

EMPEROR 551

Chapter 551 Nod For Me

Davis looked at his father and mother as he inwardly laughed. He felt that if he were to be a few seconds late in feeding the antidote pill to Lucas, then there would be death and infighting among the two families.

Fortunately, it didn't turn into a drama with his quick thoughts of using the avatar to handle the situation. Before this, he felt that if he were to inform Evelyann, she wouldn't have definitely fed the 'intruder' the antidote pill.

Lucas's status as an intruder was already cemented in her mind and it would be difficult to remove it anytime soon in that heat of the moment.

After all, there was an enormous amount of killing intent he felt from Evelyann when she attacked the 'intruder'. If he had waited for her to feed the pill to Lucas by convincing her that he was not an intruder, then only a corpse would've been left by now.

After that, this silly yet worried woman Evelyann had tried to feed him an antidote pill, not knowing whether if it would even work on him or not.

Heck, she couldn't even tell if he was poisoned but still tried to cure him with an antidote anyway.

From this, he could garner that she had absolutely panicked at that point, worrying over his wellbeing! However, he really couldn't find Evelyann wrong in comparison to the situation.

In his perspective, all the problem lied within him and Lucas.

Davis had no idea why the latter had shown up! He did not expect Lucas to sneak in either.

There was also the fact that if he had not decided to create an avatar at that time, maybe this mess would've never happened. He could've informed the others before creating an avatar, or secluded himself but it didn't cross his mind at that point.

He discerned that he was rather hasty in this endeavor to create an avatar.

Nevertheless, there was no way he could've considered this situation happening. It had been totally unexpected for him!

"It's a mistake..." Davis let out a wry smile and started to explain the sequence of events.

In his explanation, he had to lie that his Solitary Soul Avatar Technique was just a unique technique that his master gave him and at that point, only Evelyn understood that it was a lie but she didn't bat an eyelid, instead, kept listening to him with all seriousness.

Other than this, he explained as he witnessed and understood.

On how he tried to create an avatar and succeeded.

On how he became weak after splitting a part of his soul essence.

On how Evelyn had misunderstood the situation and attacked Lucas out of pure anger.

And the resulting events that happened till he forced the pill into Lucas's mouth using his avatar.

Hearing all this, Logan and Claire felt surreal while Evelyn became aghast, blaming herself for what she did to Lucas.

She had poisoned an innocent!

"Evelyn..." Davis suddenly called.

Evelyn trembled as she looked at him, feeling guilty and nervous, even afraid that he would berate her.

\\"Runaway...\\" Davis smiled.

\\"Wha...?\\" Evelynn didn't understand as her facial expression turned into one of confusion.

\\"Next time, run away if you see me poisoned. A person who can poison me is someone you cannot handle.\\\"

Evelynn became stunned!

\\"At that time, run. Run far away as you can and never look back till you feel that you are safe. Got it?\\\"

Evelynn instantly yet slightly shook her head in defiance.

\\"Nod for me...\\" Davis domineeringly uttered and as if reacting to that, her defiance instantly crumbled as she nodded her head.

Davis smiled tiredly, \\"Very good. However, what you did now was not your fault. The fault lies within me for negligence and Lucas for trying to sneak in... Do you understand?\\\"

Evelynn became stunned again!

Seeing that Evelynn didn't respond even after a moment, Davis stated once more, \\"Nod for me...\\"

Only then did Evelynn nod her head like a pecking hen, her eyes turning moist like she was a crybaby.

Davis just smiled and patted her head as he shuffled her lustrous green hair, feeling it to be soft and silky. He let go of her and saw that his parents were smiling heartily.

He then blinked and garnered from his avatar that Lucas was still not awake, however, he could see that his condition has become better and stable. Lucas's skin was not pale anymore but became fair.

The antidote was rather powerful in countering her poison since it was specially created for her, so Davis wasn't surprised at this development.

Lucas was just breathing normally without any difficulties at this point. The blisters that spawned over his entire skin has been cured, leaving only a bit of scar.

At this point, was he supposed to be thankful that Evelynn was not at the Fifth Stage, the Law Seed Stage?

'Otherwise, wouldn't she have instakilled Lucas with her poison?' Davis wryly thought.

However, even if she wasn't at the Fifth Stage, it only took a few moments for the poison to enter Lucas's body and wreak havoc as it affected his entire meridian pathway and blood vessels while corrupting his innards, rendering him incapable of doing anything.

Lucas was at the Fourth Stage just like Evelynn in Essence Gathering Cultivation, but the damage the poison dealt him easily made him almost die.

Indeed, poison is extremely scary! Especially when the poison is at the same level! If Davis didn't have Fallen Heaven's energy then perhaps he would be scared as well.

In a few seconds, as if answering to the wishes of the many people who were beside him, Lucas's eyes quivered. The little action of his garnered gasps and sounds of worry, especially from Su Hualing and Nina.

Su Hualing instantly came forward and looked at her son in anxiousness, however, she didn't say anything before he woke up.

Lucas's eyes which quivered instantly shot open as he sat up. His eyes were blank but then he blinked and the light in his eyes returned. At the same time, he jerked forward and continuously spat out waves of black viscous liquid which was none other than his blood.

Su Hualing and Nina looked at the contaminated blood and went pale while the others had their expressions considerably change. They became increasingly sure of her conjecture that someone had tried to intrude here and poisoned Lucas through some coincidence but was thwarted by Davis.

Once he finished coughing out the black spittle of blood, Lucas wiped his mouth with his sleeves and spat out the remaining saliva that gave a bad taste in his mouth.

"Son, are you fine?" Su Hualing asked.

Lucas took two deep breaths before he said, "Yes..."

The others all visibly relaxed and Nina patted her tummy as she heaved a long sigh. It was as if she let out all the worry in her heart fly away.

By the side, Davis's avatar watched all this happen.

The avatar which was translucent before had already turned corporeal, like a normal fleshy body. However, if one were to cut the avatar's surface of the skin, no blood will flow because the whole body is just an amalgamation of soul force and soul essence.

The avatar suddenly turned to look at the entrance gathering the attention of the others as they also looked.

Davis, Evelyn, Logan, and Claire entered the room at this time.

Chapter 552 Explain Yourself Later

The avatar turned into a spherical shaped white and yellow glow and became a streak of light as it shot towards Davis's glabella.

Davis didn't avoid the streak of light and the avatar returned to his soul sea but didn't become one with his soul essence. Instead, it stayed beside his soul essence, shaping into a tiny Davis when the glow receded.

The others looked at the phenomenon and didn't suspect anything. They just casually thought that it was a soul body and became slightly in awe of his actions.

'Such precise control when being weak from an injury required tremendous will' Or so they thought.

They didn't know that he need not actively control the avatar since the avatar is him. Even if he is unconscious in both body and soul, the avatar will still be active since it is a separate entity. This is the enormous difference that separated an avatar and a soul body.

Davis smilingly glanced at Lucas and the latter's expression froze.

At this time, Daniuis who was silent but solemn asked, \"What happened? Did an intruder appear?\"

Davis looked at Daniuis and recast his gaze towards Lucas as an expression of interest appeared on his face. He too wanted to know what had happened.

Why did Lucas try to enter his room? Even going so far as to enter through the wide windows in a secretive matter?

Lucas looked at Davis and his mind belatedly clicked in realization. He instantly became confused when he realized that Davis was alright.

When he sneaked outside Davis's room at the windows, he was sure that he would be noticed by Davis but wasn't. Wondering what had happened, he peeked inside and unexpectedly saw Davis shiver and bleed out from his mouth like he had been poisoned!

He was instantly shocked!

At that moment, he jerked and inadvertently made the window clatter in reaction to the sound of the tray and the dishes that fell on the floor.

However, before he could realize what had happened, he heard an angry scream asking for who before he got instantly shrouded in green gaseous essence energy.

He tried to shout but he ended up inhaling the gaseous matter in a panic! At the next moment, he fell with a thud and lost consciousness.

The next thing he knew, he woke up in this place, spitting out liters of black blood!

