

EMPEROR 681

Chapter 681 Investigation

The disturbance that inhibited them from seeking answers quickly closed in before its silhouette became visible. Almost all the people were able to identify the newcomer, who was none other than Havle Alstreim, the Envoy of the Alstreim Family!

"Lord Envoy! it's just as you said. Senior has been extremely helpful in completely subduing this person who stirred up trouble with the Conferred Queen!"

"We suspect this soul body enslaved just now by Senior might be the mastermind who pushed the Second Prince into investigating the Conferred Queen and even going as far as to force the Second Prince to self-destruct through some methods..."

The two subordinates yelled respectively as they saw Havle Alstreim quickly near them.

Havle Alstreim finally arrived in a flash with his robes fluttering from the breeze. He stepped on the air as he steadied himself and clasped his hand towards Davis, floating beside them.

"We have failed to protect Conferred Queen Isabella... For this matter, I deeply apologize!"

His gaze looked sincere but Davis did not buy that expression at face value. The envoy certainly knew where to place the words 'Astreim Family' and 'I' in his sentences, taking the blame on himself for this matter but to Davis, it came off as nothing but a farce spoken at face value.

He inwardly shrugged and didn't bother with them anymore as he was only interested in answers. He looked at this new slave of his who dared to plot against him... or more importantly; his future third wife!

"Algos Yantra... What's your background?"

The soul body's lips twitched, "Flowing Mist Sect..."

Abruptly, silence encased the region as everyone suddenly couldn't help but hold their breaths.

The next second...

"Woah!!!"

Clamour instantly erupted within the area before the people forming an audience around them spoke in hushed tones.

Davis narrowed his eyes, 'Isn't the Flowing Mist Sect a hegemon of another Territory just like the Alstreim Family? What are they doing here?'"

The faces of the two subordinates changed as they finally recalled a certain matter deep within their memories.

"Algos Yantra... Flowing Mist Sect..."

"Isn't the Yantra Family one of the three prominent families in the Flowing Mist Sect!?"

"Yes..." Havle Alstreim narrowed his eyes in scrutiny.

"What is the Flowing Mist Sect doing in our Territory?" He almost growled.

However, the reply he should've received didn't come from Algos Yantra's soul body.

"Since he's my slave, he wouldn't answer you..."

Havle Alstreim relaxed his expression and answered, "Yes... Can I have the privilege to investigate this interloper?"

The two subordinates who witnessed the previous event were about to interject but they didn't their Lord Envoy would quickly ask. Their expressions instantly waned!

"You might want to ask Kaiser Ethren about that since he requested the same... only to have him wait. In the meantime, you two can decide who will go first after I finish investigating my slave..."

Davis spoke in a deep voice as he pulled in Emperor Kaiser Ethren to be a scapegoat.

Emperor Kaiser Ethren didn't even fight as he smiled, "Of course, I'll ask questions after Lord Envoy finishes his questioning, after all, since the Flowing Mist Sect has entered this Territory, this matter has already been taken out of my jurisdiction."

Havle Alstreim satisfactorily nodded his head and looked back at the soul body in scrutiny. For such a person with a strong Soul Forging Cultivation to have entered, he was sure that this person had a Mid or High-Level Eighth Stage Cultivation.

"..."

Emperor Kaiser Ethren didn't care about the disapproved gazes of the Royal Protectors. He was going to step down as the Emperor in two months so what was he going to do offending the people he shouldn't offend?

He cast a daring glance back at the Royal Protectors buy they just seemed to cast away their gazes back to the mysterious expert.

"Are you the one who ordered the Second Prince to investigate the Conferred Queen?" Davis's deep voice echoed.

"Yes..."

"!!!~"

Amidst the clamor, Davis continued.

"Why exactly?"

"I wanted the Second Prince to investigate the Conferred Queen as I wanted to know about her background at first... I later wanted to use the Second Prince by having him frame the Third Prince to offend Conferred Queen so as to attract her power to lay havoc to the Ethren Empire..."

"With this... The Alstreim Family will have no choice but to be shamed and weakened..."

"!!!~"

Havle Alstreim's expression changed as he looked towards Emperor Kaiser Ethren.

"What is this!?"

"This... I don't know!" Emperor Kaiser Ethren claimed as he widened his eyes.

Even he became angered as he heard the sentence about laying havoc to the Ethren Empire but where should he go display his anger?

On his second son?

Keith Ethren is dead!

The Third Prince, Alexi Ethren just blinked once as he heard that it was his second brother who tried to frame him. He knew that it should be the case but somewhere in his heart, he didn't want it to be the case as his second brother seemed to have self-destructed for the greater good.

But now, with this is irrevocable proof, that little bit of hope was discarded and only hatred was left within him.

'Second brother... You are just like father...' He inwardly sighed but didn't even feel an ounce of pity.

"Oh... You wanted to attract our power? Hmph!" Davis harrumphed.

He made a move of wanting to kill him as soul undulations flared.

Realizing his intent, the others all yelled in haste.

"No!"

"Senior!"

"Don't do it!"

Havle Alstreim also widened his eyes as he shouted!

As if being calmed by all those yells, Davis lowered his hand. His chest heaved as if he were suppressing enormous discontent.

"I understand that senior is exasperated and angered but it is also the same for us. He has targeted both the Conferred Queen and the Alstreim Family."

"I hope to have your understanding in this matter as this could be seemingly larger than what we currently know..."

Havle Alstreim spoke as he sincerely clasped his hand, trying to convey his intent. The others also echoed as they pleaded along these lines, begging him to not be angered.

After all, the soul body's life lay within Davis's hands! They all perfectly understood this point as well.

Davis waved his hand with the demeanor of an expert and spoke, "It is obvious that the Flowing Mist Sect wants to do something in this territory. If not, it should be Algos Yantra's individual scheming spree..."

"As for whatever it is, we'll know soon that if the mastermind is Algos Yantra alone or the Flowing Mist Sect but Havle Alstreim, are you sure that you want all these people to listen? What if someone is a spy or a helper to Algos Yantra?"

Havle Alstreim became taken aback as he looked around. Suddenly, he felt as if someone could be secretly observing their actions, only to relay it to the Flowing Mist Sect later.

He narrowed his eyes and wanted to expel them from this place but expelling the Ethren Royal Family members from their own place, even he felt it to be going overboard.

"Other than two Royal Protectors, Kaiser Ethren and the Alstreim Family, I want all of you out of here..." Davis calmly spoke in a deep voice, even removing the First Prince and the Third Prince out of the equation.

Havle Alstreim's eyes flashed with content as he echoed the same.

Since it was senior's words... who would dare to say otherwise on top of his own words!?

Gazes of discontent shot towards Davis and all stood in silence for a few seconds.

"What are you people still here for? Isn't your representative, the Emperor here for the questioning along with two Royal Protectors!? It isn't as if we are looking at a woman dance!"

It was none other than from Havle Alstreim again. At this point, he felt angered by the lack of reaction from the Ethren Family.

Chapter 682 Already Bough

But even then, a voice of dissatisfaction resounded.

"Senior is taking this too far! We subdued the expert and we still haven't known why the Second Prince had chosen to self-destruct. The way I see it, it is clear that you're hiding something and the Second Prince is a martyr..."

Davis turned to look at a lean man who seemed to be a Royal Protector when judged by his undulations and royal clothes.

"You are?" He asked with a languid voice.

"Kalamaz Ethren..." The Royal Protector with a beard proudly spoke.

"Royal Protector Kalamaz! What are you doing? Quickly apologize!"

Surprisingly, Emperor Kaiser Ethren seemed to take the senior's side as he berated his own Empire's Royal Protector.

"Hmph! Apologize my foot! It isn't as if I'm stating all this without basis! Even the Grand Elder of the Thousand Pill Palace had a tough time placing a slave seal without making Algos Yantra's soul dissipate yet this senior who is obviously of equal strength to the Grand Elder easily subdued Algos Yantra?"

"Besides, this senior keeps others from interrogating Algos Yantra and only interrogates by himself!"

"I would be reduced to a frog in a well if I believe in this bullshit!"

