

## EMPEROR 781

### Chapter 781 Last Struggle

Alexi Ethren nodded his head, "I think so, there wasn't a chance to escape, and there weren't any movements in the Empress Dowagers's Palace as per the reports of the Imperial Guards..."

Arianna Woller became taken aback before she smiled, "I see..."

"You head in... I'll arrive in a few minutes..." She turned and left, causing Alexi Ethren to crease his brows.

'Did mother find something that I've forgotten to consider?' He mused.

He smiled and shook his head before pushing open the door, and what entered his view was full of white and a unique fragrance that made him feel that this was undoubtedly a woman's room.

The room was white as snow, with a king-sized bed in the center while the edges were fixed with other types of luxurious furniture. There were even other instruments such as a flute, zither placed aside to play at suitable times, and there was even an unfinished painting by the side on a desk.

However, what remained in his sight was the woman who had ostracized, kept him suppressed, and the sole person who was responsible for the loneliness he has suffered during his childhood.

Iona Ethren!

Iona Ethren sat on the foot of the bed, her gaze transient as she looked outside the window. She looked at it for a while before finally moving her lips, "The heavens determine one's fate, was it?"

Alexi Ethren snorted before he entered the room as he walked, "Perhaps, but what I do know is that Karma is real..."

"Your retribution has come, Iona Ethren."

Iona Ethren finally turned her head to look at Alexi Ethren, and her elegant appearance matched her current fate that garnered one's pity, "Shouldn't you call me first mother?"

Her voice sounded melodious yet ridiculing, but it was unknown if she was ridiculing herself or him.

Alexi Ethren laughed, "Haha, I've severed ties with that bastard, so you're no longer my first mother, and have you done anything deserving for me to even call you with the word 'mother'?"

Iona Ethren let out a wry chuckle, "Indeed, I don't deserve to be called mother by you..."

"After all, I've hated you from the moment you appeared in this Imperial Household..."

"Just because I'm an offspring of lowly birth?" Alexi Ethren chuckled.

Iona Ethren shook her head.

"It doesn't matter... I hate all of you, including your father..."

Alexi Ethren's brows creased, "So you're also a victim of that bastard?"

Iona Ethren let out a wry chuckle.

"Guess what? I don't care..." He coldly uttered.

"I haven't forgotten how you made my teenage years a nightmare with you controlling all the palace maids who served me to go against me and commit every other wrong at the slightest chance of an opportunity to suppress and bully me..."

"I don't care what you think about me, Alexi Ethren..." Iona Ethren shook her head again, "But I want to live and retain this power I currently hold..."

"Hahaha! As expected, you're a power-hungry woman!"

"So what if I am?" Iona Ethren's eyes shone, "Aren't you here just for the treasury? I won't interfere with your business, and I know that you'll soon leave from this Empire..."

Alexi Ethren's eyes widened as he smiled, "What makes you say that?"

"You probably subordinated yourself to the Conferred Queen, haven't you? The Imperial Protectors also considered this, and though there might be a chance that you will be a puppet, they still took you in as the Emperor."

"That meant that you're here only to fill the gap that the Empire lost, a worthy Emperor for the time being, and if possible, use your connection with the Conferred Queen to gain benefits..."

Alexi Ethren's eyes flashed with an approving glint, "Smart... But you're wrong in some ways, but I won't deliberate on it..."

"I have said all I want to say, and the rest is that I am at your mercy..." Iona Ethren spoke before she closed her eyes as if waiting for fate to swallow her.

Alexi Ethren felt amused. Even till the end, this woman acted like she knew everything and has accepted her death. How can he just let her die like that after all she did?

Besides, her only son, Hadre Ethren, had backstabbed him at a crucial time.

Where and who was he going to take it out on?

Hadre Ethren's son, Uspar Ethren? Or Hadre Ethren's wives and other children?

No! It was this woman in front of him!

He stared at her luxurious white robes and her pale skin that glistened like snow. The Empress Dowager's crown on her head made him increasingly irritated.

He walked towards her and stood right before her, looking at her beautiful face. She still had her eyes closed despite him being so close to her.

\*Pah!!!~\*

Iona Ethren's face fiercely swiveled to the right. Her lips quivered, and her eyelids shook as a red palm print appeared on her left cheek.

"Remove that crown on your head and beg for your life... If you do that, I might consider..." Alexi Ethren coldly spoke.

During his time surviving outside the Ethren City, he didn't dare underestimate women. He had killed his fair share of women in the past who were mostly mountain bandits, and even women who were in normal families but possessed venomous hearts.

He knew how loyal they could be as well as backstab the next moment as long as they got what they wanted. He felt that this power-hungry woman in front of him should belong to the latter.

Iona Ethren trembled as she heard his words. She knew that she was going to be humiliated, and it further aggravated her as the surging blood she was suppressing cascaded down her lips. She still had her eyes closed, but for some reason, her dainty and snow-white hands moved to the head before she removed the golden-purple crown.

"Do it!"

\*Clang!~\*

Iona Ethren dropped the crown as she shivered while the crown made sounds of her fate increasingly become unknown.

"Beg for your life..."

Iona Ethren's lips quivered; however, she didn't make a sound. The fear in her heart was overwhelming her, but she refused to give in as seconds passed.

Just when her eyes became moist, she inclined her head and looked at him in the eyes.

\*Ripp!!~\*

Abruptly, her white clothes were torn apart!

Iona Ethren couldn't believe what had happened as her eyes shot wide while her face became pale, her hands subconsciously moving to hide her bosoms and private. However, what she saw wasn't Alexi Ethren tearing apart her robes, but it was a woman with a black veil on her face!

"Mother?" Alexi Ethren became speechless as he looked at Arianna Woller holding Iona Ethren's torn robes.

Arianna Woller cruelly smiled as she looked at the woman who was left with nothing other than her innerwear. She had said that she had got scores to settle with the one who had made her son suffer in the past, and she really meant it.

"You!"

\*Pah!!!!~\*

Another slap!

Iona Ethren held her right cheek as she felt it sting than the first one she received. Tears started to fall out of her eyes as she bit her bottom lip, but she stayed silent and became momentarily dazed as it was far too overwhelming to be humiliated like this!

"Alexi, you're rather soft with women. Don't you know that to humiliate them utterly, you would have to strip them bare first?"

"Mother, I..." Alexi Ethren couldn't believe what he heard from his mother.

Chapter 782 Resolve To Rear

Arianna Woller had tremendously suffered in the past, and that completely changed her personality to be rude and unrefined, but he believed that his mother would turn a new leaf.

However, contrary to his expectations, he heard what he wasn't supposed to hear from his mother.

Arianna Woller laughed, "I've never asked you this before, but have you slept with a woman?"

"..." Alexi Ethren's lips twitched before he answered as he felt that his manliness was being asked into question, "I have, but it's with mountain bandits, forest people and city prostitutes..."

In the past that ranged around three hundred years, with him hanging with his life on the thread with every battle to become stronger, he needed an outlet for his lust; otherwise, he felt like going crazy. Besides, he wasn't averse to sleeping with prostitutes also taught him many times about the difference between love and skinship, and even life.

Arianna Woller wasn't angry, but instead giggled on hearing his answer, "If you have, then why couldn't you recognize that this woman is pretending to be holier than thou but prepared to give you her body if it can lead her to her survival?"

"What!?" Alexi Ethren became stunned as he looked at Iona Ethren.

Iona Ethren trembled, but she averted her eyes as if she were seen through.

Indeed, it was her last resort.

"You whore..." Arianna Woller smiled in derision.