\\"I think Lucas should know the whole story as I've only witnessed the latter end of the situation.\"

Lucas became inwardly stunned at Davis's sudden words. His mind then worked rapidly to form a story on why he had sneaked into Davis's building.

'Davis got injured through some unknown means... His wife reacted and poisoned me somehow... It seems none of them have been informed of the situation... Father suspects that it's the work of an intruder...'

Within a snap's echo could end, he moved his mouth.

\\"Uhh... While roaming around the residence, I accidentally noticed an anomaly and found an intruder. The intruder tried to silence me but failed only to poison me next. I eventually lost consciousness but before that, I saw Davis intervene at the scene as they fought to a standstill with just a single move, however, it now looks like Davis got injured from the poison and became weak.\"

Lucas's eyes darted around as he explained.

Davis, Evelyn, Logan, and Claire instantly figured out that Lucas had opted to fabricate a story. His explanation was full of holes but the others had no choice but to accept his explanation as it coincided with their earlier hypothesis.

Su Hualing and the others looked convinced, however, Daniuis who was rather sharp noticed a discrepancy.

\ "How can the intruder fight Davis to a standstill? The poison essence energy's remnant clearly indicates that it was of Body Transformation Stage. Compared with Davis who is at the Fifth Stage and above, how is it possible for the intruder to harm him?\ "

Daniuis didn't doubt that there was an intruder. It was just he didn't believe a mere Fourth Stage Cultivator could harm Davis.

Lucas suddenly looked at his father in a loss. His mind rapidly worked but he failed to provide an excuse in a moment. He, who was originally bad at lying had somehow miraculously fabricated a story but that seemed to be his limit.

\ "The intruder released a powerful, colorless, odorless, concentrated and untraceable poison against me...\ " At this time, Davis interjected, \ "The poison's undulations were concealed, hence it rather caught me off guard.\ "

He smiled as he cast a peculiar glance at Lucas, \ "Fortunately, the concentrated poison was just at the Fifth Stage, otherwise, it was possible that I would be in critical condition.\ "

Lucas inwardly felt a chill run down on his spine. He instantly realized the gaze which Davis cast on him.

'Explain yourself later...'

'Alright...'

Lucas imperceptibly nodded his head, feeling thankful.

He had been afraid that Davis would've revealed the truth! If it was revealed, he didn't know where he should hide his face after this event as he would have to hide an embarrassing episode!

Daniuis furrowed his brows but he nodded his head, accepting Davis's explanation. However, he still had his doubts as he couldn't see the overall picture of this incident.

"For what reason did the intruder target you then?"

Davis lied without batting an eyelid, "The intruder is likely here for Isabella who won the Conferred King Tournament. As for why the intruder wanted to make contact or poison her, I don't know..."

Daniuis pursed his lips but before he could say anything, Davis continued.

"In any case, Isabella has already given her word to set up Peak-Level King Grade Formations in this place. She had just told me this yesterday, so she is likely wandering the stores on the second level of the city, trying to find a few apt formations for our safety. Just give her some more time..."

No one had seen Princess Isabella in the skies since undulations of Body Tempering Cultivation was rather hard to find. Besides, she was a Martial Master, hence controlling her undulations was perhaps an easy task for her, making it difficult for others to find her.

Daniuis was taken aback. He pondered for a moment before his lips curved, "I'll guard the front gate until then..."

"Well, we'll never know which gate the intruder entered from as the intruder had the means to be undetected by the Low-Level King Grade Detection Formation..." Davis wryly smiled.

The residence had the front gate and the rear gate, only two gates since the sides were blocked by other residences.

Meanwhile, the three behind him wondered why Davis had chosen to hide the truth. It wasn't like this matter happened on purpose or even intent in any case. It was just a misunderstanding that could be solved with discussion.

No enmity would be formed but they also belatedly understood that hard feelings would be left.

Is that why Davis didn't tell them the truth? And why didn't Lucas tell the truth, even going far as to fabricate the story?

While they were sure of the former, they were confused as to the latter.

Nevertheless, they didn't interfere with Davis's decisions, only standing by his side to indicate that they will be on his side no matter what.

Such imperceptible gestures were not noticed by anyone except Davis since he could feel the warmth behind him.

After this, Davis had requested all to leave and give Lucas some space to rest. Lucas reassured his family that he was fine and only wanted to rest for the time being.

Hence, the others all left after a period of time.

In the room, only Lucas, Davis, Evelynn, Claire and Logan were left.

Chapter 553 Beggars Cant Be Choosers

Lucas inwardly sweated as he fearfully looked at Evelynn. He didn't think that his nephew's wife would a poison cultivator at all. His adam's apple moved, indicating his fear visibly.

Meanwhile, Evelynn felt guilty for her carelessness and misunderstanding, hence, she inadvertently averted her gaze. She didn't mean to poison him at all. It was just at that time, all inhibitions she had were cast aside since she felt that the 'intruder' was the one who poisoned her husband.

\\"Now then... I have shifted almost all the blame to Isabella, so you better go explain the situation to her if you don't want to get exposed.\\\"

Lucas became aghast, \\"H-How am I supposed to talk about this with a Seventh Stage Expert! Wouldn't I be courting death?\\\"

\\"Well then, I'll go tell your family the truth now...\\\" Davis pursed his lips and turned away to leave.

\\"Ah!! Nephew, don't!\\\"

Davis didn't stop.

"Ahh! Captain! Lord! Savior! No! Please don't!" Lucas started to plead in a begging manner.

Only then did Davis stop and turned to look back at him. He found it hard to curb his laughter but successfully held it back. Besides, he didn't want to make this a big matter either.

He then walked towards Lucas and gave another antidote pill.

"Here, use this..."

Lucas looked at the pill and saw that it was greenish-blue in color. He grabbed the pill and with a sniff, realized that this pill should've been the one which detoxified him of Evelyn's poison.

Without a word of suspicion, he swallowed the pill and felt it revitalizing his body as if it was completely removing the poison that was hidden deep in his system.

"I'm sorry..." At this time, Evelyn apologized as she embarrassingly stated.

Lucas awkwardly laughed, "It's my fault..."

"Yes, you were there at the wrong time..." Davis added.

Lucas wanted to suddenly retort but then realized that his way of doing things had been hasty and suspicious.

"So what did you want to find me for? Even going as far as to be secretive?"

Lucas's heart palpitated before he turned to look towards the others. He then gazed at Davis, his expression saying that he could not reveal that in front of so many people.

As for communicating through Soul Transmission, that became impossible since he was just at Nascent Soul Stage. Nascent Soul Stage cultivators mostly couldn't even bring their Soul Sense out of their bodies.

Davis stared at him for two whole seconds before the three behind him voluntarily left the room, leaving behind him and Lucas.

Lucas took a deep breath but he turned hesitant. His cheeks became red as it blushed from embarrassment.

"I want to recover my manhood..." He meekly uttered.

Davis became wide-eyed and he finally understood the entire gist of the situation.

'No wonder he didn't reveal the fact of Evelyn poisoning him. On top of being sneaky and having a reason like this, he got his ass handed over to him by a woman.'

Davis had been initially confused about why Lucas hadn't revealed even a semblance of Evelyn in his fabricated story, but now, he understood all of it.

"Who are all in the know of the situation of your manhood?" Davis asked without beating the bush.

"Just my father and... Nina." Lucas didn't hesitate in answering.

These two were the only people who knew about his situation, that he is no longer a 'man'. Not even Lucia knew as she had rather failed to see his entire injuries at that time.

As for his mother and the other, he rather felt too ashamed, hence, he didn't speak of it.

"Oh... What did Nina say?"

Davis's interest piqued.

"She said that as long as I stay by her side, it was enough for her."

Lucas heartily said but then his expression fell.

Davis nodded his head and slightly advised.

"She's a keeper... Don't let her down..."

"I know..." Lucas's expression became solemn and complex, however, he couldn't help but glance at his private area. His expression then became sullen before it darkened.

Davis inwardly sighed as he could understand Lucas's emotions as a fellow man. If he were to lose his manhood, he had no doubt that it would deal an enormous blow to his confidence as well.

