the end, he stared at Ellia and gave a stern look as if to say not to allow Myria to do anything to Zestria. Even he felt foolish with his actions at this moment, but that gentle yet caring voice that called him Prince Davis was alone to shred enough of his wariness towards her that he allowed Zestria to leave.

Ellia also entered the battle stage.

The people were wondering why Davis and his people called Fairy Myria: Ellia, but they merely thought that it was the name she used while stealing Davis's treasure. Since they didn't know the specifics, they could only form theories, and some theories were atrocious and even spicy.

Soon, the barrier activated, and Honorable Elder Julian Kruse announced the start of the battle.

"Do you want to use your Starry Descent of the Fire Dragon?"

"No. I know I won't win against you."

Ellia asked before Zestria shook her head, causing the former to widen her brows.

"Then why did you challenge me?"

"You're stronger than us Dragon Queens who take pride in our bodily might for some reason. If you are daring, let's have fun with only our fists."

"So you want me to lower my prowess?"

"Up to you."

Zestria shrugged, raising her two hands. Neither essence nor martial energy covered them, but pure bodily force.

Whoosh!~

She instantly rushed towards Ellia, her fist punching towards Ellia's face.

Ellia didn't evoke her energy. She merely twisted like a snake when she disappeared out of Zestria's view.

Zestria felt her heart skip a beat as a hand grasped her wrist from the side. Before she knew it, one of her knees was kicked, and she was pinned down on the ground, her hands tied behind her back. The utter shock of the realization that she had been apprehended like it was nothing almost made her inwardly laugh in shame because she knew that Ellia almost used the same amount of strength she used, yet she was quickly subdued.

"Did sleeping with him feel good?"

Abruptly, a whisper tickled her ear.

"Wha-?"

Zestria's cheeks instantly became crimson.

Ellia slightly moved back, noticing Davis's soul sense encroach on them as she spoke to Zestria.

"Use soul transmission."

"Wait a second-!" Zestria panicked, "What are you even asking in this place?"

"I mean, you were the one who told this battle was for fun. Let's have fun by communicating like two refined ladies. You must've at least heard about me, no?"

"..." Zestria clenched her teeth, not willing to speak.

"Silent, huh? Not that I care but tell me about him. Tell me what kind of person he is through your own words."

"What more I need to say when my name from that moment onwards is Zestria Davis?"

Zestria finally opened her mouth before she screamed.

"I admit defeat!"

Ellia smiled behind her veil and let go of Zestria.

Zestria instantly gained distance and looked at Ellia with clenched teeth as though she was going to avenge this humiliation later before she flew away.

It wasn't like she didn't know how dangerous Myria was but with this, she was glad she was able to prove herself useful to Davis. She had information that his Ellia was definitely present inside that body. After all, that haughty and cold Myria she had heard about from the others wouldn't have such interests.

Ellia waved her hand at the leaving Zestria, not bothered if she was looking at her or not.

"See? She really is not soul controlled or brainwashed."

"I never asked for proof." Myria's voice echoed blandly.

"I just wanted to let you know."

"..."

Zestria couldn't even notice that Ellia had invaded her soul sea, but Davis noticed.

"Nothing happened, right?"

Davis captured Zestria's cheeks as he sent his soul sense inside her soul sea once she arrived before him, causing her to become stiff.

Zestria felt strange. She could feel his worry but the most important point was that she felt full of himself. It was strangely addicting as she sensed him brush past each corner of her soul sea. If this was private, she might be making weird sounds too, but since she suppressed that urge, her cheeks became crimson underneath his warm touch.

Soon, Davis completed a full sweep scan of Zestria's soul sea, and he found nothing of concern, allowing him to inwardly heave a sigh of relief.

"Davis! She really is there! Your Ellia really is there!"

Looking at Zestria jump excitedly while she sent him a soul transmission, explaining what she exchanged with Ellia, Davis swallowed the harsh words he wanted to say towards Zestria for her safety.

He heaved a breath and spoke.

"I know. There are only a few battles left, and one of them is certainly mine against Ellia."

Davis was convinced that if either he or Ellia had the chance to get picked by a lot, they would challenge each other without fail.

Only now did he recall that Ellia also hadn't gotten a lot all this time.

Was her luck also bad?

Chapter 1986: Close Enough

Out of the eight remaining participants, three were eliminated. One more battle and the lots would be reset since everyone had at least fought once.

Naturally, Davis fought with Wayn Skycloud. However, he made Wayn Skycloud kneel by breaking his kneecaps.

Everyone knew that it was intentional, but no one said anything, nor was Davis too savage. That fracture could heal as long as Wayn Skycloud took a healing pill of Peak-Level Emperor Grade, which he would be in possession of considering that he was one of the important heirs to the Vast Sky Emperor.

Since they had decided to give in to his demands, Davis let them go for now. Or else, there would be another corpse in the New Era Battle Arena.