Abrupt silence suddenly descended on the area as everyone looked at Kalamaz Ethren as if they were looking at a dead man but even then, the Royal Protector continued to speak.

"The point is, I'm trying to say that this Algos Yantra and this senior is trying to frame the Flowing Mist Sect so that they could get the Alstreim Family to clash against the Flowing Mist Sect!"

"Two hegemony battling each other!? What kind of grand waves would it send across the Fifty-Two Territories!? The number of lives that will be lost would number in the billions!!!"

Kalamaz Ethren seemed to pour his worries along with a serious allegation against the Conferred Queen's protector.

This almost cast the entire attention of the people present to Davis's carefree figure.

Indeed, even this senior's origins were dubious. What if the Conferred Queen was fake and this person truly wanted to drag the Alstreim Family and the Flowing Mist Sect into a Territorial Battle?

Havle Alstreim narrowed his eyes at Davis. He couldn't also help but doubt this point.

However, Davis just smiled behind the mask. His chuckle echoed the surroundings before he spoke, "Do you doubt that I'm from a mysterious power that seeks to make the Alstreim Family and the Flowing Mist Sect into a sea of blood? However, this relies on the basis that I have not made Algos Yantra my slave but instead we're acting in tandem to frame the Flowing Mist Sect... Correct?"

Kalamaz Ethren became taken aback as he couldn't help but answer, "Yes..."

The other party's analysis had perfectly conveyed his intent that he almost became speechless.

"And the reasoning behind this is that you doubt my prowess in Soul Forging Cultivation and techniques over slave seals?"

"Yes!" Kalamaz Ethren replied with a harrumph.

"Oh~ Then why don't you try taking on my slave seal technique?"

"Hmph! You are just a Peak-Level Mature Soul Stage Cultivator! Even if your slave seal technique reached my soul which isn't clearly up to par, I can still dissolve the slave seal with my essence energy before it can even make me a slave!"

"Big talk... But do you have the ability to back it up?" Davis mockingly laughed.

Kalamaz Ethren clenched his fists in anger, his expression becoming near pale. In truth, he was also scared but he had no choice to do so!

"Hmph! Why should I be Senior's target? So Senior can silence me with some strange technique!?"

Davis lifted up his hand and shook his finger, "A man who dares to speak up should also know that he would bear the consequences, and since you dared to make baseless allegations against me and my Young Mistress..."

He pointed his finger at Kalamaz Ethren as his voice possessed a cold intent, "I'll make you my slave!"

Instantly, a streak of light shot towards Kalamaz Ethren accurately pinpointed to his glabella. It was so abrupt that Kalamaz Ethren was only about to react with a trembling mumble before erecting his essence energy as a defense.

But by then, the slave seal had already pierced his glabella and entered his Soul Sea!

Kalamaz Ethren became aghast!

But the next second, he noticed that the slave seal had considerably started to disintegrate when met with his essence energy at the Low-Level Law Sea Stage!

Just when his face almost produced a smile wanting to mock the expert, his eyes became dull as he lost all sense of will.

Davis lowered his hand as everyone's gaze was fixed on Kalamaz Ethren. Witnessing that Kalamaz Ethren did not move or give a sign of not being enslaved, everyone became shocked as they let out a frightful gasp.

"!!!"

Emperor Kaiser Ethren's eyes were wide as he cast a look towards the ground, no longer thinking of even going against the Conferred Queen's protector.

Clearly, he perceived that their lowly Empire cannot hope to offend this great individual who seems to have become a mere protector to a woman.

This meant that the Conferred Queen was undoubtedly from a top tier background!

Havle Alstreim also increasingly felt that the Conferred Queen is from the Golden Dragon Valley Territory's, Zlatan Family! However, he didn't dare to try to confirm this as he could see the prowess of this great protector.

He obviously didn't want to become a victim, hence, he shut his mouth.

"You! What have you done!?" Another Royal Protector couldn't help but shout as he looked aggrieved.

Davis couldn't help but almost laugh. He knew that he was clearly bullying these people with Fallen Heaven, just like how he made Algos Yantra a slave... but he did it with his own convictions.

He had a hunch that...

"Who are all the Royal Protectors from the Ethren Empire that you have successfully bought or brought to your side?" His question abruptly echoed.

"Dian Ethren, Ramez Ethren, Kalamaz Ethren, and Olyver Ethren..."

A dull reply resounded.... but this reply sent tumultuous waves within the area!

Whoosh!~

The Royal Protector who looked aggrieved abruptly shot towards the distance the moment Algos Yantra's words could even end. His back looked as if he had lost all hope as he didn't even try to bicker.

Whoosh!~ *Whoosh!~*

As if responding to his escape the next minute second, the other two Royal Protectors who were named also shot towards the distance, trying to escape!

"You!" Havle Alstreim's head almost exploded as he looked at these traitorous bastards. He angrily yelled, "Capture or kill th..."

However, he looked at them abruptly stop.

Davis smiled as he was even faster than them. He had already sent a few more slave seals towards the escaping Royal Protectors for a show as he heard them be named.

With his Death God Eyes, he had already seen the names of the entire Ethren Family members and knew their name at the back of his hand, especially the truly strong ones like the Royal Protectors.

He was prepared to kill them anytime if he wanted to!

The three of them stopped and possessed a vacant look as they all turned lifeless.

"Hehe..." Davis chuckled, "Kaiser Ethren, I didn't think that your Empire would be deeply infiltrated that even protectors of the Ethren Empire who have sworn allegiance to the Alstreim Family in territorial diplomacy, to backstab them."

Havle Alstreim looked deeply offended. He stared at Emperor Kaiser Ethren as if he were going to try to kill him as Essence Gathering Cultivation base flared!

"No... I... I don't know anything!!" Emperor Kaiser Ethren's eyes trembled in fear. He looked at the slave as if he found his savior, "You can even ask that Algos Yantra over there!"

Davis chuckled as he spoke in a mocking voice, "Is our friend here, Emperor Kaiser Ethren a part of your group?"

"... No..." Came the reply that made Emperor Kaiser Ethren deeply release a sigh of relief.

When he came back to himself, he noticed that he was covered in sweat!

Chapter 683 Taking Turns To Investigate

Havle Alstreim took a deep breath and harrumphed at Emperor Kaiser Ethren, causing the latter to go passive in obedience. He turned to look at his surroundings with a three-sixty degree spin of his body before he turned towards the senior who had unveiled this all after confirming that things were within this senior's control.

His eyes finally possessed a semblance of gratitude and respect. However, deep within those eyes, was a profound amount of reverence and fear.

He felt that if this senior were to be in the Supreme Soul Stage, then even he would become a slave with that simple yet mysterious and profound slave seal cast on him without being able to retaliate!

Such a slave seal technique! He had never seen it before!

Something that removed the will of a person is truly scary, rare, and unattainable as far as he knew but this further entrenched the fact that the Conferred Queen should be from a rather extravagant background!

Davis didn't bother with the clamor that erupted because it had all been silenced with Havle Alstreim's look that scanned the surroundings. It was plain to see that the others didn't want to get involved in the mess as the four Royal Protectors were partly convicted and already made into a slave by the Conferred Queen's Protector; which is him.

The Royal Protectors all left as if they didn't want to stay anymore for the interrogation, leaving only two unwilling Royal Protectors to stay along with the Emperor Kaiser Ethren as per his orders.

Davis grasped all he needed to mainly know from Algos Yantra, so he passed the baton; the opportunity to investigate to Havle Alstreim with a gesture before saying, "Algos Yantra, answer all the questions asked by this person over here, Havle Alstreim."

Havle Alstreim bowed once with clasped hands as a form of respect. He then took a few steps to the front before stopping to ask the will-less and muddle-headed soul body.

"What kind of status do you possess within the Flowing Mist Sect?"

"An Elder..."

Havle Alstreim's gaze became solemn, "Does the higher ranking members within the Flowing Mist Sect know of your current plans within the Ethren Empire?"

"... Yes."

Havle Alstreim's eyes widened.

It obviously meant that the Flowing Mist Sect has devious plans to implement in their Alstreim Family Territory!

He couldn't help but get deeply angered once again!