"Why ask me?"

There were so many people that Lucas could ask help from like his father who knew about his situation already but why him? Davis wasn't sure.

Lucas became slightly taken aback, "Uhh... Do you know about my father's history in this territory?"

"Slightly..." Davis nodded his head.

"I just heard it from my father about his past after you revealed your face. I came to learn about his disappointment with the Alstreim Family."

\\"Hence, I didn't want to burden him with this task as it would involve him with meeting many people, which might inadvertently reveal his background to the people here.\\\"

\\"Hence, I have no choice but to rely on you, captain...\\\" Lucas revealed a wry smile.

\\"Your timing couldn't be any worse...\\\" Davis sighed.

Lucas awkwardly laughed but became self-conscious of his disability again.

Davis heaved a long sigh and patted Lucas's shoulders, \\"Alright, I'm totally clueless about your matter but I'll look for an apothecary who will check your condition sometime later.\\\"

\\"Thanks, Captain!\\\" Lucas finally revealed excitement on his face.

\\"Just call me Davis...\\\"

\\"The apothecary will then treat you with their own expertise or prescribe you with the required pills, after which I'll help you purchase them.\\\"

\\"Sorry for the trouble, Davis...\\\" Lucas awkwardly laughed before he hesitantly spoke, \\"Uhh... If possible, can you bring a female apothecary to examine me?\\\"

Davis had a not so amused expression on his face.

Lucas hurriedly shook his hands, afraid that Davis had misunderstood him.

\\"I'm not so sure about showing my mess to another man...\\\" Lucas grimaced as he said.

Davis shook his head, \\"No female apothecary would be willing to take a look at you unless you're a female or a person of status...\\\"

Person of Status... In this Ethren Empire alone, there were many differences between people and people with higher statuses rather closely watch the hierarchy ladder so as to not let it collapse.

Ethren Empire followed the Aristocracy Hierarchy.

Starting from the Royalty, it goes all the way till Slaves. Below Royalty is Nobility, then Middleclass Citizens of the Second Level, Lowerclass Citizens of the First Level, Peasants who were also hired servants and finally Slaves.

Lucas inwardly gave up and he nodded his head while thinking, 'Beggars can't be choosers!'

He did not doubt Davis on this point.

Davis was clear of this matter because he had been often treated by apothecaries when he was Body Tempering in the Royal Castle.

The royal apothecaries were all killed during the rebellion, hence, the present apothecaries who treated him were all newly recruited ones, lacking achievements to become a true royal apothecary and not just in name.

Unlike doctors from modern earth who held on to their work ethics or just hung on to their wealth hungry hands, saving lives regardless of the gender, apothecaries held on to no such values except a minority who desired to purely save lives.

Since there was no such ethics, apothecaries just strived for status, wealth and a better life like any other normal being.

Nevertheless, since the female apothecaries had to strive a lot to prove themselves in the royal scene, they more or less fawned on Davis and the other siblings without a care for being conscious of the opposite gender.

However, here, in Ethren City, he is a nobody and so is Lucas. If they were to visit some female apothecary and told her to look at their crotches perhaps the whole family behind the female apothecary might have their swords pointed at them in retaliation.

The female apothecaries wouldn't even cast a glance at them unless they were interested in them for some random reason.

Chapter 554 Visiting The Alchemy Powerhouses Branch

After Davis and Lucas discussed a bit, the former left while the latter continued to rest. A few hours later, Lucas headed back to his home and Davis accompanied him to make sure that he would not slip up on their fabricated story.

Indeed, after they arrived at Daniuis's building, Daniuis questioned them the discrepancy he had noticed belatedly, like how Davis was able to cure the intruder's concentrated poison.

Although Daniuis was not all that knowledgeable about poisons, he knew that there were an uncountable number of poisons, making it impossible to be carrying an antidote for a certain type of poison at all times.

Neither did he believe that there was a single cure for all types of poison.

Daniuis's doubt was within Davis's expectations, and the latter knew that the former was only asking for all this was to look after their safety.

Hence, Davis answered, \"My wife practices a bit of poison laws, and since I'm an alchemist, I aid her in practicing Poison Laws by concocting antidotes for her, which in turn helped increase my knowledge about poisons.\"

Daniuis was first taken aback to hear that his grand nephew's wife comprehended Poison Laws before he nodded his head in understanding.

'So that's why he knew which antidote to administer... Likely, Lucas was poisoned by a similar type of poison that grand nephew's wife already excels in...' Daniuis arrived at this own answer, forming a correlation to the situation.

This also explained the time Davis used poison on the members of the Tripartite Alliance.

However, he found a point that confused him.

'Strange... The intruder seems to be a Body Transformation Cultivator, and grand nephew's wife also seems to be a Body Transformation Stage Cultivator...'

This coincidence irked his instincts that something was wrong, but since his son and grandnephew said otherwise, he took their word as the truth.

Davis had revealed about Evelyn's Poison Laws because it would be found out in no time if she revealed her cultivation in the future.

Many of them haven't still seen Evelyn use her cultivation, hence, they didn't relate the remnant undulations that were left outside the building.

Since it was just a matter of time, Davis felt that he should inform them beforehand so that they don't doubt Evelyn later on when they discover her cultivation.

Although this could be found out if they investigated deeply, he doubted that they would do it since it already became from their conversation that the intruder came for Isabella; the Conferred Queen and not them.

In their minds, his weakness and Lucas's poisoning were just collateral harm.

=====

The next day, Davis left alone to the east region where the Thousand Pill Palace Branch is situated at in the Ethren City. When he arrived at the location, numerous people were moving to and fro, carrying alloys and other construction materials into the place bustling with the atmosphere of festivities.

'Indeed, it looks like the alchemy convention will take place soon as mentioned by that merchant...'
Davis walked as he looked at the huge gate towering at the entrance with majestic vibes while on top of it was a big name board which had the words written in Sky Word Language.

[Thousand Pill Palace - Ethren Empire Branch]

As usual, Davis took in the sight while feeling a little bit of admiration as the undulations of the words rather hit him on the face as if it were a living technique. He then walked towards the huge gate but was stopped by the guards who promptly asked him to state his intentions.

'Oh, my Law Seed Stage undulations isn't enough to grant me unimpeded entry?' Davis became astonished at their cautiousness.

What he didn't know was that these two guards held this position for over more than a hundred years, guarding the entrance of the Thousand Pill Palace Branch with their Sixth Stage Cultivation.

Hence, they more or less knew every face who had visited this place before. For first-timers and people who had low cultivation, they will always stop them from entering the Thousand Pill Palace Branch unimpeded.

"I have come to take the Sky Grade Alchemist Exam," Davis stated his purpose.

The two guards then sized him up with their eyes and didn't bother with him anymore. They didn't even care if he had his alchemist robe on...

Davis just shrugged and entered the wide paved pathway which led to the flight of stairs that elevated the place to various levels. Davis took the first flight of stairs and then moved right as the way boards indicated where he should go to matters relating to Sky Grade.

During this time, he saw the servants running over to another side while carrying materials above their wrists and a few other alchemists walking as they laughed with a female alchemist crowded at the center.

It didn't take much for Davis to realize that the male alchemists were trying to woo the beautiful and elegant female alchemist.

'A classic face with gentle features and her body that is hidden by the alchemist robes conceals her bountiful curves... No wonder they're all drooling over her...'

Davis then took his gaze away from her after reveling in admiration for the woman.

Not only was she beautiful, but judging by the number of stars she had on her alchemist robes, she was undoubtedly a Low-Level King Grade Alchemist! She had seven stars on her robes with the seventh star in bronze color.

In comparison to her, the male alchemists were just Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemists when judged by their alchemist robes.

Davis guessed that she was unmarried, maybe even chaste. Otherwise, they wouldn't be so many trying to court her quite openly.

Such an unmarried swan like her even when considering her age that could be at hundreds would still be popular no matter where she goes in the small territories of the First Layer!

He took many turns, passed by some buildings, small ponds and mountains after which he finally reached the place where the examination takes place individually.