She mused that this woman was no better than her.

Iona Ethren clenched her teeth as the humiliation spread to every corner of her body. She increasingly trembled before she looked at Alexi Ethren with hopeful eyes, "Will you let me live then?"

"Such a beautiful woman... What a pity that she was married to that bastard..." Arianna Woller coldly spoke.

"Alexi, forget her plea and kill her..."

"I understand, mother..." Alexi Ethren replied as he raised his hand pointed at her.

Iona Ethren went pale as she trembled. Her head lowered as her legs became limp. She plopped to the ground in despair and raised her head to look at Alexi Ethren with pleading eyes.

Alexi Ethren looked at her pleading expression. The demeanor of an Empress was nowhere to be seen. It was as if she was just a woman who did nothing wrong while she lost her husband and son, wanting nothing more than to live right now.

It was plain to see that she didn't want to die.

Alexi Ethren became entranced with her tragic appeal, and nothing happened for a while as time passed.

"What's wrong, Alexi?" Arianna Woller slowly spoke.

Alexi Ethren possessed a complicated expression on his face.

Initially, he had wanted to humiliate her and make her know how much he had suffered in his childhood, but looking at her pleading eyes, he couldn't bring himself to kill her.

"Mother, I just wanted to humiliate and exile her as she once forced me in the past..." Alexi Ethren muttered as he clenched his fists and took back his arm.

"Is that so?" Arianna Woller possessed a blank expression on her face, "It's fine that you are upholding your justice, Alexi... but is your justice, to forgive?"

"Of course not..." Alexi Ethren reached out his hand and held Iona Ethren's wrist as he lifted her up and held her close towards his body, feeling her perky softness separated by a single piece of cloth across his chest.

He looked at this woman who belonged to his father once but is now nothing but a widow. As far as he could see, her heart did not belong to anyone nor himself.

"Make your choice, face banishment, or become my woman for a night..."

Iona Ethren's expression fiercely trembled as she stared at his calm expression and serene eyes. It was as if what he was asking was not at all immoral.

Meanwhile, Arianna Woller left the room and stood outside as she closed the door before her lips curved into a grin. From the start, she knew that this was the ending that Iona Ethren wanted to arrive at, because why else would she not escape but stay inside while being completely unarmed?

She wanted to seduce her son to secure power, and as his mother, she merely gave him the push he needed to be ruthless. Although she wanted her son to kill her, if it ruined his own determination, that would be bad for his growth.

And when she closed the door, she didn't suspect that Iona Ethren would do something such as self-destructing because, needless to say, Iona Ethren's choice was already set in stone as she had already decided to live with power in her hands or die trying!

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Davis stood in front of a building as he waited. He had already waited for over half an hour, but it seems that no one came to open the door.

Abruptly, he felt vague undulations flare a distance away, but he recognized the familiar aura.

'Oh~ Grand Uncle Daniuis finally entered the Law Sea Stage? Finally, about time...'

In the past, Grand Uncle Daniuis suffered sacrificing his blood essence to save his family and escape in dire straits, but after reaching here, he solely concentrated on healing and increasing his cultivation, not even going out to temper himself or see around the city.

'That's right... By this time, Nina should've already given birth to Lucas's child long ago. I haven't seen them yet, and I haven't seen any of them come out to roam...'

Davis creased his brows.

Thinking about children, he remembered that when he roughly treated Evelyn, she didn't take any contraceptive pill as he suddenly forced her under him. He became aware of the possibility that she could've been conceived with his child since a long time has already passed.

Davis felt complicated.

He had put babies on hold for a reason as he wanted to be a good father and not a father who would leave his children. In his past life as an orphan, he craved for familial love, so how could he act like a hypocrite and adventure out to train?

Now, it was very well likely that Evelyn had become pregnant with his child. The chances are extremely high since she almost caught up to his level in Body Tempering Cultivation.

Although they were almost equal in Body Tempering Cultivation, he didn't know that the blood essence of the Earth Dragon Immortal made it difficult for Evelyn to get pregnant.

A male dragon's virility is potent and strong, but a female dragon's ability to conceive is too low when compared to other races.

'Forget it... If Evelynn becomes pregnant, then she gets pregnant... I'm not going to say otherwise...'

Davis resolved himself to extremely take care of her and their child if she got pregnant, unaware that it was coincidentally her safe day.

He then remembered Uncle Erik, who exited the residence a few times monthly for letting out his lust in red-light districts while he didn't even see Mulia and Hadian come out regularly.

The last time he saw them was when he married Natalya in this residence, and at that time, he could tell that their cultivations increased a lot.

From this, he could tell that they were concentrating on cultivating, secluding themselves, and it did not seem that they were intent on making babies either.

While he was musing that how long it was since he properly talked with them and thought of providing at least a milliliter of nectar to each of them for their growth since he had plenty left and appreciated their cooperation and silence in the estate that enabled him to do as much as he pleased, the door in front of him opened and Princess Isabella came into his view!

Chapter 783 Archaic

Princess Isabella dressed in purple robes came into Davis's view, and along with her purple hair that cascaded down till her waist, she looked like a lavender flower-fairy.

Davis smiled at her beautiful countenance and activated his seamless Heart Intent to check if he could feel her emotions, and he was able to sense it without fail! He sensed elation, some guilt but mostly expectation from Princess Isabella as he saw her smile at him charmingly.

She didn't say anything and sensing her emotions and the change in her cultivation level, he grinned, "Congratulations on breaking through to the Mid-Level Young Soul Stage."

Instantly, he sensed gratification and happiness from her while he looked at her smile widely.

"Come inside!" Princess Isabella gracefully and happily echoed, not bothering to hide her emotions as she once did.

Davis nodded and headed inside the residence.

There was no doubt with the Heart Intent, as long as he could see through what the others were thinking by relating with the emotions he sensed, he could basically cheat people with the appropriate sentences.

Just like saying one would want to hear. It was near mind-reading.

Such is the wonder of Heart Intent, or so he mused since he didn't know dogshit about Heart Intent if it had any other uses. He could only search for the records from Alstreim Family or search the Ethren Empire's Imperial Library to learn more.

She didn't stop and headed straight to her bedchambers.

Davis, who was following her, suddenly spoke, "Isabella..."

"Mhm?" She turned her head and glanced at him, but she didn't stop walking.

"When is the next opening of the Earth Dragon Immortal's Inheritance?"

Princess Isabella abruptly stopped in the hallway. It was a narrow corridor, and it wasn't brightened up with lampshades, so it was relatively dark.

Davis didn't know if it was his misperception or not, but he certainly felt a tremble in her emotions. It was too suppressed for him to understand what it was, but he certainly felt that it wasn't anything good.

"Did I say something wrong?" He couldn't help ask.

Princess Isabella instantly came out of her reverie and shook her head as if nothing happened, "The Earth Dragon Immortal gave me fifteen years time..."

"Oh... That's good. Only five years have passed from the last trial. There are still ten years..." Davis nodded his head but became suspicious.

Why was there a need to feel negatively like that at the moment? He really wouldn't have discovered her abnormality if he hadn't comprehended Heart Intent.

Princess Isabella continued to walk while he followed.

"Is there something bothering you?" He asked again.

Princess Isabella slowed down a bit, but she didn't stop or turn to look around, "It's just that... The sooner I go participate in the Immortal Grade Trial, the easier it would be for me to clear it... The Earth Dragon Immortal additionally instructed me to return as soon as I reach the Eighth Stage in Body Tempering Cultivation, Martial Sage Stage."