As for why Wayn Skycloud challenged him, he was unlucky enough to be only capable of challenging him because the others had already finished their battles. Nonetheless, Wayn Skycloud was about to quickly give up when the start of the battle was announced but would Davis let him?

Wayn Skycloud even felt that he escaped calamity by just having his legs broken.

Who knows what else he would've been subjected to if the Emperor of Death decided to take out his anger on him or even use him to smoke out his father?

Everyone could see that the Emperor of Death disdained to go to such lengths.

Wayn Skycloud left without making a sound. Although this experience was humiliating for him, he didn't dare show any emotions on his face.

Now, only four participants were left: Davis, Natalya, Ellia, and Adlet Rayburn.

Without delaying, Honorable Elder Julian Kruse picked the lot and heaved a sigh of relief.

This time, the lot went to Adlet Rayburn, making Honorable Elder Julian Kruse think that if this lot also went to Natalya, her luck would almost be heaven-defying, not to mention voices of cheating would also become prevalent since the common populace do not understand the concept of karmic luck.

He displayed the lot, and Adlet Rayburn saw that the challenger was himself!

He could only shake his head to the so-called sudden luck that was bestowed on him.

'So it's the last battle...'

On the other hand, Davis and Ellia thought at the same time as they turned to look at each other. There was also a faint hint of laughter in their eyes, blaming each other for being unable to meet with their bad luck.

To think that they had not obtained a single lot all this time... they didn't know what to say about it.

Adlet Rayburn pursed his lips as he glanced around, his eyes appearing deeply hesitant.

If he challenged the Emperor of Death, he knew he would lose. The chances of him winning would be greater if he battled the Yin Lotus Fairy or Fairy Myria, but he mused that battling the Yin Lotus Fairy would be easier because Fairy Myria was shrouded in mysteriousness that even the Emperor of Death seemed careful of her, not to mention that she survived the attacks of Rayn Shard who used the Soaring Emperor Sword, allowing his prowess to reach the likes of the Four Great Righteous Sect Leaders.

Adlet Rayburn felt that his best bet to win was to battle the Yin Lotus Fairy, but if he did, injuries would be commonplace. He didn't want to offend the Emperor of Death as he had seen how protective he could be of his women like him, which garnered his respect, but he also couldn't give up just like that.

He was caught between a rock and a hard place, but in the end, he made his decision.

"Yin Lotus Fairy, I challenge you to a fair battle."

"Ahaha~"

Natalya couldn't help but laugh in response.

"Did I do something wrong?" Adlet Rayburn's brows couldn't help but twitch.

Was the Yin Lotus Fairy looking down on him?

"No, if I knew that I was going to be challenged by you, I would've challenged you in the very first battle of this third round. Then I wouldn't have had to hesitate so much in choosing that disappointing woman."

"Haha, please spare me. I don't want the humiliation of losing so early, and neither do you."

Adlet Rayburn chuckled. Although there was humility in his speech, his last few words mentioned that he was absolutely confident in winning.

"Well, I don't care for the martial aspect of the rankings. I'm only here for accompanying my husband anyway, wanting to be close to him as much as possible in the rankings~"

Natalya's cheerful voice echoed as she flew towards the battle stage.

Adlet Rayburn became speechless before he turned to look at Davis and cupped his hands.

Davis gave a slight nod. He was approving of Adlet Rayburn's attitude towards him, not servile but not haughty either. However, Natalya's words put a smile on his face.

Although she was starting to show some changes because she had become stronger, she was still his Natalya.

It was said that when a person enjoyed enough wealth, power, and status, or even one of them to an overwhelming degree, it would reveal their true self. He was heartened to see that she still remained the same.

Natalya and Adlet Rayburn quickly arrived at their positions. The both of them clearly looked confident, their eyes displaying not even a hint of worry.

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse saw that they were willing to battle, but he couldn't help but move away from the edge of the barrier first. These two were more powerful than him that he felt like he had to gain some distance first. Furthermore, the battle stage was already wrecked in a few places, some even having a deep gorge.

Repairs were done, but for the battle stage to have repeatedly crumbled under their prowess, they were no longer bothered to make repairs, especially after Rayn Shard and Fairy Myria's battle.

Nonetheless, thinking that this battle wouldn't reach their level, he raised his hand and flicked his sleeve.

"Let the battle begin!"

Adlet Rayburn and Natalya didn't move. They stared at each other, waiting for the other to make a move while the people were also excited, wanting to know who would win this exchange, a speedy and destructive light skylark or an invasive and enduring yin lotus.

In the eyes of the people, their prowess was also evenly matched from what they had seen, so even before the two of them made a move, their bodies already started shaking in anticipation.

"Alright, since Yin Lotus Fairy's power is not suited for attacking, I will attack."

Adlet Rayburn opened his mouth and took a step forward. His figure transformed into a silver streak of light that manifested in front of Natalya at this moment, a silver light sword appearing in his hand as he slashed down on her.

Simultaneously, an icy-blue lotus blossomed, its structure made of ice and yin, blocking the attack.