But he knew that the Flowing Mist Sect was powerful than their Alstreim Family as they had three Ninth Stage Powerhouses, representing the three families within the sect!

Needless to say, all three of them were skilled in illusions!

If they came to attack, the Alstreim Family definitely wouldn't survive! The impending crisis rang alarm bells in Havle Alstreim's head. He wanted nothing more than to inform the situation to the Alstreim Family with a messaging talisman but calmed himself down as he needed to make sure.

After all, this could just be an individual's greed and not the entire will of the Flowing Mist Sect.

"Is this scheme of yours only known to the Yantra Family of your Flowing Mist Sect?"

Algos Yantra replied blankly after a moment, "... Yes."

'No wonder...' Havle Alstreim instantly understood but at the same time, he couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief, thinking that the entire Flowing Mist Sect didn't target them.

There was only a single Ninth Stage Powerhouse, their revered ancestor, guarding over the entire Alstreim Family! As long as it was just that one Yantra Family of the Flowing Mist Sect, they could still retaliate with fervor.

He had deep confidence in his ancestor that in a one-on-one battle, victory was definitely tipped to their side!

Even then, there were still many things he wasn't sure of and needed to know.

"What does your scheme entail for the Ethren Empire?"

"To plunder the resources of the Ethren Empire within a few decades, especially the Peak-Level Spirit Stone Mine located deep within one of the important areas of the third level." Algos Yantra replied with a dull voice.

Havle Alstreim did not have a change of expression, instead, he thought about the history of plundering and relocation of Spirit Stone Mines.

It is said that when the entire Fifty-Two Territories was a single, huge, unseparated landmass, the Spirit Stone Mines were spread out evenly all over the land and seas.

It was still the same when the single landmass was split into Fifty-Two Territories! Then came the miserable situation of the small territories...

Cultivators from the large territories started to plunder as they felt that the resources were spread out too much. They instinctively looked down on the other territories and started to plunder from them with heavy-handed methods.

They targeted both medium-sized territories and small-sized territories.

This influenced the medium-sized territories to plunder as well.

Spirit Stone Mines had sources that were none other than Spirit Stone Vein Source. They produced Spirit Stone Vein Fragments, which in turn produced a large quantity of Spirit Stones.

In the end, almost all the Peak-Level Spirit Stone Mines were relocated to the four large territories, leaving only a few within the small territories and a sizeable amount within the medium territories.

One such example was the Tripartite Alliance Territory, where the resources had mostly faded and become a barren land. Only a few High-Level Spirit Stone Mines were left. However, the worst-case that had happened in the Tripartite Alliance Territory is that its south side had been entirely turned into a scorching, hot desert wasteland.

Although Havle Alstreim became shortly taken in by this history as he lamented, he quickly came out of his reverie as he wanted to ask another question but he inclined his head when he felt undulations flare.

Emperor Kaiser Ethren appeared in his sight and his facial expression expressed his deep dissatisfaction over Algos Yantra's statement. He even had the urge to send an apocalyptic heatwave to scorch the other party to death, however, he just clenched his fists and didn't even move as to display a hint of making a move against Algos Yantra.

Havle Alstreim smiled blandly. He had many things to ask but the deeper he got, the more he wanted these people to disappear from the interrogation area.

"Emperor Kaiser Ethren, since I asked a few questions, I think it is your turn now. After you ask, you must all leave without making a fuss."

Emperor Kaiser Ethren became taken aback first before completely hearing Havle Alstreim's words. Only then did he display his dissatisfaction but still said, "Yes..."

He then took a few steps forward from the Royal Protectors behind him and asked, "Why did my second son, the Second Prince Keith Ethren choose to self-destruct?"

Davis sent a Soul Transmission to Algos Yantra to answer his words.

"... I made him swallow a conditional poison, so, when I threatened him to kill the Conferred Queen, he tried to kill me instead..."

Emperor Kaiser Ethren raised his brows but his eyes shone as he felt that he heard a good piece of news.

"Why?"

"... I don't know." Agos Yantra hoarsely replied.

"You don't?"

"... Yes."

Emperor Kaiser Ethren became taken aback before he smiled and clasped his hand towards the Conferred Queen's protector.

"Senior, as you can see, my second son did not want the Conferred Queen to be harmed. It could be seen that his intentions were just only attraction towards the Conferred Queen and embarrassingly enough, having the need to frame his third brother for some unknown purpose..."

"But with this Algos Yantra's words, it became clear that my second son rather tried to save the Conferred Queen instead!"

Chapter 684 Schemes Of The Flowing Mist Sec

Davis inwardly laughed as he heard Emperor Kaiser Ethren speak.

He was the one who had Keith Ethren self-destruct while using Fallen Heaven to do his bid. But now, Keith Ethren's Royal Father, described his death in such a way that it became a sacrifice, essentially turning Keith Ethren into a martyr!

If he wasn't the one who orchestrated Keith Ethren's death, making the latter self-destruct, then he felt that he might've believed this fake story as well, just like Havle Alstreim who seemed to nod in response.

Davis's lips curled into a mocking smile before his deep voice echoed.

"Did Keith Ethren want to protect Conferred Queen Isabella before he decided to self-destruct? What were his real intentions towards her?"

"... No, he was harping in pain on how he was about to violate her, brutally harm her, and throw her to the magical beasts to be devoured if he ever had the chance to do so..."

The surroundings became completely silent as even the breeze seemed to stop as their waving robes hung stagnantly over them.

Davis shot a look towards Emperor Kaiser Ethren as he spoke a single word with murderous intent!

"Scram!"

His voice deeply echoed towards Emperor Kaiser Ethren as the latter subconsciously slumped his posture from fear!

With a meek sounding "Yes~", he scampered away from the area, flying away as if his imaginary tail were hidden under his legs. The two Royal Protectors were even more afraid as they shot towards the distance the moment their Emperor turned tail.

Even Havle Alstreim felt his heart stop for a moment. He gulped and stayed tightly closed his lips, not willing to open his mouth and attract aggression from this expert.

He felt that the Ethren's were rather let off scot-free but when he turned to look at those four Royal Protectors who had rather turned into slaves, his eyes twitched as he realized why this expert let them go.

The Ethren Royal Family has already paid the price for their transgression by having four of their pillars, Low-Level Eighth Stage Experts enslaved.

But even if the Ethren Empire were to raise their voice and demand their experts be freed of slave seals, he had already decided to pursue this matter to end the lives of these four traitorous bastards.

Namely, Dian Ethren, Ramez Ethren, Kalamaz Ethren, and Olyver Ethren.

Now, they were all nothing but slaves.

Eighth Stage Experts as slaves!!!

Havle Alstreim gulped in envy, fear, and jealousy.

Even the Alstreim Family only had a few Eighth Stage Experts as slaves, only up to the level of Mid-Level. These people had more or less offended the Alstreim Family and were designated to be slaves of their Grand Elders till the end of their lives.

These slaves were once foolish enough to offend them but they were subdued by their Grand Elders anyway. Even then, their own experts had found it difficult to cast a slave seal on them but this senior just seemed to throw those slave seals at them before they completely lost all their will.

Such a scary thing, he had never witnessed it before!

Davis didn't act.

When he heard what Keith Ethren thought about Princess Isabella, killing intent truly erupted from him as he felt like going on a killing spree. However, he still suppressed his emotions and that was the result of him telling them to scam.

Otherwise, the little death-like energy that had leaked would have made the Ethren's utterly submit in fear!

With a harrumph, he gestured for Havle Alstreim to continue with the interrogation.

Currently, only the two shivering subordinates stayed around other than the three of them, including Algos Yantra.

Havle Alstreim cleared his throat and took a moment to organize his thoughts as questions.

He then spoke, "Are there any more accomplices or allies in the Ethren Empire?"

"... No."

"I see... Why are there no allies?"

"Because allies cannot be believed. It will effectively cause our schemes to fall into ruin..."

Havle Alstreim nodded his head but then his eyes narrowed when he thought about the reply.

'Schemes?'

He blinked before his expression changed.

"You mean that the Yantra Family has not only targeted the Ethren Empire?"