"The Earth Dragon Immortal said that it would allow me to enter as soon as I stand before the entrance to the inheritance."

"I see..." Davis understood it.

Age and body tempering cultivation base determines the difficulty in the Earth Dragon's Immortal Inheritance.

He had personally experienced it and even passed the Immortal Grade Trial, but was barred from inheriting the entire Inheritance due to his soul's abnormality. His soul was actually older than his bone age, and it was found out by the Earth Dragon Immortal.

It had to do with the vague fact that he didn't reincarnate but crossed directly to his next incarnation; his next life.

However, why was there a need for Princess Isabella to feel negative about this?

'Could it be...'

"Isabella, are you really upholding the words you said that that time!? That you won't cultivate your Body Tempering Cultivation until I catch up to your body tempering cultivation base!?"

"Is that why you increased your Soul Forging Cultivation instead?" Davis watched her back with a complicated expression on his face.

Could it be that she was really planning on upholding those words she uttered when she saw him absorbing Derelict Extinction Lightning into his soul sea, afraid that it would harm him!?

Both of them stopped again.

Davis watched her turn to look at him with a smile on her face.

"Of course... You thought that I was saying that for just convincing you? I will never go back on my words..."

Davis became stunned, "Are you insane!?"

Princess Isabella gestured with her finger as if drawing on the air.

"In any case, there's still ten years left... I garner that I would only need five or six years to break into the Eighth Stage if everything proceeded smoothly."

"So don't waste time and quickly reach my level in a few years... I'm waiting for you, okay~?" She clenched her fists and smiled encouragingly at him.

Davis didn't know what to say as stood there as if he was frozen. He blinked at her expression for some time as words tried to come out of his mouth but couldn't.

He abruptly moved and just embraced her in the narrow pathway, feeling her emotions sweep through him.

It was real...

Her encouragement, expectation, determination, and love for him were all real!

Davis's eyes flashed as he felt moved, however...

He didn't know why there was a need to feel insecure when he held her right now!

He moved his head back and held her shoulders, "Isabella, are you hiding something from me?"

Princess Isabella became stunned. She abruptly tried to move back, but she was held in place by his strong arms, and at the same time, she discovered his cultivation.

"Davis, you reached the Martial Master Stage!?"

Davis felt confusion, elation, and happiness from her, but he creased his brows in response, "Yes, but it doesn't matter right now..."

"Isabella, are you feeling unsure about me? About being with me?" Davis asked with a confused expression on his face.

He didn't mince his words but was unable to understand her insecurity.

All that time he spent with her was real. All that time he spent being intimate with her was all etched in his heart. There was no way he would forget her!

Their relationship was strong and was sailing smoothly, even deciding the time of marriage.

Then why was there a need to feel insecure?

Could it be that their intimate relationship was his own imagination?

Davis felt betrayed, and a little angry as his eyes trembled.

Princess Isabella became taken aback again before she shook her head, "N-No... That..."

Trembling...

Davis noticed that her emotions became chaotic for him to even sense her emotions accurately. In fact, it was so overwhelming that he had to stop using Heart Intent to not be influenced by her emotions.

He took a deep breath before letting her go from his grasp.

"It's fine if you don't want to tell me why you're feeling insecure..."

"I love you, stupid woman..." Davis possessed a solemn expression on his face, "I'll eventually make you feel secure through my actions..."

Princess Isabella's eyes shook as she bit her bottom lip before she shook her head. She closed her eyes and lowered her head as she clenched her fists.

Her lips increasingly quivered as she couldn't take this feeling anymore.

"The Earth Dragon Immortal once mentioned that you are a person whose soul is 'archaic'..."

Chapter 784 Terrifying Woman

Davis became stunned.

"At that time, I didn't pay it any heed, but..." Princess Isabella continued with a pause.

"Combined with the serious words that you once said before, that you had your eyes on me from when you were five years old and mentioned that you weren't joking, and even told that you have more secrets than I know..."

"I foolishly made some sense of it and thought that you have a disproportionate soul age..."

Princess Isabella paused again before she hesitantly asked, "Are you perhaps not the real Davis and someone who... possessed this body?"

Davis had his eyes wide as he listened to her, and when he heard her last sentence, his mouth went agape.

Looking at his reaction, Princess Isabella knew that she was spot on! She instantly panicked but tried to calm him down instead.

"No... I... If you have possessed this body from its birth, I can understand... You still love your family and your wives... I... I..." Princess Isabella tried, but no words came to her mind.

Her expression became helpless, wondering why she had to reveal this... She cursed that she should have just kept this to herself, but she just had to say it and make things worse between them.

She was afraid, not of her life, but the feelings that she had already invested with this person and the intimacy they exchanged would be shattered with this revelation. Even if she were to come out of this relationship, it was too late!

She had already decided to become this person's woman! If she rejected, her conviction and the heart to cultivate would be shattered, giving her an almost unresolvable heart demon!

This was also the reason why cultivators kept themselves from falling in love and instead treated the opposite sex as use and throw objects. The knot of betrayal from a loved one is equal to a stab in the back that would mostly ruin a person's will.

Davis looked at her as if he was looking at a goddess.

With just those two flimsy points and one strong point, she managed to find out that he wasn't the real Davis?

He looked at her with a speechless expression on his face.

Was it her intelligence or intuition? He didn't know but was in awe of her deduction.

"So, this is the reason you were feeling insecure..."

The feeling of bitterness disappeared, only to be replaced by understanding.

Davis finally understood before his expression became solemn, "Now that you know of it..."

He paused and looked at her reaction.

It was as if her soul left her body as she looked at him with a pale countenance.

Indeed, Princess Isabella became aghast, thinking that she touched on a topic that she should haven't. She looked at his solemn expression and began to think things were over between them.

Her heart began to feel heavy and painful while she felt her world crumbling down, and looking at his expression, she knew the words that he was going to say next, that he was going to silence her.

However...

Davis grinned, "I have no choice but to explain things!"

He didn't wait for her to react.

"First of all, you're right but wrong in some parts..."

"I did indeed possess this body, but I did not kill this body's original soul..."

"That's because I bypassed the reincarnation cycle and ended up possessing my next incarnation that was without a soul, meaning that this is still my next life but also with the perk of possessing my previous life's memories!"

Princess Isabella became stunned as she heard him speak. It was loud and clear, but she urged him to repeat it after a few seconds of deathly silence.

Davis nodded his head and repeated his words without changing or improvising. As far as he knew, what he said was the truth, the observable truth as far as his findings went, so he wasn't averse to saying it.

Princess Isabella took some time to comprehend his words. To bypass the reincarnation cycle...

What kind of concept was this?

She had believed that the reincarnation cycle was a half-truth and half myth but to think that it really existed...

'Is that why Davis was taken in as a disciple by that Immortal Existence? Because he bypassed the reincarnation cycle?' She mused in all seriousness.

"Initially, I thought I could tell you this after I married you, but to think you found it out by yourself with those few clues..."

Davis wryly smiled, "You're a terrifying woman, Isabella. I'm glad to have you on my side..."

"After I married?" Princess Isabella looked taken aback, "Does that mean Evelynn and Natalya already knew?"

Davis shook his head, "Evelynn knows, but Natalya doesn't. I was thinking of saying it to you two when I brought all of you into the same residence..."

"Same residence..." Princess Isabella muttered before she realized what these words meant.

However, she was in no shape or mindset to blush. She silently looked at Davis, feeling confused if what he all said was true.