Bang!~

The silver sword fell on the icy-blue lotus, but it refused to break under the sharpness of the light blade. Adlet Rayburn narrowed his brows, and his essence energy overflowed into his silver sword, becoming sharper while carrying a destructive will of the wind.

The sharpness twisted space as cracks started appearing around them, but Natalya also seemingly strengthened her icy-blue lotus, continuing to provide it with energy like he did. Indeed, Natalya used ice essence energy in her left hand and yin essence energy from her right hand. However, she didn't merge them but stuck them together like gluing them together.

People occasionally identify this as Yin Fusion, but they are mistaken. Unless the two energies completely undergo a qualitative change when merging, it wouldn't become a fusion.

On the other hand, Adlet Rayburn refused to use another maneuver when it became whose fist was bigger. Either he breaks her lotus, or his sword shatters. There was no way around it because if he used another attack in this maneuver, it would become that he lost in terms of sheer prowess even if he managed to injure her. However, he knew that the Yin Lotus Fairy had yet to use her Yin Fusion Laws, which made him feel that his chances to win became bleak.

'As expected, my Immeasurable Sea is not up to par with her...'

Adlet Rayburn lamented.

While battling with Schleya, he had to hold back, but while battling with Natalya, he couldn't break through her defenses even while not holding back.

His Immeasurable Sea was at hundred and thirty kilometers which were lesser than Natalya's hundred and forty-nine kilometers Immeasurable Sea. He didn't know how big her Law Sea was but came to understand that it was better than his in this single exchange.

"Watch out!"

Gritting his teeth, he spat these words from his mouth.

Abruptly, the silver light sword vaguely radiated a viridian aura.

Natalya's eyes slightly widened, her pupils reflecting the scene of her icy-blue lotus coming under further pressure from the sword trying to slice it. However, her astonishment stemmed from the fact that she sensed wind essence energy emerging from him!

Chapter 1987: Skylark Battles A Lotus

'Two Law Seas...?'

Natalya was even astonished for a second before her excitement to face a new power receded into one of disappointment.

Even if he possessed Wind Laws, so what? Judging from the prowess of that viridian light, it seemed that his Wind Law Sea didn't even reach the realm of Immeasurable Sea, only reaching Vast Sea, so how could he compare to her Ice Law Sea and Yin Law Sea that had both reached a hundred and forty-nine kilometers.

But at this moment, martial energy burst forth from Adlet Rayburn, the image of a radiant skylark directly falling on the icy-blue lotus as it struck. Additionally, soul force surged from his forehead, transforming into a similar skylark but much more powerful than his martial energy.

The cry of a skylark rang out, making Natalya narrow her brows as she found that it was a soul attack aimed at herself. The power of his attack didn't even reach the Ninth Stage, but it served to collapse, no, disrupt her focus, allowing Adlet Rayburn to rupture the icy-blue lotus.

However, his gaze became somber only to see a crack appear before the icy-blue lotus froze it along with his light sword.

Whoosh!~

He appeared in his initial position, unable to believe that he was unable to do anything even after using his Low-Level Martial Sage Stage Cultivation and Peak-Level Supreme Soul Stage Cultivation. Using tri-cultivation put somewhat of a strain on his meridians and psyche, but he still was unable to win in that single exchange.

Bang!~

The conjured light shard shattered into icy motes like snowflakes, which disappeared into thin air.

"Can I take that as my win?"

Natalya's cheerful voice echoed, causing Adlet Rayburn to wryly smile.

"Now I see why Fairy Ivy Aries decided to give up instead of even trying to mount a challenging battle. Your defense is remarkably extreme."

Because Natalya was going against the Water Laws of Ivy Aries, her defense really couldn't be measured since they were fighting a battle of who has better control instead of overwhelming power. However, this battle directly proved that the destructive prowess that he was proud of wasn't much in front of Natalya's defense that she didn't even need to use Yin Fusion to defend against him.

Since it was the case, he really didn't want to showcase his techniques, but he just wasn't the type to leave after a single defeat.

Bzzz!~

Abruptly, thousands of skylarks appeared behind him, transforming into those deadly light swords tinged with silver gleam.

"I couldn't match your prowess, but let's see if I can overwhelm you."

Adlet Rayburn waved his hand, and they shot towards Natalya. The resplendent light of the silvery swords flashed as they shot towards Natalya.

Natalya waved her hands when thousands of icy-blue lotuses emerged from the empty space surrounding her. Together, they created a tight pocket of lotus flowers, spinning in a beautiful and entrancing manner, but they suddenly flew and were simultaneously pierced by those thousands of swords targeting her.

They aligned to form a blockade, quickly making the region an untraversable space. Many silver swords pierced the lotuses, looking like they destroyed them. However, all those silver swords that stabbed the lotuses were caught, frozen into shattering before they disintegrated.

The rest of the silver swords that didn't even reach a hundred, appearing towards Natalya was taken care of a single wave by her hand.