In the hall of the building, he registered with the receptionist who was clearly a fledgling in Alchemy. She looked cute but naive with a gullible face but Davis knew the appearances can always be deceiving.

The receptionist sent him amorous glances with the intent of teasing him.

Davis became speechless before he started asking about the specifics of the examination. The receptionist explained patiently but also put in sexual nuances in her explanation which made him think that whether if her explanation was true.

Apparently, there were a few tests for one to become a Sky Grade Alchemist. They were the same as the one he took in the remote Thousand Pill Association in the Royal Xuan City.

One, Origin and Age Test.

Two, Theoretical Knowledge.

Three, Pill Deciphering

Four, Pill Concoction.

The only difference was the origin and age test.

Davis became inwardly worried but when he heard the receptionist say that it was optional, he relaxed. Revealing his age wasn't a problem but revealing it along with his Soul Forging Cultivation is a great problem!

There were so many dangers that would come along with the implications, not just benefits. Hence, Davis didn't want to reveal his age.

From the words of the receptionist, the Origin and Age Test only existed for the Thousand Pill Palace to authenticate the identity of the examinee. However, without completing the first test, it became almost impossible to join the Thousand Pill Palace.

Hence, taking the other three tests only allowed people to obtain the alchemist token plate recognized by the Thousand Pill Palace.

Davis wasn't intent on joining the Thousand Pill Palace, hence he didn't even consider taking the Origin and Age Test.

At this time, another male alchemist entered the hall, garnering both of their attentions.

Chapter 555 The Problem Concerning His Soul Essence

The man walked towards Davis and then turned to look at the receptionist as he extended his hand towards her.

A parchment suddenly appeared in his hand after which the receptionist took it into her hands before she opened it and read.

She furrowed her brows at the content.

"Jos Brightwood's application for the Peak-Level Sky Grade Exam is to be canceled?"

She heaved an exasperated sigh and said, "You know the rules, right?"

However, she continued to say, "Cancellation of a reserved slot will not be refunded but the cancellation cost is double the amount of the application form excluding the costs of the ingredients."

The man nodded his head, knowing that the Thousand Pill Palace put this rule to keep people who needlessly booked slots and waste the time of the examiners.

After all, an alchemist wasn't available at all times as they had their own lives to live, not to mention train in the concoction of pills. For this, they rather have a huge concern and greed over wealth. Only with knowledge and wealth could they improve and stand above the masses and especially, their seniors.

It is often commonly said that their time alone is worth enormous wealth.

In the field of Alchemy, just talent alone wasn't enough.

The man then handed over 100 Mid-Level Spirit Stones.

Undulations spread but no one seemed to care about it as if it were a daily life occurrence.

The receptionist took the spirit stones and stored it in a spatial ring kept it below the counter. She then asked with a curious expression on her face, \"So, what had happened to that Jos Brightwood, the Brightwood Family's genius alchemist?\"

The man looked hesitant at first but then he shrugged, \"Jos Brightwood is dead.\"

\"How!?\" The receptionist exclaimed as her eyes went wide.

\"How would I know? I was just sent to deliver this cancellation application.\"

\"Then... You would've at least heard about rumors, right?\" The receptionist's eyes gleamed.

Clearly, she was rather interested in how that good looking man had died.

The man pondered a bit before he said, \"I don't know exactly... but it is rumored that his own parents killed him...\"

\"Hahaha!\" The receptionist laughed.

As if understanding her laughter, the man also laughed, \"I know right? The murderers should've done a better job at framing his death... Who doesn't know that his father and mother are recluses and are extremely caring towards their only son! How is it possible for them to kill their own descendant!?\"

Davis heard their conversation by the side as they treated him like air. Initially, he had been astonished to hear the name of the bastard he killed but when he heard them speak about his death, he stood shocked!

'He made a move on his own mother!?'

A feeling of disgust welled up over him but when he realized that he had ordered Fallen Heaven on what to do, the conditions he told, he became rather flabbergasted.

[Dies by trying to violate a woman who willingly touches them.]

This was the vague command he used to kill him. The 'willingly' in the command probably applied to all emotions. As for whether it was love or familial love, it seemed like it didn't matter.

He quickly understood that Jos Brightwood's mother had just casually touched him, ultimately leading to his death.

'Well, to be punished by his own parents to death, maybe he will live his next life without any negative karma...' Davis inwardly laughed at the person who dared to humiliate his wife.

'What an apt ending...' He couldn't help but derive a sense of pleasure from Jos Brightwood's death but felt pity for his parents.

"Mister Davis, it looks like the slot has opened up. You don't need to wait until tomorrow... I'll just refill your application form's slot since you both have taken applied for the Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist Exam."

The receptionist winked at him in a meaningful way.

'Tipping?' Davis just shook his head and handed her a single Mid-Level Spirit Stone.

The receptionist became shocked before she smiled at him in a thankful light, no longer teasing him with her charm, "There is still an hour for your exam to start..."

"I'll wait..."

Davis nodded his head and walked to the other side as he started to wonder how the other bastard had died. He then relaxed and waited for an hour for the exam to start while cultivating.

The hall was silent without much disturbance, hence he was able to enter meditation without being interrupted.

As for the receptionist who saw him enter cultivation at this time, she went speechless but just shook her head in exasperation. She didn't go out of her way to disturb him. Normally, she would've kicked out such a person who came here just to cultivate, but since he had come here to take the exam and even handsomely tipped her, she just left him alone.

'Too bad, he's just my type...' The receptionist sighed for her future.

In reality, Davis wasn't cultivating but concentrating on healing his Soul Essence.

He had tried using his Sacred Soul Healing ability from the third layer of Sacred Luminance Mist. However, contrary to his expectations, the Sacred Soul Healing ability achieved nothing. It failed to heal his Soul Essence.

Davis pondered on this matter and concluded that the Sacred Soul Healing ability was only useful for healing flesh injuries and soul injuries, but not the deeply enigmatic Soul Essence.

Even now, he still only had 70% of his Soul Essence remaining and apparently, he could feel his Soul Essence slowly healing through the avatar's presence.

There actually existed a condition not mentioned in the records.

The avatar needs to be in his Soul Sea to heal his Soul Essence!

Even then, judging by the rate of healing, he felt that it would take at least a year for the Solitary Soul Avatar to restore 1% of his Soul Essence!

This was actually good, and can even be said to be exceptional but for Davis, this rate of healing was simply too long! He could not afford to wait for that long!

Unfortunately, even though he had the Pill Recipe for improving the quality of his Soul Essence and Soul Force, such as the Soul Emerging Pill, he did not have a Pill Recipe for healing his Soul Essence that is at the Mature Soul Stage.

However, he had a Pill Recipe for a pill that is capable of healing or restoring Soul Essence up to 20%, however, that was a Peak-Level Earth Grade Pill, only useful for healing or restoring the soul of Adult Soul Stage Cultivators and below.

Since he was a Mature Soul Stage Cultivator, the pill's grade would have to be increased by an entire grade, to the Peak-Level Sky Grade to work on him.

Davis felt that he could somehow improve that Pill Recipe and increase its grade by running a simulation in his mind and testing it, but so far, he found it extremely difficult.

Davis had never created a Pill Recipe from scratch, much less try to upgrade one. His endeavor instantly hit a bottleneck the moment he found the combination of ingredients in his mind to be a mess.

Besides, he would have to continuously experiment with the modified or upgraded Pill Recipe and try concocting the pill in reality, to at least have a semblance of fruition.

All this left him feeling perhaps that he could wait for thirty years to completely heal his Soul Essence but that would destroy the meaning of conjuring an avatar now.

After all, he created the avatar so he could be at two places at the same time. If he had it in his Soul Sea, it would entirely destroy his meaning of creating the Solitary Soul Avatar!

Chapter 556 Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemy Exam

Soon, an hour passed.

Davis was then let inside one of the rooms connecting the hall where he skipped entering a rectangular formation that had been placed vertically and required one to pass through to check one's bone age.

Davis almost laughed at seeing this because it looked like the checking that would be placed at the entrance of the mall, airport and such places that needed strict security.