"... Yes." Algos Yantra revealed without a care in the world.

Havle Alstreim's face became ugly as he looked towards his two subordinates who also looked at him as if their families were killed.

He couldn't help but turn back and shout, "What other places in the Alstreim Family Territory have you targeted!?"

"... Kazire Empire, Zeth Empire, Inciria Empire, Sea Plunderer's Alliance..."

Havle Alstreim heard the long list of Low-Level Emperor Grade Powers listed by Algos Yantra, even including sects and organizations that were supposed to have undisguised allegiance to them in territorial diplomacy.

His face scrunched up in anger!

"Have all these powers already defected to the Flowing Mist Sect's side?" One of the two subordinates' lips trembled.

Havle Alstreim clenched his fists as knuckles and joints cracked. He wanted nothing more than storm into the Flowing Mist Sect and kill them!

He posed his subordinate's doubt to Algos Yantra.

"... No. Only the Zeth Empire has secretly defected to our side. As for the other Empires, our other Elders are still in the process of having them defect to our side."

"Why?" Havle Alstreim's face became pale.

He only meant it as an expression of his disbelief but it garnered an answer from Algos Yantra.

"So that the Alstreim Family will be busy in quelling the rebellion and insurgents, we, the Yantra Family Elders, along with our ancestor will invade the Alstreim Family and plunder their resources before retreating in one piece or little causality."

Veins erupted on Havle Alstreim's fists. He instantly took out a jade stone from his spatial ring and relayed his intent into the messaging talisman!

Davis looked at this ongoing spectacle with narrowed eyes.

He thought the Alstreim Family was incredibly powerful but it was this vulnerable?

'Of course, in their own Territory, they're the Kings and Emperors. However, outside, they're nothing but a frog in a well.'

'According to mother and Grand Uncle Daniuis, the Alstreim Family's ancestor is a Low-Level Ninth Stage Powerhouse...'

Davis pursed his lips, feeling how powerful the other party was with just his imagination. However, when he subconsciously compared the Alstreim Family's ancestor to the powerhouses who were in the medium-sized and large Territories, he couldn't help but feel the stature of the Alstreim Family's ancestor fall by an entire level.

Just the level gap between Seventh Stage Experts was enormously huge... much less needs to be said about the gap between the prowess of Ninth Stage Powerhouses.

Perhaps to the medium-sized and large Territories, the Alstreim Family was nothing but a frog in a well.

Davis almost let out of a grin as he had his four new slaves align themselves behind him. With these four new slaves added who will obediently obey his words, he momentarily felt that he could even barge into the Alstreim Family and demand justice for his mother.

At least, in his view, it became possible.

However, these slaves, no, puppets with no will were unable to think for themselves. So if he told them to protect someone, they would only react after the attack had been launched and by that time, it would be too late!

They would be easily killed!

That's why Davis had never relied on puppets tamed by Fallen Heaven. Each and one of them were useless as a doll.

To effectively use them, he would have to constantly command and by the time they understand his words and act on it, something would have already happened.

Hence, these puppets were only effective for displaying power and stable yet stagnant defense, where they get to defend one single place.

In short, they were incredibly useful for protecting his residence against enemy attacks!

Chapter 685 True Expert?

Havle Alstreim became increasingly irritated as he continued to question Algos Yantra. He calmed himself down as far as he could and asked for Senior's patience and gained it.

Davis was merely interested so he gave Havle Alstreim the go-ahead. It wasn't like it surely harmed him anyway.

If the Alstreim Family took an arrow to their knees, then he would be happy. Perhaps, only his mother will feel complex, not knowing whether to laugh or cry since she also had her roots in the Alstreim Family.

They might have betrayed her but it was only a part of the members who have plotted against her and her father, not the entire family. However, since they had stood by and watched, Davis felt that they, the Alstreim Family, including all those Grand Elders and even the Ancestor had equal responsibility in this matter.

Although he was entirely aware that he was asking for the impossible since people at the level Grand Elder wouldn't interfere much, they had let his maternal grandfather, the newly emerged Young Master at that time to fall!

How could something like that happen? At least one of the Grand Elders should've stepped in to protect the Young Master! However, it didn't seem like they did it.

Nevertheless, since his maternal grandfather, a branch member without much backing had dared to become the Young Master and encroached upon numerous people's benefits, he was eventually forced to stop down.

Davis shook his head and turned his attention over to the investigation.

The questioning went on for over half an hour before Havle Alstreim completely understood whatever he needed to know and could get from Algos Yantra!

Havle Alstreim's eyes flickered with a sinister glint. He wanted nothing more than rip Algos Yantra to pieces but still had other uses for him since he needed to present him to the Alstreim Family.

However, for that, he needed Senior's permission but incase if he couldn't obtain...

In his hands was a stone that had a strange symbol faced to its front. It was none other than a type of Imagery Stone which not only records the image but also the sound. In other words, it had both the properties of the imagery stone and sound stone.

Havle Alstreim kept it in his spatial ring and turned to look at the senior with clasped hands.

"Senior, you have become our greatest benefactor by unveiling this plot by the Flowing Mist Sect!"

Davis just casually nodded his head.

"Do I have the honor to personally invite you to the Alstreim Family's territory!?"

Davis raised his hand, "Didn't I tell you before? I am only here for my Young Mistress's protection. As long as my Young Mistress adventures around the territories safely, I will not interfere with her actions nor will I drag her into struggles such as these..."

Havle Alstreim expressed a wry smile on his face as his lips curved. He had really started to admire this senior but even if he sincerely asked, the reply was still the same.

'Seriously... Such a strong expert is really humble... The world has much to learn from senior...' He couldn't help but sigh.

With a shake of his sleeves, a token plate appeared. He extended it with both his hands and bowed acutely, "Senior! You are our Alstreim Family's great benefactor! Please accept this token plate which will allow you to enter into the core region of our Alstreim Family!"

Davis became surprised but didn't reveal it outwardly. He closed his palm and lowered his hand, "The decision of your Grand Elders?"

"Yes~" Havle Alstreim replied and the next moment, he felt the gold token plate with the symbol of the Alstreim Family fly away from his grasp.

When he lifted up his head and cast his gaze, the golden token plate was already in senior's hands.

Davis looked at the golden token plate in his palm. Beside him was the Karma Thread connecting him and Havle Alstreim into a common white thread, tinged with blue, yellow, and the likes.

He cast his intentions to know the truth and asked, "There's no way this golden token plate is rigged with tracking ability, right?"

Havle Alstreim became startled and the next moment, he subconsciously answered as if it came directly from the bottom of his heart!

"Not at all! This golden token plate is one of the highest status plates that we, Head Envoys can give to people who arrive from the outer Territories! This golden token plate almost gives the same perks as one a Guest Elder would enjoy!"

Davis's chuckle echoed but it sounded as if being mocked to Havle Alstreim as he realized that he overreacted. He was not offended but felt like a junior in front of this senior as he awkwardly laughed.

"Senior, can I take this slave to the Alstreim Family?" Havle Alstreim asked with the flow.

"Since you don't need Algos Yantra anymore after the investigation, I thought of taking him as my slave as well but since I gained four extra slaves to serve my Young Mistress, I don't need him; someone who is from the Yantra Family of the Flowing Mist Sect."

"I guess I will hand him over to you since having him with me is attracting trouble. If it was not for my Young Mistress, I wouldn't have a problem fighting with their Grand Elders without breaking a sweat..." Davis harrumphed in a cold tone.

Inwardly, he was thinking of something else.

'Too bad... Both the spatial rings of Keith Ethren and Algos Yantra have been destroyed in the self-destruction of the former... Heh, even if I were given another chance, I'll do the same thing again and again...'

Davis did not weigh wealth over his family, otherwise, he would've chosen another way to do this. His highest priority was to get rid off the assailants who have been plotting against them.

Havle Alstreim secretly gulped on hearing senior's speech. Somehow, he didn't doubt those lofty and arrogant words. He shook his hands and corrected his posture once to bow before standing up, "Many thanks!"

"Hehe..." Davis chuckled and sent a Soul Transmission to Algos Yantra.