Adlet Rayburn's expression was gloomy. Clearly, Natalya wasn't just specialized in one area. Not only could she have a single concentrated defensive technique, but she also used that same technique to split into multiple lotuses, giving her the same edge she had over him.

It might seem easy to control so many energy entities, but in reality, it took immense concentration and was not something cultivators who used single-focused attacks were usually capable of. Since her age was less, he thought she wouldn't have much skill in regards to controlling many lotuses with such preciseness, but he was proven wrong. Her lotuses still stopped his powerful swords that were capable of cutting down High-Level Law Rune Stage Powerhouses like cabbages since they could not block what they could not see or follow yet she managed to do just that.

"Such strong attacks. If I'm not using yin and ice together, my lotuses would be pierced through while I'll turn into a hedgehog myself."

Natalya giggled.

She felt that if she couldn't maintain her defense while using two Greater Laws against Adlet Rayburn, even if he possessed the power of the Silver Radiant Skylark, she should just hang her head in shame. In fact, she felt prideful because she hadn't used her full prowess yet, not in front of Ivy Aries nor him.

Dealing with Ivy Aries had been tricky because she was able to absorb the energy, weakening her lotuses. However, it wasn't the same for Adlet Rayburn, who could only seek to damage her icy lotuses, which was not easy.

Natalya only said a few words to give him face, and as though understanding that, Adlet Rayburn shook his head.

"At first, I thought that I could compare to Yin Lotus Fairy, but it seems that I am wrong. Unlike that wicked path woman who came at me with full force, I won't do such a thing unless I need to, so I'm thinking of throwing in the towel. However, people say that the third time is a charm. If you can withstand this attack of mine, I will admit defeat."

Natalya smiled.

She could sense that Adlet Rayburn hadn't used any powerful and also terrifying techniques of the Silver Radiant Skylark, but it was understandable, considering he was all alone in this world without a backer. Even she didn't want to display all her techniques unless needed to because undisplayed techniques could serve as a trump card between equal-level battles.

Since she had Davis, she was not worried about using terrifying techniques of her Forsaken Yin Lotus Manual, but that's why she also felt respect for Adlet Rayburn to say that he was going to use a technique, one that was probably enough to surmount his prowess a bit or perhaps even a level.

It must be known that the cerulean lotus of Yin Fusion she unleashed wasn't even a technique, yet it caused her prowess to almost jump a level, reaching a level higher than Peak-Level Law Rune Stage. If she actually created a technique while using her Yin Fusion, its prowess would be even more terrifying.

Thinking like this, Natalya began creating an icy-blue lotus again.

Adlet Rayburn's brows twitched. It couldn't be that she was really looking down on him to be using the same technique, right?

Perhaps, she was.

Thinking back, his life was full of peril but also blessed with a lucky encounter that people didn't know about until this date.

It wasn't that he had managed to stay hidden from the eyes of the public, but he had been trapped for a long time in a pocket space, something even more inferior than a mini realm. It was said these pocket spaces were left by immortal experts, and some say it's the same case as Poison Rift Valley's rifts, being stormed by spatial cracks at all times, except more stable.

No matter what it may be, he was stuck in there for a hundred years before the pocket space was on the verge of crumbling before finally letting him off. But there, he managed to find the Silver Radiant Skylark's inheritance and became powerful.

He came back to the world, sought vengeance on the wicked path, destroying a High-Level Emperor Grade Sect for killing his family and saved a few people of which he had become closer to two women and disappeared from the world living his life with them in seclusion, no longer making a commotion.

The people who knew of him knew gratitude and didn't spread his news, and the ones who investigated mistook him as some great expert from the righteous path, so he was good as non-existent in the eyes of the world.

Now that he was here, he wanted to make a name for himself but found out that there were monsters like him. Originally, he thought he was a monster himself, but his horizons had been truly broadened this time. Until coming here and hearing the gossip of many people, he didn't even know of the Emperor of Death's emergence.

That's how reclusive he was with his life because he had adapted to be alone in that pocket space. However, after making love with his two wives, whom he saved, his entire life was tied to them. He felt that he couldn't disappoint them, especially when battling a woman who could be said to be on the same level as him.

Taking a deep breath, he raised his hand as resplendent silver light began to illuminate the space in front of him.

Chapter 1988: Skylark Shreds The Void

Natalya watched Adlet Rayburn prepare his technique while she also prepared hers to counter him.

A large part of the area he was standing in became covered in a luminous silver light. It then condensed into an elongated yet curved stick that had a string attached to it at two ends.

Adlet Rayburn used the remaining luminous silver light to condense a half a meter long arrow.

"A bow and arrow?"

Natalya muttered before she felt a vague unease as she saw him nock the arrow in the bow, pulling the bowstring with it, causing space to tremble visibly.

"Skylark Shreds the Void!"

Rrk!~

Adlet Rayburn's staunch voice echoed as he let go of the bowstring when everyone could hear the sound of an arrow leaving the bow along with the wind shredding and space tearing.