Davis noticed her reaction and merely smiled, "You can ask Evelynn if you want... She's the one who knows the most about me other than my little sister Clara. I believe that Evelynn will provide a satisfactory explanation to prove my innocence..."

Princess Isabella stood there stunned, not knowing what to say. This all felt a bit surreal as even she didn't think her deduction was true. She just felt his existence to be a little strange, and it constantly stayed on her mind, but never did she think that her deduction was near to the truth.

She remained speechless.

Asking Evelynn would say that she didn't believe his words, but if she didn't ask, she could in no way verify his words.

"You want to believe but can't bring yourself to believe, is that it?" Davis smiled without an iota of hard feelings, "It's common..."

Evelynn felt the same in the past when he revealed his true past. He felt that even Natalya would start to question him if he revealed his backstory.

Their doubt and suspicion regarding who he truly was remained justified and was their right!

In any case, he already knew trust and suspicion were part and parcel of relationships, and his intimate relationships grew from two to three. He was prepared to face all scrutiny from his wives since he was the one taking advantage of their feelings.

Princess Isabella bit her bottom lip, "I..."

She didn't know what to say so she could only nod her head, feeling complicated.

Davis shook his head as he suppressed his anger, "But for that stupid Earth Dragon Immortal to mention that I am 'archaic', does it even know that I'm only thirty years older than my current age? Hmph!"

Princess Isabella became stunned once again. She instantly came out of her reverie and asked, "Your soul is only thirty years older than your current age?"

"Approximately..." Davis nodded his head, feeling unjustified.

That stupid Earth Dragon Immortal just had to interfere in the affairs of the young ones. Although he could see that the Earth Dragon Immortal warned her out of good intentions, it might've backfired on him if Princess Isabella misinterpreted.

"That..." Princess Isabella's eyelids quivered, "That means that you're around my age in truth!?"

Davis became taken aback before he nodded his head, "I guess so..."

Then he watched Princess Isabella's face abruptly blossom into a smile. He blinked and could tell that his age somewhat weighed in her mind.

'Women do indeed concern themselves with the strangest facts...' He became speechless.

So what if he was lesser in age than her? To him, it only mattered if the other party was a consenting adult or not!

#### Chapter 785 Isabellas Leap of Faith

Davis released a sigh and asked, "Isabella, how far are you from reaching the Eighth Stage in Body Tempering Cultivation, Martial Sage Stage? I want a detailed answer."

Princess Isabella's expression faded before she gave a solemn look at him. He told perhaps, only a single one of his secrets, and there could be rather many that she might find unpleasant in the future. Despite feeling and understanding all of this, she still wanted to try placing her faith in him.

A pondering look appeared on her face before she spoke a few seconds later, "If I actively cultivated, perhaps one and a half or two years, or if I waited for you, my body is still being nourished by the Earth Dragon Immortal's Blood Essence, hence for the latter, after five years, I imagine that it would just take me a single year of seclusion to breakthrough into the Eighth Stage."

Davis presented a firm nod. She had already calculated her cultivation progress when she decided to wait for him. That meant that she was at least willing to trust him despite the anomaly she noticed about him.

Becoming his third wife while letting go of her pride while also willing to sacrifice for him?

Honestly, he didn't know what about him that made her do dare to wait for him... They didn't go through many struggles, nor did they place each other lives on the line and struggled out of a life and death situation.

Princess Isabella's trust for him was something he could not comprehend.

'Does love need logic?' Davis mused, and the answer he arrived at is...

No!

Love placed upon logic was merely an anchor. When the love that is based upon logic disappears when the person in a relationship acts differently, that person who is loved would merely become another character, perhaps, a special acquaintance.

However, that didn't mean love that is not based on logic is true love as well. Instead, it is even more fickle than love based on logic.

Davis shook his head, unable to understand these intricacies.

He looked at Princess Isabella's expression with his sapphire eyes, noticing that she was also looking back at him with a confused expression on her face.

Obviously, she was waiting for his reply to the question and felt confused about why he would ask about her cultivation progress.

Davis waved his arm as his sleeve revealed his hand before a canteen appeared on that hand.

If she was willing to trust, then why wouldn't he reciprocate? The reason he initially came here was to give this to her, after all.

"What is this?" Princess Isabella asked.

Davis provided a short yet concise explanation about the nectar he obtained and its origin before saying, "Use this to enter the Eighth Stage, and once you breakthrough, you can leave. Go clear the Immortal Grade Trial."

Looking at her still possess a stunned expression on her face, he gently smiled and held her cheeks before he planted a kiss on her forehead. He then separated from her and kept the canteen on her palm and made her hold it tight.

Without an additional word, he turned back and walked away.

However... A delicate and soft hand abruptly grasped him!

"Wait? What is this meaning of this?"

David glanced at Princess Isabella without turning his body, "A token of trust..."

"As I said before, I'm willing to wait for you, my Isabella."

Two tears abruptly welled over Princess Isabella's eyes for some reason. She looked at him incredulously, wondering why he would do something like this, and hearing his answer; she was perfectly aware that such tactics were used by men to hoodwink women.

But the moment she heard his words, it made her heart experience a tremble like never before.

She wiped away her tears before it could fall and turned her head as she walked away towards her room; however, Davis became speechless as he was dragged away by her.

Princess Isabella had not taken her grasp away from his wrist but instead dragged him with her. Once they reached her room, and she turned around and looked at him with a grievance in her eyes as she bit her lip, "Guard me then..."

She let go of his hand and flew towards the bed as she sat cross-legged as she faced him. She gave him a profound look and raised her hand as she looked at the canteen she held as her brows furrowed.

She hesitated only for a moment before lifting it up and pouring the nectar into her mouth!

Davis's expression changed.

At this time of doubt and suspicion in regards to his origin, this nectar was as good as poison. The fact that she dared to swallow this like a parched person meant that she was willing to take a leap of faith in trusting him!

It was as if she either wanted to end it all here or follow him all the way...

Her actions were utterly foolish yet decisive!

Davis watched her completely drink the nectar before storing the canteen in her spatial ring. Her eyes were closed, and she quickly propped herself straight, possessing an extremely calm look on her face.

In a few minutes, her martial energy abruptly surged like a whirlwind! The intensity people caused the legs of the bed to be completely destroyed and the surrounding walls to intensely shake as if it were affected by an earthquake.

Her martial energy abruptly became dull before lines and patterns illuminated her skin, akin to a magical beast's body.

'Inscribing the body tempering laws that one comprehended on the body, tendons, veins, meridians, and bones... A symbol of entering the Martial Sage Stage...' Davis narrowed his brows as he saw the change take place his own eyes.

After the laws have been inscribed and melded into her body, it will disappear, but the changes it brought by tempering her body will make her enter the Martial Sage Stage!

Tempering body with one's own comprehended laws! A stage that is befitting of the name, sage!

Davis looked at her with a solemn expression, hoping she can succeed. The nectar had given her enough energy to manifest the laws that she had comprehended and also enabled her to concentrate easily due to less pain.

The nectar is a great help, but at the end of the day, the rise in strength that she could realize and achieve by breaking through to the Martial Sage Stage solely lies within the quality of the laws she comprehended and the quality of the laws she inscribed within her body.

For example, even if Davis and Princess Isabella were at the same comprehension level in Earth Laws, the quality of the laws they comprehended might possess the difference between heaven and earth!

At the same time, the part where they inscribe their body with the laws they comprehended could have enormous differences as well, after all, the stronger laws they condense and inscribe on the body, the higher the chances that the laws were bound to fail to assimilate within the body!