Except this rectangular formation seemed like it checked one's bone age. It seemed to have four dull-colored stones embedded in it. He felt that the four colored dull stones probably indicated a person's age approximately.

Davis ignored the formation unobserved by anyone and crossed into another room.

Then without much discussion, he took the Theoretical Knowledge Test while being supervised by a Low-Level King Grade Alchemist, managing to score a lot than he initially expected.

The Low-Level King Grade Alchemist surprisingly nodded in admiration and brought him to the next test where he had to decipher a pill to derive the ingredients used to create it.

Davis cleared it without any surprises but he acted as if he was having trouble deciphering the contents of the pill, only submitting it at the last moment. Even then he deciphered 70% of the pill, making the King Grade Alchemist view him in an approving light.

As for the final test, the pill concoction test, he had had to pay about 400 Mid-Level Spirit Stones to use the ingredients required to make a Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill. There were two sets of ingredients, hence, he felt like he could make two batches.

He then additionally rented the Pill Cauldron placed there for a 100 Mid-Level Spirit Stones and within the time limit set for him, he successfully concocted the Citrine Cloud Talon Pill, a Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill!

The batch contained the pills which were all at the Normal-Tier.

The pill looked ocean blue on one side and ink-black at the other, however, different than the other pills which were just at the size of a pellet, this pill was at the size of a small ball.

As for how he obtained the Pill Recipe, just like Soul Emerging Pill, he had many Pill Recipes at Earth Grade, Sky Grade, and King Grade. He had obtained it all from Old Man Garvin.

However, in the final test, there was a bit of a problem.

The problem stemmed from his Mature Soul Stage Cultivation!

With his Mid-Level Mature Soul Stage Cultivation revealed, the Low-Level King Grade Alchemist supervising him became shocked!

'This... How is this person able to concoct Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills despite his lower cultivation!? Crossing levels to concoct pills? Is this person perhaps an old monster?' The examiner couldn't help but think.

'Haha, I like to keep my appearances youthful...'" Davis laughed as he adopted an old man's persona, trying to rub his beard but not finding any, only to reveal an awkward smile on his face.

The examiner looked at him in a strange light for a moment before nodding his head with one of his brows uplifted.

Davis wasn't worried that the other party would probe him with his soul sense because he had precautiously already made preparations to blur his bone age with the 'Blur' symbol.

He had infused the 'Blur' symbol in a special pill concoction that seeped into his bones. In short, this made it so that his bone age became blurred enough to be not found out by a Mature Soul Stage Cultivator!

So even if a Mature Soul Stage Cultivator tried to probe his bone age with their Soul Sense, they would only be left confused wondering why they couldn't determine his bone age.

It is because this method is something that couldn't be easily employed by others, nor spread far by the geniuses, hence it is a relatively unknown method to conceal one's age. This was something Davis derived himself when he pondered on how to conceal his bone age.

The 'Blur' symbol isn't easily available in the market, as the special pill concoction that seeped into a person's bone and does nothing is an even more novel product which no person will make it sell.

Davis had precisely done this with his expertise in both Inscription and Alchemy, hence he was able to employ this unique method to blur his bone age.

However, since the inscription became diluted into the entirety of the pill, its effects decreased and ceased to last long, only lasting for a single day or so but it was enough for him to fool a Sky Grade Age Determining Formation and the soul sense of a Mature Soul Stage Cultivator for the remaining day.

He cautiously took this when he came to take the exam, knowing that his Bone Age might be tested since it seemed that Princess Isabella also took one to enter the Conferred King Tournament.

"What are the effects of this pill?" Although the examiner was able to measure the grade of the pill and even confirm it with a grading formation embedded in this room especially for grading purposes, he wasn't able to tell the effects in a short period of time.

Unless he could see it with his own eyes, the effects were hard to tell.

Davis then explained that it was used on the Citrine Cloud Beast to increase the strength and sharpness of its talon, making it durable as a Peak-Level Sky Grade Armament, maybe even a near Low-Level King Grade Armament in pure strength.

The examiner's eyes shot wide when he heard Davis's explanation.

Citrine Cloud Beasts were used as flying mounts by many cultivators since it was only an Earth Rank Magical Beast Species that could grow up to the Saint Beast Stage; the Sixth Stage.

However, like all Magical Beasts, not all Citrine Cloud Beasts could reach the pinnacle of their current growth potential, only managing to hover in Low-Level Saint Beast Stage, unable to move further without resources and involving themselves in gruesome battles.

On the second level, many cultivators had these mounts, however, only a few mounts had reached Peak-Level, but the cultivators had to spend enormous amounts to increase the level of their pets but such a pill was produced by Davis for a cheap amount.

The examiner's eyes widened in glee.

Even though he was a Low-Level King Grade Alchemist, his chances of making a Low-Level King Grade Pill hovered at thirty percent, meaning, that he would have to waste three or more times the ingredients to successfully succeed in King Grade Pill Concoction.

Furthermore, King Grade Ingredients weren't roadside vegetables that are available at all times. They are even harder to find and grow artificially than the Sky Grade Ingredients.

Most of the time, they would have no choice but to request King Grade Ingredients from the headquarters situated in the Thousand Pill Palace Territory.

This essentially made the cost of King Grade Ingredients not much different from the pills that would be produced in their pill concoction.

After all, if they increased the price of the King Grade Pills, then no one would purchase it, instead, choosing to go to a large territory to purchase it where it might be cheaper.

So unless he had the confidence, he would never try concocting Low-Level King Grade Pills, only widely accepting commissions that were at Peak-Level Sky Grade.

'This... This old man possesses a Mid-Level Mature Soul Stage Cultivation and holds a Pill Recipe like this? Not only is he able to cross levels to make pills but he is also able to produce Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills at Normal-Tier...'

Hence, the examiner became quite dumbfounded.

Chapter 557 Citrine Cloud Talon Pill Recipe

'Even I, who uses Fire Laws along with my Mid-Level Law Dominion Stage Cultivation to concoct Peak-Level Sky Grade Pills only managed to produce Crude-Tier and Normal-Tier Pills in my lifetime...'

The examiner couldn't help but inwardly sigh before he closed his eyes.

Greed, intentions to kill to plunder the examinee flashed across his mind before he shook all those thoughts out of his head. He opened his eyes and took out a small container from his spatial ring which he then gave it to the examinee.

Davis accepted the container and opened it to see a token plate that had these words inscribed, [Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist] and on the rear, it had these words inscribed.

[Thousand Pill Palace - Ethren Empire Branch]

The words Ethren Empire Branch were inscribed in a small font, which basically undermines the authority of the Ethren Empire but the Royal Ethren Family didn't dare to say otherwise.

Even if someone like the Alstreim Family backed them, they wouldn't dare to raise their voice either.

Compared to the Thousand Pill Palace, Ethren Empire was like a countryside's small village.

The token plate didn't have his name engraved on it because he was not part of the Thousand Pill Palace's Branch. Since he did not take the Bone Age Test and did not describe his origin, he became ineligible to join the Thousand Pill Palace Branch.

The alchemist knew this as well, so he didn't purposefully state anything as there were many eccentrics whose thoughts didn't intersect with the common way of thinking.

After this, Davis received a purple-colored alchemist robe which had all six stars brightly reflecting the ambient light. Needless to say, the quality of the alchemist robe is top-notch, capable of defending against most attacks of Peak-Level Sixth Stage Cultivators.

"Alchemist Davis, are you interested in selling these three pills to me?"

'Oh, not us but me?' Davis instantly understood the examiner's intent.

The reason why he decided to concoct this pill was that he saw many Citrine Cloud Beasts mounts in the second level of the city, hence, the first time he decided to take this exam, he had concocted these pills to sell them on the spot.

However, he didn't expect that it would be the individual who would be purchasing it and not the Thousand Pill Palace Branch.

Davis smiled and sold the three pills to the examiner. Each pill sold for 830 Mid-Level Spirit Stones, hence, this transaction netted him a profit of 2,100 Mid-Level Spirit Stones.

Besides, he still hadn't used the extra set of ingredients that he could use to additionally make a batch of Citrine Cloud Talon Pills.