He then spoke, "Unfortunately, the slave seal technique I use is too powerful that it makes people almost completely lose their will... I'm sure you have seen this with your own eyes..."

"Yes, yes..."

"So other than questioning him, don't try to do something like removing the seal I placed or even investigate it. I'm warning you since this soul is on the verge of dissipation although he looks fine..."

Davis turned his back facing Havle Alstreim as he looked at the open skies, "My slave seal technique isn't just for looks, it's extremely dangerous..."

Havle Alstreim's eyes widened as he saw the projection of a powerhouse. He almost became entranced by the scene but he quickly pulled himself out of it as he shook his head. If this senior was a woman, he would have definitely suspected this person of using Charm Arts!

Davis left towards the entrance of the third level, followed by those four slaves.

In the distance, the Ethrens' viewed from the Emperor's Royal Palace. Watching the Senior leave with their four Royal Protectors whom they have talked, laughed, fought, schemed against left them feeling complex while lamenting that the Empire lost four pillars.

Even then, they couldn't take vengeance for it.

This left an extremely bad taste their mouths, leaving their throats itching to speak but none dared to utter a word as they all felt fear.

In front of a true expert, they came to deeply understand that they were meager as ants, except, they didn't know that the senior they revered wasn't a true expert but a fake expert who might get instakilled by a single wave of their hands!

Chapter 686 Of Course, Little Sister

Davis's residence, his home.

Evelynn and Natalya entered the house as they walked past the door before the former closed the door with a wave of her hand. Once they stepped into the house, Natalya stiffened as she looked around with her black pupils.

She didn't even dare to turn her head around, afraid that she might be rude.

"Welcome, Natalya..." Evelynn forced a smile as she turned back and said.

"Ah? Yes..."

Natalya became startled for a second before she replied.

Looking at Natalya's stiff posture, Evelynn's forced smile became a genuine one as she giggled.

Even she felt awkward being with Natalya, however, for the sake of her husband, she felt that she had to take the helm and make her feel comfortable here even though she exactly didn't.

They walked towards the hall before Evelynn gestured for Natalya to be seated on a couch.

Natalya did not dare to disobey and instantly kept her butt over the couch but then abruptly stood up as she felt that she had immensely displayed a rude action to Evelynn.

How can she be seated before the first wife!? It was clearly a violation of household decorum!

Evelynn who had just moved to the opposite couch, widened her eyes to her sudden action before she blinked, "What happened?"

"I... I'm sorry." Natalya tried to explain herself, "I know that it is my wrong to be seated before the first wife could..."

"Wait!" Evelynn raised her hand before she inclined her head in amusement.

"Are you trying to turn me into a villainess?"

Natalya continuously shook both her hands and head, "No! You misunderstood-"

"You're the one who is misunderstanding me..." Evelynn interrupted her again with raised hands, "There are no such rules in this place..."

Natalya became stunned.

Did that mean that she would not have to give tremendous respect to the first wife?

Bow by bending her waist almost completely with clasped hands whenever they met?

Not heeding the first wife's words and could act freely as she saw fit?

Many questions like this simultaneously exploded in her head, almost making her speechless in disbelief.

She couldn't subconsciously help but ask, "What do you mean that there are no rules?"

If there are no rules in a harem, wouldn't that end in a disaster? At least, that was what she heard or read when she read classics on romance stories.

Evelynn sighed at this to be 'little sister' of hers.

Perhaps, even she might have reacted the same if she was in her position. After all, she had once feared that she would be reduced to a mere serving concubine if Davis married Princess Shirley in the past.

Feeling pity for a fellow soul, she patiently explained in a few words.

"As long as you don't offend, aggravate, or betray me, him and his family, there is nothing that you cannot do... I'm moderately sure our man would say so himself..."

'This...' Natalya became taken aback as she didn't think that the household rules would be this relaxed.

No rules? A few restrictions?

Only after a few seconds did she feel that perhaps there was no need to be needlessly afraid of the first wife. Just like the first wife said, she didn't do anything wrong, hence, there was no need for her to cower all day long.

Natalya bit her lips. She abruptly realized that the first wife was taking initiative to make her feel comfortable, make her feel at home. She didn't know why but could only guess that it was because of Davis's instructions.

'In that case...' Natalya clenched her fists before she gathered her courage, "Can I call you big sister?"

Evelynn blinked as she did not expect these words from her. She was given the title 'big sister', just for her seniority?

She didn't think that this would even happen in the first place since she heard from Davis that Natalya had the potential to reach the Ninth Stage as long as she had minimum required resources and Cultivation Manual.

That's why she instinctively felt that she was inferior to Natalya in cultivation and even stature.

But now, Natalya wants to call her big sister?

Evelynn's lips widened as she let out a smile, "Of course, little sister..."

Natalya's pupils dilated as she became shocked!

'Little sister?'

Didn't that mean that she was acknowledged as the second wife even before marriage!?

She instantly felt assured and felicitous because she was afraid that she would be mocked and blamed for being a witch; a witch who seduced another woman's husband.

Evelynn was well aware that she would have to live with Natalya from now on... Then what other actions were there other than to make their relationship amicable as sisters tied to the same man?

She unhesitatingly called Natalya as her little sister, choosing to prioritize his feelings over her uncomfortable feelings of sharing her man with a second woman.

Besides, she was never going to miss this kind of opportunity since she felt that it was only her rightful place.

In any case, she felt that it would only be a matter of time before she no longer felt uncomfortable as she could feel the bitter pain slowly slip away from her heart.

The last time when she poured all her emotions out to Davis when she found that he had been intimate with another woman was her breaking point. From then on, she slowly felt her uncomfortable feelings fade away with time.

Currently, it only made her feel awkward and a little uncomfortable, otherwise, she wouldn't have gone out of her way to bring Natalya into the residence from outside.

Evelynn smiled, "Even though there are no rules, there are many duties and formalities that you would have to fulfill but let's think about that after your marriage with him. I'd like to wait here for him, so, in the meantime, we'll talk over some tea..."

"That's great..." Natalya echoed as she increasingly felt heartened.

She was not bullied on the first day even when her man left to tackle an important scenario. This made her feel content and relaxed. She sat and waited for some tea to be brewed.

Evelynn carried on with brewing tea on the pot as she sat opposite to Natalya. In front of them was the table that separated them.

While brewing, she caught sight of Natalya starting to get fidgety from all the silence. She inwardly laughed and abruptly opened her mouth to ask a question.

"Do you know how to cook?"

Natalya blinked before she nodded her head, "Yes... I know many varieties of dishes..."

Hearing her keep on talking about cooking, Evelynn smiled as she knew that cooking could be one of her hobbies, but hearing at the list of dishes, it could be seen that she did not know how to effectively prepare Fourth Stage Magical Beasts dishes and above.

This meant that cooking could be one of her old hobbies that she lost interest in, perhaps after a certain matter that happened to her in the past.

Evelynn felt that it could be most likely related to being kidnapped by a cultivator skilled in illusions. She knew Natalya's story in the back of her hand since she had Davis once again recount the details of her past to her.

She didn't feel that she was overstepping her bounds since she felt that it was her right to know and Davis didn't hold back, telling everything about Natalya to her.

"Then, did you cook for him at least once?"

She chuckled and asked after Natalya ended her short session of explanation.

Chapter 687 Laced With Poison?

"Uhh..." Natalya became tongue-tied before her face withered.

"Unfortunately, I never found the chance to cook for him as..."

Natalya abruptly became silent. In the temporary silence that besieged the hall, her cheeks started to turn red as she imagined what she did whenever he visited her; secretly.

They only had a short time to be together in their affairs and spending it physically was all they mostly thought about. All other things came second.

Evelynn was about to ask what had happened but she instantly understood when Natalya heavily blushed. She knew about their intimate affairs. After all, Davis had sought her acceptance before every time he went to meet her.

Then feeling like that she would be restricting him with her words if she said no, she gave in and said yes to each time he sought her out as if asking for permission. In any case, he did not neglect her in the process, so she was satisfied with his actions as well.

'A scoundrel but a truly responsible person...' Or so she branded Davis in her mind.

The instant the sky grade quality tea was ready, she poured it in two small cups and gestured Natalya for her to take one.