But in this case, since the laws Davis and Princess Isabella comprehended were due to the Earth Dragon Immortal's Blood Essence, they were bound to possess similarities, making them somewhat equal in quality!

Chapter 786 From Now On...

Princess Isabella was already strong in the Peak-Level Martial Master Stage that she could fight with Martial Sage Experts, but it was never seen as she never got to fight properly other than the one time she battled Keith Ethren, and especially Algos Yantra who was much stronger than a simple Law Sea Stage Expert.

If she successfully entered the Martial Sage Stage, on top of her original prowess, the pure power granted by the tempering of her own laws would make her powerful enough to instakill opponents at the same level and battle Mid-Level Martial Sage Experts equally, and perhaps even enable her to struggle against High-Level Martial Sage Experts!

Davis was well aware of the chasm between levels in the Eighth Stage. Being able to battle across a level meant the laws she comprehended were of top quality compared with normal cultivators remaining in the same Law Intent.

However, people here could obviously not compare to Princess Isabella's comprehension speed. She possessed the blood essence of the Earth Dragon Immortal, which let her quickly comprehend Earth Laws every time it assimilated into her body a level until it completely mixed with her blood!

'In any case, laws are seamless and immeasurable. One would have no way to find out the quality unless they fought a cultivator with the same cultivation base and law comprehension level.' Davis heaved a sigh and watched her cultivate.

Six hours passed.

Princess Isabella's face, her expression, remained contorted in pain. It was not the nectar but the process of inscribing laws within her body. Her body was entirely inscribed with golden lines and patterns of Earth Laws that came off as incomprehensible, but to Davis, it was slightly comprehensible.

He stared at her and contemplated the manifested patterns on her, and this surprisingly helped him improve his Earth Laws a bit.

However, his concentration was entirely on her safety because Princess Isabella had just started to meld the laws into her body. The tempering made her expression contort in pain, but the pain was relatively less at certain intervals with the influence of the nectar. Once she completed this final process, she would step into the Martial Sage Stage.

Davis waited for three more hours with casting utmost attention before he saw the marks on her forehead fade away. It was the last mark that remained after she completed inscribing her body with the Earth Laws she had comprehended.

Princess Isabella's face looked a bit exhausted while her body was covered in sweat, but abruptly, martial energy intensely surged from her body and swirled around, rocking the whole building.

The whole building shook from the intensity of the martial energy, but Davis was prepared for this as he activated the Low-Level Emperor Grade Defensive Formation he set up in the room. It blinked into existence right around her, and blinding light shone around her before it became transparent.

Princess Isabella's body shuddered as her martial energy experienced a qualitative change becoming more and more powerful and intense.

\*Aooo!!\*

An image of the Earth Dragon appeared above Princess Isabella! The domineering roar of the Earth Dragon echoed from her body, causing Davis to be taken aback.

He thought that it was an illusion but wasn't sure if it was a manifestation of the Blood Essence.

Princess Isabella's golden martial energy that had suddenly erupted became tame before receding into her body like a tsunami that lost its momentum, receding into the ocean. The martial energy flowed back, and the air around regained its normal atmosphere rather than the might of the dragon revolving around.

Davis blinked, wondering if there was going to be an explosion, but he could see that Princess Isabella safely stepped into the Martial Sage Stage without encountering an unwarranted problem.

Princess Isabella's eyelids fluttered like a butterfly before she opened her eyes. Her black eyes that possessed a pure and serene gaze fell on Davis before she smiled.

"Foolish woman, what if I suddenly attacked you? At least you could've asked Evelynn before taking a leap of faith like this..." Davis wryly smiled back.

To think that the cautious Isabella would do something such as throwing herself to unclear fate...

If her actions weren't for him, then who else?

"Davis, it was wrong of me to become suspicious of you, no, to have even doubted the time we had spent, it is my fault!" Princess Isabella spoke from her heart.

"But the trust you were willing to place in me will not go to waste..."

She clenched her fists, and the mighty power swelling within her palms directly translated into words!

"From now on, even if I die in the Immortal Grade Trial in the foreseeable future, you are my husband!"

Princess Isabella uttered with a determined expression on her face. It was as if she completely accepted this fact and sealed her fate by herself.

Davis widened his eyes before his mouth slightly went agape.

'There was no need to make this kind of declaration before marriage...' His agape lips closed.

It was as if she exchanged vows with him already.

His eyes flashed with a strange glint before he speedily pulled his arm from his sleeves, and the robe fell behind his back, leaving him with his sleeveless shirt and pant.

Princess Isabella's eyes shot wide before alarm filled her face as she watched him close in on her. Despite the immense power she possessed, panic embodied her expression as she shook her head, "Davis... Yo- Don't come clos-

Davis arrived before her and pushed her into the broken bed as he grasped her wrists, faintly smelling her alluring scent that came from her sweat-drenched body.

There were almost no impurities in her body, and the sweat she secreted was merely further refining whatever little impurities she had left. Without a doubt, her body was the purest he ever was to hold in his hands.

Davis looked at her panicked expression, and the words she said before once again echoed in his ears.

"Isabella, you know how to rile me up..."

Princess Isabella's expression faded as a crimson hue took over her cheeks. Her black eyes were somewhat clouded, like if there was a haze covering her the emotions in her eyes.

Davis leaned his head towards her, and his lips were just a few centimeters away from her lips. He could even feel her steamy and hot breath that made him want to ravage her completely.

"Your lips... Your body... I want it all..."

Princess Isabella's pupils dilated before it stopped.

It was as if she was trapped in a spell, only able to find herself looking into his sapphire eyes. It completely pulled her in, making her unable to retaliate or even do anything for that matter.

Davis looked at her completely be helpless against him. She was not even daring as Evelynn at this point. However, her shyness regarding this matter turned him on significantly.

The blood essence had invoked his inner yang in the past, but it did not invoke her inner yin. That's because the blood essence of the Earth Dragon Immortal belongs to a male and not a female.

If the blood essence belonged to a female, then Princess Isabella would've become horny instead!

Chapter 787 Heading to the Emperors Imperial Palace

Davis inextricably gazed her limpid and hazy black eyes, momentarily feeling her be his everything.

Princess Isabella looked extremely beautiful than his Evelynn and Natalya. She was as beautiful as Princess Shirley in his mind, but at this moment, only Princess Isabella was on his mind. She appeared as pure as a white lotus flower, mature as a ripened fruit, and he wanted her all to himself.

As if something was urging Princess Isabella, she slowly brought her face towards him. Davis felt their lips touch, and the warm fire within him made him capture her plump lips as he slightly tilted his head, tasting her sweetness within his grasp.

Princess Isabella let out a moan as she experienced the flower within her heart blossom upon feeling his warmth.

They slowly kissed, closing each other's eyes. Their feelings constantly changed, becoming fleeting, curious, and passionate before becoming more firm and bold, seeking to capture the softness and make the other party submit.

The passionate wave that swept over their hearts slowly faded away with time before they separated, both looking as if they were unwilling.

Davis stared into her moist eyes, the eyes that hid a sorrowful emotion, yet also glistening with courage and passion.

His eyes flashed with understanding before he endearingly inclined his head to kiss her forehead.

He released her wrists and moved back before he stood and put back his robe. He turned back before collecting the formation with his soul force.

He glanced back at her, looking at her blank expression before saying, "As I said before, I'll wait for you to come back. Go clear the Immortal Grade Trial, and then we will marry, and on the same night, we'll consummate our bond."

Princess Isabella's passionate yet confused expression faded as she finally came out of her reverie. Her cheeks became hot as she realized that at that moment, she really didn't mind 'exchanging' their love for each other!