Davis then looked at the examiner who looked hesitant for some reason. However, he didn't urge the other party to speak and waited with a blank expression on his face because he knew exactly what the examiner was going to ask.

'Come on, can't you see that I'm hesitating? As a junior alchemist, show some consideration! Ughh!' The examiner inwardly cursed Davis before he finally let out an exasperated sigh.

"Alchemist Davis, are you perhaps interested in selling the Pill Recipe for the Citrine Cloud Talon Pill?"

Davis who had his face blank finally had his lips curve into a smirk.

The examiner felt as if he had just been mocked inwardly but he didn't show the embarrassment on his face.

"Can you afford it?" Davis asked.

The examiner's eyes lit up before he said, "I can..."

\\"Since Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill Recipes are rare, it is common sense that one should exchange it for High-Level Spirit Stones, isn't that right, alchemist...?\"

\\"Andred... My name is just Andred. You can call me Alchemist Andred. Yes, Peak-Level Sky Grade Pill Recipes are generally exchanged for High-Level Spirit Stones but in this case, I think we can use Mid-Level Spirit Stones to exchange.\"

Davis didn't say anything. He just stood up and left.

Alchemist Andred quickly became speechless, 'Not even willing to barter!?'

\\"Two times the original price if paid in Mid-Level Spirit Stones!\"

Davis didn't stop. He just kept heading towards the exit of the examination hall.

\\"Four times!\" Alchemist Andred shouted while trembling.

He saw that Alchemist Davis was almost near to the exit of the room.

\\"Alright! High-Level Spirit Stones it is!\" He instantly gave up and sighed.

However, he was repeatedly cursing Alchemist Davis in his mind!

Davis stopped in his tracks and looked at Alchemist Andred in a mocking light, \\"Two times the High-Level Spirit Stones.\"

\\"What!?!\" Alchemist Andred's face changed.

He narrowed his eyes and a threatening glint emerged in his eyes.

\\"Alchemist Davis, it is not beneficial for you to be this greedy...\\

\\"Take it or leave it...\\

Alchemist Andred took a step back in disbelief. He couldn't understand why the examinee who was at a lower level than him in Alchemy didn't even cozy up to him. The examinee even refused to give him face!

All this told him that perhaps the examinee didn't need to care about any repercussions at all. This, or just plain carelessness.

\\"What is your background?\\

 He couldn't help but ask in a solemn tone.

\\"I'm pretty sure I filled my current residence in the application form, but it looks like you didn't take a look at it. Whatever....\\

 Davis chuckled before he continued, \\"Alchemist Andred, we both know that you're trying to profit off this Pill Recipe. After you obtain the Citrine Cloud Talon Pill Recipe, it is easier for you to hire alchemists using your status, hence occupying the market for this pill.\\

\\"In contrast, I will be unable to procure buyers unless I sell these pills for a low price.\\

Davis's lips curved, \\"We both know who is going to profit at the end of the year if this deal succeeded.\\

Alchemist Andred was taken aback before he smiled as if his true intent had been found out.

\\"Why don't you become my subordinate?\\

 He couldn't help but feel admiration for the other party.

Indeed, at first, he was trying to scam him and make a profit but it looked like Alchemist Davis was rather well versed both in trading and Pill Concoction.

'If I can recruit such a person...'

 He favorably thought.

\\"Why don't you ask the Conferred Queen if she is willing to let me go?\" Davis raised his brows as he scoffed.

\\"Conferred Queen?\" Alchemist Andred became momentarily confused before his eyes widened!

He remembered that warrior-like woman who slew the half-human, half-beast abomination with just a single swing of her sword!

\\"You're Conferred Queen Isabella's subordinate?\"

Davis didn't nod his head but just smiled.

His smile sent chills on Alchemist Andred's spine, making him take a step back inadvertently, 'No wonder... No wonder he knew about a pill that even the headquarters of the Thousand Pill Palace didn't possess...'

'He... No! As the rumors stated, the Conferred Queen is really from a High-Level Emperor Grade Power... And he is merely a subordinate who supports the Conferred Queen...'

Alchemist Andred inwardly sweated as he arrived at his own answer.

\\"Alright, I agree to the transaction.\" He instantly smiled in a favorable light.

If it could be said before that he was still not satisfied with the transaction, then now it could be said that he was entirely satisfied with the transaction.

Davis inwardly smiled, not minding about Alchemist Andred's misunderstanding. Making himself look like he was under the Conferred Queen would add an extra layer of protection. Hence, he wasn't averse to it.

As far as the outsiders thought, the people living in the Conferred Queen's residence were probably all her subordinates or servants.

Since Princess Isabella was going to establish herself, then he wasn't averse to hide behind her back. As a certain teacher once said before with both conviction and shamelessness...

[So what if I'm hiding behind a woman? This is a part of my capabilities. If you're capable, find one to hide behind as well!]

Davis liked this quote as it fit his thinking perfectly!

Chapter 558 Transaction Complete

Davis then engaged in the transaction and sold the Pill Recipe.

The Low-Level King Grade Alchemist paid him 400 Mid-Level Spirit Stones grudgingly and bought the remaining set of ingredients and concocted the Citrine Cloud Talon Pill and verified that the Pill Recipe was authentic on the spot.

As a result, Davis gained 14 High-Level Spirit Stones out of the transaction which if converted to Mid-Level Spirit Stones, could be more than 14,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones, possibly reaching 42,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones or more depending upon the exchange rate.

However, Mid-Level Spirit Stones can in no way compare to High-Level Spirit Stones in terms of effectiveness. After all, only the High-Level Spirit Stones and above are able to support Law Dominion Stage Cultivators to increase their cultivation.

Hence, it could be said that Davis had made a profit of the Pill Recipe. In any case, he wasn't interested in making and selling pills since he had just wanted to get an identity for himself this time.

This transaction was just icing on the cake.

'14 High-Level Spirit Stones, plus the 5 High-Level Spirit Stones from the spatial ring of the Grand Elder's loot exactly replenished the amount of High-Level Spirit Stones I had used to fuel the Earth Dragon's Abode when I used it in the Grand Sea Continent.' Davis wryly thought.

However, he felt that it was worth it.

That enormous spending had put a smile on the faces of his loved ones after all.

After asking the correct date of the Alchemy Convention and its specifics, he left the Thousand Pill Palace Branch and returned to the residence.

However, once he entered, alarm bells rang all over the residence, indicating that an intruder has arrived!

Davis momentarily narrowed his eyes before he wryly shook his head... because he knew that he was none other than the intruder, 'Looks like Princess Isabella bought the new formation I requested for...'

After the false alarm went off, Davis thought of playing a prank on them as it tickled his whimsical side but he saw that no one came to look for the intruder except Princess Isabella.

\\"You came back...\" Her lips curved imperceptibly as she pointed over to a small pillar in front of the entrance that wasn't there before., \\"Make your energy flow within that recognition pillar. The Peak-Level King Grade Formation should then recognize you as a member.\\"

She then threw a jade token plate to him which Davis caught in his palm.

\\"You can also make yourself the master of the formation with his token plate, hence, you no longer need to make your energy flow within that recognition pillar.\\"

\\"Thanks!\\" Davis echoed as he beamed back at her, \\"What are its uses?\\"

\\"Upon finding an intruder, it can automatically unleash a sealing formation at the intruder, however, I haven't activated this function yet since you were outside.\\"

'Oh, she was waiting for me? Hence, she only activated the detection formation?' Davis nodded his head and asked, \\"Only these two?\\"

\\"No, it can also activate a defensive formation over the entire residence, capable of defending against the attacks of Peak-Level Seventh Stage Cultivators. However, I tried using my Earth Dragon's Destructive Sword on it and the barrier caved in two strikes... Hence, I concluded that it is not capable of defending against attacks of Peak-Level Seventh Stage Cultivators who are closer to breaking through to the Eighth Stage.\\"

Davis nodded his head. He didn't doubt Princess Isabella's words.

Some stores would've definitely let their formations be looked at and tested by the customer. It was especially so if the manager recognized that it was the Conferred Queen who was browsing their store.