Natalya smiled at her gesture and grasped the cup in her hands. A unique aroma that subconsciously made her Essence Gathering Cultivation circulate, entered her nostrils.

She couldn't help but take a few sniffs again before she heaved a sigh, complimenting the tea, "Big sister's tea brewing skill is excellent!"

Evelynn nodded her head with a smile, "You're welcome. Now, try tasting the tea..."

"Of course, I can't wait!"

Natalya eagerly replied and brought the tea to her lips. She lifted the cup and lukewarm liquid entered her small mouth.

The taste of hot liquid filling her taste buds made her almost moan in ecstasy as to display how rich and delicious the tea is but before she could even give a reply, a voice echoed.

"We can talk about what we are skilled in, right? I am skilled in Poison Laws, what about you?" Evelynn asked with a faint smile on her face.

"!!!"

Natalya's ecstatic expression froze. The tea she was about to swallow abruptly stopped right before her throat, threatening to fall. However, Natalya desperately tried to not swallow it as her eyes trembled in fear.

She noticed the faint smile on Evelynn's face and doubted her intentions to say something like that right at the moment she drank the tea.

'Is the tea laced with poison?'

Even her hand that held the cup started to tremble. She didn't dare spit out the tea, afraid that it could completely offend the poison master.

Her gaze traveled back and forth to the cup and Evelynn's face, trying to find out what her intention is! There was no way she could find a well-hidden poison, so she could only cast a look at Evelynn to find her intentions.

A few seconds passed and as she felt like she finally understood the vague smile on Evelynn's face.

'Is she daring me to swallow it?' Natalya assumed as she hardened her resolve.

Meanwhile, Evelynn who had no idea that she initiated a great battle in Natalya's heart, mused as to why she was silent.

'She doesn't want to reveal that she is skilled in Yin Laws? Why is there a need to be afraid of me? I wouldn't tell it to anyone since she became his woman now...'

Evelynn became confused. She had asked in this way as if introducing their respective law domains so as to garner a suitable reply back but Natalya instead froze and became silent as it was a taboo to reveal that she was skilled in Yin Laws.

'Oh, is she afraid that I would leverage this fact and not allow her to see Davis? I guess that it's understandable...'

Just when Evelynn was about to break the silence, Natalya closed her eyes tightly and swallowed the tea with a heavy gulp sound. She then prayed to the heavens that she did not swallow poison and loudly echoed.

"There! I believe that big sister did not poison this tea!"

"Did I pass your test!?" Natalya eagerly asked, believing that this farce was just an event to test her.

Evelynn's smile faded away as she momentarily became dumbfounded. Only after a second did she understand her meaning and the reason for her silence.

She couldn't help but let out a wry chuckle, "I was trying to get you to confess that you are skilled in Yin Laws, not test you by making you guess if I laced poison in the tea or not..."

Natalya became taken aback before she understood that she had gravely misunderstood the situation! Her cheeks trembled as she became incredibly embarrassed!

'Ahhhh!!'

She inwardly screamed, feeling that she had messed up. She instantly felt that even the little respect Evelynn had for her had disappeared, if such a thing even existed in the first place.

"Pfft~"

Evelynn suddenly laughed as she couldn't take it. Natalya was just clumsier than her, perhaps even crossing her clumsiness by even two major levels. Just the sight of her goofiness made her laugh as she held her stomach, no longer able to digest the fact that someone was actually afraid of her.

Natalya's lips twitched as she too laughed to hide her embarrassment. Laughing together as they looked at each other made her suddenly feel as if she could get along with this person as sisters, however, she felt that there was no need for that since there seemed to be no rules.

=====

When Davis returned to the residence, it was already night.

Just a while ago, the sun had set, the illuminating rays fading away from the world. It cast the shadow of the buildings over him from the illuminating rays of the moon.

Davis cast a look behind and coldly snorted. Behind him were those four slaves who seemingly possessed vacant eyes.

He took a look at them, gazing at their features before his gaze fell on their four spatial rings! He extended his hand and had them hand those four spatial rings to him before he bound it to himself by dropping a few drops of blood on the four spatial rings.

He didn't use his soul for a connection since he felt that there might be some traps; being overcautious. With his soul, he felt that he could easily tackle any traps with Fallen Heaven's death-like energy.

He felt as if his blood engulfed the spatial ring and formed a connection with him. The next second, he was able to investigate its contents.

Davis's eyes shone in glee!

'As expected of Royal Protectors... They wouldn't let their spatial rings be marked...'

He then inspected the contents for a moment before widening his eyes and curving his lips again.

'Sigh... It's so easy to become rich by using Fallen Heaven....' Davis couldn't help but sigh.

He had 196,345 High-Level Spirit Stones in his spatial ring since he still hadn't taken out the wealth of the Blood Arc Mercenary Leader's spatial ring.

Including these new tributes he had gotten from these four slaves, he mused that he had become richer than a Low-Level Eighth Stage Expert from the large Territories, at least from the more medium-sized Territories.

He guessed that even if he had not become richer than them, equaling their wealth wasn't a problem at all!

Davis's lips widened in glee as he couldn't help but take a look again at the contents. He included the Blood Arc Mercenary Leader's spatial ring this time on top of those four spatial rings.

First, he let his senses enter the five spatial rings at the same time and counted the number of Spirit Stones.

Chapter 688 Gains From The Slaves

1,400,000,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones...

A staggering amount that initially left him wide-eyed when counted along with the Blood Arc Mercenary Leader's spatial ring, it came to 1,460,000,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones.

When he combined it with the Low-Level Spirit Stones he possessed, the sum reached a total of 1,523,800,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones! He finally possessed more than a billion Low-Level Spirit Stones in liquidity!

Davis nodded his head and continued to slowly taste every bit of wealth he gained from this 'tribute'.

35,000,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones...

'Okay, that's a lot...' Davis inwardly blinked.

The Blood Arc Mercenary Leader's spatial ring had 5,000,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones, so that added to 40,000,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones.

Combined with his own, it totaled to the sum of 40,105,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones.

48,000 Mid-Level Fire Attributed Spirit Stones...

These were kind of Spirit Stones he gave to his mother when obtained from Blood Arc Mercenary Leader's spatial ring. Now additionally, he saw these many attributed spirit stones, leading to his astonishment!

He didn't need Fire Attributed Spirit Stones, hence, he felt like he could give it all to his mother... However, a figure with blazing red hair flashed past his eyes...

'Princess Shirley... I wonder where she is...'

Davis's eyes shook but his disturbed thoughts once again sank to the five spatial rings.

40 Mid-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments...

Davis's eyes widened! Not because of these 40 Mid-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments, but...

A Mid-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source!

With this Vein Source and 40 Mid-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments, he could essentially set up a Spirit Stone Mine in the Grand Sea Continent and witness the re-emergence of Sixth Stage Cultivators!

However, why would he do something stupid like that?

He'd rather plant the Spirit Stone Mine below the Loret Empire and have the other Empires rely on them for these Mid-Level Spirit Stones.

One Mid-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragment would generate 10,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones a year with the help of an undamaged Vein Source.

That meant that this Mid-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source and Vein Fragments would generate 400,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones per year! This was more than enough to make 40 Cultivators within the Fifth Stage to reach the Sixth Stage in a decade!

Such an extravagant action would become possible for him yearly!

'Phew...' Davis couldn't help but shake his head.

If he played Empire, he would do these things but the Loret Empire was his father's responsibility, so he felt like giving this to his father. However, that was if he didn't have uses for this Mid-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source in the future.

If it helped his father directly in his cultivation? Sure. However, why would he give it to his father to help the Loret Empire grow? He had just one and perhaps if he had more, he might think about it.

Treasures that were kept protected for a long time and not used were useless treasures. He would rather use all of them to further enhance his and his family's progress as much as he could!

He then cast his senses towards the Spirit Stones that would help increase the Law Dominion Stage Cultivation of a Cultivator.

150,000 High-Level Spirit Stones...