To think that her emotions peaked with passion at the heat of the moment...

'How terrifying!'

Princess Isabella took a deep breath before pondering on his words...

To consummate their marriage on the same night...

Even though she knew that it would obviously be the case, she couldn't help but feel fear, anticipation, and every other emotion that shook her heart, even making it flutter, leaving her feeling as if she was truly a maiden in love.

She watched him leave her room and disappear from her gaze before clutching her bosom with her palm.

"Don't worry... I'll complete the Immortal Grade Trial without fail... But, as your third wife, I still have some filial duty left in this place to fulfill..."

=====

Davis walked out of Princess Isabella's house with his expression calm and his posture straight. He deactivated the Low-Level Emperor Grade Concealment Formation, which concealed her breakthrough. He then extended his soul force before collecting the formation flags into his spatial ring.

He had his own concerns on why he hadn't completely made Princess Isabella his woman at that natural moment.

If the Earth Dragon Immortal noticed that Princess Isabella lost her primal yin essence, would it care, or would it not care?

Primal yin essence, in other words, a woman's virginity.

If the Earth Dragon Immortal cared about that for some reason and no longer favored Isabella to be his inheritor, that would backfire. So he didn't let his lust take over him and ruin the future that she had grasped with her own power in the heat of the moment.

He didn't want to do such a thing! Besides, he felt that her heart didn't want to do such a thing before their marriage.

Not to mention that just a while ago, he had forced himself on Evelyn and treated her roughly. He wanted to no longer make a mistake in regards to his women and inwardly affirmed that he would never force them to do what they didn't like!

The forbidden thought of having Evelyn and Natalya pleasure him at the same time disappeared as well.

It might have been enticing and tempting to him, but to them, it was nothing but disrespect. If he forced them despite their unwillingness, he should rather call them his playthings than wives!

The Earth Dragon Immortal wasn't the main reason he didn't completely make her his woman. After all, he had already given his word in the past that their intimate night would only occur after their marriage

happens, and for that, they even set up a time in the future, that they would marry in the presence of her Imperial Father, Mark Ruth.

How could he go back on his word at the heat of the moment? That was too hypocritical...

Davis flicked his sleeves, and a messaging talisman appeared on his palm. He sent his essence energy into it and activated it.

A few seconds later, a male voice echoed out.

"Alchemist Davis?"

"Yes, Alexi Ethren." Davis spoke, "Did you quell all the rebellious individuals and took over the Empire?"

"Uh... ah, yes! I have successfully taken over the Empire, but there's still the coronation ceremony."

Davis smiled, "Since you're already the uncrowned Emperor, it doesn't matter... I'll head ov-"

"Aahn!~ Why did you stop?~ Fuck this Empress to death!~"

Davis's expression froze as he heard a seductive female voice echo from the messaging talisman. Instantly, the connection severed.

"..."

He held the messaging talisman that lost its glow in his palm while his smiling expression appeared frozen as if he couldn't believe what he heard.

Fuck?

This Empress?

To death?

Davis came out of his reverie and could swear that he had heard that voice before, only the sensual and yearning voice in it made him doubt if it were really that haughty Empress, Iona Ethren.

But wouldn't Iona Ethren become the Empress Dowager after Hadre Ethren climbed to the Throne?

He knew that it could be another woman whom Alexi Ethren promised to reinstate as the Empress, but it didn't seem like the case.

Who knew that this righteous and caring person to have a side like this?

Davis shook his head and wondered if he should head towards the third level right now when the message talisman glowed again.

"Alchemist Davis, you said something about heading over? To the Emperor's Imperial Palace? Sure, I'll be waiting!" Alexi Ethren's voice echoed.

Davis's expression imperceptibly twitched before he accepted, "... Alright..."

=====

In the Emperor's Imperial Palace of the Ethren City.

Davis stood outside the Imperial Palace as he admired the architecture and the posture of the Imperial guards who possessed an imposing and undaunting presence.

He nodded his head in as if he were an inspection official, roaming his gaze around when he caught sight of a person with a crown on his head, followed by an entourage. The crown possessed the crest of the Ethren Empire and appeared grand with luxurious gems.

Alexi Ethren hurriedly walked over before he clasped his hand and slightly bowed his head with respect, "I apologize, it took some time to get used to these clothes and status..."

'Of course, you were naked and probably just wore this a while ago...' Davis just smiled and nodded his head as he clasped back his hands.

The people present in surroundings became shocked, wondering who this person was, not knowing that he was one of the Conferred Queen's subordinate.

The all unbearably felt that they had disrespected this esteemed person by not paying respects, but before they could grab the declining opportunity, the uncrowned Emperor personally invited Alchemist Davis into the Imperial Palace and left them all hanging.

As for the imperial guards, they all shook in nervousness. After all, this person had been waiting over for five minutes, but they didn't even provide even a hint of respect to them!

Chapter 788 Ethren Familys Imperial Library

Davis and Alexi Ethren walked in the hallway, and following behind were the latter's entourage of Imperial Protectors as well as a few important officials who oversaw the affairs of the Empire.

Like Official Hall who took care after the properties of the southeastern region in the first level and the second level, they too had many things to look after. After all, an Empire can't be run by a single person. It needed a plethora of talents.

"Where is the Imperial Library?" Davis asked as the pathway seemed to be rather long.

They were all walking in a snail's pace, and it profoundly infuriated him because he didn't like to waste time.

Who made a rule to walk and bothered about running or flying in the hallway?

'This isn't a high school hallway for heaven's sake!' He inwardly cursed.

"Follow me..."

Alexi Ethren picked up the speed as he could feel discontent from Alchemist Davis.

'Experts were like this...' He mused.

While Alexi Ethren knew what Davis's agenda was, the entourage behind him comprising Imperial Protectors, Imperial Advisors, and the people who managed the Ethren Empire all possessed a change of expression.

Wasn't this just selling their Empire?

Imperial Protector Merkel's expression changed as he hurriedly echoed from behind, "Emperor, you can't do this!"

The people around him also started protesting as they said various things about the Empire's so-called rules.

Alexi Ethren ignored their complaints, but it got louder and louder. He abruptly stopped before his expression became cold. He glanced back and asked, "Are you all idiots?"

Imperial Protector Merkel and the others became startled.

Their expressions were as if they swallowed some crap. They initially thought that they could rely on their seniority to speak, but a junior outright disrespected them.

Although Alexi Ethren is the Emperor, he still wasn't officially one yet! Even before Alexi Ethren became the Emperor, they were all disrespected!

How arrogant!

If they let him be and don't reprimand him while they had the chance when all were gathered, how would they survive in the Imperial Palace from now on?

Just when they were going to erupt in anger, Alexi Ethren continued.

"I know you all are favoring me to the others because of the connection I have with the Conferred Queen. From this, you all could benefit, but what about the other party, don't they need to get benefits!?"

Alexi Ethren coldly harrumphed before he led the silent Davis to the Imperial Library. The others who all stood dumbfounded, comprehending his sentence for a few seconds before they hurriedly ran towards them, catching up.

Imperial Protector Merkel hurriedly blocked the way, "Emperor, your mother is already in the Treasury! I need your word that you will not allow these two people to take anything out of the Treasury and Imperial Library!"

Alexi Ethren's expression laughed, "You people owe it to is..."

"No matter what I take, it is justified!" His eyes flashed with a ruthless glint.

"Alchemist Davis is merely interested in looking around... Do you think that the Conferred Queen's subordinate would deign to even look at the information we kept if it weren't for the variety and uniqueness of this territory?"