Before the people could see what had happened, the silver arrow unceremoniously put a hole through Natalya's icy-blue lotus and shot past her, heading straight towards the barrier before it exploded.

Boom!~

Part of the barrier disappeared, replaced by a gaping spatial maw that tried to suck in its surroundings. Abruptly, the frames of the seatings had their own barriers activated, protecting the spectators.

"What great piercing power!"

The people couldn't help gasp in fright as they saw the icy-blue lotus explode right at the time the barrier exploded, almost sucking them in if it were not for the new barrier that suddenly activated to protect them.

Nonetheless, their thoughts about the arrow were similar to what Natalya thought as she dodged and fled.

And her instincts were spot on.

Rrk!~

Another luminous silver arrow shot towards her with tremendous speed. The silver arrow possessed a beautiful tail that was only visible to a few capable eyes, making them understand that it looked similar to the skylark's tail, adapting its laws. Most people couldn't even see how that arrow flew through the skies. They only got to see it when a part of the barrier was destroyed.

Still, the arrow tearing apart space could be clearly seen heading towards the Yin Lotus Fairy even if there was a delay in their senses! Could she dodge again without the support of her lotus?

The arrow contorted the space around it, so was dodging even possible?

The luminous silver arrow was already in front of Natalya before the people could even recognize it.

Just when a few capable ones thought she was going to explode like her icy-blue lotus because she still hadn't put her defenses in line, Natalya twisted her body strangely, the arrow shooting where her waist was supposed to be.

"...!?"

Adlet Rayburn's eyes almost bulged out from his sockets.

She actually dodged his arrow at such a range?

It must be known that he one-shot a High-Level Law Rune Stage Cultivator from thousands of kilometers away, yet Natalya could dodge his arrow while being less than thirty kilometers away? He couldn't help but feel that it was insane.

Nonetheless, before the spatial crack could grow and swallow, she slithered away like a snake in water in the opposite direction, dancing like a fairy in order to counter the force of the spatial pull.

"Your face looks like you never saw someone who practiced Yin Laws."

Natalya came to a stop as she commented, causing Adlet Rayburn to slightly blush. After all, those who practice Yin Laws most of the time could not be said to be powerful as those who practice Yang Laws, but the one thing they were good at was being nimble and light-footed enough to dodge something at close combat even if they do not see it coming as their sixth sense allow them to avoid danger.

However, he didn't speak on it and nocked another arrow from condensing the surrounding light around him as well as his, creating a distorting effect around him as though he was a black hole.

He let go of the arrow, unleashing it from its bow with immense preciseness.

Space rumbled and kept ripping apart along the trajectory of the silver arrow. However, Natalya dodged again, and she did so flawlessly while twisting her body at the last moment that garnered the awe of the powerhouses.

Adlet Rayburn didn't stop. He kept unleashing his arrows again, unable to believe he couldn't hit a target at such a close range. His bow skills have already reached a tremendous level that he possessed Level Seven Bow Intent and supported by Wind Laws and Light Laws, he had not missed a single target in his life before.

With Natalya being able to dodge them and while elegantly at that made him feel like his head was going to explode that he didn't care about his energy usage anymore, intending to hit her.

Rrk!~

It was an apocalypse within the battle stage. With each arrow launched, Natalya danced like a fairy with nimble yet precise movements, easily dodging the arrows that kept shooting past her, ending up destroying the barrier.

'All the thousands of sword he condensed is concentrated into that one single arrow...' Natalya figured, understanding why his attack could contain so much power.

It was enough to shatter her defense, and she mused that it was the case even if she used her full prowess.

Of course, it would be a different matter if she used Yin Fusion, but she didn't want to use it since she already had an advantage over him. It was beneath her to use Yin Fusion to attack him.

If Ivy Aries's devouring power wasn't so peculiar, she wouldn't have revealed that she possessed Yin Fusion as well, letting it stay hidden as a trump card.

However, what couldn't hit her wouldn't be able to damage her. Not only was she actively dodging but also not attacking him. Otherwise, he wouldn't have the time to condense such a powerful arrow either. Therefore, she was not worried about being injured and practiced dodging those powerful and speedy arrows using this rare occasion.

If Adlet Rayburn learned of her thoughts, he might spurt a mouthful of blood from being treated as a practice. Since he didn't know of such thoughts and was just intent on hitting her at least once, he kept shooting his arrows made of Silver Radiant Skylark's Light.

However, no matter how he aimed, his arrows seemed to always miss.

Natalya made one full round around the battle stage, but the barrier had not healed yet as space was still stitching itself back.

Natalya glanced at the crowd. If she dodged again, the arrow would go straight to the spectators, hitting them into oblivion, or perhaps, the spatial crack might even twist it, causing it to curve and hit some other places. She then glanced at Adlet Rayburn, looking at him nock the arrow into his bow.

She suddenly stopped dodging and walked towards him in mid-air.