Four Low-Level Law Sea Stage Experts possessed this much of High-Level Spirit Stones when counted together! Combined with the Blood Arc Mercenary Leader's wealth, it reached a whopping account of 230,000 High-Level Spirit Stones!

'Mhm? The Blood Arc Mercenary Leader has more when compared with at least a single one of the four Royal Protectors? I find this highly suspicious!' Davis narrowed his eyes but then suddenly remembered.

'Oh, right... Didn't he keep hunting Peak-Level Lord Beast Stage Magical Beasts and Low-Level King Beast Stage Magical Beast for the Emperor Kaiser Ethren's birthday feast on behalf of Keith Ethren?'

Now that he thought like this, Davis instantly uncovered why the Blood Arc Mercenary Leader possessed more High-Level Spirit Stones.

In any case, they both were dead, so who cared!

He instead looked at the High-Level Spirit Stones and added it to his current wealth.

'The amount reaches 426,345 High-Level Spirit Stones!'

Davis couldn't believe this at all! This was four times the amount he had gained from clearing the Immortal Grade Trial of the Earth Dragon Immortal!

However, he calmed down when he thought that his rewards were rather downplayed. For clearing the Immortal Grade Trial, he should've been in all right, given access to the Immortal Grade Treasury where he felt that there would be Peak-Level Spirit Stones.

But, the Earth Dragon Immortal found fault with his soul and compromised to award three times the usual amount in Emperor Grade Treasury, gaining him nine chances. Although this irked him to an endless degree, it was fair since he was abnormal to begin with!

If he had been the Earth Dragon Immortal, even he wouldn't have given himself the treasures on the account of fairness and kicked himself out.

Davis pursed his lips and moved on...

7 High-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments appeared in his senses. The Blood Arc Mercenary Leader had none, so combined with his one High-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragment which was 'gifted' by his maternal grandfather, he totally had 8 High-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments!

That meant he additionally had 80,000 High-Level Spirit Stones when weighed in terms of unrefined energy. However, High-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments were incredibly in demand because of their usage.

It helps a Law Sea Stage Cultivator increase their cultivation! The same as Peak-Level Spirit Stones!

And speaking about Peak-Level Spirit Stones...

140 Peak-Level Spirit Stones...

The four Royal Protectors had 140 Peak-Level Spirit Stones! However, the Blood Arc Mercenary Leader only possessed 2 Peak-Level Spirit Stones.

Nevertheless, Davis didn't laugh at the Blood Arc Mercenary Leader.

Because, most 2 Peak-Level Spirit Stones equaled 2,000 High-Level Spirit Stones, 2,000,000 Mid-Level Spirit Stones, and 2,000,000,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones in terms of unrefined energy!

Peak-Level Spirit Stones! Hundred and forty-two of them in his grasp!

Davis felt that he could even reach for the heavens at this point. However, it was just a momentary delusion as he quickly came out of it.

Peak-Level Spirit Stones were incredibly scarce that even the medium-sized Territories scrambled to fight for it, so having 142 of them with him could be said to be his fortune.

If he was willing to sell these 142 Peak-Level Spirit Stones and someone was willing to buy it in Low-Level Spirit Stones, he would at least gain 142,000,000,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones!

That amount can be multiplied from 10 to 30 times because of the scarcity and supply! That would reach for trillions!

However, what was the use of using trillion Low-Level Spirit Stones? It would not equal to the efficiency, purity, capacity of the Peak-Level Spirit Stones.

In short, only a fool would sell his Peak-Level Spirit Stones for Low-Level Spirit Stones, unless of course, that someone got a grand plan of conquering the world by using Low-Level Spirit Stones which of impossible in the first place.

Davis sighed and looked at the other treasures which caught fire eyes.

Peak-Level King Grade Cultivation Manual, Astra Flaming Sky Manual.

There were at least four copies of it, each from the four Royal Protectors.

It seemed as if it were the Ethren Empire's main cultivation manual. The Second Prince, Keith Ethren seemed to have trained in fire laws, and considering that all these Royal Protectors possessed fire attributed Spirit Stones, it became clear that this was their main Essence Gathering Cultivation Manual.

However, they only had copies until the Peak-Level King Grade section. The Low-Level Emperor Grade part was left out, perhaps placed only in their deepest part of their Royal Library or Treasury.

Chapter 689 Am I Forgetting Something?

Davis didn't need it anyway as even thought of throwing it out. Even his mother didn't need it as she trained in a Fire Attributed Cultivation Manual that led up to the Ninth Stage!

Nevertheless, it seemed like his mother only memorized that certain Cultivation Manual from the Alstreim Family till Low-Level King Grade. However, it wasn't her fault since further reading will require contribution points or becoming the Young Mistress of the Alstreim Family or even being assigned to similar or lower positions than that.

Even Princess Shirley didn't need it as he felt that she would eventually be in possession of an Immortal Grade Cultivation Manual from the Fire Phoenix Immortal.

Nevertheless, since it was a King Grade Cultivation Manual, it became an addition to his collection as he left it alone in the spatial ring to rot.

Feeling drained, Davis thought of returning back to his two women!

He quickly scanned with his senses and saw many other treasures...

Low-Level King Grade Alchemy Books...

High-Level King Grade Weapons...

More than twenty High-Level King Grade Pills...

A dozen Peak-Level King Grade Pills...

Four Low-Level Emperor Grade Pills...

All these were worth his time to check but he felt like not investigating it for now.

He commanded the four Royal Protectors to go defend the four corners of the residence, effectively forming a perimeter. With this setup, he didn't need to worry over most things, including the sudden intrusion of the Ethren Family or even the Alstreim Family.

He took a step forward after taking away his senses from the spatial rings and stored it in his main spatial ring. Just when he was about to push open the door, his smile waned as he like he was forgetting something.

'What is this vague irk I'm feeling in my... heart?'

Davis blinked and slowly widened his eyes as he remembered that he was forgetting a person!

Princess Isabella!

Davis quickly moved back and flew towards Princess Isabella's house!

On that crucial day where he and Princess Isabella opened up about their feelings while the latter finally confessed that she doesn't want to lose him, two weeks had passed until now.

In these two weeks, almost nothing had happened between them other than talking about general things. There was zero progress in their relationship from that time and it was as awkward as ever.

If it weren't for that time he told that there was a big scheme targeted at her by an impostor, she wouldn't have been close with him as she had been seen just earlier this day.

Plus, on top of letting their relationship stay awkward, he has additionally gotten Natalya.

Princess Isabella would not be amused, to say the least. She didn't even berate him or even ask anything of that matter.

Doesn't this just mean that she did not care?

Davis felt as this should be the case as he could see their relationship fall apart in the near future.

He knew that Princess Isabella's womanly feelings had been directed at him. She was just blossoming as a maiden in love, however, if he were to nip the blossoming bud in its initial stages by bringing in other women such as Natalya, his love towards her almost came off as insincere and fake.

It was true that he accepted that he didn't love her deeply but it was false to say that he didn't love her either. It came off as a dilemma but he learned that it is what it means to desire!

As for Princess Isabella still coping up with his actions...

If he didn't tell Princess Isabella beforehand that he and Natalya had lived for a year together like near master and servant, more like master and disciple, her blossoming love might have turned into disapproving contempt instead!

Davis arrived in front of her house and knocked. He could've just sent his avatar to talk but no matter how he saw it, sending avatars or soul bodies for matters like these just came off as being insincere and rude!

He didn't want her to think that way, so he showed up in his physical body.

=====

Princess Isabella stood with her hands on her waist, staring at the mirror while looking at her long-legs and lithe figure. However, it could be seen that her eyes were glazed; unfocused, clearly thinking of some matter.

She had already changed her clothes to a bright red robe with frills and phoenix patterns. This was one of her favorite dresses she wore in some special occasions orchestrated in the Ruth Empire.

Nevertheless, she rarely enjoyed those occasions and would instead leave sooner as she had difficulty dealing with retarded men who only seemed to cast lustful glances at her. As for the women, they cast her a look filled with jealousy over her superior beauty.

She wanted out of it all, hence, from a young age, she had worked hard and cleared the King Grade Trial at her first try! This was an extraordinary feat that instantly moved her normal status as a princess equalling to a Crown Prince's, making her the Crown Princess.