Imperial Protector Merkel's expression couldn't help but become sullen. He was the one who mainly supported Alexi Ethren's claim to the throne, so he could only shut his mouth and not make a scene of this. Otherwise, not only would he be ridiculed, but he might be executed for bringing an exiled sinner to the Empire.

He had taken responsibility for this matter, so he heaved a sigh and stood by the side before following them.

Davis slightly chuckled and sent a soul transmission, "Looks like you haven't completely suppressed all of them..."

Alexi Ethren shook his head, "There's no way I can suppress all the Imperial Protectors... They don't even dare to give me the Emperor's token, which could suppress them, and I doubt that they would hand it over even after my coronation..."

"Reasonable... After all, if they foolishly handed it over, then they would have no choice but to grovel before you..." Davis inconspicuously smiled.

"Speaking about quelling the rebellion, the Empress should've given you a bigger resistance than anyone..."

Alexi Ethren's expression froze.

"Did you make her 'submit'?" Davis calmly asked.

It was unknown if Alexi Ethren heard the nuance, but he quickly nodded his head, "She pleaded for her life to be spared."

"I see..."

"A remnant that might screw you over later... You might want to be careful..." Davis warned out of good intentions.

'Instead of her screwing me over, well... I already screwed her twice...' Alexi Ethren mused proudly, but he didn't display it outside and just nodded his head.

At first, Iona Ethren was quite reluctant, but after getting into it with his pleasuring techniques and machinations, she became quite the temptress with her moans and movements.

Originally, after he spent a night with her, he returned to suppress other rebellious intents, but after returning to his chambers to rest, she visited him and willingly fell over his lap before seducing him, saying that she couldn't resist his manliness.

He didn't know what her agenda was, but having a beautiful woman in front of him and not accepting her 'plea' didn't sit well with him.

He couldn't resist her either and stripped her naked for another round as he could still remember her heavenly taste, but after an hour, Alchemist Davis interrupted him.

'But she unwittingly revealed that I was her third man... To think that that bastard was cucked, it satisfies me to hear it...' Alexi Ethren took joy in his dead father's misery.

Soon, they arrived in front of the Imperial Library.

Davis arbitrarily stepped in, and his gaze roamed around. There were rows and rows of bookshelves as far as he could see. With his soul sense, he lazily surveyed the entire library. There might probably be more than ten million books and scrolls, but there were no battle techniques, cultivation methods, and other essential matters above Sky Grade.

There was just information, records, and experiences.

He felt that it was fine because he mainly came here to broaden his horizons instead of staying ignorant.

After all, there were many other things he didn't know about.

For example, he didn't know how to measure talent other than seeing one's cultivation results when compared to age...

Davis's gaze then moved to the librarian who stood there frozen while not knowing what to do as she stared at him.

"You, take care of Alchemist Davis's needs..." Alexi Ethren coldly pointed at the librarian.

"Y-Yes!" The librarian panicked before she hurriedly walked and stood before Davis.

"Don't bully her... She's a good yet silent woman who is already married to one of the princes and birthed ten children for him..."

Davis became speechless on hearing Alexi Ethren's soul transmission. He felt that he wouldn't do anything with this librarian.

Why was there a need to warn him? Instead, he felt that Alexi Ethren would take liberties with the librarian. After all, he's a man who even went after his step-mother.

However...

Ten children?

'Okay, in this cultivation world, that is normal...' Davis inwardly lampooned.

He glanced to the side and noticed that Alexi Ethren no longer maintained a gentle gaze. He sighed, feeling that sometimes a man with power has to do things he didn't like to change his fate, although he knew that there was a difference between choosing to do it and being forced to do it.

Chapter 789 Measuring Ones Talen

Davis turned to look back at the entourage and cast a derisive gaze, "It's not like I'm going to burn everything down here. That's blasphemous for an alchemist like me..."

The Imperial Protectors and the others all gave a wry yet unsightly smile before they awkwardly left. They didn't want to offend the important subordinate of the Conferred Queen as that would aggravate things.

In any case, although they were looked down upon, as long as it could benefit the Empire, they were able to accept this humiliation, thinking that they were sacrificing their faces for a beneficial cause.

Alexi Ethren also left, leaving Davis and the librarian all alone at the entrance of the Imperial Library. Davis walked forwards, and in a few seconds of entering the sea of bookshelves, he saw the history section.

"So, all information and records within the Empire's borders are brought here?" Davis asked with a neutral voice.

"Ah, yes!" The librarian who followed him responded before putting her head down again.

'A shy librarian? Or is she just scared of me?' Davis shrugged, "Miss Librarian, how many books have you read?"

"M-more than a million..."

Davis nodded his head. He could sense that the librarian exhibited vague Adult Soul Stage undulations.

It was really possible to read through books carrying general information just by scanning them with the soul sense. The process of reading is hastened by a number of times depending on the person's quantity and quality of soul force, and mainly their Soul Forging Cultivation. However, reading and understanding was something else.

The latter just depended on the person's intelligence and comprehension.

He could also sense that she was at the Law Manifestation Stage, the Sixth Stage in Essence Gathering Cultivation System. Judging by the normal rate of cultivation in this Territory, he guessed that she was more than 500 years old.

Unless she was a hidden genius, he felt that his guess would be correct. He could also measure her bone age to find her real age, but that is off-limits and extremely rude.

To know her approximate bone age, he would have to send his soul sense inside her body and feel how 'archaic' is her bone. There will be an aura of age emanating from the bones, and with that, he would be able to approximately guess.

For accurate results, cultivators would check the cranium since the other parts of the body might have been once cut off, only to be regenerated again.

Evelynn had half of her arm cut off in the past, so the newly regenerated bone might have a different bone age. However, with the passage of time, the other bones connected to the regenerated bones would slowly but steadily spread their age aura, making it even.

Davis obviously didn't check the librarian's bone age, considering that came off as immensely rude and distasteful to him.

In front of him, she was just as good as being naked.

If he wanted to, he could even completely outline her body from top to bottom in his mind with his soul sense without her knowing just because he possessed a powerful Soul Forging Cultivation than her, not taking account that his soul was already painted seamless; almost undetectable.

Davis didn't know how many innocent women suffered under the shameless scans of powerful soul senses. Unless they possessed an artifact that could detect or deflect the soul sense, it was too difficult for them to even notice.

This constitutes one of the major reasons why women preferred to stay inside the confines of safety within their families. Even then, it still wasn't safe for them as there would always be deviants within their own families.

He couldn't help but feel that the modern world is countless times easier to traverse and live than in the cultivation world for women.

While he was lamenting, he saw that in the history section, there were vague records even on Immortals! Of course, he knew that it was common sense in the Fifty-Two Territories that no Immortals existed as they would all 'ascend' upon breakthrough.

These books or records on Immortals of the past could be fantasies of people as most were written like a biography. Hence, most of them could be fake, at least, according to him. They could even be novels for all he knew.

However, he still had the urge to take a look at them.

Nevertheless, under the scrutiny of his soul sense, he had found one of the records he wanted to find out. He arrived at that location and reached out his hand before a particular tome on a bookshelf flew towards him.

Davis captured the books in his palm, and the title appeared in his view.

[Measuring One's Talent in Cultivation According To The Large Territories]

The complete basics of the novels he read in the past, yet, in this world, one's cultivation talent could only be measured by the results they produced in cultivation compared to their age.

This simple yet crude method is filled with extreme deviation, yet the majority of the people use this method to measure one's talent, because, this was the single method that was widely known.