The air around her changed, becoming more icy and frigid. It was as though the space in the surrounding kilometers turned into a world of ice that even Adlet Rayburn felt a chill, pausing for a moment as he saw her actions.

"The lotus I summon is a very basic technique that can be used in numerous forms. The technique I'm going to show you is a true technique from the manual I practice."

Rrk!~

Adlet Rayburn strengthened his arrow even more as he heard her explain before he unleashed Skylark Shreds The Void.

Natalya took three steps forward and came to a stop. She raised a hand and abruptly pushed her hand towards the arrow.

"...!"

Many people who saw this scene became aghast, and even Davis felt his heart skip a beat.

Bang!~

Natalya forcefully received the arrow to her palm, but the strange thing was the arrow was stopped, trembling in front of her palm as it tried to pierce through a tiny field of yin energy that rapidly spun, lowering the speed and intensity of the Skylark Shreds the Void.

Even the luminous silver arrow's ability to tear the space was restricted in her hand!

'Why is it not exploding!?! She contained the energy!?!'

Adlet Rayburn became shocked to see before an epiphany hit him.

Her yin energy served to lessen the impact and also kept it from exploding, and just as he raised his hand to manually detonate his technique, Natalya clenched her palm into a fist, causing the silver arrow to crack. Its tail rapidly constricted as though it was going to collapse on itself.

The swirling yin field directly collapsed the silver arrow, causing it to shatter into silver ice shards.

Chapter 1989: Thriving Yin Lotus Fairy

The people of the New Era Battle Arena were shocked and delighted at this scene, possessing an outlandish grin of excitement on their faces.

They thought Natalya was fragile since her Body Tempering Cultivation was said to be less, but she withstood such an impact?

Moreover, she shattered Adlet Rayburn's technique, not even bothering to parry it. The light arrow was frozen to a silent death before it could break and explode.

"Impossible... how did you...?"

Adlet Rayburn found it hard to believe that she could catch and suppress his attack like that when it was extremely condensed.

Why could he not injure a cultivator of the same level?

Was his Silver Radiant Skylark blood crap? Or was it fake? Or was he the problem?

Natalya heaved an icy breath before she opened her lips. However, words didn't come out of her mouth as she thought that it was not good to explain her technique's secrets because it could be used against her.

Adlet Rayburn looked somber before he shook his head, "Sigh, I really was deluded until I came here. Yin Lotus Fairy, I admit defeat."

"Adlet Rayburn, you are too courteous and are unwilling to reveal more techniques that could possibly have the edge over me."

"Yin Lotus Fairy surely jests..."

Adlet Rayburn's lips twitched.

He was not prepared to have his attacks repeatedly shattered, especially not by a woman who was younger than him. Not only was it disheartening but also will crushing. Besides, he felt that using blood essence to use terrifying techniques was a waste of time. After all, to use that kind of terrifying technique, one should be at the immortal level since the meridians could not withstand them.

That backlash was mitigated through the usage of blood essence.

Nonetheless, even if he managed to injure Natalya, he would only earn the ire of the Emperor of Death which was an absolute no since he almost flipped the table for no reason once, thinking that death was inevitable because he was framed for killing Schleya.

"The victory of this battle belongs to Natalya Alstreim."

After hearing the result, Natalya clasped her hands to Adlet Rayburn and left while the other pondered for a few seconds about the battle before leaving.

"Elder sis! You were so cool, using the Forsaken Yin Empress's Strife like that!"

Fiora instantly threw herself to Natalya, hugging her with her eyes glowing.

"Rather than an external technique, it's an internal one. One's entire body becomes a whirlpool that absorbs the force of the attack and unleashes it back, so I was able to withstand that force using the entire yin of my body in the palm of my hand and used it against him."

Natalya giggled, explaining a bit as she caressed Fiora's cheek.

The others were also greatly intrigued by that technique as she had displayed great skill. Even the ones who thought that she just relied on Davis to reach this point somewhere in their heart had their opinions changed.

However, Davis couldn't help but shake his head as what Natalya attempted was dangerous. If she possessed an equal amount of Body Tempering Cultivation, he wouldn't be worried but using Forsaken Yin Empress's Strife against a stronger killing technique was tantamount to suicide if failed.

He felt that Natalya's guts had grown stronger to attempt to use that technique in a battle against a stranger, but because of that, he had even more admiration for her now. But he still couldn't help but ask in worry.

"Do you have to go to such lengths?"

"Well, I accept this technique is hard to control, and I haven't even mastered thirty percent of it, but it's enough for Adlet Rayburn."

Davis almost rolled his eyes on hearing Natalya's prideful comment.

"Of course, he could not compare to you. Judging by his Law Sea, I can say for certain that he does not have the true essence blood of the Silver Radiant Skylark and most likely only found a remnant tomb. Otherwise, you would have exploded for taking that arrow head-on."

"I know~"

Natalya stuck her tongue out, acting cute.