Then, with her Royal Father abdicating the Throne for her, she became the Empress for a short time of a few years. Clearly, it weighed on her a lot but the resources she has gained by becoming the Empress helped even more instead.

When she became the Empress, she even had the thought that no man would ever come closer to her heart or her body in this lifetime, at least in the Grand Sea Continent, she was sure that no man would.

Contrary to her thoughts, someone had managed to actually make her feel womanly, feel protected, and made her heart flutter. That person even made her say that she didn't want to lose him, despite being not intimate at all in the first place.

She didn't think that she would utter such words in this lifetime... Much less before she married. It was as if a lovesick spell was cast on her.

The woman she had been... The woman she had become... They were like two different selves of her extremes but it was undoubtedly none other than her real self.

A woman who wanted to feel alive...

Knock!~

Knock!~

Two knocks reverberated across her building.

Princess Isabella came out of her reverie and blinked. The thoughts on her mind dissolved as her eyes fluttered while thinking who could it be...

There were no undulations, no voice, and her physical sense was semi-closed off in an enclosed environment, hence, there was just suspense.

However, she instantly flew towards the entrance by crossing narrow paths, and hallways as she arrived in front of the door. Without even stopping for a bit, she opened the door and saw the person she expected standing with an awkward smile on his face.

Her lips subconsciously curled as she too smiled widely in response.

She inwardly wanted to maintain a cold exterior, however, when she looked at his attractive smile, just like she had thought, she could no longer keep it cool as it just wasn't her personality.

"Uhh... Can I come in?" Davis rubbed his chin as he asked.

Princess Isabella blinked, 'You little scoundrel... You took advantage of my weakness and kissed me before but you're asking me now if you can come inside my house when you managed to sneak into my heart?'

She wryly recalled and gestured for him to come inside.

Chapter 690 I've Had My Eyes On You

Davis inwardly heaved a sigh as he saw that she wasn't deeply offended by his lack of attention to her. At least, it looked like she still has her sanity, maintaining calm over emotions, or so he thought.

He walked inside her house with his hands behind his back and turned to look at her when he heard the door creak close behind him. His lips curved into an amused smile.

"Why did you come here? I thought you would be with your newly unwedded wife..." Princess Isabella spoke, openly displaying her dissatisfaction with her words.

'Unwedded... wife... really?' Davis shook his head wryly, 'How can a woman be a wife if she's not wed?'

However, from these few words, he could tell that she was not trying to offend him by saying he brought an unmarried woman to the house.

"Of course, it's to visit my youngest mistress!~"

Davis smilingly teased.

"Oh~ Am I not your Young Mistress anymore but youngest mistress?" Princess Isabella enunciated the word 'youngest' while even she felt her face warm up. She could see that their conversation was clearly moving to the verge of flirting with each other!

Davis realized this as he became taken aback. He coughed and cleared his throat. As always, when there was nothing to say, one should bring up ongoing matters that required attention or talk about the general flow of things.

Usually, he would've done that but since the problem was solved, he didn't use small talk to create the mood.

Instead, he wanted to know about her feelings to their current vague relationship and develop it if possible, just like how he did it with Evelyn just before their marriage.

However, to nurture feelings... Even he felt that it was impossible...

How could he nurture feelings with three women at the same time?

He felt that he was bound to mess up somewhere...

Nevertheless, he still wanted to try.

"Isabella, what do you think about me?" Davis asked in a sincere and curious tone.

Princess Isabella became taken aback as she wondered what suddenly happened with him. Her lips moved as she tried to answer in response.

"I don't know..."

"If you really don't know, then why did you let me in and even closed the door?" He pushed.

Princess Isabella became flustered as her eyelids shook.

"That's what I'm trying to figure out myself... You little scoundrel!~"

Davis's jaw fell slightly agape.

'Little scoundrel?'

'Little... little... little....' Her voice echoed in his ears as if it were a curse.

Just even he was about to retort, he realized that even with his soul age measured, he still did not reach up to her age.

Princess Isabella was around fifty years old, an age where she could be old and become a grandmother if she were a complete mortal, but as a cultivator, there was no aging to her youthful countenance that was full of charm.

Nevertheless, when he realized that in front of him was a confused fifty-year-old maiden, he became flabbergasted.

'Well, at least, she's not worse than Haus who has just lost his virginity a few years ago...'

Haus was none other than the more than a hundred-year-old man who pursued Sasha vehemently before they somehow connected with each other through a series of trust and betrayals.

They had an age difference of over a hundred years but even then, did they not become as one now?

Davis felt his confidence towards Princess Isabella increase! So what if she was older than him by ten something years in terms of soul age?

In the cultivation world, age in the difference of hundreds didn't matter at all!

"Then... How do you feel about the two women who have already pledged their love to me?" Davis asked another question.

He didn't change the topic but tried to get in from this way.

Comparison!

It was such a cheapskate move but he felt that he didn't have a choice as he didn't want to let Princess Isabella go! He wanted her all to himself like a toad lusting after a swan!

"I..." Princess Isabella became hesitant.

Her facial expression revealed that she clearly didn't want to discuss this topic but for some reason, she opened her mouth.

"Your wife, Evelyn is a kind and considerate woman. She relies on you all the time and gives her everything for you from what I've seen. However, you took advantage of her feelings towards you and even went after another woman..."

Davis pursed his lips on embarrassment as he heard her speak. He shrugged as he had no excuse for this statement of hers as it was true as it could get...

However, he finally understood something else.

"You've been observing us?"

Princess Isabella smacked her lips and looked at his eyes for a while before she nodded her head.

"I was envious of you two..."

Davis's expression changed as he became shocked! The confession that made her seem less likely of the Empress she was, came off as a shock to him!

"From when?" He couldn't help but subconsciously ask.

Princess Isabella did not reply to his question. Instead, she averted her gaze and momentarily sighed, "It was rather a petty and insignificant thought... I didn't think that single thought would gnaw on my heart, making me think what if..."

She abruptly paused causing Davis to prompt, "... What if?"

Princess Isabella bit her lips and looked at him in the eyes, "... I had you instead of her..."

Davis felt his heart skip a beat.

Princess Isabella stared at his changing expression for a while before she continued.

"The envious feelings I felt when I saw you two interact with each other without any constraints, even though you can entirely look down on her and place her in a locked up palace while you pursue your cultivation path as many other men would do..."

"This is something as a person living in a Royal Palace, I thought I would never see in my life..."

Princess Isabella shook her head, "At your little sister's Coming of Age Ceremony, I felt cautious of you but decided to pull you over to the Ruth Empire's good side by having you participate in the Immortal Inheritance of my Empire."

"At that time, I never expected for you to hand over that once in a lifetime opportunity to Evelyn... Hehe..." She laughed as if she couldn't believe it.

"I merely thought that with your master behind you back, an Immortal existence, you didn't need the Immortal Inheritance of my Empire but after traveling with you and your family all this time, it is clear that I am wrong."

"I can now say you did that not because of having your master as a backer but you truly care for Evelyn, and that was when I became truly envious of her..."

Princess Isabella wryly smiled.

"As for Natalya, needless to say, I don't know anything about her. Hence, I can't say anything."

Davis stared at Princess Isabella in a trance for a while before he closed his eyes. When he reopened his eyes, a certain flint flashed past his eyes as he abruptly asked.

"Isabella, do you remember the time we first met?"

Princess Isabella laughed as she instantly remembered.

"At the Tyrannical Blue Ape Mountain Range? In that cave behind the waterfall?"

Davis shook his head, "When you were an Empress, and when I was nothing but a five-year-old kid..."

Princess Isabella became taken aback before that nostalgic scene flashed past her mind. At that time, she remembered that her twin peaks were being stared at by the five-year-old Davis.

Any child would more or less have curiosity, so she wasn't averse to his gaze at that time but when she thought of what he has become now, her cheeks couldn't help but turn red.

"You... Why are you bringing that up now?"

Seeing her becoming flustered, Davis chuckled, "I've had my eyes on you from that time..."

"You!"

Princess Isabella widened her eyes at this revelation.