So he didn't find it strange.

As for Princess Isabella's prowess, he knew that it should be near Eighth Stage as he had witnessed the finals of the Conferred King Tournament.

Her two strikes with the Peak-Level King Grade Sword and her own prowess combined to create a power that is at the Eighth Stage.

He also wasn't worried that Princess Isabella's two strikes would've damaged the formation because it is impossible to truly destroy the formation unless the formation plate is destroyed. What got destroyed by the two strikes was the defensive barrier and not the core of the formation which hosted the three formations.

Generally, the formation plate which is the core would be quite hidden from plain view, making a normal cultivator incapable of finding it.

Davis lifted his feet off the surface and flew closer to her, \\"Excellent, you've purchased a great formation. What is its name?\\"

\\"...\\"

Princess Isabella blinked, \\"Regal Unbending Eyes Formation...\\"

\ "I'll see you later then..." She turned back and left.

Davis who had covered half the distance between them stopped mid-flight. He blinked and looked at the waving edges of her robes, wondering what he had done wrong to make her leave.

'Oh, is it because she is angry that I made her purchase the formation?'

'Indeed, it had probably cost twenty percent of her entire wealth to buy this Regal Unbending Eyes Formation. It is only her right to be at least upset at me....'

However...

If given a second chance, he felt that he would ask her to do the same!

After all, the safety of his people was one of his top priorities.

Davis shook his head and suddenly thought of something.

'Speaking of formations, I forgot about the spirit formation scrolls which Old Man Garvin gave me...'

Unfortunately, he didn't have the time to learn spirit formations with all he experienced in the past. The time he spent with Evelynn wasn't something he regretted, but relished it.

Those four years made him feel alive, further motivating him to reach the apex so that he could maintain the status quo, or perhaps even stand above all!

He pursed his lips returned to his building, wanting to see her face.

=====

In the kitchen, Evelynn eagerly cooked for Davis with a smile on her face. She dipped a cup-spoon on the Tiger Bone Soup and scooped it and tasted it with her tongue as she took it to her luscious lips.

Slurp!~

She inclined her head and felt that the taste was rather great than the last time she cooked. Feeling that it was enough, she waved her hands and the soul flames that cooked all the other dishes disappeared.

At the same time, a hand suddenly wrapped her waist in an embrace!

Evelynn widened her eyes in shock before she felt the familiar feeling from the person behind. She heaved a sigh and smiled happily before it turned wry, \"Husband, don't do that... Don't hide that mark I placed on your soul. I might accidentally poison you...\"

Davis lifted her up as if she weighed nothing and twirled his legs, swinging her around in his embrace. He ignored her latter sentence and laughed, \"Haha! Then how can I startle you like this and see your reaction? You're just too cute!\"

Indeed, Davis had placed a soul mark on Evelynn and had her do the same, so even if an illusion or some kind of mystery appeared between them, they would be able to recognize each other. However, it wasn't impregnable as illusions could still confuse them.

\"Mhm~\" Evelynn pouted in embarrassment, \"Even though I realized that your soul mark disappeared from my senses... I know you were going to do something like this... but I let my guard down while cooking...\"

Davis blinked and then grinned, \"You were expecting this to happen somewhere in your heart, weren't you?\"

Evelynn avoided his gaze as her cheeks faintly blushed.

Davis rather felt entranced when he saw her expression. He reached his lips for her earlobe and lightly bit on it, making her squeal.

Ahn!~

Davis took her earlobe into his mouth and twirled it as he played around, licking and tickling her senses.

Subconsciously, Evelyn narrowed her eyes in pleasure and felt her body go limp in his embrace.

Davis felt her body warm up even more. He smelled her unique aroma along with the delicious dishes in front of them, but she alone invoked his appetite further.

He let go of her earlobe and turned her face to him. Her amorous face looked as if it had already melted in pleasure.

"I'll eat you first then..."

Davis lewdly smiled.

Chapter 559 Alchemy Convention

In a few days, it was finally time for the Alchemy Convention to start. This famous event that resounded through the entire Ethren Empire was held by the Thousand Pill Palace Branch.

Davis and Evelyn left the residence and headed to the east region of the second level, entering the Alchemy Convention which was hosted in the huge residence of the Thousand Pill Palace's Branch that spanned over 400 square kilometers!

That meant a single side of the four sides stretched over 400 kilometers if the residence were to be square-shaped!

Not only were there buildings, but there were numerous grounds that spanned over kilometers to host competitions, exams, and other such activities. The Alchemy Convention took place in such paved

grounds rather than inside the buildings which were home to numerous alchemists and other official activities.

Some buildings were allocated to host the thousands of guests who attended the Alchemy Convention from far away. Furthermore, it would also increase the safety of the alchemists who are visiting.

Although assassinations were rare, a banquet or other such festivities is the best time to kill a person secretly through poison or other such covert methods. Hence, it was always decided that the Alchemy Convention would be held on the paved grounds outside the official buildings from time immemorial.

That said, Davis saw numerous materials being dragged in before when he came here to take the examination, mostly construction materials, hence it could also be said that the Alchemy Convention hosted shops in makeshift buildings constructed on both sides of the paved roads like a festival set-up shops.

Davis wore a purple patterned robe that had six stars etched on it. The Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist Robe which could even help him defend against Sixth Stage Cultivators. He walked in dressed up smoothly while his long blonde hair remains left free, making him look considerably handsome, like a free spirit with the extra smirk on his face.

To his right, holding his hand is Evelynnn.

She wore a luxurious purple robe that emphasized their look as a couple. She tried a new hairstyle whereupon her long combed green hair rested on her right shoulder like she had side-swept her hair to the right. She didn't leave her left empty as she pinned a purple lotus-like flower, making her look extremely lovely.

Nevertheless, she still kept some bangs across her forehead as she had noticed in the past that Davis had twirled her bangs with his fingers on many instances; intimate instances.

When Davis entered the huge gate along with Evelynnn, he displayed his newly obtained alchemist token plate to those two guards and gained entry under their momentarily surprised gaze. He didn't need to do that since he was already wearing the Alchemist Robe but since the guards had stopped him last time, he felt that they might stop him again.

As for Evelynn, they let her in on the grounds that a Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist could bring two or three friends, companions or even servants with them. Davis learned about this even discussed the specifics of the Pill Convention with Alchemist Andred.

So, he decided to bring along Evelynn to the Alchemy Convention, mainly for her to keep him company and to broaden her horizons.

Evelynn initially declined, thinking that she would bring trouble again but Davis explained otherwise and convinced her.

As for crass and lewd people who would try to be rude with his wife, he believed that in a convention such as this where every person's actions would be judged, they wouldn't dare to be rude to a woman as that would ruin their reputation in the social scene.

Even if someone were to be daring enough to trouble his wife, in his eyes, they would just be courting death.

As for his father and mother, he left them to their devices since he too wanted to spend some time with Evelynn. In the future, perhaps, he might not be there for her anymore, hence, he made it a point to rather treat her nicely and satisfactorily.

Abruptly, he turned to look at another woman who suddenly stopped to his left. He blinked his eyes and spoke, "Are you coming with us or move about solo?"

The woman whose waist-length hair gave off a dark purple glow just took a step forward and walked into the crowd, leaving them behind. This woman was none other than Princess Isabella who received an invitation to the Alchemy Convention as the Conferred Queen.

Indeed, after the day he had bound the Peak-Level King Grade Formation to himself, an entourage from the Thousand Pill Palace Branch personally came to their residence to invite Princess Isabella.

He wasn't surprised that she was here, but wasn't her attitude a little cold?

'If she keeps this up, then I will make it difficult for her to learn Soul Forging Cultivation.' Davis inwardly laughed as he felt like teasing her.

Nevertheless, it was just a fleeting thought as he really didn't think that way.

When he looked back, he could see that there was a commotion occurring because of the Conferred Queen's appearance. Even the two guards who were usually blank, had their eyes still beaming with a strange glint while gazing at her figure.