In truth, Natalya also had enough confidence to be able to stop his technique. It wasn't pure delusion, ego, or pride but battle experience.

Natalya's power alternated between Yin and Ice Laws even though she used both energies at the same time. When she defended, she used Ice Laws as the core. When she dodged and parried, she used Yin Laws as the core. It served to greatly boost her efficiency in what she needed to achieve.

This kind of battle instinct in alternating powers couldn't be merely gained just by practicing laws that Davis could see that Natalya took the time to battle with her sisters to improve her battle prowess.

In truth, he didn't know that while Isabella took care of him while he was in a near-death state, Natalya and Fiora also took care of him, but they also practiced like their life depended on it that their skills vastly improved from their previous selves that it exceeded that of Sophie's and Niera's before the competition.

Fiora was limited by her manual and techniques, but it wasn't the same for Natalya, who already possessed the Forsaken Yin Lotus Manual. Her helplessness when he was incapacitated allowed her to concentrate and grow her skills so that it wouldn't happen again.

Isabella healed their injuries from those battles with pills, so Davis didn't know about their hard work, but he would instantly notice if he checked their bodies for hidden injuries. These hidden injuries

wouldn't affect them much unless they succumbed to critical injuries, so they hadn't told him; most likely, they didn't want to burden him and thought it was a tiny matter unworthy of mention.

Furthermore, Natalya also practiced with Ilesha after gaining her. Other than Isabella, Evelyn, Zestia, Bylai, and Lea Weiss, she was the one with the most experience in battles, leading to greater control of her energy and techniques while also allowing her to stay aware and calm of the situation, aided by her law's nature.

Indeed, this nobody absolutely astonished the people of the New Era Battle Arena, making a name for herself by clenching an arrow and destroying it as though it was nothing but a stick.

Nonetheless, what was dumbfounding to Davis was that Natalya's Forsaken Yin Lotus Manual could compare to the likes of immortal manuals from grand immortal beasts like the Earth Dragon and Fire Phoenix. Otherwise, could it really go against Adlet Rayburn even if he was lacking Silver Radiant Skylark's True Essence Blood?

Did the Forsaken Yin Lotus Manual have some grand background that he didn't know about?

If so, he indifferently felt that he should be prepared about it as though it was just another trouble. After all, this manual seemed to suit Natalya so perfectly in his mind.

"You were awesome out there."

Davis reached out his hand, patting Natalya's head which caused her eyes to become dreamy and satisfied even though she tried to hide the blooming happiness in her expression.

"However, I hope I can be as cool as you. Otherwise, it would be a complete loss of face for me as your man."

As he continued, he turned to look at Ellia, who was also looking at him with a faint smile behind her veil.

Natalya and the others' expression became solemn.

At present, just by comparing their bearings, not a single one of them possessed the confidence to defeat her in a battle after seeing Ellia battle with Rayn Shard. To them, she gave the same feeling as Davis, insurmountable, especially to Natalya and Zestia, who were near her than any others as they participated in this Eighth Stage Segment.

Without even the next lot being chosen, Davis stepped out and flew towards the battle stage, and so did Ellia.

The eyes of the powerhouses and Mandate Emperor sharply narrowed.. It seemed that the supreme geniuses could no longer wait.

Chapter 1990: We'll Split Later?

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse was just about to use his hand to pick the lot when he noticed two figures entering the battle stage. He raised his head, wanting to berate when he saw their identities, becoming tongue-tied. The words he had in his throat were swallowed before he turned to look at the Mandate Emperor.

Was it okay to flout the rules like this?

After all, one must be challenged in order to battle. However, he didn't receive any kind of reply or even a subtle gesture from the Mandate Emperor or the Karmic Guardian Emperor that he could only decide for himself. Clenching his teeth, he used his hand to pick the lot and saw that it was number seven.

He took it out and displayed it, causing Davis and Ellia to notice.

Davis's lips curled. It seemed his luck was better than Ellia's or was it Myria's?

He didn't know but raised his and pointed, "Myria, I challenge you to a battle."

Ellia blinked before she shook her head, "No, I will battle you, Pr- Davis."

Her melodious voice echoed with a tone of necessity.

Davis mildly clenched his mouth before a wry smile encumbered his expression.

Ellia's stubbornness was not something he was foreign to. However, he knew how to break it but with Ellia asking for a battle with him after a long time; he was unable to reject.

'Well, Myria will come out sooner or later...'

However, the people couldn't understand Fairy Myria's words. Did she agree to the battle or not?

"Wait."

At this moment, the Starnova Emperor stood up, causing countless heads to turn towards him as they saw him speaking with the Mandate Emperor.

"Use the Greater Starlight Illumination Barrier."

The Mandate Emperor and the Karmic Guardian Emperor nodded before the three of them poured their energy into the core that the Starlight Emperor had taken out.