Even Ellia's talent was measured by the slave traders who groomed her in the past, but the way they measured her talent was with this crude method, measuring her talent by her progress in cultivation.

Davis's talent was measured like this in the past as well, but due to his soul's anomaly, he became an outlier, hence wanting to measure his real talent was one of his reasons for desiring this book.

He opened it and read the introduction.

It was the same thing on how to measure a person's talent with fewer deviations. However, he didn't stop reading as he wanted to verify that his own comprehension regarding measuring talent is authentic.

Turning the pages, he completed more than a quarter of the tome, but he finally verified that his comprehension of measuring one's talent with the crude method was more or less the same with the author of this book.

However, knowing that this thick tome possibly couldn't have crap written in it, he turned the page and became pleasantly surprised as he read.

[

Measuring one's talent in regards to cultivation varies with the inclusion of all three cultivation systems. However, people of ancient times didn't have a problem with measuring one's talent with accuracy.

Yes, the answer is with the ones we, the Fifty-Two Territories, no longer possess anymore.

The Immortals!

It is that Immortal Existences can perfectly measure a mortal's talent!

I, Unislyn Ethren, have learned this from adventuring in the large Territories. It is said that the peak powers here still possess the method to measure a cultivator's talent perfectly.

My cultivation is redundant, and my talent could be described as extremely low. Hence, I pursued knowledge to prove that I am not trash, but I was proved otherwise.

Ironic and truly laughable...

Yes, I had finally discovered the opportunity to measure my talent from a person belonging to a peak power! This information protected within the peak power was immensely valuable that I had to serve that person for a thousand years!

With that person's help, I was able to know my talent!

]

Davis read on as he became absorbed.

Chapter 790 Spirit Roo

As Davis read on, he stumbled upon the real and authentic way to measure one's talent.

Apparently, there is a particular root existing within the Dantian.

That root was known as the Spirit Root. The manifestation of a person's talent from birth.

At this point, Davis became astonished before he surveyed his own Dantian. He used his essence energy to probe around but couldn't find anything that fits the description. He even used his soul sense to stay every inch, every corner, but he was unable to sense that so-called Spirit Root!

The only powers within his dantian were the stable yet deep black Revolving Core, and the manifestation of the torrential rain of black lightning in its dormancy, ready to erupt when used in battle.

'Even with my Supreme Soul Stage Soul Sense, I am unable to find it?' Davis doubted the existence of the Spirit Root, but noticing that the tome said that only Immortals were able to find it, he became somewhat understanding even though he was still a little skeptical.

He then continued to read.

[

This Spirit Root, according to the Immortals, is impossible to discover by the mortals. Hence, after their forced ascension, it became impossible for people to measure talents accurately.

However, some Immortals have left certain formations that are in the form of an artifact, helping people measure talent with the cost of nothing!

That's right! These formations are Emperor Grade Artifacts that are able to find the Spirit Root with the help of a strange power embedded in the artifact. This strange energy is rumored to be the immortal energy!

]

Davis could tell why the Immortal Inheritances in the Grand Sea Continent did not possess such talent measuring formations. It is because those Immortals were Magical Beasts and not Humans.

Besides, Spirit Root could not predict one's future as the geniuses were more or less bound to die before they grow up, instead, what the Earth Dragon Immortal and the Ice and Fire Phoenix Immortals required was the character, will and other indomitable concepts.

Or they had those talent measuring artifacts but didn't deign to use it since the people from the Grand Sea Continent possessed trash genes. Maybe they had already run out of that so-called immortal energy within those artifacts.

In any case, Davis threw his musings to one side and continued to read.

[

At the end of the thousand years of servitude, with the help of that person from a peak power, I learned that Spirit Root is graded into five types, corresponding to Mortal Grade, Earth Grade, Sky Grade, King Grade, and Emperor Grade.

Each grade is then further divided into four levels, equaling to counterparts of cultivation levels; Low-Level, Mid-Level, High-Level, and Peak-Level.

Seem familiar? Let me explain!

It is said that people who have an Emperor Grade Spirit Root have the chance to easily enter the Eighth Stage within two hundred years just by cultivating in a normal environment without using many resources. It is said that they could even enter the Ninth Stage if they possessed High-Level Emperor Grade Spirit Root!

Although this information is shocking, I instantly concluded that this is why Emperor Grade constitutes both the Eighth Stage and the Ninth Stage when King Grade only comprises of the Seventh Stage!

I always had this doubt why the Eighth Stage and the Ninth Stage are forced into a single grade, and it turns out this is the reason. I even thought the people of ancient times were stupid, but it is I who was ignorant.

The grade of the Spirit Root is directly proportional to the stages a person could reach by cultivating normally! This, in turn, constructs the grades of the stages.

Heh, this fact is in veiled sight, and I failed to see, so I can't be blamed.

Nevertheless, the Spirit Root only describes the talent of one's Essence Gathering Cultivation. The easiest cultivation system out of the three cultivation systems.

And even in that, I possessed a High-Level Mortal Grade Spirit Root, which only allowed me to have a smooth sailing experience until the Second Stage, and further cultivation became difficult without resources.

My Spirit Root was utter trash!

No wonder I got stuck in the Law Manifestation Stage even with all those resources provided to nurture me. I certainly am trash, but I'm not a trashy person.

I will leave this information for the Empire, which had groomed me into a Sixth Stage Expert. I hope this would become of help so that talents can be appropriately nurtured!

Now, I will further explain the known characteristics and classification of Spirit Roots in a detailed manner.

]

Davis continued to read before he completed the tome and nodded in appreciation. This information was certainly helpful to him.

Talent filled the gap for the lack of resources, but since he always seems to obtain resources, talent became secondary to him. Although talent wasn't everything, he was curious all the same.

A person can not care about a matter, but that person should not remain ignorant.

He refused to remain ignorant. If he could learn something, then he should take the chance.

Davis turned to look at the Librarian beside him, giving her a jump scare.

The Librarian promptly bowed her head, "Yes, esteemed alchemist?"

"I heard that the Imperial Ethren Family collects poison attributed cultivation manuals, is that true?"

The Librarian looked taken aback before she became hesitant. Then remembering the Emperor's words, she nodded her head, "Those poison attributed cultivation manuals are all in the Treasury, but the records and experiences of countless poison experts are all in the second level of the Imperial Library."

"So, this is the first level..." Davis nodded his head and looked in the direction of another entrance at the far end of this wide and long hall.

However, since he confirmed that there were useful records for Evelyann, he wanted to continue to browse and increase his knowledge, but looking at the number of books, he grinned and felt that he should store this information in his head before reading and understanding them.

He promptly returned to the Imperial Library entrance before starting to completely submerge his soul sense into the books, absorbing their information into his head.

He took a few slow steps as he studiously walked past the bookshelves!

The Librarian looked at Alchemist Davis and knew that he was compiling information in his mind. This was a Soul Forging Cultivator's advantage. They can instantly recall the compiled information to the front of their mind and read, or copy it to another book by engraving a new book with ink or energy, preferably soul force.

She had also done it a lot of times, so she wasn't surprised, but her jaw dropped as she looked at him walk.

His slow pace was utterly fast in her diary!

'H-How can it be!?'

Davis's speed in compiling that information was just too incomprehensible to her. She didn't know if he was actually compiling the information or just taking a casual walk!

She couldn't feel his soul sense, so she felt that this esteemed alchemist was just browsing normally, but looking at him walk straight with his back taut while walking in a steady manner as if concentrating, she knew that this esteemed alchemist was recording information in his mind at an inconceivable speed!