Indeed, beauty along with strength accentuated a woman's worth in a man's eyes manyfold. Though there was a lustful desire in their eyes, but there was also awe, inferiority, and fear, curbing them from even approaching her.

Only the entrance remained crowded since many people were entering at this time. They all had their gazes on Princess Isabella and some had even noticed him talk to her as they were looking at them too.

However, since the Conferred Queen didn't look or talk to them, their attention on them was short-lived as it returned to the Conferred Queen.

When Davis gazed back at Princess Isabella again, he saw that a few people who wore seven starred robes come to personally greet her before they led the way for her.

'Mhm... Low-Level King Grade Alchemists in the immediate vicinity are personally inviting her... It seems that her popularity in this city will increase from here on out!'

Davis mused inwardly and then he also doubted that if she didn't talk to them on purpose.

'Right, she likely doesn't want to bring us trouble... So she stayed clear of us? But then why did she stop beside me for a moment?'

Davis pondered for a moment but couldn't find the answer. He could only shrug and walk on the red-carpeted paved road with Evelyn.

As they walked, they crossed the red carpet road and reached a ground that had many alchemists and people of other professions were roaming around.

He even saw an eight-year-old child running around, followed by other children, visiting the stalls that were set up along the pathway, hosted by many Alchemists who were at the Earth Grade.

He couldn't tell which family they were from but judging by how they behaved without care and respect, he mused that these children were all from peak powers, having enough status and wealth to enter this Alchemy Convention.

Earth Grade Alchemists only had small or big stalls set up for them while Sky Grade Alchemists had their own ranging from a single hall to plenty of halls depending upon their level.

If he set up a shop, then he too would receive benefits from the Thousand Pill Palace Branch but he mused that they would pale in comparison to his precious time in which he could gain numerous knowledge by seeing all kinds of pills and broadening his horizons.

Chapter 560 Exchange Of Knowledge

For starters, he brought Evelyn around the stalls, explaining all her doubts which she posed from time to time, expanding her horizons while clearing his own doubts in the process.

Inadvertently, when she heard the uses of these pills, especially the medicinal pills, she began thinking about how to counter their medicinal effects with her own Poison Laws.

Numerous ideas came to her when but she would have to wait to try her conjectures out.

Seeing her being actively interested in pills, Davis brought her to a building that had a board inscribed with words, explaining that it has numerous antidotes for an array of poisons.

They entered the building and saw a wide variety of antidote pills arranged neatly on the long table and the shelves behind the table. There were also poisonous ingredients being sold.

Evelynn's eyes became bright as she looked at all those pills which she recognized some of them capable of neutralizing her poison from the description. She let go of his hand and moved by herself to the front, looking at the pills with interest and scrutiny.

However, she didn't stop asking her husband of numerous questions about the pills. She also suddenly got the urge to learn about poisonous ingredients and venomous magical beasts since there was a wide variety of medicinal pills that countered these myriads of poisons.

When he saw some of the Peak-Level Sky Grade Medicinal Pills which cured some unknown yet powerful poisons he never heard of, he had to admit that he was lesser in terms of knowledge of poisons when compared with the creator of these pills.

He looked at the Peak-Level Sky Grade Alchemist who owned the shop and stated, "Fellow Alchemist, you seem to be extremely knowledgeable in the field of poison antidotes."

The alchemist's lips imperceptibly curved, feeling a little proud of the praise of a peer. He just nodded his head and didn't speak.

Davis saw that the other party's countenance was pale, his eyelids dropping as if it were heavy as well as his lips dry and not without much blood.

'Looks like a person who engages in pleasurable depravity all day long or secludes himself all day long in his garden of poison-attributed herbs... There's also a trace of poison in the whites of his eyes, although imperceptible, meaning that he tests the poison on himself and tries to cure with his own concoctions?'

'A madman! Definitely a madman! But why does he seem like the introverted type?'

Davis mused before his eyes flashed.

'Poisoning his own self...'

Davis instantly opened his mouth, "Fellow Alchemist, are you perhaps interested in exchanging knowledge of poisons?"

He wasn't afraid that the alchemist would refuse since this Alchemy Convention was opened precisely for the exchange of knowledge. However, that depended on whether if the people engaging in the transaction felt if the exchange was worth it.

The alchemist became taken aback before he nodded his head. He twirled around his slightly greyed hair and said, "What can you provide in exchange?"

"Peak-Level Sky Grade Medicinal Pill Recipes, those that deal with poisons..."

The alchemist's eyes became as wide as it could and brightened. He blinked and his face stayed blank for a moment before opening his mouth, "How do you compare the weight of the knowledge then?"

Davis took out a piece of parchment and on the tip of his finger, soul force emerged. He engraved lines of words in the parchment as time passed by, filling it with the necessary ingredients and concocting method.

Once finished, he extended his hand and held the Pill Recipe in his hand, "You can check the authenticity for yourself and grade the weight of the knowledge by your standards."

The alchemist's brows furrowed as he looked at Davis, "Aren't you afraid that I'll deny the value of your Pill Recipe and secretly take it for myself?"

"Then I can only say that you are a short-sighted man..." Davis replied as he glanced at Evelyn who was still immersed in browsing the pills while taking in new knowledge just from the descriptions.

Seeing her become interested in poisons, he rather felt heartened as all that encouragement, trust and reassurance hadn't gone to waste.

The alchemist became astonished before he pulled the Pill Recipe into his hand and read the contents while his eyes roamed on the parchment. The more he read it, the more he felt that the ingredients and the concoction method helped formed a real antidote pill.

He could more or less determine the authenticity of the Pill Recipe but he still had his doubts because the other party said Pill Recipes, meaning that he had more than one, just like the pill recipe he held in his hands.

Pill Recipes weren't roadside flyers that kept flying to a person's feet, only to let them notice and look at what it is!

Pill Recipes paved the way for an Alchemist to broaden their horizons and improve!

Suddenly, a pile of books dropped on the table with a 'thud'.

"These are the books which contain numerous compilation of poisonous ingredients, all at Sky Grade, from the Low to the Peak. If you have more, I can take out more knowledge relating to poison." The alchemist had his lips imperceptibly curve.

Davis wasn't astonished by the other party's words. Sometimes, a poison is used to cure another poison. Without this knowledge about poisons, a person definitely would not be well versed in curing poisons.

Poisonous Ingredients were just like that. Although they were poisonous, their cores, such as roots or stems are also used to cure the poisonous substance they produce, sometimes, even countering other poisons.

Davis took a look at the books and extended his hand, "Let me take a look..."

The alchemist took a certain book and passed it to him.

Davis narrowed his eyes and opened the book. He widened his eyes in surprise.

[Compendium Of Poison Essences]

Davi's lips curled.

Poison Essences! These were similar to his Fallen Extinction Lightning, the Lightning Elemental which he had already completely refined and made it into his own comprehension!

Elementals and Essences were rare entities of concentrated heaven and earth energy that managed to undergo some changes due to the surrounding unique atmosphere, even managing to give birth to a spirit in the process.

Needless to say, the information on Poison Essences available should be only until Peak-Level Sky Grade but to Evelyn, this should help her further comprehend Poison Laws as quickly as possible.

Nevertheless, with the amount of knowledge this alchemist had exhibited about poisons, Davis had basically confirmed it.

"Are you perhaps a Poison Master?"

The alchemist's eyes trembled in alarm! However, he didn't attack nor did he do anything strange. He just nodded his head and said, "I am..."

After all, any alchemist who was skilled in counteracting poison could become a Poison Master! All they would have to do is reverse the process through observation and practice!

Davis nodded his head.

Poison Master is a profession, not a title. Those who are Poison Masters basically dabble in the arts of poison and are skilled in it, capable of poisoning people without their knowledge, like assassins. They are feared for the danger they possess and revered for their skill in neutralizing poison.

There was a saying that went, 'If the Apothecaries can't solve your ailment, only the Poison Masters can...'

Davis didn't know about the saying but he knew that a profession like this existed from Old Man Garvin's words.

There was one other matter he knew about Poison Masters, which is, they all basically came into contact with Poison Laws at some point in their lives after absorbing and comprehending all those knowledge in Poison!