Rumble!~

The previous barrier that had been destroyed became replaced with another barrier. It illuminated the night sky while it absorbed energy from the stars. Of course, its main source of energy was the Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Sources underneath, but the energy the barrier absorbed from the stars in the night sky was also a kind of law that strengthened it. Although the input was less, it made the barrier complex and strong in accordance with three laws, namely, Light Laws, Fire Laws, and Yang Laws, able to withstand attacks that were one level higher than Peak-Level Ninth Stage, perhaps even two levels above.

This maneuver didn't make the crowd nervous but made them feel incredibly excited. It also caused them to feel grateful towards the Great Righteous Sects. After all, if they could view these battles up close, their own realm might rise if they chanced upon an insight while taking inspiration from the battles.

To use the Greater Starlight Illumination Barrier that was reserved for the Ninth Stage Segment, it was meant to say that the two of their levels already reached that kind of level. No, when Rayn Shard and Fairy Myria, Adlet Rayburn and Yin Lotus Fairy fought, their battles had already reached this level.

It was only after the barrier was destroyed did the authorities want to use this formation. However, could it still hold against these two supreme geniuses?

Although they were worried, they didn't tend to overlook that danger as the authorities would protect them!

"Hehe~"

Ellia giggled while Davis also shook his head. It seemed like they were prepared to sacrifice one of their expensive formations and prepared to spend more money to protect the people from harm, allowing them to watch their battle up close.

He couldn't understand such extravagant spending, but perhaps that's why they were the leaders of the human race.

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse saw the barrier almost closing. However, his senses suddenly caught a peculiar yet vague undulation. He looked down at the box. If he was not wrong, he felt that it came from inside.

Did someone actually tamper with it?

How could it even be possible?

His brows narrowed in anger. Unable to quell his curiosity, he threw his hands inside and rummaged, picking the remaining lot. He didn't bring it out for fear of repercussions but sent his soul force to image the lot when he became astonished.

"Hm? Why is Fairy Myria's number burned?"

He could see the traces of a number, but it was not clear enough to be called a number. It was only because Fairy Myria was the only remaining opponent other than the Yin Lotus Fairy could he determine that the number belonged to Fairy Myria.

Who would do this?

He couldn't help but narrow his eyes at the Emperor of Death. Even if he wanted to burn it, there was no need to, right? After all, even if Fairy Myria was chosen, she could only challenge him since Natalya was already challenged while Adlet Rayburn lost.

"Alright, announce the start of the battle."

Starnova Emperor spoke with an authoritative voice once the Greater Starlight Illumination Barrier became completely active. He no longer lamented as he had completely accepted the fact that the younger generation had long left them in the dust.

Honorable Elder Julian Kruse had already dropped Fairy Myria's lot inside, not bothering to reveal anything. He didn't want to offend the Emperor of Death, especially when it seemed to be a childish action. Perhaps, it was his way of saying that she wouldn't need the lot after this battle.

"Let the battle begin."

The hand that was raised dropped with incomparable resoluteness that said he wouldn't bat an eye even if the whole battle stage ended up being destroyed!

Davis and Ellia moved. They flew towards each other instead of rushing before stopping with only a distance of ten meters between them.

"You have grown beautiful, Ellia."

"Hehe, you have grown handsome too~"

"..."

Davis and Ellia spoke with a faint chuckle, causing the crowd to become dumbfounded.

Wasn't it said that these two were enemies? Why were they flirting?

"Could it be that the thing she stole? It was his heart?"

A person blurted out. His voice wasn't loud, but it sure did fall on the ears of many as they turned to look at him. That person hurriedly lowered his head, not wanting to be identified, especially because the gazes of the two supreme geniuses also fell on him.

Davis was just about to laugh when a flash of light shot towards him.

Bang!~

Davis instinctively waved his hand, clashing with a spear of light that shattered upon impact. He then looked at his hand that was unharmed before casting a glance at Ellia, who reset her posture, standing with her hands on her lips.

"Oops. That... wasn't-"

"I know."

Davis nodded before he smiled, "I know we should battle instead of banter. Isn't that right?"

Ellia awkwardly smiled as she nodded her head.

"As for you, no need to become fidgety. I'll get what you stole from me one day, and that day might not be far off than you think."

Davis spoke, but the icy-blue-robed figure in front of him shook her head, "Davis, I've already said that I don't need your help. In fact, you should trust me that we'll split later."

"Split? And I should take your word for it?"

Davis laughed before martial energy surged out of his body, emitting the aura of a dragon. It didn't stop but formed a five-kilometer brownish-golden sphere that twisted the space before it became stable.

"It's been so many years since we fought that I'm unfortunately lacking the heart to believe. Prove it that you can divide through your own strength."

"Very well~"

Ellia took a deep breath before her aura became incomparably heavy as martial energy surged out, forming a Perfect Martial Domain that shook many hearts.

"...!"

The Mandate Emperor, Karmic Guardian Emperor, and the Starnova Emperor's expressions sharply fell as they sensed their undulations.

As expected, both of them possessed power rivaling them with nothing but their Eighth Stage Body Tempering Cultivation!